



THE

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MVSKOKE NEWS

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The remains of a car damaged in the March 14 Oklahoma wildfires sits charred in front of a damaged house. (Courtesy: Bobby Howard)



A house affected by the March 14 wildfires sustained massive damage to the roof. (Courtesy: Bobby Howard)

HIGH WINDS BLOW WILDFIRES ACROSS THE MVSKOKE RESERVATION

MCN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND LIGHORSE POLICE CONDUCT EVACUATION AND RESCUE EFFORTS TO KEEP CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS SAFE FROM WILDFIRES ENHANCED BY HIGH WINDS

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - Four deaths have been confirmed and over 140 are injured after wildfires burned across the state. March 14 storm systems produced dangerously high winds that clocked in at 60-80 miles per hour. This made conditions for wildfire spread dangerous. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management and Lighthorse Police quickly responded and

helped with evacuation and rescue efforts across the Mvskoke Reservation. Lighthorse officers set up barricades to shut down highways leading to the affected areas. MCN Transit was also present to transport those affected by the wildfires.

Counties within the reservation that were affected by wildfires include Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, McIntosh, Hughes and Tulsa County. Creek and Okfuskee counties took the brunt of the damage with property damage. According

to MCN Emergency Management Director Bobby Howard, an estimated total of 25,000 acres were burned off within the Nation.

On March 15 Governor Kevin Stitt signed a State of Emergency declaration for the counties affected by wildfires. The order will "assist and expedite all efforts of relief" for those affected. It temporarily suspends requirements for size and weight permits of oversized vehicles transporting materials and supplies used for emergency relief and power resto-

ration. The executive order will be in effect for 30 days.

The State of Oklahoma was approved for 13 Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These grants help cover the costs associated with fire response.

The American Red Cross supported shelters in Luther, Mansford, Shawnee and Stillwater. According to Howard, the organization has provided thousands of meals to those affected by the fires.

The Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief set up feeding kitchens in partnership with the American Red Cross for impacted residents in Logan, Pawnee and Payne counties.

Although the winds over the following week were not as strong as they were on March 14, the potential for wildfires was still present.

"Hot spots could flare back

WILDFIRES
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Naomi Franklin, Lauren Hobbs, Veronica Pipestem, and Nancy Lowe-Clark have been working on crating and storing the Council House Collections since 2023. A MCNC appropriation will go towards finishing their work. (Meredith Johnson/MM)

WITH AN EYE FOR DETAIL, ITSIMIVEE TAKES CARE OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE COLLECTIONS

RECENT APPROPRIATION ENLISTS MUSEUM SERVICES COMPANY TO COMPLETE INTRICATE CRATING AND STORING PROCESS

BY **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House Museum is in the process of crating and storing their collections for a future move to the planned 2026 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Welcome and Visitor Center in Okmulgee.

Purchased from the Creek Council House Museum Association in 2013, the collection has been in the same remote loca-

tion awaiting a permanent home. The collection includes paintings, photographs, manuscripts, textiles, baskets, and furniture. In addition, the collection also includes items donated to the department or purchased.

With the adoption of NCA 25-006, which passed this January, the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department was able to enter into a contract with ItsimiVee, LLC, a museum and cultural services company. The \$437,366 appropriation will allow the ItsimiVee team to finish the work

they've been doing since 2023 of packing and crating the collections.

ShaVon Agee, Program Manager at the Cultural Center and Archives explained the need to properly crate the items and the detailed process involved.

"All cultural materials are being carefully assessed to determine the degree of care required to prepare and pack the items in advance of the move to Okmulgee," Agee said. "Shipping crates and supportive packing features are all custom built and fabricated to ensure stable and safe transfer of the collections throughout the course of the move and rehousing project."

The detailed process begins with accessing the condition of the items and designing a specially built museum quality mount or tray to protect and securely support them. After the support or mount is built and the item installed, then additional protective material is placed and a crate designed. The crate is built to specific measurements by crate builders off site to avoid dust and damage to the collection. After the items are packed and crated, a detailed catalog of the crate is made.

"Every item we pack and crate is customized for that item,

COUNCIL HOUSE COLLECTIONS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Two cases of measles have been reported in Oklahoma by the state health department. (Shutterstock)

MEASLES CASES POP UP IN OKLAHOMA

MCN HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDES INSIGHTS ON THE RECENT OUTBREAK IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHAT MVSKOKE CITIZENS CAN DO TO KEEP THEMSELVES AND OTHERS SAFE

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), two measles cases have been reported in Oklahoma. The March 11 report to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) identified two contributing factors to these cases. The first factor is that both individuals reported exposures associated with the Texas and New Mexico outbreak, the second is that both experienced symptoms consistent with measles. The report states that after

both individuals learned they were exposed, they took the proper precautions by self isolating at home while contagious.

In light of the situation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Department continues to work with the state health department to identify and monitor diseases found on the Mvskoke Reservation.

According to MCN Health, although measles is a disease that was once officially eliminated in the United States due to effective vaccines, it still remains common

MEASELS
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Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation are now investigating an officer-involved shooting where a homicide suspect was shot by Muscogee Nation Lighthorse Police and Muskogee Police. (Aaron Wilson-Bogar's Mugshot)

LIGHORSE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN SHOOTING OF A HOMICIDE SUSPECT

OSBI NOW INVESTIGATING LIGHORSE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

MUSKOGEE, Okla. - A homicide suspect is recovering from gunshot wounds after firing a weapon on Muscogee Nation Lighthorse Police and Muskogee Police. The suspect, 26-year-old

Aaron Wilson-Bogar, is accused of killing Amie Maxwell at Five Star Recycling in Oktaha, Oklahoma on March 8.

Muskogee County Sheriff's Office deputies initially responded to a call made around 6 p.m. When officers arrived on scene, they located two female

victims who had suffered from gunshot wounds. They were later identified as Maxwell and Kimberly Clay. First aid measures were provided to Maxwell, however she was pronounced dead

LIGHORSE SHOOTING
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WILDFIRES

Continued from Page 1

up. Everyone is being advised to be very diligent and careful out there.” Howard said.

Mvskoke citizens and Oklahoma residents are still advised to take extreme caution during extreme fire danger conditions. If smoke or an unattended fire is spotted, call 911. Keep monitoring conditions on local weather forecasts. Keep vehicles off dry grass and safely dispose of cigarettes. Avoid using open fire grills and stoves outdoors.

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

George W. Wittman Jr.
U.S. Navy
Vietnam War Veteran
1965 - 1969

GEORGE W. WITTMAN JR.

The Muscogee Nation Veterans Services Office is proud to honor tribal veteran George W. Wittman Jr. for his dedicated service to the U.S. Navy, the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. George honorably served for three years from 1965 to 1969 and is a recipient of the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Mvto Mr. Wittman for your selfless service to your country and your community.

COUNCIL HOUSE COLLECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

so the process takes time,” Agee explained. “We also prioritize careful item handling to ensure that items are not damaged.”

Veronica Pipestem (Otoe-Missouria/Osage), who owns and operates ItsimiVee, has had years of experience working with the Council House collection already in her role previously as collections manager. The team includes Naomi Franklin (Cherokee descent), Nancy Lowe (Choctaw), and Lauren Hobbs (Cherokee) and has over 50-years experience combined in archive and museum collections management and care.

During the Jan. 14 Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee Pipestem explained in a pre-recorded video

the process the team takes and the need for a longer term budget. Pipestem explained that backordered supplies can create work stoppage that could be filled with other duties.

“We are asking for a longer-term project budget because of the nature of some of the archival supplies, for example the cost of Medex, an archival grade of lumber that we use. Sometimes they’re back ordered for six to eight weeks and to be a good partner to Muscogee Nation, and to get done what we say will get done, if something like this takes 6 weeks to get here, we might not get the packing done with a month long contract. The need for a longer term contract is essential for this work that we do because of the nature of the supplies and the way we can build in other activities while

we’re waiting on supplies that are backordered.”

After properly being crated and stored, the collection will be permanently housed at the planned Welcome Center in Okmulgee. Legislation adopted in 2024, NCA 24-028, appropriated over \$4M towards establishing the center. “The collections space at the Welcome Center is being designed to not only meet museum storage-space preservation standards but also serve as a place that will allow greater access to these collections for Mvskoke citizens and researchers,” stated Agee.

“The construction documents and renderings are in the process of being completed. Construction of the Welcome Center is estimated to be completed Spring 2026.”

LIGHTHORSE SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

at the scene. Clay was treated by EMS and released.

Later that evening Wilson-Bogar was located by Lighthorse officers in Muskogee who tried to initiate a traffic stop. Lighthorse were the law enforcement agency in the area who responded to the search for a shooting suspect reported by Muskogee police officers. Wilson fled, which led to a vehicle pursuit. The pursuit ended at North 5th Street and West Martin Luther King Street where Wilson-Bogar fired rounds at officers. That’s when Muskogee and Lighthorse officers returned fire on Wilson-Bogar, wounding him.

Wilson-Bogar was treated at the scene and taken to a local hospital. Currently Wilson-Bogar is in stable condition, no other injuries were reported.

Neither Bogar-Wilson, Maxwell nor Clay are tribal citizens. Lighthorse Police requested the OSBI investigate. The OSBI investigation is still ongoing.

According to MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman all Lighthorse officers involved are on routine administrative leave. The Muskogee police officers involved are also on routine administrative leave.

Wilson-Bogar was released from the hospital and is booked in the Muskogee County Detention Center. The homicide investigation of Amie Maxwell remains ongoing.

MEASLES

Continued from Page 1

in many parts of the world and it can be brought over by international travellers. If a major outbreak situation were to occur on the Mvskoke reservation, MCN Health would coordinate with OSDH as well as the CDC to respond to infectious illnesses. According to OSDH Director of Infectious Disease Prevention and Response Kendra Dougherty, awareness is important.

“These cases highlight the importance of being aware of measles activity as people travel or host visitors,” Dougherty said. “When people know they have

exposure risk and do not have immunity to measles, they can exclude themselves from public settings for the recommended duration to eliminate the risk of transmission in their community.”

Measles symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes after initial exposure. Two to three days after symptoms appear, koplik (white spots in the mouth) may appear. Three to five days later, a measles rash may appear as flat red spots along the hairline and spread down the body.

If an individual has measles symptoms and a known exposure, MCN Health advises they self iso-

late and call their healthcare provider for information on what to do next.

The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine is recommended for children ages 12-15 months old. A second dose is recommended between four to six years old. Two doses typically provide lifelong immunity and are 97% effective at preventing measles. MCN Health advises those who are unsure if they have received the MMR vaccine to contact their healthcare provider.

For questions about the MMR vaccine or for pediatric services offered by MCN Health, they can be contacted at 918-233-9550.

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Photo from Violet PR website

DOGE-OK AS I SAY NOT AS I DO

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY NOT AS EFFICIENT AS CLAIMED

BY **FRANCES HERROD**
REPORTER

Oklahoma City, Oklv. - President Donald Trump has implemented a new agency, The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), whose main objective is to eliminate government fraud and waste. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, in an effort to support President Trump's initiatives, implemented via Executive Order 2025-4 on February 3, 2025 DOGE-OK, an agency Stitt claims will save Oklahoma money by addressing inefficiency and waste.

In a statement to News 9 Gov. Stitt said "By making this data easily available, we're empowering citizens and leaders to drive smarter, leaner, and more responsible government."

A closer look at two of the first four DOGE-OK initiatives shows the announced savings are misleading.

In the first area of savings attributed to DOGE-OK, State Agency Purchase Audits, a new software system, Celonis, was announced as being implemented to audit state agency purchases, preventing "rogue purchasing" as well as a reduction of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) procurement team. The cut to OMES reduced staff from 12 to 6 full-time employees, which DOGE-OK claims is saving the state nearly \$360,000.

Celonis was actually implemented in early 2023 via Carashoft, a full 2 years before DOGE-OK was created. As for the reduction in the OMES Procurement Team then Deputy Director of OMES and Chief Transformation Officer Jerry Moore stated in a Celonis blog that the software was being used to "redirect our workforce to other areas where their expertise is truly needed," an assertion that runs counter to a reduction in force but rather a reassignment of state workers to other areas, resulting in a cost savings for OMES but not a savings for the state of Oklahoma overall.

The second area, Energy Efficiency Projects, states that OMES received a \$42,000 rebate for com-

pleting a lighting retrofit project that will be implemented further in the future.

This savings was announced February 22, 2024, a year before the creation of DOGE-OK.

Those aren't the only concerns raised about Gov. Stitt's commitment to President Trump's initiatives.

President Trump signed an Executive Order on January 20, 2025 ending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and preferencing in the federal government. Gov. Stitt has long been a vocal opponent of DEI.

When announcing Mark Nuttle as the Senior Advisor to DOGE-OK on February 14 Gov. Stitt said, "We've stopped agencies from contracting with lobbyists and using outside PR firms, and we're on track to have fewer state employees at the end of my term than when I took office."

A press release on March 4 shows that the state of Oklahoma is contracted with Violet PR, a boutique firm that specializes in Economic Development. The company not is not only an outside contractor located in Montclair, New Jersey, one of it's core values is "Building an Equitable Future" which includes "a leadership team that values diversity and actively seeks to highlight minority and women-owned businesses, Violet PR is contributing to a future that benefits everyone."

Violet PR touts how it has promoted Oklahoma's Department of Commerce but that it secured appearances in national media for Gov. Stitt, including the POLITICO Tech podcast in which the governor praised Former President Biden's clean tech initiative.

Mvskoke Media contacted Governor Press Secretary Meyer Siegfried and Dan Gunderman of Violet PR regarding the contract but had not heard back as of press time.

These issues with transparency in spending and commitment to President Trump's initiatives by the State of Oklahoma and Gov. Stitt leave more questions than answers about the direction in which the governor is moving the state.



Marvin Stitt will not be dismissed from paying a \$250 speeding ticket issued by the City of Tulsa, despite the fact that Stitt is a Cherokee Nation citizen who was pulled over for speeding within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation. (MM File)

MARVIN STITT, BROTHER OF GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT, LOSES APPEAL OVER \$250 SPEEDING TICKET

THE OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL COURT OF APPEALS REFUSED TO DISMISS A TRAFFIC TICKET FOR MARVIN STITT, A CHEROKEE CITIZEN WHO WAS FINED FOR SPEEDING ON THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) RESERVATION

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA, Okla. - Cherokee citizen and brother of Governor Kevin Stitt, Marvin Stitt lost an appeal with the Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals (OCCA) on March 6. Marvin Stitt was convicted of aggravated speeding following a non-jury trial and was fined \$250 in the City of Tulsa Municipal Court. In an attempt to appeal the conviction, Marvin Stitt sued the city. The Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals ruled that Marvin would not be dismissed from paying the fine.

This case follows two others involving the City of Tulsa and its jurisdiction to prosecute tribal citizens who commit crimes on the MCN Reservation despite the Supreme Court's McGirt decision that affirmed the tribe's right to prosecute tribal citizens for crimes committed on the reservation.

In the first case, City of Tulsa v. OCCA, a judge ruled that the city does have jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes committed by Native Americans who are not

MCN citizens. In the other case, Hooper v. Tulsa, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the city does not have jurisdiction over municipal crimes committed by tribal citizens.

Both cases involved defendants who were citizens of a tribal nation, but not MCN and both involved traffic violations. Nicholas O'Brien is an Osage citizen and Justin Hooper is a Choctaw citizen. O'Brien was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, Hooper was issued a traffic citation.

Regarding Marvin Stitt's conviction, Judge David B. Lewis released the following opinion,

"I concur in the Court's holding regarding the Curtis Act and Hooper v. City of Tulsa, but respectfully dissent from the remainder of the opinion for reasons stated in my separate opinion in City of Tulsa v. O'Brien. The Court should reverse this conviction of an Indian defendant in an Oklahoma municipal court for a crime committed within the Muscogee Creek Reservation. Congress has never conferred criminal jurisdiction on the State or its

municipal subdivisions to prosecute Indians for crimes committed in Indian Country."

According to a statement from Marvin Stitt's lawyer, Brett Chapman, the OCCA's ruling does not follow the precedent set by the McGirt decision.

"The ruling by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals in Stitt v. City of Tulsa lacks any real legal foundation and blatantly disregards well-established principles of federal Indian law and binding Supreme Court precedent. This decision is the crowning achievement of a recent spate of anti-Indigenous rulings handed down by these judges, all of which serve to circumvent the Supreme Court's landmark 2020 decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma, eroding tribal sovereignty and violating treaty rights in the process." Chapman said. "Their decision is not only legally flawed but also a dangerous step toward erasing the recognition of tribal authority that has been settled law

MARVIN STITT
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is taking legal action against Tulsa District Attorney Stephen Kunzweiler for prosecuting Native American tribal citizens who commit crimes on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

MCN SUES TULSA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND SHERIFF

THE NATION'S LAWSUIT SEEKS TO END PROSECUTIONS BY TULSA COUNTY OF NATIVE AMERICANS ON THE RESERVATION.

BY **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

TULSA, Okla. - The Muscogee Creek Nation's lawsuit against the

city of Tulsa currently has a stay in effect until May 19, so that both parties can engage in settlement discussions. Since the stay was issued, newly elected Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols has instructed Tulsa City attorneys to send traffic citations involving tribal citizens to tribal courts for review. Mayor Nichols ran a successful campaign that included working with tribal governments on the jurisdictional issue as a key part of his platform.

According to media reports, Tulsa County District Attorney Stephen Kunzweiler has stated publicly that the Tulsa Police Department has not been forwarding cases to his office when they involve citi-

MCN SUES
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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COMMITTEE COVERAGE



(MM File)

HEW PASSES PLANS FOR CITIZENS BEYOND THE RESERVATION EVENT IN ARIZONA AND SENDS MCN TEACHER GRANTS TO BFJ

DISCUSSION OUTLINED A PRELIMINARY APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TEACHERS

BY MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

MVSOKKE RESERVATION- On March 11, the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee held a mixed virtual and in-person meeting. Passed legislation will go on to the next full council meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

TR 25-016 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute agreements with Talking Stick Resort to host the Arizona Outreach Event in Scottsdale, AZ passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Joyce Deere sponsored the legislation.

The Citizens Beyond the Reservation Office is hosting an event May 9- May 11 in Scottsdale, AZ. The agreements are for contracts, event catering, and equipment rental for the use of facilities and equipment during the event.

TR 25-017 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a data share agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the benefit of the Mus-

cogee (Creek) Nation's Summer EBT Program passed with a vote of 4-0. The legislation was sponsored by Representative Mary Crawford.

The MCN offers summer EBT benefits to eligible children residing in the MCN reservation. The data share agreement with the ODHS will allow eligibility information sharing. Approximately 105,000 children are expected to use the service.

TR 25-018 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a participating purchasing state addendum (addendum) to Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT) enhancement charter passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep. Crawford.

The MCN WIC Program is a member of SPIRIT and uses their service operations and support from other WIC programs in the United States. The State of Maine is now the new lead state/member of SPIRIT and a new addendum must be signed between to constitute the government to government relationship.

NCA 25-014 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing MCNCA title 35, chapter 9, entitled "special appropriations guidelines" and amending MCNCA title 35, chapter 12, entitled "donations"

passed with a vote of 4-0 and will go to the BFJ committee for a funding source.. The legislation was sponsored by Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn and co-sponsored by Representative Dode Barnett and Representative Robyn Whitecloud.

This legislation was introduced to committee in 2024 as NCA 24-164 and was reintroduced on Feb. 11, 2025, where it was again postponed. It repeals MCNA Title 35, Chapter 9: Special Appropriations Guidelines in its totality and amends MCNA Title 35, Chapter 12: Donations.

The amendment deletes donations to charities and organizations and adds support in the amount of \$500 per year to K-12 or public school teachers who are MCN citizens. It also adds separate support for the Okmulgee Indigenous People's Day annual events.

The original appropriation total of the amendment legislation was \$415,000 and was decreased to \$135,000 based on estimates of Muscogee (Creek) teachers in the reservation from the Department of Education. During discussion, Rep. Barnett stated that applications for the grants will begin as early as July 1, 2025.

It also adds separate support for an annual appropriation for the Okmulgee Indigenous People's Day in the amount of \$10,000 and a biennial appropriation for the National Indian Council on Aging elder's conference.

NCA 25-028 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$145,000 awarded from the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and the Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health passed with a vote of 4-0. The legislation was sponsored by Representative Anna Marshall.

The grant will promote the implementation of multidisciplinary team-based care to prevent, manage, and control chronic diseases, and to connect patients to community and social service providers to address culturally appropriate health-related social and economic needs particularly to support heart disease and stroke prevention.

To view the full agenda, visit mcnn.com.



(MM File)

BILLS TO ASSIST CHILD WITNESSES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PASSED BY BFJ

DISCUSSION OUTLINED A PRELIMINARY APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TEACHERS

BY THOMAS JACKSON REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held the Business, Finance and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building on Mar. 20.

Passed legislation is subject to full council approval during the regular session.

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

TR 25-020 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of George Thompson for appointment to the Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was passed by the committee. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Dode Barnett of the Creek District. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this resolution will allow George Thompson to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Supreme Court.

TR 25-021 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Leah Harjo Ware for appointment to the Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was passed by the committee. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this resolution will allow Leah Harjo Ware to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Supreme Court.

NCA 25-032 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 6, Chapter 1, entitled "Children," Subsections 1-401, 1-403, and 1-717 was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Sandra Golden of the Akfske District. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this law will change various portions of MCN law regarding juvenile defendants and

hearings involving the termination of parental rights.

NCA 25-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 6, Chapter 3, entitled "Protection from Domestic and Family Violence Act" was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. of the Okmulke District. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this law will provide a child testifying as a witness in a case to receive adequate support by allowing either a therapy dog or a support person to be present when they testify.

NCA 25-034 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating a new subsection in MCNCA Title 27, Chapter 2, Subsection 2-135, entitled "Confidentiality of Peer Support Communications" to permit confidential law enforcement peer support counseling was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Robert Hufft of the Tvlse District and was co-sponsored by Representative Leonard Gouge of the Tvlse District. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this law will provide private peer support counseling to members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Lighthorse Police Department.

NCA 25-035 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 2, Subchapter 5, entitled "Controlled Dangerous Substances" for Subsections 2-512, 2-513, and 2-517 was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Rep. Hufft. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this law will change the amounts of drugs or paraphernalia required to receive a trafficking charge, as well as change the types of sentencing for certain

BFJ

Continues on page 5

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Office of Environmental Services Earth Day APRIL 22 FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 Community Clean-Up Event FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025 Recycle Collection Event Free Document Shredding from 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. Free Electronic Recycling from 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. Other Items Accepted: White goods, automobile batteries, automobile tires, cardboard, paper, plastics, aluminum cans. DO NOT bring any hazardous materials. MCN RECYCLING CENTER 12675 GUN CLUB ROAD OKMULGEE, OK 74447 CONTACT: 918-549-2580

MARVIN STITT Continued from Page 3

for well over a century. By allowing the State of Oklahoma to force jurisdiction in a manner inconsistent with federal law, the handful of judges of this court have disregarded the foundational legal framework that protects tribal self-governance."

MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman echoed Chapman's statement, affirming this case will continue to be supported by the Nation in its fight for sovereignty post McGirt.

"It's unfortunate that this OCCA ruling, just as in the O'Brien case, has once again sided with the wrong side of plain language law," Salsman said. "We'll continue to aggressively litigate these issues in the federal courts to uphold long-standing legal precedent preventing the state and municipalities from prosecuting Indians within the Nation's Reservation."

According to Chapman, Marvin Stitt is currently seeking a rehearing and is evaluating a petition to be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

MCN SUES Continued from Page 3

zens of tribal nations. Kunzweiler sent a letter to Mayor Nichols asking that he "facilitate the delivery of criminal case referrals to the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office for review and potential prosecution by the State of Oklahoma."

Kunzweiler's justification for the ongoing prosecution of non-Mvskoke tribal citizens on the Mvskoke Reservation is the recent O'Brian decision from the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. This decision held that the City of Tulsa had jurisdiction over Native Americans that have committed crimes in Tulsa County, as long as they are not Mvskoke citizens.

In response to Kunzweilers continued attempts to prosecute tribal citizens, the MCN filed another lawsuit, this time against Tulsa County, Kunzweiler and Tulsa County Sheriff Vic Regolato. The suit seeks a declaratory judgement that the county lacks criminal jurisdiction over tribal citizens and continued assertion of that jurisdiction violates federal law. The suit also seeks an injunction barring the DA from exercising criminal jurisdiction over tribal citizens.

COMMITTEE COVERAGE

BFJ

Continued from Page 4

drugs or drug paraphernalia.

NCA 25-036 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent (10%) for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court for the FY 2025 budget was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Rep. Hufft. It was passed with a vote of 3-0.

If adopted, this law will increase the budget of the MCN District Court by more than ten percent in order to fulfill certain contractual obligations.

TR 25-022 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute confidential settlement agreements to settle litigation claims against certain defendants per court order was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Rep. Hufft. It was passed with a vote of 3-0-1.

If adopted, this resolution will allow the Principal Chief to settle an ongoing legal case involving the Muscogee Nation.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 25-014 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 9, entitled "Special Appropriations Guidelines" and amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 12, entitled "Donations", to the amount of \$135,000.00, was approved by the committee. The law and funding source was sponsored by Rep. Barnett and co-sponsored by Representative Robyn Whitecloud of the Okmulke District.

To view the full agenda, visit: mcnnc.com.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation session was held in the Mound Building on March 11. (MM File)

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED FOR CITIZENS SERVICE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

MCN OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RECEIVED \$2M GRANT FUND FOR THE PHASE 1 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee held a meeting in the Mound Building on March 11.

The committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills. All legislation passed through committee will be presented in the next session for full council approval.

TR 25-019 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Trane Technologies for the benefit of the Citizens Services building. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If adopted into law, legislation allows for MCN to upgrade technology systems for the Citizens Services Building.

NCA 25-029 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of the

Interior for the benefit of the Office of Environmental Services. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, the Office of Environmental Services has been awarded \$2,624,051 in grant funds. According to the department, these funds will plug wells identified, inventoried, and assessed in the Phase 1 Program Development of the Tribe's Orphaned Well Program.

NCA 25-030 A law of the MCN amending MCNCA Title 28, Chapter 8 entitled "Building Code" to replace with the Life Safety Division. Representative Robyn Whitecloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

The purpose of the law is to provide enforceable quality standards for building construction and improvements for the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems, as well as fire suppression and notifications in such buildings so as to protect the health and safety of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and the general public.

NCA 25-031 A law of the MCN establishing the MCN Life Safety Division Revolving Fund. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, is to set up a revolving fund for the Nation's Life Safety Division in to collect/receive funds from issued permits and performed inspections.

For more information visit, www.mcnnc.com.

SUBMISSION



Rylee Galindo sits next to her award-winning photograph. Behind her is a ribbon skirt she submitted as well. (Courtesy: Chris Walker)

YOUNG MVSKOKE ARTISTS WORK RECOGNIZED IN STATE COMPETITION

Rylee Galindo is 10 years old and has won State for her art submission to the PTA Reflections Art Contest. Her work has been moved on to national judging. Rylee submitted a photograph, a ribbon skirt and a literature submission. Rylee recently won first place for her ribbon skirt, third place for her beaded collar and third place for photography at this year's Red Earth Festival.

Rylee lives in Oklahoma City and attends Wayland Bonds Elementary School. She enjoys being creative, sewing, beading and drawing. She also enjoys swimming and traveling. Her tribal town is Hickory Ground and she is active with her fellow Mvskoke At Large citizens in Oklahoma City.



David Smoot has spent decades in the private sector across many different industries. Now, he is looking to give back by creating scholarships for Native American youth. (Courtesy: David Smoot)



David Smoot stands next to scholarship recipient Garrett Yazzie (Diné) at the Pro Players Classic Golf Tournament. (Courtesy: David Smoot)



Born in Guthrie, and raised in the rural area of Sasakwa, Smoot's career has taken him all over the country. (Courtesy: David Smoot)

DAVID SMOOT CONTINUES TO LOOK FORWARD AS HE GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY

MVSKOKE CITIZEN TO START CONSTRUCTION ON A \$2.4B RENEWABLE BIO-FUEL REFINERY ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER

BY BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Computer software leasing, wastewater project development and renewable energy production are just some of the industries Mvskoke citizen David Smoot has worked in during his career over the past several decades. Smoot was born in Guthrie and raised in rural Sasakwa, Oklahoma located south of the Mvskoke Reservation in Seminole County. He moved in with his grandparents at age seven in Canadian. He was later placed in a protestant orphanage in Cincinnati, Ohio after his mother passed away. Smoot grew up in the orphanage throughout high school. Although Smoot has traveled and lived in many different areas across the country, he can still recall early childhood memories growing up with his siblings.

"Life in Oklahoma was fishing and hunting, and being boys, just being normal, it was absolutely wonderful," Smoot said. "We were dirt poor, but we didn't know it, let's put it that way."

Smoot also claims Cherokee heritage in his family. Growing up his family attended local pow wows. To his recollection, Smoot's family was never forced to hide their cultural identity, nor were they prohibited from speaking the Mvskoke language. However, the culture and traditions were not passed down to his generation in his family. Smoot's mother attended Carlisle Indian School, one of the most infamous boarding schools that separated Indigenous children from families and displaced them over 1,000

miles away in Pennsylvania. Smoot's mother ran away from the boarding school a total of three times.

The orphanage Smoot grew up in was strict, but he attributes its rigid structure to molding him into the businessman he is today. He also played several sports: football, basketball and baseball. During the summers as a young athlete Smoot practiced with the likes of future sports stars like Pete Rose and Johnny Bench in Cincinnati. A basketball scholarship gave him the opportunity to attend college. Smoot tried out for the Virginia Squires, a former American Basketball Association team in Norfolk, Virginia. As fate would have it, the same week Smoot learned he made the team, he also received a draft notice for the Army.

"I got my draft notice from Uncle Sam to report to Ft. Benning, Georgia in 30 days," Smoot said. "That ended my basketball dreams."

Although Smoot was drafted during the Vietnam War era, he did not fight in the conflict. He served in the national guard unit in northern Kentucky. After completing basic training, Smoot returned home and found a job selling computers and leasing computer software that would put him on the path to becoming a renewable energy mogul.

A Career Decades in the Making
Although computer software purchasing and leasing is a flourishing industry today, the landscape of the industry was merely in its infancy 50 years ago.

"It was early in that industry (computer software) in the '70s," Smoot said. "The software and microcomputer industry was just

starting to become a reality."

Smoot rose through the ranks and found himself working out of Pebble Beach, California. He leased multimillion dollar software packages with up-and-coming computer companies at the time like Microsoft and Apple. It was here where Smoot began developing business-savvy strategies that made him stand out. Back then clients traditionally paid in cash, which would take three years to pay off. Smoot provided a way to refinance these contracts where companies could take five years to pay off their contracts.

Leaving California in 1983, Smoot moved to Chicago where he started his own software leasing company. This new business venture afforded Smoot the opportunity to conduct business with Fortune 500 companies. At its peak, the company brought in sales of \$100M. Smoot sold the company and transitioned into wastewater development.

In 1995 Smoot moved to Arizona and started working with developers on creating wastewater infrastructure in areas outside of the sphere of influence, or areas where residents have to retrieve water for themselves. According to Smoot, his business became the primary provider of wastewater and fiber optic infrastructure in the area.

Although Smoot had found success in software leasing and wastewater development, he did not initially find the same success in renewable energy. In the 2000s Smoot began managing 2,000 acre solar farms in Southern California. Unfortunately, he would later find out there was no capacity for the utility lines for his company to use.

After that company went under, he returned to Phoenix.

Undeterred, Smoot continued to pursue the entrepreneurial possibilities renewable energy provided. He started Arizona Renewable Fuels, which collected feedstock and scraps from a local landfill on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's reservation.

"Their landfill was getting filled up, so by us taking all the wood that was coming in, up to one million tons a year, and putting that through gasifiers that powered turbans, we could make electricity and sell it to SRP (Salt River Project)," Smoot said.

Investors were not convinced the new technology was profitable. Smoot once again had to go back to the drawing board and assemble a new team to develop a business approach to the technology. The business explored the possibility of using wood from volcanoes for renewable fuels for Hawaiian Airlines. Unable to get funding, that idea did not lift off the ground. Smoot once again moved operations in the late 2010s to Washington, a state known for its timber production. This would lead to the crowning achievement of Smoot's career.

Northwest Advanced Bio-Fuels
Today, Smoot is the founder and CEO of Northwest Advanced Bio-Fuels (NWABF), an energy company that sells sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to airlines. Now producing a product clients felt comfortable buying, NWABF signed a contract with one of the largest airlines in the world.

"Delta Airlines in 2019 gave us one of the biggest, longest, most valuable offtake agreements anyone

had ever signed to date at that time," Smoot said.

The multi-billion, 10-year contract will fund a feasibility study of biofuel production. According to a statement from Delta, their goal is to reduce lifecycle emissions up to 80 percent, reducing their overall carbon footprint. Smoot projects that the refinery will start production by 2029.

SAFs are composed from woody biomass, materials obtained from trees or tree products, and replace the need for petroleum-based fuels. The biomass is not collected from live trees, rather it is collected from slash piles, mill waste and forest residuals. Through every step of refinement, NWABF measures their carbon footprint.

Renewable energy has become a polarized topic in politics. Not everyone is on board with the transition from fossil to renewable fuels. As an industry insider leading the charge on developing SAFs, Smoot foresees renewable energy in America's future.

"Everyone sees the administrations change and they think the renewable industry is going away, but it's not," Smoot said. "It's going to be around for a long time but it's going to be different. They now know how to paint buildings with a paint or make glass with substances that act like solar panels. You could have your whole building be a solar panel. That's the way they are going to be constructed in the future."

Smoot remarked that it is his dream to start a family 501c3 that will work with Indigenous students and veterans. He also has a vision to provide scholarships and apprenticeships to children of Native American veterans who had either died or were wounded. According to Smoot, there is still a lot of work to be done to give Native American youth the opportunities to succeed in life.

"These kids need help all across the country. I work with the tribes in Arizona. We go to their homes where they sometimes don't have electricity or running water." It's unbelievable at my age that I am seeing that on reservations in this country when we spend the money that we do on other things."

The contract with Delta appears to be just the beginning of the transition to renewable energy in the airline industry. According to Smoot, NWABF is in talks with other airlines to start their own SAF project companies. To learn more about NWABF, visit their website, nwabiofuels.com.

IN MEMORIAM



JAMES LONZO YAHOLA

James Lonzo Yahola was born to Alonzo and Florence (Price) Yahola on January 12, 1935 in Wewoka, OK. He went to his Heavenly home on December 22, 2024 surrounded by his family at the age of 89 years old.

James attended Cromwell High School and graduated with the Class of 1954. He furthered his education at OCU. On April 17, 1955 he married the love of his life, Lila Orsburn, they were married for 69 years. James was an employee for the United States Federal Government where he worked for Indian Health Services as an Administrative Assistant for many years. He was a proud citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. James was a quiet and gentle man that persevered as a Native American through a generation that did not allow many others to succeed, yet he never carried hate or resentment in his heart or mind. He loved Oklahoma State Athletics and enjoyed watching OU sports as well. His favorite pastime was attending his grandchildren's baseball games, basketball games, softball games and wrestling duals. There was never an enchilada plate nor chicken-fried steak dinner he did not enjoy. James enjoyed going fishing and camping at Lake Eufaula with his family. He was blessed with success, and shared it with those he felt needed it. He was a family man in his own way.

James was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Tom Yahola and Charles Yahola and sister: Lois Ann Yahola. He is survived by his wife Lila of the home, son James A. Yahola of Norman, daughters: Pennie Yahola Brown of Noble and LaWana Yahola of Oklahoma City, sister: Connie Kimbrough of Houston, TX, grandchildren: Shain Brown and wife Amy, Seth Brown and wife Anna, Wynema Yahola, James C. Yahola and wife, Amber, great-grandchildren: Abbi, Brooklyn, Saige and Cy, along with many other relatives and friends.



Students learn how to weave baskets at the Council House during spring break activities. (Courtesy: Creek Nation Council House)

COUNCIL HOUSE HELD A WEEK OF FUN SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZER SHAVON AGEE WAS VERY EXCITED TO HELP TEACH MUSCOGEE HISTORY AND CULTURE

BY THOMAS JACKSON REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Spring Break recently came to the Muscogee Nation Reservation, and the Muscogee Nation was able to provide plenty of entertainment over the week, with events that were held at the Council House in downtown Okmulgee from March 17 to March

LEGALS

AD-2025-2, PG. 1

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT
In the Matter of the Adoption of)
B.K.C. dob: xx/xx/2014;)
a Minor Child.) No. AD-2025-2
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS OF NATURAL FATHER
MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION TO:
Justin Perron Colley
22117 E. 63rd STREET SOUTH
BROKEN ARROW, OK 74014
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court asking this Court to determine that your Parental Rights be Terminated. You have been named as the natural father of B.K.C., a minor child born on the XX day of XXX, 2014. That the natural mother is Brianne Summer Maples and the birth father is Justin Perron Colley. The Petition alleges that your consent is not required by law for the following reasons to wit pursuant to Title 6-1-901(B) (2) (c) and (B)4; Title 6-1-1007(B):
TITLE 6-1-901 (B) (2) (C) ABANDONMENT: It is alleged that the child is eligible for adoption in that you have "failed to maintain a significant relationship with the child through visitation or communication for a period of six (6) consecutive months out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of a Petition to Terminate Parental

AD-2025-2, PG. 2

Rights." Incidental or token visits or communications shall not be construed or considered in establishing whether a parent has maintained a significant relationship with the child.
TITLE 6-1-901 (B) (4) FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUPPORT: The Court may terminate parental rights upon a finding that a parent who does not have custody of the child has willfully failed to contribute to the support of the child as provided in a decree of divorce or in some other Court order during the preceding year or, in absence of such order, consistent with the parent's means and earning capacity.
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 BELOW WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT THAT TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN; YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE TERMINATION OF YOUR RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION.
You are further notified that this Court will hear evidence and hold the hearing on the 24th day of April, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District.

AD-2025-2, PG. 3

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed by official signature and seal of this Court this 13th day of March, 2025.
JUDGE MASTERS
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT
Terri Craig, MCNBA #867
Attorney for Petitioners
P. O. Box 991
Wagoner, OK 74477
(918) 485-1529

JV-2024-21

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF:)
C.M.; DOB: 03/09/2018) Case No. JV 2024- 21
G.S.; DOB 11/16/2021)
Alleged Deprived Child(ren).)
AMENDED JUVENILE SUMMONS
(Amended as to children's names in heading of document)
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, G.S., 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 March, 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 3rd day of March, 2025.
Paula Burns
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-21

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF:)
C.M.; DOB: 03/09/2018) Case No. JV 2024- 21
G.S.; DOB 11/16/2021)
Alleged Deprived Child(ren).)
AMENDED JUVENILE SUMMONS
(Amended as to children's names in heading of document)
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, G.S., 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 March, 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 3rd day of March, 2025.
Paula Burns
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-14

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF:)
F.R.; DOB: 07/07/2024) Case No. JV-2024-14
Alleged Deprived Child.)
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, F.R., 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 21st day of March, 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 3rd day of March, 2025.
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

JV-2024-25

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT
IN THE MATTER OF:)
G.W.; DOB: 12/15/2024) Case No. JV-2024-25
Alleged Deprived Child.)
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, G.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 March, 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 3rd day of March, 2025.
Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

necklaces at 2 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 18, there were two classes on creating beaded stick earrings.

On March 19, attendees made art prints using wood blocks, built their own bird feeders, and discussed clans.

On March 20, there was a basket-making class, followed by a class where attendees were shown how to make gourd necklaces.

Finally, on March 21, there was a storytelling session where artists told stories using canvases, followed by a class on making miniature war clubs, which was hosted by renowned Muscogee storyteller Dan Beaver.

Events were held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on each day, and lasted for two hours each, or until supplies ran out.

ShaVon Agee, the lead organizer of the week's events, looked forward to next week's events, and was glad that they could provide activities that were both educational and entertaining for all those involved.

"We have a lot of kids who are not in school, so we want to get something for them to do when they're with their families. Also, it gives them opportunities to have activities with some of our Muscogee artists and talk with our staff and learn more about the history and culture," Agee said. "It's important to have programming like this, because a lot of it also involves storytelling and so just sharing our culture, and then having it be interactive with the council house... It's a wonderful thing." Agee said.

For more information, contact Creek Nation Council House at (918) 759-6979, or contact ShaVon Agee at (918) 549-2434.



Composer Mark Kuykendall cues up the sounds of Council Oak as J.D. Colbert speaks on the importance of Council Oak Tree. (MM staff Photo)

"SONG OF THE COUNCIL OAK," DEBUTS AT PLANT MUSIC MICRO FESTIVAL

BY MONITORING ELECTRICAL SIGNALS OF THE COUNCIL OAK TREE MARK KUYKENDALL MAKES MUSIC

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla.- , The "Song of the Council Oak", part of the Plant Music Micro Festival, premiered at the Chimera Ballroom in Tulsa on Feb. 23. Mark Kuykendall, known by his musical moniker as The New Honey Shade, performed his composition. He was joined by Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen J.D. Colbert, who spoke of the history and cultural importance of the Council Oak tree. Kuykendall defines himself as an experimental electronic composer and multimedia artist who explores the intersections of sound, nature, and visual storytelling. He aims to incorporate biofeedback, field recordings, and analog synthesis in creating immersive experiences that connect audiences with the natural world. Kuykendall sat down with Mvskoke Media's LiveWire about the evolution of the performance and meaning behind the music.

The Plant Music Micro-Festival ran from Feb. 17 to Feb 23. The festival included the Plant Music Wall Exhibition and an Engineering for Girls Workshop, a hands-on learning workshop with plants and technology. "Songs of the Council Oak" was

the culmination of the micro-festival.

"Plant music is just a way of monitoring electrical signals of plants as sound through something similar to a heart monitor or an EKG machine," Kuykendall said. "That is translated into pitch and velocity into binary code language for computers to read."

The binary code is then inputted into his Buchla synthesizers to create the unique sound.

"Songs of the Council Oak" came from the recordings of bioelectrical outputs from the Council Oak tree.

Kuykendall can't get the electric signals he needs through bark or branches. "It has to be living matter," he explained.

"I had people ask me questions about 'are you able to record the bio feedback from that point in history?' I said 'no, it's a real time response', so it's really more about choosing the voice for what you want each section to be voiced as, what kind of voice you want to give the data," Kuykendall said.

Colbert joined Kuykendall on stage during the 2 hour performance, and shared Muscogee (Creek) history, stories, and background in-between the sound sessions.

"He'll (Colbert) give some of the history behind each 100 years; we

don't know the specific age of the tree, we know it's roughly 400 years old. So I broke the musical movements to about 4 in 10 minute movements representing 100 years up until present day so it will culminate ending in 2025," Kuykendall said.

After the show people were able to ask questions and interact with the technology. By touching the plant, it added their body's electrical field to the plant, which created more nodes and increased the amount of activity, changing the sound.

In the future Kuykendall would like to do this again one day. He felt that some people are interested and curious about this Plant Music. He hopes that once the tree is more alive that he could possibly do the music on the tree itself in front of everyone.

The project was funded by the Artists Creative Fund (ACF), which provides grants annually to improve funding, visibility and professional development for Tulsa-based artists and creatives.

For more information about the music, upcoming events, film, gallery and contact information visit New Honey Shade website.

The full performance of "The Sound of the Council Oak" can be found on Mvskoke Media's youtube page.



A sign gives directions to one of the mounds in Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park. (MM File)

OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK NAMED IN TIME MAGAZINE'S WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES OF 2025

THIS NAMING BY TIME MAGAZINE SERVES AS A LANDMARK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATION AND THE CITY OF MACON

BY THOMAS JACKSON
REPORTER

MACON, Ga. - The Ocmulgee Mounds in Georgia have always been a key part of Muscogee history, and now, they are getting renewed recognition for their beauty, and historical and cultural significance. Recently, the Mounds, which has been the ancestral homeland of the Muscogee Nation for centuries, were featured in TIME Magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2025.

Being named among many of the World's Greatest Places is only a capstone in the recent recognition the Mounds have received, however, as the area is currently under consideration to be the next National Park, as covered in a May 2024 article. In addition to this, the city of Macon, Georgia, where the park is located, honored its history with the Muscogee Nation earlier in March of 2025 by making the street names in the city bilingual, with both the English

and Muscogee names shown.

Tracie Revis, the Director of Advocacy for the Ocmulgee National Park & Preserve Initiative, which is one of the core groups behind the Ocmulgee Mounds being fully upgraded into a national park and preserve, is proud of the history and cooperation between the Muscogee Nation and the city of Macon, Georgia, as the city sees the nation as their equals, rather than being above the nation in any way.

"What we have today is they see us as equal. The city and the park, they see the nation as equal versus 'we need to do this for you.' Instead, it is "Let's do this with you." And so the difference truly that I see happening in Macon is that we are seen with equal respect versus somebody being over us doing something for us. The nation has reached a place of opportunity to be able to take back its

TIME MAGAZINE
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TIME MAGAZINE

Continued from Page 7

own. And so, with that, we've really been able to create inroads and relationships and that is what has led to all of these things coming. So much that, you know, we are getting a lot of national attention because we are equal partners in all of these efforts." Revis said in an interview.

The article on TIME Magazine's World's Greatest Places of 2025 can be found on their website. More information on the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park and ONP-PI's work to turn it into a National Park can be found on their website, <https://www.ocmulgeepark.org/>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Elder's Meeting

Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
2900 N. Osage Pl. | Okmulgee, OK.
April 2 at 9:30 a.m.

"Best Practices for Finding Employment" Workshop

MCN Food Distribution Center
3001 N. Wood Drive,
Okmulgee, OK 74447
April 2 | 10 a.m.
For questions,
contact 918-752-9249

Weleetka Fellowship United Methodist Revival

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., Service begins at 7 p.m.
April 6-8
543 E. 7th St. | Weleetka, OK 74880

Coffee and Donuts

Veterans Affairs Services Office
April 10 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1006 Bear Ln | Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions, contact
918-732-7739.

Agriculture Risk Management Workshop

College of Muscogee
Nation Extension
Workshop will include a presentation, case studies and interactive discussions

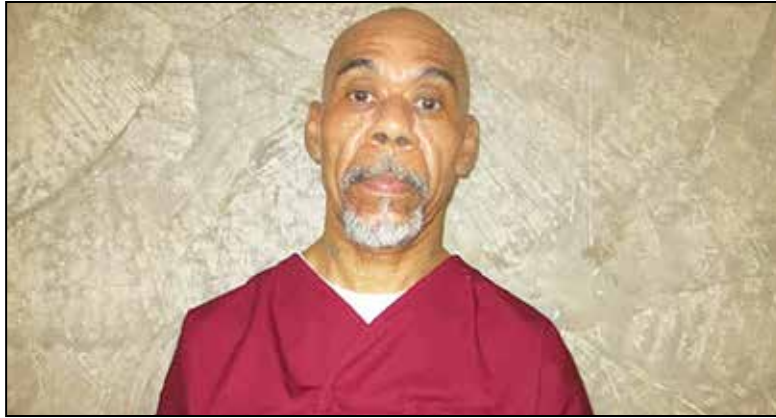


Photo John F. Hanson via OK DOC

MVSKOKE, CHEROKEE NATIONS HAVE NO COMMENT ON HANSON EXECUTION

MVSKOKE MAN WITH MULTIPLE CONVICTIONS IS NEXT IN LINE FOR EXECUTION IN OKLAHOMA

By **FRANCES HERROD**
REPORTER

Indian Country, Oklv. - George John Hanson, also known in the Oklahoma court system as John Fitzgerald Hanson, is a Mvskoke Nation citizen who was convicted in Oklahoma for the 1999 carjacking, kidnapping, and murder of Mary Bowles. He was sentenced to death.

Since 2006 Hanson has been serving a Life sentence for fed-

eral bank robbery. He was at U.S.P. Pollock, a federal penitentiary located in Louisiana. On January 23, 2025, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond requested his transfer by March 20 to face his death sentence in Oklahoma as he was the next in line for execution.

Hanson filed for injunctive relief on January 29th to stop the transfer to Oklahoma, suing Drummond, Acting Regional Director, U.S. Department of Justice Danon Col-

bert, Acting Director, U.S. Department of Justice William W. Lothrop, and Warden, United States Penitentiary Pollock Howard K. Goldey.

In his brief for relief Hanson stated his release to Oklahoma for execution "goes against the Muscogee (Creek) Nation" and that "The resulting imposition of the death penalty upon release to Oklahoma is a betrayal of a promise made to the Cherokee and

Muscogee (Creek) Nations, and it demonstrates a deep disrespect for tribal sovereignty." His brief references a letter from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that was provided to the court.

Hanson used this argument with what he claims is supporting documentation. Mvskoke Media reviewed these documents and they do not contain the supporting statements that he asserts.

The letter from the Mvskoke Nation, dated March 3rd, 2004, written during Chief A.D. Ellis' term and signed by Second Chief Albert Berryhill, addressed to Lisa S. McCalmont,

Death Penalty Federal Habeas Corpus Division, advises that "to the best of our knowledge the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has not addressed the issue of the Federal Death Penalty. Please feel free to Conduct any further research with the Nations public records including those

housed with the Legislative Branch."

The documentation from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is two letters from Lane Kindle in Real Estate Services. The first is dated February 5, 2020, the second August 6, 2020. They show that the area where Bowles was murdered occurred is within Cherokee Nation boundaries.

On March 3, 2025, The Associated Press reported that "neither tribe supports Hanson's execution."

None of the documents Hanson provided the court backs up his claim that his transfer for execution is not supported by either Muscogee or Cherokee Nations and previous comments on the case by either Nation cannot be located.

Mvskoke Media contacted Muscogee Nation Press Secretary Jason Salsman and Cherokee Nation Communications Director Julie Hubbard for comment.

While Salsman provided a "no comment" from Muscogee Nation, Hubbard stated, "(T)he Cherokee Nation has not commented on this in the past and aren't commenting on the case."

Per a February 13 Press Release from Oklahoma AG Drummond, Hanson is eligible for the next available execution date, which likely will be in June. Hanson was transferred to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester on March 2.

April 11 | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
For questions, contact
cazbell@cmn.edu

Language Immersion Camp

Mvskoke Language Program
For Mvskoke citizens, in the
7th through 12th grades.
June 9 - 13
Applications due May 2
For questions,
contact 918-732-7649

Mvskoke News Graduate Edition

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are graduating from high school, military, college, or tech-

nical school are invited to submit a profile for the June 1 edition.

For questions,
contact 918-732-7636
Submissions Deadline: May 1

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. Every five items donated will enter donors into a drawing.

Donations can be dropped off at 2170 Raven Circle, Okmulgee, OK.

For more information,
contact,
918-549-2800

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

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