



MVSKOKE NEWS

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NCA 25-018, a law that prevented the principal chief position to repeatedly nominate temporary cabinet members was vetoed by Principal Chief Hill. (MM File)

BILL LIMITING REPEATED TEMPORARY CABINET NOMINATIONS VETOED BY CHIEF HILL

A UNANIMOUSLY-SUPPORTED BILL FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL VETOED BY CHIEF FOR ALLEGEDLY LIMITING EXECUTIVE CABINET CHOICES

by **THOMAS JACKSON**
 REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - A bill that would have limited the Principal Chief's ability to repeatedly nominate temporary cabinet positions, and would have

penalized those who attempted to operate in those positions without approval by the National Council, has been vetoed by Principal Chief Hill.

NCA 25-018

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STITT'S MYTHS VIRAL MEME SHARED BY OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR SPREADS MISINFORMATION

by **FRANCES HERROD**
 REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - A February 7, 2025 post on Governor Kevin Stitt's official social media is causing confusion among some Oklahomans.

Stitt is again taking issue with the 2020 Supreme Court McGirt decision which affirmed the Mvskoke Nation Reservation and restored the sovereign jurisdiction that Oklahoma unconstitutionally held for over 100 years.

Another salvo in Stitt's continued attack on Native sovereignty the heavily manipulated image, a "meme" created by the Governor's Press Secretary Meyer Siegfried, has the text "Hooper v City of Tulsa" struck through and replaced with "Muscoogee Creek v City of Tulsa" and shows a highway with 2 posted speed limits: a 75 mph Speed Limit and 100 mph Tribal Speed Limit.

No such signs exist in Oklahoma.

Stitt continues to muddy the waters with his caption.

"It's happening again in Tulsa. The Muscoogee 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."

Muscoogee (Creek) Nation v City of Tulsa is a federal lawsuit filed in 2023 that seeks a declaration that Tulsa lacks criminal jurisdiction over Natives within reservation boundaries based upon the 2020 SCOTUS McGirt decision and asks that the city be enjoined from prosecuting Natives on the reservation without congressional approval. The suit is supported by The United States Department of Justice.

It's important to note that due to cross deputization agreements that have been in place since 1992 with the 39 Native Nations in Oklahoma cities, municipalities, and the state have successfully worked together to ensure



(Governor Kevin Stitt's official Facebook Page)

the safety and equal rule of law based on jurisdiction until the advent of the Stitt Administration.

These agreements give authority to law enforcement from the Nations and cooperating agencies to enforce each other's laws in their respective jurisdictions. A Non Native law enforcement officer may ticket, arrest, and detain a Native citizen on the reservation just as they would any other driver. The only difference is the case or citation would be referred to the Native Nation or federal government for

STITT'S MYTHS

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Muscoogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the best way to prevent becoming ill from the flu is by receiving a flu shot. (MM File)

RECORD-HIGH FLU CASES SEEN BY MCN HEALTH

SEASONAL-RELATED ILLNESSES HAVE CAUSED SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE THEIR DOORS AMID HIGH NATIONAL CASE NUMBERS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS

by **BRADEN HARPER**
 MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - The early weeks of 2025 have shown to present high cases of influenza and other seasonal illnesses in Oklahoma and the United States. This has caused many school districts within Muscoogee (Creek) Nation, including Eufuala, Beggs and Okmulgee Public Schools to cancel classes. As of Feb. 1, the Oklahoma State Department of Health reported the influenza positivity rate in Oklahoma at 38.5% above baseline, much higher than the state's historical average of 21.8% positivity rate. A reported 795 patients have been hospitalized for flu-associated illness within the state.

According to the MCN Department of Health, they are seeing record-high numbers in

emergency departments and express care clinics. Although positivity rates are high, hospitalizations are minimal and there are no reported fatalities within the MCN Health system at the time this article was published. The department is reporting their capacity to treat patients is still strong.

When someone is infected with influenza, symptoms typically come on suddenly. Symptoms can vary from person to person and are affected by age. While not all individuals who experience flu symptoms need to go to the hospital, the MCN Health Department encourages citizens to seek medical care if they are experiencing the following symptoms.

"In children fast breathing or trouble breathing, blush lips or face, ribs pulling in with each

breath, chest pain, severe muscle pain (child refuses to walk), dehydration (no urine for eight hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying), not alert or interacting when awake, seizures, fever above 104 degrees Fahrenheit that is not controlled by fever-reducing medicine, fever or cough that will improve but then will return or worsen and worsening of chronic medical conditions. In children younger than 12 weeks, any fever. Adults need to seek medical care if they experience difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, persistent dizziness, confusion, inability to arouse, seizures, not urinating, severe muscle pain, severe weakness or unsteadiness, fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen, worsening of chronic medical conditions."

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends individuals stay home for at least 24 hours until their symptoms are improving and they do not have a fever. Factors that lead to higher-than-normal flu cases include large indoor gatherings, poor hygiene practices and inadequate space disinfection. MCN Department of Health follows the CDC guidance in recommending those with symptoms to rest, hydrate, isolate and use proper medications. Disinfecting high touch surfaces at the home or office can help prevent germs from spreading to others.

Nationwide, influenza numbers are showing a similar picture to the Mvskoke Reservation and Oklahoma. The CDC shows 44 states are currently categorized as "high" or "very high" for levels of flu activity. Oklahoma is currently in the "very high" category. CDC estimates show 24 million illnesses, 310,000 hospitalizations and 13,000 deaths from the flu thus far this season.

FLU CASES

Continued on Page 2

MCN R.N. PROGRAM TO OPEN APPLICATIONS

PROGRAM HAS MANY BENEFITS TO HELP WITH SOME OF THE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH NURSING SCHOOL

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
 REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla.- The Muscoogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Employment and Training Administration will be offering classroom training for the Registered Nurse (R.N.) Program. This program is for the CORE nursing classes at the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSU-IT) in Okmulgee. The program will help cover tuition and book assistance for students. Applications will open on Mar. 1-June 1.

The program has limited assistance per semester. Approved applicants can receive up to \$1,500 for tuition and \$400 for the books, however funding covers four semesters. There is a one time limited assistance for the uniform, class equipment, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and Grad/Clinical screening expenses and a \$300 per month allowance.

To be eligible for this program you must be a Mvskoke citizen, reside within the Muscoogee Reservation and must be enrolled in nine credit hours of CORE Nursing classes at OSU-IT. Eligible participants must maintain a 2.5 GPA to participate in the program.

MCN Career Specialist Cara Alexander (Mvskoke) spoke about the benefits and how it impacts the citizens who utilize it.

"The health field is hard to stick with. I feel like with us funding them and helping them more



(Shutterstock)

with this program, it gives them a little bit more encouragement to want to do it and then us backing them up with it," Alexander said.

As of December there were ten Mvskoke citizens in the R.N.-program.

Alexander spoke about the many benefits to going through the program.

"The stipends, and allowances help out a lot because it goes to the student," Alexander said "That helps them if they end up needing any more class equipment or their scrubs."

"We do give them up to \$400 for scrubs but I feel like this monthly allowance kind of helps them out more."

She also would like to include that besides their program there is also MCN Higher Education, which provides a tribal grant and tribal incentive grants, a two part application for the students, as well as other grants that may be available. Another objective of the program is helping the students with other educational services and resources.

For more information about the MCN Classroom Training R.N. program, contact them at 918-732-7773.

NCA 25-018*Continued from Page 1*

The bill had received unanimous support from the council, with all but one person on the council being a co-sponsor of the bill brought up by Representative Dode Barnett of the Creek District. It had been passed by the National Council with a vote of 15-0.

When asked for comment, Chief Hill defended his repeated nomination of Geri Wisner for Attorney General and accused the National Council of going against the constitution in a statement to Mvskoke Media.

"When I placed Attorney General Wisner up for confir-

mation last month, the response of the National Council was not to discuss with me the merits of her qualification and experience, but, rather, the Council enacted NCA 25-018 which places limits and restrictions on the ability of the Principal Chief to grant executive commissions. This limitation is a blatant violation of our Muscogee (Creek) Constitution, and I believe I had no choice but to veto the bill. I would still prefer working with the National Council when I nominate and place for confirmation the best and most qualified people to fill these important positions within the Nation. However, I also have a duty to uphold the Constitution and to push back when the

Council unlawfully infringes on the authority of the Principal Chief."

Mvskoke Media also reached out to the National Council to comment on the veto of NCA 25-018. The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Dode Barnett responded with the following statement:

"The Principal Chief has the constitutional authority to nominate his cabinet members. He also has the constitutional authority to temporarily commission cabinet members until a candidate is confirmed by the National Council. The MCN constitution does not specify how long a temporary commission lasts, but the MCN law does.

The current version of that

code was discussed, agreed to and passed in 2016 under the Floyd administration. Chief Hill sat on that National Council and voted in favor of the 180 day allowance. As Principal Chief, he has chosen to ignore said law by continuing to temporarily nominate the current acting AG for significantly more than 180 days. It should also be noted that after the second failed nomination the National Council did ask Chief Hill to search for alternate candidates. It was expressed to the Council that the current twice-rejected candidate was allowed to reapply for the AG position and was chosen from the candidate pool and nominated a third time. The vetoed bill NCA 25-018

strengthened the current law and if overturned, communicates the National Council will no longer acknowledge a rejected candidate moving forward. I believe we are within our constitutional rights in all above stated actions. NCA 25-018 was introduced with 14 co-sponsors and passed unanimously 15-0. The National Council represents the Mvskoke people, and the people should be respected and heard."

In cases of veto by the Principal Chief, the National Council can override the veto with two-thirds of the National Council's approval.

Mvskoke Media will report new developments as more information becomes available.

STITT'S MYTHS*Continued from Page 1*

prosecution.

The information Stitt shares in this speed limit example, that Oklahoma is somehow tougher on crime than the Native Nations, is not just an anti Native Sovereignty talking point, it's demonstrably untrue.

An examination of fines for traffic violations on the Mvskoke Nation Reservation and the City of Tulsa shows that in a majority of cases Mvskoke Nations fines are stiffer than that of Tulsa.

For speeding in excess of the posted speed limit 1-10 mph the Tulsa fine is \$150 versus \$159 on the Reservation. If you fail to obey a police officer in Tulsa it will cost you \$185 while on Mvskoke Rez the fine is \$234. You can text while driving in Tulsa and the fine is \$100. On the Mvskoke Reservation it's called Unlawful Use of a Cellular Phone (\$250) and Failure to Devote Full Time and Attention to Driving (\$234) and it's a total fine of \$484. Tulsa will ticket you \$50 for failure to use a Child Passenger Restraint System (a car seat) but Mvskoke Nation will hold you

accountable for the safety of the child to the tune of \$134.

It's not just fines and accountability that Stitt calls into question with his spurious posts that are not grounded in fact. It distorts the general public's understanding of who and what Natives are as Sovereign Nations and citizens.

Native Nations exist as political entities that predate the formation of the United States. Natives historically were not the roaming nomadic tribes dedicated to war and savagery as we are depicted in history books and pop culture. Pre contact the Mvskoke Confederacy had at least 50 Tribal Towns which were organized into the largest governmental confederacy on Turtle Island. These distinct moieties were separated into Red and White Towns, each led by a Mekko, or "town king", as well as having a Matrilineal Clan system. Much as the people who live in the 50 states today are not defined by their race but by the state they reside in, which functions under the umbrella of the federal government, these towns were populated by a variety of Peoples who were linked via language, cul-

ture, and political alignment, not race. It was a highly sophisticated form of government which not only preceded colonization but exists in a modern governmental form today. As such the sovereign Mvskoke Nation has citizens with rights guaranteed by treaty with the federal government. That includes the jurisdiction Oklahoma is once again trying to illegally usurp.

The reaction on social media illustrates the negative impact Stitt's rhetoric has on State and Tribal relations, with the majority of sentiment grounded in a fundamental misunderstanding of Native sovereignty and our status as political, rather than racial, groups. An alarming sampling of replies to Stitt's post on X, formerly Twitter, shows his divisive and fabricated rhetoric is stoking anti Native sentiment.

"Why are they given free car tags based on their race?? It should be the same rules for everybody..."

"Take away Indian Nations privileged status, the Casinos and their commodities."

"This is DEADLY!!! It absolutely must be stopped! In the meantime, anybody injured by

a tribal person going 100mph should sue the tribe for millions!"

"This is concerning considering a large percentage of Native Americans have substance abuse issues. Mostly alcoholism."

"One justice system no race favors for Native Americans."

"I am a white woman who lives in a tribal town in Oklahoma. And I think it's absolutely ridiculous that there are double standards! Two different justice systems! I can be ticketed by tribal police, but someone from the tribe cannot be ticketed by the white man's police?"

"They need to quit getting privileged due to their race. Not fair to the real Americans and Oklahomans"

"I think the governor of Oklahoma should declare any speed limit other than that posted by the state of Oklahoma is invalid. Have the Oklahoma state highway department remove signs that are not approved."

In a Facebook post Mvskoke Nation Principal Chief David Hill addressed Stitt's post.

"We cannot allow elected officials to share "memes" that misinform and confuse the public. Who's creating risk here?"

Despite the clear confusion the post is causing in a statement to KFOR Governor Press Secretary Siegfried doubled down on the prevarication, stating, "The meme is a reminder and a warning of the dystopian and un-American justice system to come if tribal governments get their way here. The image begs the question, are there two sets of rules for Oklahomans based on their race?"

Siegfried then confirmed the speed limit sign does not exist. The posts are still visible on the governor's social media.

FLU CASES*Continued from Page 1*

Health experts say it is not too late to get a flu shot. MCN Department of Health offers walk-in flu vaccines at all clinics, no appointment necessary. The CDC recommendation on the best way to fight the flu is by receiving a flu shot. Most flu shots can be obtained at local drug stores at little or no cost. To find a nearby location that offers recommended vaccinations, visit www.cdc.gov.

INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON IDENTIFYING VICTIMS' REMAINS TO REUNITE THEM WITH THEIR FAMILIES

BIA LAUNCHES OPERATION SPIRIT RETURN TO HELP SOLVE INDIAN COUNTRY MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CASES

U.S. Department of the Interior**PRESS RELEASE**

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today that the Office of Justice Services has launched Operation Spirit Return, an initiative to help solve missing and unidentified person cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States.

The initiative is being conducted by the BIA's Missing and Murdered Unit to identify unknown human remains located within or close to Indian Country and are believed to belong to either American Indian or Alaska Native persons. The operation will focus on reuniting remains with family members and returning them to their tribal communities. The

unit is actively investigating 15 unidentified persons cases from its regions, including Alaska.

"The crisis of American Indians and Alaska Natives gone missing or who have been murdered, but whose cases remained unsolved, has been decades in the making, and we are committed to ending it," said Bryan Mercier, Director of the BIA exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs "Thanks to the BIA Missing and Murdered Unit and its partners, our Operation Spirit Return initiative will help return missing relatives to their families, so that they can be comforted knowing their loved ones have come home."

"Each member of the Missing and Murdered Unit is dedicated to combatting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis," said BIA Deputy

Bureau Director for Justice Services Richard "Glen" Melville. "With our partners in federal law enforcement and the genetic research community, we are striving to make a meaningful impact for the tribal families and communities who have been left for years with unanswered questions about those who went missing. Operation Spirit Return's focus is on identifying these victims and sending them home, and we are actively engaged in achieving that result."

The Missing and Murdered Unit is collaborating with the federal database NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and the Texas-based company Othram, which utilizes forensic genetic genealogy to identify human remains.

The Missing and Murdered Unit began as the Cold Case



Heinrich and Schatz lead democrats in confronting the Department of Homeland Security urging an end to wrongful search and interrogation of Tribal citizens as DHS Secretary Kristi Noem launches an Ad campaign urging immigrants to self deport. (Photo Courtesy of DHS website)

task force, part of Operation Lady Justice, a multi-agency effort established by President Trump's administration in 2019 to enhance the operation of the criminal justice system and address the staggering number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives in tribal communities.

For more information about the Missing and Murdered Unit or to learn about how you can get involved visit www.bia.gov/mmu.

FEB 15 CORRECTION

The story "Muscogee artist to have work published in publication by National Academy of Medicine" incorrectly stated that the Bobby Martin display was found at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton, OK. The display is at Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, NE.

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

BOY SCOUT INSTALLS BAT BOX FOR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

MVSKOKE CITIZEN CARNEY DILLSAVER'S CONSERVATION PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A HOME FOR LOCAL BATS AND BRING HIM ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST RANK IN THE BOY SCOUTS



Soon-to-be Eagle Scout Carney Dillsaver and friends stand next to a pole with a batbox attached at the top. (Courtesy: Will Dillsaver)

by **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

EDMOND, Okla. - Many find bats frightening due to their appearance, movement and nocturnality. Mvskoke citizen and Boy Scout Carney Dillsaver is not afraid of bats, he wants to conserve them. For Dillsaver's Eagle Scout project, he constructed two bat boxes and installed them at Fink and Hafer park with fellow members of his troop on Feb. 9. For the Dillsaver family, conservation of species like bats have always been an important topic.

"When I was younger my dad would explain it (bat conservation) all the time and I thought it was interesting," Carney Dillsaver said. "It kind of dropped

off my view for a while, until it was recently brought back up and I got more involved with it."

Bat boxes are artificial roosts that provide shelter and respite for bats in areas with few roosting areas. They are typically constructed out of wood and can be built into walls, trees or building facades. Carney Dillsaver's bat boxes were attached on top of a pole. The idea for the project came from Carney Dillsaver's father, Will Dillsaver, a biologist who works with bats. Will Dillsaver has made frequent trips to Alabama, a state known for its bat population due to its caves and forests.

The project has come a long way since it was greenlit in May 2024. Construction on the boxes started in August 2024, and took a couple of weeks total to com-

plete. Its design included cutting wood, and branding by wood burning. Although Carney Dillsaver had done wood burning in the past, he had never done anything quite on this scale before. The multilayered box stands at about three and a half feet. The Dillsavers reported that they found the experience enjoyable, and plan on building more in the future for their own backyard.

"More bats will mean less bugs, less bugs will mean healthier flora and more people in the parks. More people in the parks will mean a more closely-tied community," Carney Dillsaver said.

Each box has two to three chambers prospective visitors can crawl into. The boxes do not contain anything to attract the bats, like food. However they do provide a warm, enclosed space where they can congregate. According to Carney Dillsaver, boxes' locations were chosen based on habitat areas that provide adequate food and water. Bat conservation is important because many species find themselves on the endangered species list and risk becoming extinct. This is due to climate change, White-Nose Syndrome and declining insect populations.

Like Father Like Son

Carney Dillsaver has been a Boy Scout since the sixth grade, before that a Cub Scout since first grade. Will Dillsaver is a former Eagle Scout and currently serves as an assistant Scoutmaster in his son's troop. Will Dillsaver's Eagle Scout project involved setting up 12 wood duck boxes in Sequoia National Park when he was 15 years old. Today both father and son enjoy spending time together on camping trips.

"I'm pretty proud of him. I want him to get it (Eagle Scout rank) before he turns 16 so he can stay on par with me," Will Dillsaver said.

Fond memories Carney Dillsaver reminisced about included hanging out with his friends, spending time in the outdoors and simple things like catching a sunset. He even got to visit Philmont Scout Ranch, the largest scout camp in the country located in New Mexico. Carney Dillsaver truly believes in the Boy Scout's mission and passes it down to others.

"I like teaching younger scouts what it all really means, the BSA (Boy Scouts of America), what we should be," Carney Dillsaver said. "My favorite memories are when we drop our bags, go on a short hike and find a stunning view."

Looking at the future Carney Dillsaver remarked that he would like to enroll in a military college after high school. He has his sights set on becoming a field doctor or doing something related to search and rescue. Eagle Scouts who graduate basic training from the Air Force, Army, Navy or the USMC advance to E-2. The rank traditionally granted to new basic training graduates is E-1.

The Dillsavers are in talks to do an acoustic survey on the areas where the bat boxes are installed. Acoustic surveys use sound waves to measure species activity.



A bat box is a wooden container that can offer a safe space for bats to roost and rest when there are no other options nearby. (Courtesy: Will Dillsaver)



Carney Dillsaver (Mvskoke) stands next to his Eagle Scout project, a bat box that will provide shelter for bats in the area. (Courtesy: Will Dillsaver)

According to the Dillsavers, Carney still has to turn in all of his Eagle Scout project paperwork before he officially achieves the coveted rank. It is their goal to have it all submitted before Carney's 16th birthday in May.

REGINA GIBSON GUILTY OF FELONY EMBEZZLEMENT FROM DUCK CREEK CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

MCN CITIZEN PLEADED GUILTY TO SIXTEEN COUNTS OF FELONY UTTERING A FORGED INSTRUMENT, ONE COUNT OF FELONY THEFT, AND ONE COUNT OF FELONY EMBEZZLEMENT



(MM File)

by **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Following a tip from a Mvskoke citizen, Mvskoke Media has obtained court records that show that Regina Gibson, a Mvskoke citizen, pleaded guilty to multiple crimes in July of 2024.

Gibson pleaded guilty to sixteen counts of uttering a forged instrument with the intent to defraud in an amount equal to or greater than five hundred dollars. Uttering a forged instrument refers to the crime of passing forged checks or promissory notes.

Gibson also pleaded guilty to one count of felony theft and one count of felony embezzlement. According to the charging documents,

"Defendant fraudulently obtained approximately \$7,645.00 from the Duck Creek Ceremonial Grounds account in 26 checks in amounts of less than \$500 with the intent to permanently deprive it of these funds.....Defendant within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on the day and year aforesaid did fraudulently appropriate the property or funds of the Duck Creek Ceremonial Grounds for purposes not intended or authorized by its owner, to-wit: Defendant did abuse her authority and made checks written with the intended purpose to obtain the funds by cashing those check and use the money for her own benefit."

Gibson was sentenced to two years in prison, with seven years supervised probation.



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





OVER 200 NATIVE PROGRAMS AND GRANTS FEEL CHILL OF FEDERAL FUNDING FREEZE

MCN DEPARTMENTS STILL UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER SPENDING CAPS AND HIRING HOLD

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

UPDATE: On Feb. 21 Principal Chief David Hill signed EO 25-03, which rescinds EO 25-01, the MCN spending and hiring freeze put into place after the OBM federal funding freeze.

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The following is a non-exhaustive list of federal grants and programs applicable for Federally Recognized Tribes, State Recognized Tribes, American Indian communities, and Tribal Colleges. On Jan 27, the White House Office of Budget Management issued a memo freezing all federal grants and programs. On Jan 28, Principal Chief David Hill issued Executive Order 25-01 putting into place spending caps for the MCN government offices. While the White House memo was rescinded on Jan. 29, the programs and grants are up for review, according to White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt. As of press time, Chief Hill has not made a further statement or cancelled his EO on the MCN spending freeze.

The reported list of 2,600 total programs and grants showed the enormous depth and breadth of federal funding. MVSKOKE Media reviewed the list and has consolidated for all programs and grants particular for Indian Country. The over 200 programs and grants hit nearly every MCN department from grants for the Justice Department and Tribal Court, Child and Adult Food Services, Housing Block Grants, and Higher Education.

AGRICULTURE

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law State, Private & Tribal Agreements
 Indian Tribes and Tribal Corporation Loans
 New Beginning for Tribal Students
 Tribal Agriculture Technical Assistance
 Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants
 Tribal Colleges Endowment Program
 Tribal Colleges Extension Programs
 Tribal Food Sovereignty
 Tribal Youth & Workforce Development
 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
 1994 Institutions Research Grants
 American Rescue Plan Centers of Excellence for Meat and Poultry Processing and Food Safety Research and Innovation Phase III
 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law State, Private & Tribal Agreements
 Child and Adult Care Food Program
 Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability
 Child Nutrition-Technology Innovation Grant
 Children, Youth and Families At-Risk
 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Funding to Alleviate Emergency Supply Chain Disruption in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Nutrition Paraprofessional Training
 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Nutrition Education Grants

Indian Tribes and Tribal Corporation Loans

COMMERCE

MBDA Business Center - American Indian and Alaska Native

EDUCATION

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies
 Indian Education National Activities, State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) and Native American Language (NAL)
 Indian Education: Special Programs for Indian Children
 Indian Education National Activities, State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) and Native American Language (NAL)
 Tribally Controlled Post-secondary Career and Technical Institutions

ENERGY

Transport of Transuranic Wastes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant: States and Tribal Concerns, Proposed Solutions

HEALTH

Activities to Support State, Tribal, Local and Territorial (STLT) Health Department Response to Public Health or Healthcare Crises
 Cancer Prevention and Control Programs for State, Territorial and Tribal Organizations Improving the Capability of Indian Tribal Governments to Regulate Environmental Quality
 A Comprehensive Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian County, financed solely by Prevention and Public Health
 Analyses, Research and Studies to Address the Impact of CMS Programs on American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Beneficiaries and the Health Care System Serving These Beneficiaries
 Demonstration Projects for Indian Health
 Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country
 Health Professions Pre-Graduate Scholarship Program for Indians
 Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship Program for Indians
 Health Professions Recruitment Program for Indians
 Improving the Capability of Indian Tribal Governments to Regulate Environmental Quality
 Indian Health Service Behavioral Health Programs
 Indian Health Service Community Health Aide Program
 Indian Health Service Domestic Violence Prevention Programs
 Indian Health Service Educational Loan Repayment
 Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program
 Indian Health Service, Health Management Development Program
 Indian Self-Determination Injury Prevention and Control Research and State and Community Based Programs
 Injury Prevention Program for American Indians and Alaskan Natives Cooperative Agreements
 National Family Caregiver Support, Title VI, Part C, Grants to Indian Tribes And Native Hawaiians
 Special Diabetes Program for Indians Diabetes Preven-

tion and Treatment Projects

Special Programs for the Aging, Title VI, Part A, Grants to Indian Tribes, Part B, Grants to Native Hawaiians

Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program

Strengthening the Nation's Public Health System through a National Voluntary Accreditation Program for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Health Departments

Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement Umbrella Cooperative Agreement

Tribal Self-Governance Program: IHS Compacts/Funding Agreements

Tribal Self-Governance Program: Planning and Negotiation Cooperative Agreement

Tribal Work Grants
 Urban Indian Health Services

Indian Community Development Block Grant Program
 Indian Housing Block Grants

Office of Native American Programs Training and Technical Assistance for Indian Housing Block Grant Program

Public and Indian Housing Indian Loan Guarantee Program

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program

State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Security Operations Center/Information Sharing and Analysis Center

Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program
 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

Title VI Federal Guarantees for Financing Tribal Housing Activities

Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program

JUSTICE

Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities

Indian Country Investigations

Grants to State and Tribal Courts to Implement Protection Order Pilot Programs

Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance Grants, Training and Technical Assistance Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Grant Program

Tribal Justice Systems
 Tribal Registry
 Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys

Tribal Special Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement

Tribal Youth Program
 Tribal Justice Assistance

Violence Against Women Discretionary Grants for Indian Tribal Governments

VOCA Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program

National Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault of American Indian and Alaska Native Women

Violence Against Women Discretionary Grants for Indian Tribal Governments

INTERIOR

Administrative Cost Grants for Indian Schools

Agriculture on Indian Lands
 Aid To Tribal Governments



The White House Office of Budget Management announced a federal funding freeze on Jan 27. While rescinded, many grants and programs have still had their funding halted. (MM File)

Assistance to Tribally Controlled Community Colleges and Universities

Attorney Fees Indian Rights Bureau of Indian Affairs Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Consolidated Tribal Government

Cultural Resources Management (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Cultural Resources Management (Bureau of Reclamation)

Cultural Resources Management (National Park Service)

Endangered Species on Indian Lands

Environmental Management Indian

Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management State and Tribal Coordination

Forestry on Indian Lands Improvement and Repair of Indian Detention Facilities

Indian Adult Education
 Indian Child and Family Education

Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grants

Indian Community Fire Protection

Indian Economic Development

Indian Education Assistance to Schools

Indian Education Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance

Indian Education Higher Education Grant

Indian Employment Assistance

Indian Graduate Student Scholarships

Indian Housing Assistance
 Indian Job Placement

United Sioux Tribes Development Corporation

Indian Law Enforcement
 Indian Loans Economic Development

Indian Post Secondary Schools

Indian Rights Protection
 Indian School Equalization

Indian Schools Student Transportation

Indian Self-Determination Act Contracts, Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Indian Self-Determination Contract Support

Indian Social Services Welfare Assistance

Indian Tribal Water Resources Development, Management, and Protection

Indian Vocational Training
 United Tribes Technical College

Litigation Support for Indian Rights

Minerals and Mining on Indian Lands

Native American Business Development Institute

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Native Language Immersion Grant

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, Field Operations

Superfund State and Indian Tribe Combined Cooperative Agreements (Site-Specific and Core)

Superfund State and Indian Tribe Core Program Cooperative Agreements

Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements

Strengthening Tribal Nations

Training, Investigations and Special Purpose Activities of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent With the Clean Air Act (CAA), Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality

Tribal Climate Resilience
 Tribal Courts

Tribal Courts Trust Reform Initiative

Tribal Education Departments

Tribal Electrification Program

Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grants

Tribal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Tribal Self-Governance
 Tribal Wildlife Grants

Tribally Controlled Community College Endowments

TREASURY

Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund

Native Initiatives
 Tribal Economic Development Bonds

TRANSPORTATION

Formula Grants for Rural Areas and Tribal Transit Program

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program.

Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

International Financial Assistance Projects Sponsored by the Office of International and Tribal Affairs

State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants

State and Tribal Response Program Grants

Training, Investigations and Special Purpose Activities of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent With the Clean Air Act (CAA), Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality

Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Native American Employment and Training

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Native American Veteran Direct Loan Program

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Native American Outreach

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SCIENCES

National Archives Ref-

FUNDING FREEZE

Continued on Page 8

OBITUARIES/COMMUNITY CALENDARS

WILLIAM HAWKINS

William Dan Hawkins of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, passed away with loving family by his side on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at the age of 72 years. William was born on May 9, 1952 in Okemah, OK to his parents, Jesse and Leah Minnie (Johnson) Hawkins.

Known affectionately by his friends as William, he attended Altus High School and after graduating, dedicated himself to a lifetime of hard work. He spent several years as a lineman at Parker Construction, a job he took great pride in, always ensuring he provided for his family. His work ethic was unmatched, he was the kind of man who showed up on the days he was supposed to be off, always willing to go the extra mile.

William met the love of his life, Rhonda Fleetwood. William and Rhonda were married in 1978. Together, they built a life full of love and laughter until her passing on August 8, 1996.

Beyond his career, Hawk had a passion for music, playing horse-shoes and softball. In younger years William was an Oklahoma

Sooner fan, he loved watching the games. He was also well known for playing pool and was known for his skill at the table. He loved the camaraderie that came with a good game, whether for fun or a bit of friendly competition. He also enjoyed spending time outdoors, fishing, working on projects, or simply taking in the fresh air. His determination, strong spirit, and easygoing nature made him someone people were naturally drawn to, as well as someone people did not want to mess with.

William was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Rhonda Jane (Fleetwood) Hawkins; his father, Jesse Wesley Hawkins; and his mother, Leah Minnie Hawkins. Seven brothers Jimmy, Glen, Dale, Robert, Paul, Steven and Clint Hawkins. One sister Ann Van Damme. He is survived by one daughter, Amber Hawkins and fiancé Rob Lincoln of Okmulgee. One son, Travis Hawkins of Okmulgee. Three grandchildren Shawn William Caves, Zachary Thomas Caves and Gemma Mae Hawkins. Five sisters, Jean



(Courtesy Schaudt Funeral Service)

Gallagher and husband Fred of Altus, Oklahoma. June Babb and husband Gary of Phoenix, Arizona, Winnie Woods and husband Danny of Amarillo, Texas and Sarah Behling and husband Tom of Harlington, Texas. Louise Marris of Dallas, Texas and a host of nieces and nephews. William leaves behind a lifetime of cherished memories with his daughter, Amber Gayle Hawkins, son, Travis William Hawkins, many other loving relatives, and a host of dear friends who will forever remember his warmth, humor, and unwavering dedication to his family.

JUSTIN FULTZ

Justin Kyle Fultz, 35, of Wetumka, Oklahoma, passed away on February 8, 2025, in Ardmore, OK.

Justin was born on November 21, 1989 to Carolyn Roberts Fultz and Gordon Bradley Fultz in Ardmore, OK. Justin was a cherished member of the family, known for his kindness, sense of humor and love for his family and friends. He found great joy playing video games and watching a scary movie or two.

Justin was Tiger clan, a Kialegee Tribal Town member and enrolled in the Mvskoke Creek Nation. He graduated from Wetumka High School in 2010 and was known as "Juicy J" to his friends. Justin was good about helping his grandmother, Linda Weber with her real-estate business by cleaning out properties, placing signs and assisting her with what she needed until her passing in December 2024.

Justin gave his life to Christ in October 2020 and attended Middle Creek #1 whenever he had the opportunity.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, the late Rev. Walter Johnson Roberts Sr. and Christine Dewochee Roberts of Dustin, OK and the late Gordon Fultz of Marietta, OK and Linda and Terry Weber of Lone Grove, OK. Aunts, Mina Roberts, Wilma Coachman and Jana LiAnn



(Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home)

Fultz. Uncles, Daniel Coachman and Michael McKim Fultz, and cousin Patrick Coachman.

Justin is survived by his Mother, Carolyn Fultz of Wetumka, OK; his Father, Brad Fultz of Ardmore, OK; one brother Jeremy Fultz, wife Angela and daughter Meeka of Oklahoma City; aunts, Nellie Roberts and Jennifer Gifford; uncle Walter Roberts Jr., along with Denise, Kendall, Kamden, Mozes Coachman and Baby Gabe; Terrance and Torrin Emarthle. Justin also leaves behind a host of other family, that includes cousins, and friends he thought of like family and likely called ya'll by the wrong relation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Elder's Meeting
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
2900 N. Osage Pl.
Okmulgee, OK.
March 5
9:30 a.m.

Blood Drive
Oklahoma Blood Institute
1000 OK-56, Okmulgee, OK
March 4
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Justice on the Reservation Conference
MCN Office of the Attorney General
River Spirit Casino Resort
8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa, OK
March 5-6
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
To register, contact justice@mcnag.com.

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 Registration by Feb. 21 for meal ticket and t-shirt.
Mvskoke Dome
2950 Warrior Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions, contact sarn-

eecher@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. 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.

2025 Scholarship Pageant Open Registration
Mvskoke Royalty Application Deadline: March 14
Open to Mvskoke women ages 14-24.
Online applications are available at www.mvskokeroyalty.com. For questions, contact 539-286-4695.

Oklahoma Native American Elder Honors
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Applications accepted until March 31.
Nominees must be a citizen of a federally-recognized tribe in Oklahoma and be 50 years old or older. Nominees selected based on impactful contributions to their community, tribal nation or country and reflect AARP's vision and mission. For questions, contact Mashell Sourjohn at 405-715-4474

Summer Youth Employment Program
Mvskoke Youth Works Applications accepted Dec. 1 - March 31

Native American Youth ages 16-21
Program runs June 2 - July 25, 2025

Open to any federally-recognized tribal citizen living within MCN Jurisdiction. Program spots filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For questions, contact 918-732-7773.

Mvskoke Leadership Program
MCN Employment & Training Administration Applications will be accepted Dec. 1 - March 31
Participants will gain professional experience, skills and knowledge related to their field of study and will learn the Nation's history, culture and traditions. Applicants must be MCN Citizens and be a college junior, senior or graduate student during the Spring 2025 semester. Applicants must reside within MCN Jurisdiction. For questions, contact 918-732-7773.

2025 High School Honor Cord Program Registration
MCN Department of Education & Training Application Deadline: June 1 (or while supplies last)
Graduating Muscogee (Creek) High School Seniors may receive a braided green and gold graduation cord with a custom, full-color charm of the MCN Seal to wear during graduation and to keep as a token of their accomplishments. Open to all enrolled MCN citizens who are high school seniors graduating in the 2024-25 year. For questions, email ellowe@muscogeenation.com.

ELOISE JOHNSON

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Eloise Johnson recently turned 88 years old on Feb. 28.



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 P.O. Box 14208 Tulsa, OK. 74159-1208.



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Our Website
Creekhealth.org



COMMITTEE COVERAGE

HEW POSTPONES MCN TEACHER GRANT FOR THE SECOND TIME

GRANT WOULD GIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS \$500 TO AID IN EDUCATIONAL AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

by **MEREDITH JOHNSON**
REPORTER

MVSOKOKE RESERVATION- On Feb. 11, the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee held an 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 25-015 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending TR 19-076 (a tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to suspend all special appropriations and donations) as amended by TRS 20-150, 21-080, 22-128, 22-143, 22-150, 22-155, 22-170, 23-045, 23-066, 23-096, 24-005, 24-095, 24-104 and 24-113 passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation.

The amendment will allow a MCN donation to Muscogee (Creek) elders to attend the 25th conference on the National Indian Council on Aging, INC.

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" was postponed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored and Representative Dode Barnett co-sponsored the legislation.



(MM File)

This legislation was introduced to committee in 2024 as NCA 24-164 and was postponed until 2025. 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 private or public teachers who are MCN citizens. The appropriation total is \$415,000, and a funding source was not identified. The legislation specifies the amount will be added to the MCN FY 2026 budget and annually thereafter. It is postponed until March. There was no discussion.

NCA 25-020 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$16,000 awarded from the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of

Indian Affairs for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation.

The MCN Head Start Program received an Indian Highway Safety Program Child Passenger Safety Grant. The funds will be used to purchase approximately 125 car seats, car clinic signs, traffic cones, sandwich boards, portable canopies, latch manuals, pool noodles, and brochures for training clinics.

NCA 25-021 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$291,001 awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation.

HEW

Continued on Page 8



The MCNC Business, Finance & Justice subcommittee held a meeting in person and via teleconference in the Mound Building on Feb. 17. (MM File).

BILL CHANGING SEARCH WARRANT PRACTICES PASSED BY BFJ

RAY AND GILES CONFIRMED TO MNBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANIMAL CONTROL CODE APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

by **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held the Business, Finance and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building on Feb. 17.

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:

NCR 25-002 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation selecting Christopher M. Ray to the Board of Directors of the Muscogee Nation Gaming

Enterprises, LLC was passed by the committee. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Robert Huff of the Tulsa District and co-sponsored by Representative Randall Hicks of the Okfuskee District. It was passed with a vote of 4-0.

If approved, this resolution will add Christopher Ray to MNGE's Board of Directors.

TR 25-014 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Erick Giles to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Gaming Commission was passed by the committee.

BFJ

Continued on Page 8



The MCNC Business, Finance & Justice and Land, Natural Resource & Cultural Preservation subcommittees held a joint meeting in person and via teleconference in the Mound Building on Feb. 17. (MM File).

MCN TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY TO DEPLOY \$41M FEDERAL GRANT

THE BILL WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE INTERNET AND BROADBAND SERVICES IN THE RESERVATION

by **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held the Business, Finance and Justice & Land, Natural Resource, and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee session at the Mound Building on Feb. 17.

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

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

NCR 25-026 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded

from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Office (TBCPO), to the amount of \$41,216,619.00, for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Utility Authority, was passed by the joint committee. The resolution was sponsored by Representative Dode Barnett of the Creek District. It was passed with a vote of 9-0.

If approved, this law will allow the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to deploy broadband and internet technology services within the borders of the Muscogee Nation reservation, giving better internet access to citizens.

To view the full agenda, visit mcnnc.com.

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING HAS UPDATED POLICIES

MCN RECEIVED AN ESTIMATED \$13M

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 Feb. 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 25-004 A tribal resolution of the MCN approving a revised eligibility, admissions and occupancy policy for the MCN Department of Housing. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, this policy states each recipient will develop written policies.

TR 25-007 A tribal resolution of the MCN adopting an updated payments and rents policy of the MCN Department of Housing. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, the MCN Department of Housing would adjust the schedule of ceiling rents and payments, based on the NAHASDA and 24 CFR Part 1000.10.

TR 25-010 A tribal resolution of the MCN adopting an updated Homeownership Collections Policy of the MCN Department of Housing. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored this legislation, which was passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, the NAHASDA has written policies for certain activities that are assisted with IHBG funding.

TR 25-011 A tribal resolution of the MCN adopting an updated rental property collections policy for the MCN Department of Housing. Rep.



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

Randolph sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, there will be an updated Rental Property Collections Policy that complies with HUD. These written policies will be developed for certain activities.

TR 25-012 A tribal resolution of the MCN adopting an updated rental property maintenance policy for MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, this policy will provide a decent, safe, and healthy environment for the MCN housing units that the residents stay in.

TR 25-013 A tribal resolution of the MCN adopting an updated Elderly Housing Policy of the MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, this newly updated policy will be for the MCN Department of Housing in the administration of the Elderly Housing Program.

NCA 25-007 A law of the MCN amending MCNCA Title 24, §2-102D entitled "Housing Division." Rep. McHenry sponsored this legislation, which was passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, the MCN Department of Housing has requested for a contract of the day-to-day operations for goods and services to be increased. These funds will be compatible with the updated Procurement Policy for IHBG funds and estimation costs.

NCA 25-023 A law of the MCN amending NCA 22-083, A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the benefit of the MCN Department of Housing. Rep. Randolph sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

If this legislation is adopted into law, the MCN Department of Housing will receive a \$13 million award from the U.S. Department of the Treasury Homeowner Assistance Fund Plant Grant.

For more information visit, www.mcnnc.com.



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

CONTACT

SONNY BEVUE
918.549.2962

BAYLEE CARPENTER
918.549.2969

CHELSEA POTTS
918-549-2740

JUMPS/NOTICES

SPENDING FREEZE

Continued from Page 4

erence Services Historical Research

National Historical Publications and Records Grants

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Promotion of the Humanities Professional Development

Promotion of the Humanities Public Programs

Promotion of the Humanities Research

Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

Morris K. Udall Native American Congressional Internship Program

HEW

Continued from Page 6

According to the legislation, the grant funds will be used to purchase a Sygnal FDP system that supports multiple issuance models as an alternative system. The new software is recommended by the USDA.

NCA 25-022 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 to the Mus-

cogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) FY 2025 budget passed with a vote of 4-0 and will be sent to BFJ. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the legislation.

VASO is requisitioning a supplemental appropriation to purchase vests to honor MCN veterans.

NCA 25-027 A law of the muscogee (creek) nation authorizing a special appropriation in the amount of \$18,000 to assist Mus-

cogee (Creek) elders attending the National Indian Council on Aging, INC. (NICOA) conference passed with a vote of 4-0 and will be sent to BFJ. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation.

The 2025 NICOA conference will take place in Durant, Okla. from Sept 29-Oct 3. The appropriation is for lodging expenses for 60 elders in 30 rooms.

To view the full agenda, visit mcnn.com.

BFJ

Continued from Page 6

The law was sponsored by Representative Dode Barnett of the Creek District. It was passed with a vote of 4-0.

If adopted, this resolution will allow Erick Giles to serve on the Muscogee Nation's Public Gaming Commission.

NCA 25-024 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing MCNCA Title 14 Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, Subsection 1-306, entitled "Search and Seizure;" and creating a new MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, Subsection 1-306, entitled "Search and Seizure" to conform search warrant practices to meet the requirements of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, was passed by the committee. The law was

sponsored by Rep. Harjo Sr. It was passed with a vote of 4-0.

If adopted, this law will allow the Nation to obtain warrants involving telephones and warrants for the collection of evidence via device monitoring.

NCA 25-025 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 2, Subsection 2-615, entitled "Disorderly Conduct", to add penalties for failure to confine, house, maintain, restrain, or secure an animal was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was passed with a vote of 4-0.

If adopted, this law will allow Muscogee Nation law enforcement to attempt to reduce the number of animals roaming freely within tribal borders.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 25-022 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, to the amount of \$20,000.00, was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Leonard Gouge of the Tulsa District.

NCA 25-027 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a special appropriation to assist Muscogee (Creek) elders attending the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) Conference, to the amount of \$18,000, was passed by the committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Anna Marshall of the Tukvptce District.

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

GRAVE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church Hitchita, Oklahoma 74438

- NOTICE -

Due to limited space, Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church, Hitchita, Oklahoma reserves the Church Cemetary, for active members only.

Respectfully,

Russell Powell Date: 2/15/25

Russell Powell Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church Chairman

Annette Taylor Date: 2/15/25

Annette Taylor Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church Secretary

WILD ONION DINNERS

Tohwal UMC Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, March 1 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4405 Old Golden Hwy, Broken Bow, OK.

D D Etchieson Indian UMC Wild Onion Dinner

Thursday, March 6 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 412 West Seneca Street, Tahlequah, OK \$15/Plate

Pickett Chapel Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, March 8 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 17610 S. Hickory, Sapulpa, OK Adults \$15, Child \$8

Eufaula Canadian Tribal Town Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, March 8 11 a.m.

800 Birkes Road, Eufaula, OK

Norman First American UMC Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, March 8 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Adults \$15, Chil-

dren under 6 \$5 1950 Beaumont Dr., Norman, OK

Thlophlocco UMC Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, March 15 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 377187 E. 1170 Rd., Okemah, OK New Hope Indian UMC Onion Dinner Saturday, March 29

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 910 W. 9th, Dewey, OK

Broken Arrow Indian UMC Saturday, March 29 20854 E. 141st St. S. Broken Arrow, OK

Springfield UMC Wild Onion Dinner Saturday, April 5 N 3810 Rd. Okemah, OK

LEGALS (CONT.)

AD-2024-20 (JOSHUA BALDRIDGE)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION... NOTICE OF HEARING... THE Muscogee (Creek) Nation TO: Joshua Baldrige Biological Father of Aiden Baldrige... On the 30th day of September 2024, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Father, Joshua Baldrige, the biological father of Aiden Baldrige born May 10, 2006. Said Application is set for hearing on the 6th day of May, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in District Courtroom 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Courthouse, Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74103.

APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. Signed and dated this 13th day of February, 2025. THE HONORABLE ALEX MASTERS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

AD-2024-22 (MISTI BAILEY)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION... NOTICE OF HEARING... THE Muscogee (Creek) Nation TO: Misti Bailey Biological Mother of Aiden Baldrige and Autumn Mosley Allie Mosley... On the 30th day of September 2024, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Mother, Misti Bailey, the biological mother of Aiden Baldrige born May 10, 2006 and Autumn Mosley born on the 22nd day of October 2016 and Allie Mosley born on the 2nd of October 2018. Said Application is set for hearing on the 6th day of May, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Courthouse, Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74103.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. Signed and dated this 13th day of February, 2025. THE HONORABLE ALEX MASTERS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

AD-2024-22 (BRIAN MOSLEY)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION... NOTICE OF HEARING... THE Muscogee (Creek) Nation TO: Brian Mosley Biological Father of Allie and Autumn Mosley... On the 30th day of September 2024, an Application was filed in this Court for an Order Determining Child Eligible for Adoption Without Consent of Biological Father, Brian Mosley, the biological father of Autumn Mosley born on the 22nd day of October 2016 and Allie Mosley born on the 2nd of October 2018. Said Application is set for hearing on the 6th day of May, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Courthouse, Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74103.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. Signed and dated this 13th day of February, 2025. THE HONORABLE ALEX MASTERS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT