



# MVSKOKE NEWS

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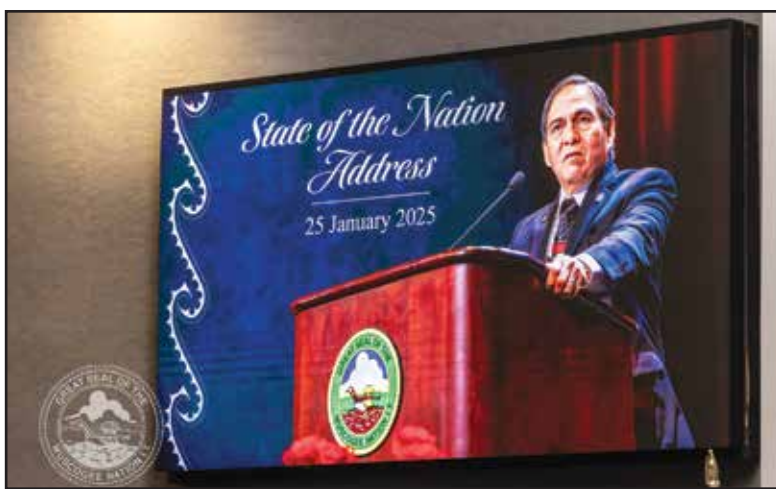
## PRINCIPAL CHIEF DAVID HILL DELIVERS 2025 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

"WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE ARE STILL MVKSOKE"

by **FRANCES HERROD**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Principal Chief David Hill delivered the 2025 State of the Nation address at the opening of the First Quarterly Session of the year of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on Saturday, January 25th.

The address looked to the past to light the way of our future. It highlighted the many successes the Mvskoke Nation has seen throughout the years including leading the way in affirming Native Nations' sovereignty by standing up to the Department of the Interior in 1976 with Harjo v Kleppe, ushering in a new era of self determination that was bolstered by the affirmation of our Reservation and jurisdiction in



(Courtesy: MCN Communications)

2020 by The Supreme Court of the United States.

According to Chief Hill we will continue to meet these types of challenges head on, whether it be attending the oral arguments

in the fight with the State of Oklahoma for our tax exempt status for those residing and working on the

**STATE OF THE NATION**  
*Continued on Page 2*



A short-lived memo from the Federal Office of Management and Budget temporarily halted financial assistance for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation between Jan. 28-29. (Shutterstock)

## MCN SUSPENDS ALL TRIBAL DEPARTMENT HIRES AND SPENDING

OMB'S VAGUE MEMO HALTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LEAVES MANY IN CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

WASHINGTON D.C. - On Monday, Jan. 27 the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released Mem-

orandum M-25-13, the Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and Other Financial Assistance Programs. The memo went

**SPENDING FREEZE**  
*Continued on Page 2*



Michael Anthony Houser, a former Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee, is now accused of embezzling federal funds and tax fraud. (Shutterstock)

## FORMER MNGE MANAGER FACES TWO FEDERAL CHARGES

MICHAEL ANTHONY HOUSER IS CHARGED WITH ONE COUNT OF THEFT CONCERNING PROGRAMS RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS AND ONE COUNT OF TAX FRAUD

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. - Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee Michael Anthony Houser was charged with two federal counts, one for embezzling federal funds and one for tax fraud. Houser served the Nation as an accounts payable manager for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board, an accounts payable manager for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Enterprises and most recently a MNGE Purchasing Manager. According to court documents his tenure at the tribe lasted from June 6, 2011 until March of 2024.

Court documents claim Houser began embezzling federal funds in an amount exceeding \$5,000 as far back as July 2016. Houser's count of tax fraud states that he claimed \$471,237 for total income on his personal 2022 tax return, and knowingly failed to report income in the amount of \$7,851,027.28.

As a result of Houser's charges

of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds the courts are seeking the forfeiture of property in Houser's possession. This includes a 2024 Lexus NX 350, a 2022 Cadillac Escalade, a 2021 CanAM Defender, a BCI utility trailer, various investment accounts, jewelry and a portion of the sale of his personal residence.

Mvskoke Media reached out to MCN for comment on Houser's criminal charges. They provided the following statement which states,

"Due to the ongoing nature of the federal and MCN criminal investigation of Mr. Houser, as a matter of policy, the Nation will not discuss the specifics of this matter. As always, the Nation will continue to cooperate with its federal and MCN law enforcement partners as they complete their investigations into Mr. Houser's alleged criminal actions."

A hearing for Houser's charges is set for Feb. 18 in Federal District Court.

## MUSCOGEE ARTIST TO HAVE WORK PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINE BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

MUSCOGEE ARTIST BOBBY C. MARTIN IS PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF HIS HERITAGE

by **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

WEST SILOAM SPRINGS, Okla. - When asked to describe himself, Bobby Martin is a humble man of few words, choosing to simply describe himself as a Muscogee citizen, but he is far more than that.

Bobby C. Martin is, among other things, an artist of multiple mediums. He has been a musician, a graphic designer, a recording studio owner, a teacher, and he is currently working as a professor at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

His works have been featured in numerous collections across Oklahoma, including the Philbrook and Gilcrease museums in Tulsa, the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, and the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. His work is also featured in multiple locations across the globe, including the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, GA, the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, located in Hanover, NH, and the British Library in London, England, which is known as the National Library of the UK.

He is also known for having created a massive mural that is located in the main lobby of the Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare Facility in Tulsa, OK, titled Unbroken: The Council Oak Story. It was completed in 2023, is 80 feet long, and con-



An image of the mural, "Pathways to Achieving Health for Everyone, Everywhere: Exploring Systems Impact and Shared Solutions" painted by Bobby C. Martin on display in the lobby of Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare in Tulsa, OK. (Thomas Jackson/MM)

sists of 26 panels that tell the story of the Muscogee people and of their time in Oklahoma.

However, his latest project is one that should be paid attention to, as it brings to light the history, the culture, and the stories of the Muscogee people which have influenced Bobby's work. He will be designing the cover of the latest edition of a publication by the National Academy of Medicine, which is scheduled to be released some time in February.

He would, during the course

of an interview with Mvskoke Media, go on to explain how the project came about, and how it all started with a meeting in Atlanta at a conference about using art as a healing tool.

"The folks from NAM were there at this conference, and saw what the tribe was doing at Council Oak, as far as trying to be really purposeful in using art as a healing process. They saw some of my work there, and saw

**BOBBY MARTIN**  
*Continued on Page 2*



## STATE OF THE NATION

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Reservation per settled federal law (Stroble v Oklahoma Tax Commission) to protecting the sacred in support of the fight for justice for Oce Vpofv.

Community continues to be at the forefront of our ways as this year Mvskoke Nation hosted the Inaugural Justice on the Reservation Conference, a step forward in partnering with the federal government, municipalities, and advocates to ensure equal justice and protection for all within our borders. Lighthouse Police teamed with Behavioral Health to form the first Tribal Crisis Intervention Team Program in addition to adding the Mounted Program, Highway Patrol, and K9 Unit. The Secretary of the Nation Office secured funding via the State Small Business Credit Initiative for \$21.1 million and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program for \$41.2 million.

The Nation stepped up to fill a community need when the

state of Oklahoma cancelled the Summer EBT Program, leaving youth across the state without access to meals. In all the Nation, along with Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, USDA, and Hunger Free Oklahoma, provided meals to over 100,000 children across the Reservation who would have gone without. Mvskoke citizens gave back as well, donating \$103,798 to The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation, MCN Veterans Affairs, and MCN Cultural Preservation.

Mvskoke Nation is changing both the legal and literal landscape within the borders as it improves the Tribal Complex and broke ground on two new casino/hotels this past year, an investment of \$175 million in the Eufaula and Coweta communities. The College of the Muscogee Nation also opened a new STEM facility and lecture hall. In September 2024, partnered with Indian Health Service and Oklahoma Water Resource Board, the Nation broke ground on a \$32

million water treatment facility in Okemah. Realty placed 5453 acres into trust this year, the largest acquisition ever in the history of Eastern Oklahoma, and was named the #1 Realty Office in the nation. MCN Health opened a new Express Care Facility in Okmulgee while Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare in Tvlse performed their 100th robotic surgery. New facilities will soon be a reality in Holdenville and Sapulpa. A new Emergency Room will open in March 2025 at the Okmulgee Medical Center.

Mvskoke Nation along with the Five Nations of the Intertribal Council affirmed their commitment to respecting each other's sovereignty by entering into The Five Tribes Reciprocal Wildlife Agreement which allows citizens of the respective Nations to hunt and fish on designated lands within each Reservation.

For a more in depth breakdown of The State of the Nation Quarterly Reports are available on the MCN site.

## BOBBY MARTIN

Continued from Page 1

the mural, and contacted me about doing the artwork for this publication that they're getting ready to release in February."

Martin would explain how the NAM wants to bring attention to the health inequalities that are faced by Indigenous people.

"It has to do with health, access to health, and inequality for health access. So they saw my work, and they really want it to be about community, and helping communities, especially ethnic underserved communities to have fair and equal access to healthcare."

Martin would mention how one of the things they particularly liked about his art style is his use of various types of media, including old family photos and a red plastic statue depicting an Indigenous warrior that has been dubbed "Clyde the Big Red Indian". Martin is proud of his work and his ability to

make a connection with both his family and the tribe he is a citizen of, as he mentions in the artist statement on his website.

"These images of close kinfolk and distant relatives have become icons for me, symbols of a Native American identity that is not seen as 'traditional,' but is just as valid and vital to me - a tradition of Indian Christianity and mission schools that has been part of my family history for generations. The images provide a connection with my past, a way to remember and honor the generations that have come before - a way to commemorate our unique family heritage."

Bobby is extremely proud of his artwork and the impact it has had, and he is ready to continue his work as an artist full-time after he retires from his work as a professor.

Those who wish to see some of Bobby C. Martin's work can find images of his artwork and more information about him on his website, <https://www.bobbycmartin.com/home>.

## SPENDING FREEZE

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into effect the following day on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. EST.

The memo initially stated that the pause was necessary to review the \$3 trillion used for funding assistance and insure that it was being put to best use. An excerpt from the memo reads,

"To implement these orders, each agency must complete a comprehensive analysis of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President's executive orders. In the interim, to the extent permissible under applicable law, Federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of

all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, non-governmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal."

In response, a complaint was filed in federal court against OMB, which sought an injunction from implementing the memo. Federal District Judge Loren AliKhan granted a temporary administrative stay on the freezes, which paused the disbursement in open grants.

Among those receiving federal financial assistance were the sovereign tribal nations, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In response to the OMB's order, MCN Principal Chief released Executive

Order No. 25-01, An Immediate Spending and Hiring Freeze for all Executive Branch - Tribally and Federally Funded Employees.

The EO's language encompasses all matters within each tribal government department related to hiring and purchases up to a certain amount. According to the EO,

"Effective immediately, there shall be a hiring freeze for all tribally and federally funded programs. Tribally and federally funded programs shall not enter into any new contracts, agreements or purchase orders for the acquisition of any items or equipment which exceeds one thousand dollars. Exceptions to this section may be granted by the Principal Chief or Controller for critically necessary work of a department or an event that

requires government action to protect life or public safety.

All travel for tribally and federally funded programs shall be suspended effective immediately. Exceptions may be granted by the Principal Chief or Controller for travel of an employee that is required for the performance of their job or is a requirement for government action to protect life or public safety."

The EO explicitly states the freeze will not effect the MCN Health Department. Clarification from MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman reiterated that the EO is a precautionary measure to limit non-essential purchases. MCN Health Director of Development and Outreach Heather Griffin asserted that there will be no disruption of services for patients.

The EO went into effect Wednesday, Jan. 29. Shortly after, OMB rescinded the initial Memorandum M-25-13. The short-lived financial assistance freeze put other widely-used federal programs into question like Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid. In an effort to clarify language in the original memo, OMB released a clarification that the freeze did not affect all financial assistance, and that it was specifically targeting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs, The Green New Deal and "nongovernmental organizations that undermine the national interest."

Although the OMB's memo was rescinded, as of January 31 Chief Hill's EO on spending and hiring expenditures is still in effect.

## SOUR SOFKEE



(Courtesy: Fus YvhiKV)

by FUS YVHIKV  
COLUMNIST

"The Creakin' Creek Survives a Flood"

"Heyluh! It's colder than my ex-wife's divorce attorney," Fixico complains.

"Mvtawvte! Doesn't get colder than that," I say.

"Good thing I bought this fluffer vest," Tarpalechee says.

"Puffer! You mean PUFFER vest," I say as Yahola snickers.

"Cvhiwv didn't just take one-half of my 401(k), she got 100%!"

Fixico continues to lament.

"You mean she got all \$100?" Tarpalechee asks.

The Creek Frybread boys hoot and holler.

"She's not cehiww anymore," Yahola says.

"Things could be worse," I say. "You could still be married to her."

"Oh God!" Fixico cries. "Just thinking of it makes me want to order one of Harjo's rot-gut Old Fashioneds."

"I heard that," Harjo, the rotund bartender and proprietor of the Rez Bar yells. "I ought to cut you off."

"You'd be doing me a big favor," Fixico says. "Your Old Fashioneds are annually voted as the worst in Tulsa."

We all nod our heads in agreement and laugh derisively. Harjo approaches. He wipes his sweaty bald head with a bar towel as he flicks ashes off the stub of his cigar. The strings of his bartender's apron barely wrap around his ample gut and strain to remain tied. He empties the mason jar lids that serve as ashtrays.

"I'm freezing my cvpo off, Harjo," Tarpalechee says. "Turn

up the heat!"

"More power Scottie!" Yahola says laughing as he imitates Captain Kirk.

"Aye! I'm givin' her all she's got, Captain," Fixico says. "These space heaters are going to blow! She's gonna blow!"

"Beam me up, Scottie!" I say.

"I'm gonna beam your cvpos right out the front door!" Harjo replies as he begins to chew the stub of his cigar furiously.

That's the tell we are hoping for. It is a great joy to get under Harjo's skin. While he's never followed through on his threats to ban us from the Rez Bar, we can always hope. Tarpalechee decides to make peace.

"Ah, come on, cepan. We're just messin' with you. No matter what Tulsans say, we love your Old Fashioneds. Bring us another round."

Harjo waddles off as he shoots us an icy stare. His artificial knees and hips make a harsh scraping and squeaking sound with each step.

"There's goes the Creakin' Creek!" Fixico jokes.

The Frybread boys creak up. I mean, crack up.

"Creakin' Creek," Yahola

says. "Harjo is the Creek version of the Tin Man."

As the laughter dies down, I notice Tarpalechee's nose. It's doing the bunny twitch. The point of his nose rises and falls with each breath. Tarpalechee's bunny twitch morphs into Sport Plus mode.

"Tarp!" I say. "What's going on?"

Tarp doesn't reply. Instead, he shifts his gaze upwards and scans the ceiling. He has to crane his neck to see past the huge brim of his Billy Jack hat.

"I smell something," Tarp says as his nose makes rapid sniffing sounds.

"Maybe it's the Creakin' Creek's cvpo?" I reply. "He can leave a stank that lingers longer than a Walgreens receipt."

Tarp doesn't reply. His eyes are fixated on a cross-section of exposed water pipes just below the ceiling and about 16 feet high above us. Me, Fixico, and Yahola all follow Tarp's gaze as we all stare at the cross-section of exposed pipes.

"It's the pipes," Tarp says. "I can smell the rust. Something's wrong. I think the pipes are frozen."



(Courtesy: BESH)

The water pipes vibrate intermittently. The vibrations become continuous and accelerate rapidly into gyrations. The pipes are now forcefully banging into each other in a rezzzy version of twerking. The sound of iron on iron is deafening. Great bulges appear in the pipes which cause them to resemble a python that has swallowed a pig. All the patrons in the Rez Bar are fixated on the threatening sight.

## SOUR SOFKEE

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## THE MVSKOKENEWS

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A suit filed on Jan. 30 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleges two district attorneys in the Twenty-Fifth District have unlawfully prosecuted Native American citizens for crimes committed on the MCN Reservation. (MM File)

## MCN FILES SUIT AGAINST TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

SUIT ALLEGES PLAINTIFFS ARE UNLAWFULLY PROSECUTING NATIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR CRIMES COMMITTED ON THE MVSKOKE RESERVATION

### Press Release

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation ("Nation") filed suit in federal courts against Carol Iski, District Attorney for the Twenty-Fifth District covering Okmulgee and McIntosh Counties, and Matthew Ballard, District Attorney for the Twelfth District covering Rogers, Mayes, and Craig Counties.

The Nation's suit alleges these District Attorneys are unlawfully prosecuting Indians for alleged crimes occurring within the Nation's Reservation boundaries despite the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which affirmed that the Nation's treaty-defined reservation boundaries remain intact, and that states and their political subdivisions accordingly have no criminal jurisdiction over Indians within those boundaries absent congressional authorization.

Principal Chief David Hill stated: "Ever since the Supreme Court's ruling in *McGirt*, the

Nation has made significant strides to improve and expand upon its law enforcement and judicial capabilities to provide robust public safety within the Nation's reservation. Unfortunately, after almost five years since the *McGirt* ruling, some jurisdictions within our reservation refuse to acknowledge these long-standing principles of federal law, and, by doing so, they infringe on the civil rights of Indians within the Nation's jurisdiction and interfere with the Nation's federally protected right to self-government. We are asking the federal courts to send a clear message to these recalcitrant jurisdictions that Muscogee (Creek) Nation will stand firm to defend its sovereignty."

The lawsuit against District Attorney Iski was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma located in Muskogee, and the lawsuit against District Attorney Ballard was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma located in Tulsa.

## SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER HITS THE GROUND RUNNING FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

MUSCOGEE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL HOTVLE EN PEFAKVLKE (WIND RUNNERS) IS A NEW RUNNING GROUP THAT IS IN NEED OF FUNDS FOR REGISTRATION FEES AND EQUIPMENT

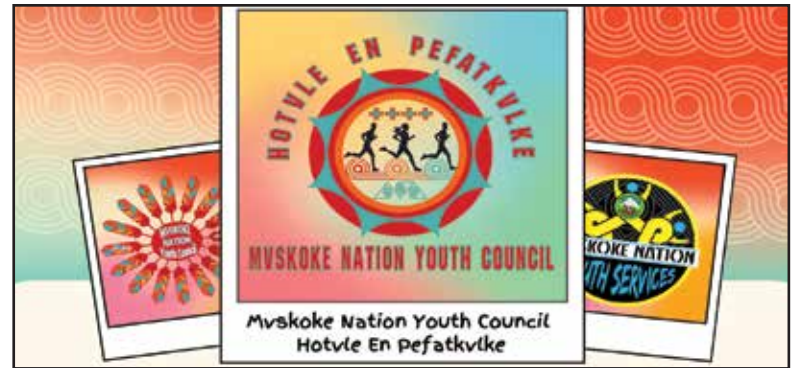
by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - On your mark, get set, go grab a plate at the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council's Spaghetti Fundraiser and Silent Auction! The event will serve spaghetti lunches including the classic Italian dish, bread, a cookie and a drink. Funds raised will benefit the newly-formed Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Hotvle En Pefatkvlke (Wind Runners), a running group. The Hotvle En Pefatkvlke will use the funds for registration fees and equipment like running shoes.

Most departments and communities typically host Indian taco sales for fundraisers. According to Mvskoke Youth Digital and Social Media Coordinator Ticara Turner, the department decided to serve spaghetti because February is associated with Valentine's Day and love, à la "Lady and the Tramp". All hands will be on deck serving hungry customers.

Turner is also a secondary advisor for the Muscogee Nation Youth Council. The Hotvle En Pefatkvlke consists of seven members; six girls and one boy. It is currently limited to members on the youth council, however the department has plans to expand it.

"Pete Coser Jr. from the Scholarship Foundation came to Youth Services seeking to collab-



The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Hotvle En Pefatkvlke (Wind Runners) is a new youth group that is currently raising funds for race registration and running equipment. (Courtesy: MNYC)

orate," Turner said. "His idea was to form a small running program with our youth council. They're the pilot group, next year we're hoping to expand it to all Creek youth within Youth Services."

Coser is a Mvskoke citizen and recently ran in the 2024 New York City Marathon. The running program will last eight weeks and will train runners in order to prepare for the Nene Letkv Run. The annual 5k and Fun Run/Walk takes place in May, and is hosted by the MCN Scholarship Foundation.

The silent auction will feature donations including Pendleton blankets, a free one-night stay and voucher to the Grand Casino in Shawnee, Nike brand polos and more.

Proceeds from the spaghetti fundraiser will allow Youth Services to purchase running equipment like tennis shoes, socks and tank tops. Funds will also go toward race registration fees.

The department's goal is to sign up the running group in three races.

Youth Services employees are also tying up their laces to run with students. Turner is a runner herself and has been a member of different running clubs in Tulsa. She believes the rewards from running are remarkable.

"I find it offers more than just physical benefits. I find the mental wellness that comes with it is really amazing," Turner said.

The event is set for Friday, Feb. 21 at the MNYC Office from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The MNYC Office is located at 2710 N. Miami Ave in Okmulgee. The department will take pre-orders. Delivery will be available for orders with more than three plates. For more information, contact Youth Services at 918-549-2557. The youth council meets the second Saturday of the month. All Mvskoke citizens ages 12-24 are invited to join.

## HAALAND HAS SIGHTS SET ON NEW MEXICO'S GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

THE FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WILL NOW RUN FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION IN NEW MEXICO'S 2026 GOVERNOR'S RACE AND COULD BECOME AMERICA'S FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN GOVERNOR

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

SANTA FE, N.M. - Deb Haaland continues to aim high, break barriers and seek to make history. Last month Haaland wrapped up her appointment as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior under the Biden Harris administration, now she is seeking the democratic nomination for the governor of New Mexico. A citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe, Haaland made history as the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. If Haaland is successful in securing the Democratic nomination, she will be on her way to becoming the United States' first Native American woman to serve as a governor of a state.

New Mexico has 23 federally recognized tribes, including a portion of the country's largest Native American tribe, the Diné Nation. Its current governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham will term out of office in 2026. Haaland previously served as a U.S. Representative from District One.

Haaland helped establish the first Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee that oversaw communications and relations with tribal leaders to develop infrastructure, co-stewardship and climate adaptation. Haaland also oversaw the development of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, which released two reports detailing the abuse experienced by the Native



Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently announced that she is running for the Democratic nomination for the Governor of New Mexico. (Official Congressional Photo)

American children that were extracted from their families and forced to attend during the Indian Boarding School Era.

In one of her final public engagements at the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit, Haaland remarked that although she believes a lot of progress was made over the past four years for Native Americans, there is still more work to be done.

"When I was a young kid - moving from city to city and coast to coast with my family for my dad's military career - our people were demanding something simple: a seat at the table; a voice in the decisions that affected us; our self-determination," Haaland said. "And because our people spoke up, stayed engaged, and remained unwilling to accept the

status quo, we are here and finishing up a monumental administration where Indian Tribes had a true seat at the table. Everything that we accomplished was real and tangible. A transition was inevitable and even though some of the future seems uncertain at this point - one thing is certain: we're not going anywhere! But it's on each of us to stay here, to stay engaged, to refuse to let anyone threaten the enduring progress we have worked so hard to accomplish. Like our ancestors who made previously unimaginable feats possible, we must never back down."

Thus far Haaland is the only candidate who has announced their bid for New Mexico's governor race, which is set for Nov. 3, 2026.



Andrea Carlson's (Grand Portage Ojibwe) "The Indifference of Fire" will be one of the many Indigenous art pieces on display at the "Woven Being: Art for Zhegagoynak" exhibit. (Courtesy: Bockley Gallery and James Fuentes)

## "WOVEN BEING: ART FOR ZHEGAGOYNAK" SHOWCASES INDIGENOUS TALENT

CHICAGO ART EXHIBIT CURRENTLY FEATURES WORK FROM ARTISTS REPRESENTING MANY DIFFERENT FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

CHICAGO, Ill - A new art exhibit spotlighting Indigenous creative practices is currently on display at The Block Museum of Art in Chicagoland, land many tribal nations call home. A total of 80 works by 33 artists will be included in the exhibit. This will include art from Andrea Carlson (Grand Portage Ojibwe/European descent), Kelly Church (Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Tribe of Potawatomi/Ottawa), Nora Moore Lloyd (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) and Jason Wesaw (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi), all who have con-

nections to Zhegagoynak, or Chicagoland.

"Woven Being: Art for Zhegagoynak" Exhibition Co-Curator Jordan Poorman Cocker (Kiowa) is enthusiastic about all that the exhibit will offer for visitors. She believes it is one that will give a voice to everyone who calls the region home.

"Art for Zhegagoynak really gets at the heart of the exhibition. That the art that's been selected is really intended for the land," Cocker said. "Visitors will encounter blending of past, present and future tense stories about

**WOVEN BEING**  
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# THPO GRANT AUTHORIZATION PASSES COUNCIL

## NCN 25-013 PASSES 15 TO 0 DESPITE ALLEGATIONS OF NONCOMPLIANCE

by **JERRAD MOORE**  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Former Muscogee Creek Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Turner Hunt spoke with Mvskoke Media on the department's YouTube program "Live Wire" on Jan 23. Hunt detailed allegations that he was terminated for contacting the National Parks Service with information that MCN was not in compliance to apply for the yearly THPO grant from the NPS.

Hunt stated that he became the MCN THPO in 2021 with the condition that he be allowed to address issues with yellow parking bollards placed in front of the MCN Council House in downtown Okmulgee. Hunt's investigation into the issue led him to section 106 paperwork filed by MCN in 2019. These documents stated that the project would not affect any properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The MCN Council House is listed on this register.

Hunt then contacted the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office to see if the situation could be remedied. According to emails provided by Hunt, both the OK SHPO and the regional office of the National Parks Service that deals with historic landmarks agreed that the bollards were a negative impact on the Council House. Both also agreed that the section 106 review was done improperly.

Hunt then had meetings to try to address the situation. Any changes to the bollards would require consultation with community groups, the City of Okmulgee and the NPS to develop a mitigation plan. According to Hunt the MCN has not taken any actions to address the parking bollards. The yellow parking bollards are still in place at the time of the publishing of this article.

In addition, Hunt claims that the MCN is not in compliance with regulatory requirements for the application for the NPS grant that funds the THPO office.

In 2011, the MCN entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the NPS and the United States Department of the Interior. This MOA is a legally binding document that is necessary for the MCN to apply for THPO grant funding from the NPS. The MOA is a list of actions that the MCN and the NPS agree to do. The THPO grant amount for the most recent year was \$97,491.

During his time as THPO Hunt found that the MCN had not fulfilled some of the MOA requirements. Hunt's main concern was the fact that the MOA required the development and implementation of a

reservation-wide historic preservation plan covering historic, archeological, and traditional cultural properties. According to Hunt during his time as THPO he was not able to find a copy of this document.

The MOA also requires a Cultural Review Committee that will serve as the THPO's advisory board. Hunt claims that during his time as THPO he was not overseen or advised by any board.

Hunt attempted to establish the committee during his time as THPO, but when he budgeted for the meetings he was told that any expenditures would need to have legislation passed through the National Council.

Hunt also stated that MCN had not been conducting consultations with other tribes that call Oklahoma their ancestral home as was required by the MOA.

The MOA also requires MCN to solicit public comments, which Hunt claims it has not.

Hunt pointed out the lack of these MOA requirements to his superior, MCN Secretary of Culture and Humanities Raelynn Butler, but reported no action was taken.

Hunt had concerns that the MOA noncompliance would have an impact in the ongoing lawsuit between the MCN and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians concerning the original Hickory Ground.

Hunt was able to meet with Principal Chief David Hill, and was told that Hunt should speak with "outside counsel" which Hunt interpreted to mean Mary Kathryn Nagle, the Cherokee lawyer who is handling that suit.

Hunt did not contact Nagle. Instead, Hunt sent an email to the NPS informing them that in his opinion as MCN THPO the MCN was not in compliance with its MOA with the NPS and DOI. Because of this, he would not be applying for the THPO grant. Hunt also asked that the NPS decline any THPO grant application that doesn't have a letter from the THPO attached.

June 2024, Hunt was terminated from the THPO position for emailing the NPS without authorization. Following his termination Hunt attempted to utilize the employee protection act, but was denied.

In December of 2024, NCA 24-162 was introduced in the MCN National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee. NCA 24-162 would authorize the expenditure of the NPS THPO grant.

This led to Hunt sending an email to all the National Council representatives asking if they had reviewed the MCN MOA or the budget

for the THPO office to see if the noncompliance had been addressed.

The legislation was then sent back to committee at the Dec 14 MCN NC Regular Session. Hunt then reached out via email to McIntosh District Rep. Galen Cloud requesting a meeting to speak about the legislation. At the meeting Hunt offered alternatives to the legislation that he thought would rectify the situation such as updating the legislation to reflect that the grant is to be used for THPO and MOA compliance or changing the funding source for the THPO office to tribal funds.

Hunt also sent an email to try to get time to speak at the reintroduction of the legislation, now numbered NCA 25-013, at the LNC committee meeting, but did not get a reply. When he attended the meeting in person he was not allowed to speak. Rep. Cloud asked Historic and Cultural Preservation Department Director Robin Soweka Jr. if the nation would be notified by the NPS if the THPO program was non-compliant. Soweka stated that he believed that the NPS would give the department notification if the program was non-compliant. Soweka also stated that the THPO program had already been approved for the grant.

The committee passed NCA 25-013 unanimously and the bill went before the full National Council at the Quarterly Session held on Jan 25. During the session Secretary Butler spoke about the noncompliance allegations brought by Hunt.

"We don't deny that there are any issues of noncompliance. This Memorandum of Agreement that established our THPO office was activated in 2011 and was signed by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis. And it really came to light after the McGirt decision, we started evaluating all agreements the Nation had and seeing whether the McGirt decision did need attention to expand our tribal boundary, the reservation. The reservation protection commission, which I was a part of, did help identify that the grant, I mean the Memorandum of Agreement needed to be updated. But also our former THPO identified areas that we needed to work on as well and we have been actively working on that since we've been made aware. I know at the time I was the manager of the department, you know I had reported these issues to my, the Secretary of the Interior Jesse Allen. At the time, we had several meetings with many different departments about how to address some of these issues. We do not believe that every allegation that's been made against this agreement or this program is true, and we

are willing to meet with anybody to talk about the things that we're working on. But you know this grant application in particular, we're saying to the park service that we are interested in amending our memorandum of agreement from 2011 with the assistance of the National Park Service. We are also seeking advice from the National THPO program on the best way to move forward with that. We have sent several emails to the Park Service that have gone unanswered. You know the agreement also states that the Park Service would evaluate our program every four years and they have never evaluated our program since its inception. However they continue to award grants and so also you know because we've known about these noncompliance issues since around 2020, 2021, we have continued to apply for the grant with no hesitation and are putting in our application that we are working to insure any noncompliance issues are being addressed and specifically in fiscal year 2024 - 2025. And the grant was awarded so there is no, you know, we're not trying to hide or cover up or deny that there are any ongoing issues with regulatory compliance. I will also say that in the decade that I have worked for the Nation, we've reviewed over 20,000 projects under section 106, and there are a handful that had some issues and it takes more than one person to fix them. I would compare it to the McGirt ruling where we know what the court said, and the counties know what they said but they're not actively doing anything to make corrections to that business was done as usual. And so it takes education, it takes meeting with each department at the Nation to go over this law and to train employees on how to make sure that we're meeting these regulatory requirements. And we have been doing that and will continue to do that. We are actively working on our reservation wide preservation plan. It is in progress, we have elements that are complete. We have amended code, we have done many things that we've been working on to try to get where we need to be."

Mvskoke Media emailed a detailed list of questions to Secretary Butler, but did not receive a response. Director Soweka was also given some time to speak on the THPO grant,

"Yes we are following every responsibility in our agreement



Jerrad Moore sits down with former MCN Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Turner Hunt to discuss allegations of noncompliance with grants from the National Park Service. (MM File)

to get this THPO grant. We are doing the reservation wide surveys. I recently turned in our annual accomplishments report. We did 65 acres of surveys on reservation land. We, as Secretary Butler stated, we have a preservation plan. We are updating it. We continue our section 106 reviews and we consult with federal agencies, state agencies, tribal agencies. There is only one thing that I think the Mvskoke Nation needs to do and that is outgoing tribal consultation because we're not descendants of this land that we're on now. The descendants are Caddo, Wichita, Osage and we need to start sending outgoing consultations to those tribes to make sure we're not disturbing any of their sites. But since I've been in this position, Osage, none of those tribes have contacted me saying you're destroying any of our sites or anything like that. I have a contact with Osage, they say we're doing fine, I am in contact with the NPS THPO Manager, for the THPO Program, and he is willing to sign a letter saying we're in compliance, we just need to turn in these annual reports."

Before the Council voted on the legislation, Creek District Rep. Dode Barnett addressed citizens that had been following the allegations on social media,

"It's been interesting in the last couple of weeks to see the energy and the attention. I had made a comment earlier in the year that a lot of what this department does goes unnoticed and is without recognition, not that you guys are asking for any recognition, and now all of a sudden there's a huge spotlight thrown on what you do. And so what I would ask of our citizenry is the same energy that you are following the drama with, support these folks. Because what they do is important and it's integral to our sovereignty, thank you."

NCA 25-013 was adopted unanimously. On Jan 23 Hunt received a letter from the MCN HR department claiming that he was in possession of MCN property that must be returned immediately. The letter threatens judicial intervention and possible action by the MCN Attorney General. The letter is unclear about what MCN property Hunt has in his possession, but it does mention federal grant applications.

At the time of the publication of this story, there are no records charging Hunt with any crimes in the MCN District Court.

Until Governor Stitt demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the law, history, and practical implications of tribal jurisdiction, we respectfully request that he refrain from making further public statements that mislead the public and erode trust in Oklahoma's legal institutions. The people of

this state deserve leadership grounded in facts, not political theatrics.

Sincerely,  
The Native American Law Student Association  
The University of Tulsa College of Law

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by **NATIVE AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Dear Oklahomans, On February 7, 2025, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt posted on his Facebook account regarding the ongoing federal case Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. City of Tulsa. His statement read:

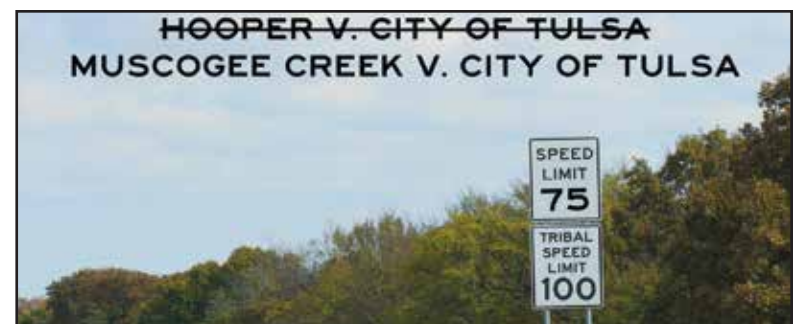
"It's happening again in Tulsa. The Muscogee Creek Nation is undermining the State and city's authority to enforce our laws. We cannot have two separate justice systems based on race. It won't work."

Accompanying this statement was

an image depicting a 70 mph speed limit sign next to a purported "tribal speed limit" of 100 mph - an inflammatory and misleading visual designed to misrepresent the realities of tribal jurisdiction. The University of Tulsa Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) finds this post not only factually incorrect but also derogatory and intentionally misleading to the public.

Once again, Governor Stitt has chosen political posturing over informed leadership. His rhetoric ignores the reality that multiple overlapping legal systems exist throughout the United States - tribal, federal, state, and even military jurisdictions routinely coexist and function effec-

tively. Oklahoma is not an exception to this framework. Across the country, state and tribal governments successfully collaborate to ensure public safety and uphold the rule of law. Rather than perpetuating misinformation and fostering unnecessary division, we urge Governor Stitt to engage in meaningful dialogue with tribal leaders and legal experts to develop cooperative solutions that serve all Oklahomans. Again, it is important to clarify that laws specific to Native Americans are sanctioned by the U.S. Constitution because they are based on political status - citizenship in a quasi-sovereign Indian tribe - not race. There is no scheme to undermine public safety; rather, the legal framework ensures that justice is served in accordance with established jurisdictional authority.



A photo released by Governor Stitt on Feb. 7. (Governor Kevin Stitt Official Facebook Page)

Until Governor Stitt demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the law, history, and practical implications of tribal jurisdiction, we respectfully request that he refrain from making further public statements that mislead the public and erode trust in Oklahoma's legal institutions. The people of

this state deserve leadership grounded in facts, not political theatrics.

Sincerely,  
The Native American Law Student Association  
The University of Tulsa College of Law



**OBITUARY**

**KEITH ALLEN JENNINGS**

Keith Allen Jennings, known to many as "Fishpond", passed away peacefully the morning of January 12, 2025 after losing his battle to cancer at the age of 56. He was born July 12, 1968 in Claremore to James Jennings and Joyce (Hardridge) Jennings.



(Integrity Funeral Service)

He loved life and family. He accepted the Lord as his Savior on August 11, 2024 and gave his testimony to a packed room on January 2, 2024. His favorite activities were hunting and fishing and was an avid archer with a bow. He was a proud Creek citizen and was learning the language.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Pearl Day, his maternal grandmother, Grace Hardridge and his beloved grandfather, William A. Harris and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

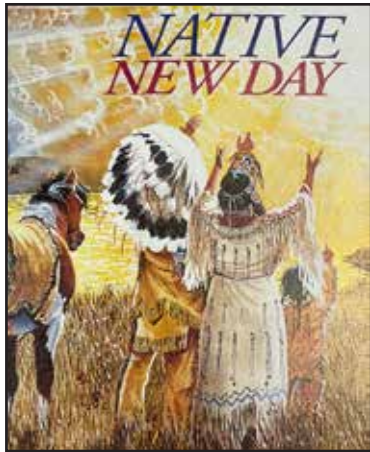
He is survived by his parents, James and Joyce Jennings of the home; Brother, Chad Jennings and wife Amy of Tulsa; Three nephews, Colton, Lucas, and Cannon; Two nieces, Alexandria and Kaitlin; A host of friends and other relatives.

We would like to "Thank Everyone" who sent flowers, plants and cards for our sons' funeral.

Thanks to the ladies from Second Baptist Church for the meals. Special thanks to Liz Jonas and girls for preparing the meals and Dewar Community Center for the use of their facilities. Thank you Betty Pulver and Leland Watashe for delivering the eulogy. Thank you Jimmy Basquez at tribal drive-ways. Anna Jo Fife from Thewarle Church for the Creek songs. Thank you to all of Keith's friends at Lexington for your support during his illness. Thank you all and may God bless you. Sincerely, James, Joyce, Clint and Chad Jennings.

**NATIVE NEW DAY BIBLE GUIDES**

Discover Bible is offering Native New Day Bible Studies. This is a 30 lesson series that is done by correspondence. The guides are beautifully illustrated and are written for Native people, by Native people. If you are interested, contact us at Discover Bible School PO . Box 14208 Tulsa, OK. 74159-1208.





**Office of Environmental Services**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION EVENT**  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2025 / 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**OES Household Hazardous Waste Collection event WILL ACCEPT the following items:**

- ✓ **AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS:** antifreeze, fluids, motor oil, oil filters, gasoline, polish, and waxes (NO battery acid)
- ✓ **PAINT PRODUCTS:** oil-based paint, spray paint, caulk, wood preservatives, wood stain products, paint thinners, and paint strippers
- ✓ **OTHER HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS:** toilet bowl cleaner, shower/tile cleaner, carpet cleaner, rust remover and more
- ✓ **LAWN CARE CHEMICALS:** bug repellent, fertilizers, flea & tick repellent, fumigators, herbicides, insecticides, mosquito fogger, pesticides, rodenticides, stump remover



**OES Household Hazardous Waste Collection event WILL NOT ACCEPT the following items:**

- ✗ **NO COMMERCIAL WASTE**
- ✗ **NO LATEX PAINT:** dry and throw away, (if the can is too full) spread paint over cardboard, wait for the paint to dry (both can and cardboard), and then throw away
- ✗ **ELECTRONIC WASTE:** answering machines, calculators, cameras, CD/DVD players, cell phones, pagers, holiday lights, modems, monitors, printers, radios, scanners, microwaves, etc.
- ✗ **MISCELLANEOUS:** any batteries, ballasts, fluorescent bulbs, tires, cooking oil and grease, Freon cylinders or compressed gas cylinders, home fire extinguishers, mercury thermometers, thermostats, nail polish, aerosols, unused ammunition, and unused fireworks



**Muscogee (Creek) Nation**  
**RECYCLE CENTER**  
 12675 Gun Club Road  
 Okmulgee, OK 74447  
**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT 918-549-2580**



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
RECYCLE CENTER



**B**  
BASIN



Muscogee (Creek) Nation

**CESO**

**RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT**  
 8330 Riverside Parkway | Tulsa, Oklahoma

**NATIVE OWNED**  
 Business  
**EXPO**

**DOOR PRIZES!**  
 MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**14 APRIL**  
 2025  
**10AM - 3PM**  
**RECEPTION 4PM - 6PM**

**Q&A Sessions**  
 on the Bid Process, etc. from  
 Tribal Departments During Event.

**DEPARTMENTS IN ATTENDANCE**

- TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION
- MVSKOKE LOAN FUND
- FEDERAL ROADS
- GAMING ENTERPRISES
- HOUSING
- DEPT OF HEALTH

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**CONTACT**

**SONNY BEVENUE**  
 918.549.2962

**BAYLEE CARPENTER**  
 918.549.2969

**CHELSEA POTTS**  
 918-549-2740



## QUARTERLY SESSION

# QUARTERLY SESSION ADDRESSES NEEDS OF COMMUNITY AND MVSKOKE SOVEREIGNTY

OKFVSKE DISTRICT RENAMED



(MM File)

by **FRANCES HERROD**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held a quarterly session in the Mound Building both live and via teleconference following Chief Hill's State of the Nation address Saturday, Jan. 25. The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 25-001 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending TR 24-079 (a tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to apply for grant funds from the Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start and commit a tribal match). Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

This legislation amends TR 24-079 and commits to a new tribal match for the Administration of Children and Families of Head Start. Tribal match is now \$742,321.

TR 25-002 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the

benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

This legislation will allow the MCNDH to recover costs from referred care from the DVA like ambulances and life flight.

TR 25-003 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to execute a utility right-of-way agreement with Public Service Company of Oklahoma associated with the construction of a project in Wagoner County. Sponsored by Mark Randolph, co-sponsored by Charles McHenry, it was adopted 15-0.

The legislation grants a 20 year right-of-way to Public Service Company in exchange for utility services of said right-of-way.

TR 25-005 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adopting an updated procurement policy for the expenditure of Indian Housing Block Grant Funds. Sponsored by Charles McHenry, the legislation was postponed until the next meeting with a vote of 15-0.

This legislation would update the Procurement Policy to meet the standards of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act.

TR 25-006 A Tribal Resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adopting an updated emergency repair of privately owned homes policy of the The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Sponsored by Galen Cloud the legislation was adopted 15-0.

This legislation authorizes assistance for low income citizens with insurance deductibles for Emergency Repair of Privately Owned Homes Policy of 20 the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing.

TR 25-009 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the renovation/construction of a smoke shop for the Checotah Indian Community. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored and Representative Galen Cloud co-sponsored the legislation, which was postponed indefinitely by a vote of 15-0.

This legislation authorizes renovation/repair for the Texana Smoke Shop for the Checotah Indian Community.

NCA 25-001 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$2,025,24.00 awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2025 Summer EBT Program. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

This legislation will allow the MCN to extend the federal award from 2024 into 2025. It was awarded based on a 50% tribal match. The program will allow the MCN to serve 105,604 eligible children within the MCN Reservation.

NCA 25-002 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$1,100,000.00 awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2025 Summer EBT Program. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the legislation, the grant funds will be used for technology implementation of the Summer EBT Program.

NCA 25-003 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 awarded from Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration Center for Mental Health Services, Native Connections Project for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

According to the legislation, the grant will build on previous work to promote the use of culturally appropriate prevention, intervention, and treatment methods.

NCA 25-004 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The legislation, sponsored by Galen Cloud, allots \$87,955.00 for baseline testing for disease among the feral swine population across the Mvskoke Reservation.

The grant funds will be used to obtain baseline testing and detection of diseases such as brucellosis, pseudorabies, leptospirosis, tri trichomonas, and tularemia in the feral swine populations across the Nation's Reservation, specifically, Muscogee (Creek) citizens hunting portions of the Nation's reservation.

NCA 25-005 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related to the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Alabama, to the amount of \$450,000.00. The law was sponsored by Rep. Proctor and co-sponsored by Rep. Cloud. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

This legislation continues funding for legal defense and public relations services to further efforts to protect the sacred site, as well as, provide funding for legal services in regard to the current site of their Ceremonial Ground.

NCA 25-006 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department for museum collection, to the amount of \$437,336.81. The law was sponsored by Rep. Cloud. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

This legislation authorizes The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department to enter into an agreement with ItsimiVee, LLC for long-term rehousing and crating to move vulnerable cultural items that require critical intervention to ensure a successful and safe move to the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Visitor Center collection storage.

NCA 25-008 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families, to the amount of \$742,320.00, for the benefit of the Head Start program and appropriating tribal match. The law was sponsored by Rep. Proctor and co-sponsored by Rep. Cloud. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families for the benefit of the Head Start Program.

NCA 25-009 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of the Interior, to the amount of \$168,427.00, for the benefit of the Lighthorse Police Department. The law was sponsored by Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. of the Okmulgee District. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

This law will pay for fringe benefits, indirect costs, and pay for additional hours worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Lighthorse Police department.

NCA 25-010 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, to the amount of \$1,265,000.00, for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund. The law was sponsored by Rep. Harjo Sr. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

This law will allow the Mvskoke Loan Fund to access more money to be lent to its clients.

NCA 25-011 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 26, Chapter 2, § 2-201.E, entitled "Compensation". The law was sponsored by Representative Randall Hicks of the Okfuskee District and adopted 15-0.

This law will increase the amount of compensation given to District Trial Court judges for the increase in their workload.

NCA 25-012 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$186,507 awarded from the Indian Health Service, HIV/HCV/Syphilis Epidemic Project Grant. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

The grant enhances patient care coordination, patient navigation, treatment, retention care, and prevention services, and increases training and support services available to patients.

NCA 25-013 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the National Park Service Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Grant for the benefit of the Historic and Cultural Preservation Department. Sponsored by Galen Cloud the legislation was adopted 15-0.

The \$97,491 grant will be used to "ensure the protection and preservation of valued Mvskoke historic and cultural resources, including sacred places, cultural sites, cultural remains and Mvskoke history for future generations."

NCA 25-015 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing litigation to be filed in Federal Court in the name of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against state and municipal governments and officials exercising unlawful jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation and appropriating funds for this action. Sponsored by Randall Hicks, the legislation appropriating \$500,000.00 was adopted 15-0.

This law will assist in asserting Mvskoke sovereignty as affirmed by the Supreme Court in the 2020 McGirt decision and hold those accountable who refuse to recognize Mvskoke jurisdiction.

NCA 25-016 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law in MCNCA Title 30 Chapter , entitled "Legislative Districts" to name the Okfuskee District Boundary Jurisdiction to Akfvske District. Sponsored by Sandra Golden, the legislation passed 15-0.

The Law renames the Okfuskee District to the traditional Akfvske.

NCA 25-018 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 16 § 1-108, entitled "Legitimate purposes for commissions to fill vacancies," and § 1-109, entitled "Commissions no substitution for joint approval of appointments," and creating new subsection, entitled "Nominations" in MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 1, entitled "Organization of the Executive Office of the Principal Chief". The law was sponsored by Rep. Barnett, and was co-sponsored by Rep. Harjo, Rep. Hicks, Representative Galen Cloud, Representative Mary Crawford, Representative Joyce C. Deere, Representative Patrick Freeman Jr., Representative Sandra Golden, Representative Robert Hufft, Representative Anna Marshall, Representative Charles McHenry, Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn, Representative Darrell Proctor, Representative Mark Randolph, and Representative Robyn Whitecloud. It was adopted with a vote of 15-0.

This law will limit the amount of times a person may be nominated by the Principal Chief within a single session of the National Council, and establish penalties for failed nominees who attempt to illegally serve despite the National Council's rejection.

To view the full meeting, visit: [mncn.com](http://mncn.com).

## MEGAN LOWRY

**Veteran Spotlight**  
MVSKOKE NATION  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
SERVICES OFFICE

We would like to honor tribal veteran Corporal Megan R. Lowry for her service to the U.S. Marine Corps, the United States and the Muscogee Nation.

During her four years of service Corporal Lowry was awarded the Presidential Service Badge for honorable service to the White House. Megan served former President George W. Bush and his family, providing security for all presidential assets. She was also awarded the Marine Good Conduct medal, Global War on Terrorism, National Defense medal, a Letter of Commendation, Letter of Appreciation (2nd award), and Certificate of



(Courtesy: Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office)

Appreciation.

Mvto Corporal Lowry for your service.



JUMPS/POLITICAL CARTOON/COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SOUR SOFKEE

Continued from Page 2
'She's gonna blow!' Fixico screams.
Yahola's face is whiter than Crisco shortening.

Fixico half crawls and half stumbles toward the cucuke.
Tarpalechee floats by in a large plastic tote.
'Tarp! Get your cvpo over there in the corner and turn off this water,'

double doors of the Rez Bar to burst open.
It creates a powerful water flume that sucks the flotsam and jetsam contents of the bar toward the front door.

WOVEN BEING

Continued from Page 4
place through the lens of Indigenous art.
According to a press release from the The Block Museum of Art, themes will include 'kinship between materials, relations across regional landways and waterways,

The exhibition will also be captured and transcribed in a 160 page book, 'Woven Being: Exhibition Publication'.
The book will explore expansive themes and questions posed by the exhibit.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Indian Taco Sale
Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church
Feb. 22
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tacos sold for \$12 each
8815 E. 101st St. Tulsa, OK

Mvskoke Gardener Program
College of Muscogee
Nation Extension Office
9 Week Course, Starts Feb. 18
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Focus on horticulture, traditional ecological knowledge and food sovereignty.
Pre registration is required.
College of Muscogee
Nation - Classroom Building
2170 Raven Cir., Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions, contact 918-549-2861

Elder's Meeting
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
2900 N. Osage Pl.
Okmulgee, OK.
March 5

- 9:30 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts
Veterans Affairs Services Office
March 13
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1006 Bear Ln, Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions, contact 918-732-7739.

Spring Celebration
Mvskoke Tribal Child & Youth Coalition
March 19
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pre Register by Feb. 21 for meal ticket and t-shirt.
Mvskoke Dome
2950 Warrior Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions, contact sarn-echeer@muscogeenation.com.

Health Shelf Donation Drive
College of Muscogee Nation Health & Wellness is seeking hygiene products, laundry detergent, and gently used blankets and pillows for students in need.
Donations can be dropped off at 2170 Raven Circle, Okmulgee, OK.



(Courtesy: BESH)

LEGALS

GD-2025-04

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:
OLIVIA BOWEN,
Minor Child.
Case No. GD-2025-04
ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN
Notice is hereby given that DESIRAE BOWEN has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting the appointment of a guardian of the person and property of OLIVIA BOWEN.

JV-2024-17

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF:
T.W.; DOB: 04/11/2023
Alleged Deprived Child(ren).
Case No. JV 2024-17
JUVENILE SUMMONS
THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Brian Leonard Buckley
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 alleged father of said child, T.W., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

GD-2025-06

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:
AUTUMN MCCOSAR,
Minor Child.
Case No. GD-2025-06
ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN
Notice is hereby given that JESSICA HOOD has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting the appointment of a guardian of the person and property of AUTUMN MCCOSAR.

NOW OPEN!
OKMULGEE EXPRESS CARE
SERVING CITIZENS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES
Hours:
Monday - Friday: 7AM - 7PM
Saturday - Sunday: 9AM - 5PM
Address:
1400 S Wood Drive, Okmulgee OK 74447
Our Phone (918) 591-5733
Our Website Creekhealth.org
MCN Health logo and images of the clinic building and interior.



LEGALS (CONT.)

AD-2021-0011 (BIOLOGICAL FATHER)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALIAS NOTICE OF FINALIZATION HEARING... THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION... TO: CORY JAMES HANCOCK Biological Father... NOW on the 8th day of October, 2024, an Application was filed in this Court to grant the Petition and finalize the adoption of Aniyah Isabella Samejo, born May 15, 2010, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Yusuf Anwar Samejo, born October 22, 2011, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Ishaq Rehan Samejo, born September 17, 2012, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 13th day of March, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lyndville, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION. Signed and dated this 17th day of January, 2025. HONORABLE ALEXANDRA MASTERS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT... Prepared by: Catherine Z. Welsh, MCN #358, Jim C. McLaugh, MCN #914, Welsh & McLaugh, PLLC, Midway Building, 2227 E. 21st St., Ste. 400, Tulsa, OK, 74114. (918) 585-8600 - telephone, (918) 794-4411 - facsimile, cathy@wmlaw.com, jim@wmlaw.com, Attorneys for Petitioners.

AD-2024-21 (PUTATIVE FATHER)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL FATHER... TO: Unknown Putative Father... YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED Pete and Lyrz Gillett, husband and wife, have filed their Petition in the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court, State of Oklahoma for the adoption of Scarlett Faylyns Stallman, born on the 22nd day of January, 2022 whom you are the alleged father, together with their Application for an order of this Court determining said child to be eligible for adoption without your consent. A hearing on said Application is scheduled for the 6th day of March, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. in room number 1 of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Courtroom, 2501 LYNDVILLE Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Said Application alleges that your consent to this adoption is not required by law for the reason that consent for adoption is not required by filing a separate application for termination of parental rights in the adoption proceeding based on the grounds of abandonment set forth in paragraph 2 of subsection B of Title 6, § 1-901 or based on the grounds of failure to contribute to support as set forth in paragraph 4 of subsection B of Title 6, § 1-901. YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF SAID CHILD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID

HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS IN SAID CHILD'S ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, THEREBY ULTIMATELY TERMINATING YOUR RIGHTS TO SAID CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. Signed this 17th day of January, 2024. Alyson D. Campbell JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION DISTRICT COURT... PREPARED BY: Benjamin Aycock, OBA#21472, 1437 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 1200, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119, Telephone: (918) 933-4333, Facsimile: (918) 512-4461, ben@henrydewlaw.com, Attorney for Petitioners.

AD-2024-21 (NATURAL MOTHER)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL MOTHER... TO: Unknown Putative Mother... YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED Pete and Lyrz Gillett, husband and wife, have filed their Petition in the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court, State of Oklahoma for the adoption of Scarlett Faylyns Stallman, born on the 22nd day of January, 2022 whom you are the natural mother, together with their Application for an order of this Court determining said child to be eligible for adoption without your consent. A hearing on said Application is scheduled for the 6th day of March, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. in room number 1 of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Courtroom, 2501 LYNDVILLE Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Said Application alleges that your consent to this adoption is not required by law for the reason that consent for adoption is not required by filing a separate application for termination of parental rights in the adoption proceeding based on the grounds of abandonment set forth in paragraph 2 of subsection B of Title 6, § 1-901 or based on the grounds of failure to contribute to support as set forth in paragraph 4 of subsection B of Title 6, § 1-901. YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF SAID CHILD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID

HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS IN SAID CHILD'S ADOPTION WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, THEREBY ULTIMATELY TERMINATING YOUR RIGHTS TO SAID CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. Signed this 17th day of January, 2024. Alyson D. Campbell JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION DISTRICT COURT... PREPARED BY: Benjamin Aycock, OBA#21472, 1437 South Boulder Avenue, Suite 1200, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119, Telephone: (918) 933-4333, Facsimile: (918) 512-4461, ben@henrydewlaw.com, Attorney for Petitioners.

JV-2024-22 (MICHAEL ALAN FISCH)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALLEGED DEPRIVED CHILDREN... JUVENILE SUMMONS... THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Michael Alan Fisch... 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 alleged father of said child, A.W., 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 3RD day of APRIL, 2025, 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 27th day of January, 2025. [Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-22 (CALVIN LEO HOPSON)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALLEGED DEPRIVED CHILDREN... JUVENILE SUMMONS... THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Calvin Leo Hopson... YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the alleged father of said children, A.H. & A.W., 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 3RD day of APRIL, 2025, 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 27th day of January, 2025. [Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-22 (UNKNOWN FATHERS)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALLEGED DEPRIVED CHILDREN... JUVENILE SUMMONS... THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father(s)... YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the alleged father(s) of said children, A.H., A.W., K.W., and P.W., you have been named as the Respondents, 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 3RD day of APRIL, 2025, 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 27th day of January, 2025. [Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-22 (MICHAEL SINOHUI)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALLEGED DEPRIVED CHILDREN... JUVENILE SUMMONS... THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Michael Sinohui... 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 alleged father of said child, P.W., 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 3RD day of APRIL, 2025, 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 27th day of January, 2025. [Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-22 (JOSHUA TODD BENNETT)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT... ALLEGED DEPRIVED CHILDREN... JUVENILE SUMMONS... THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Joshua Todd Bennett... 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 alleged father of said child, K.W., 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 3RD day of APRIL, 2025, 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 27th day of January, 2025. [Seal] Deputy Court Clerk Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

SAND CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sand Creek Baptist Church, Wetumka, Oklahoma, 74883. - NOTICE - Dut to limited space Sand Creek Baptist Church, Wetumka, Oklahoma reserves the SCBC Cemetery, Church Building, and Fellowship Hall for active members only. Respectfully, Harry Harje, Sand Creek Baptist Church Chairman, Augusta Anderson, Sand Creek Baptist Church Secretary.