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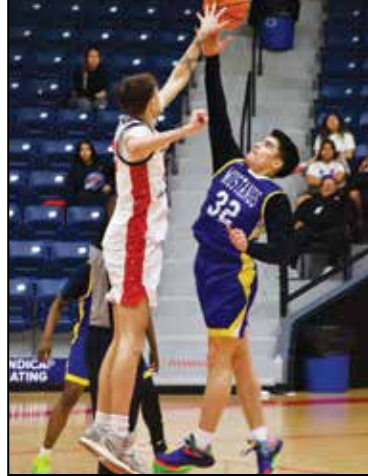
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MVSKOKE NEWS

PRODUCED BY MVSKOKEMEDIA



The Salish Kootenai College players celebrate their win in the 2025 AIHEC championship in Women's Division I. (Shayln Proctor/MM)



A game photo in the 2025 AIHEC tournament. (Shayln Proctor/MM)



A group photo of the Northwest Indian College men and women. The men won the 2025 Championship Division I game and the women got second place in Women's Division I. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

2025 AIHEC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

CMN HOSTED THE 2025 AIHEC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AND WELCOMED COLLEGE ATHLETES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla.- The 2025 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) National Basketball Tournament came to an end after three days of play on March 26. The event, hosted by the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN), brought together Tribal College basketball teams from across the United States, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and its citizens.

Men's and Women's basketball teams from Navajo Technical University, Northwest Indian College, Institute of American Indian Arts, Turtle Mountain College, Fort Peck Community College, and Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College visited CMN and the Mvskoke Reservation, some for the first time.

Mvskoke Media spoke with players and coaches from the visiting teams about their experiences playing ball in the Mvskoke Reservation and their hopes to return to CMN, as well as MCN leadership about the event.

Basketball player Amina Yellow Horse (Oglala Lakota) from the Oglala Lakota College in South Dakota was glad to be here on the Mvskoke Reservation and hoped that they could have it here again next year. "Honestly, it was a good experience. I like the people, the environment. I would say I want to come back again, I'm glad AIHEC was down here and not in the cold," Yellow Horse said.

This is Trazil Lane's (Lummi Nation) first time in Oklahoma. The Northwest Indian College (NWIC) men's assistant coach

shared his thoughts about the Mvskoke dome. "I really like it, I like this dome. It's not too big and it's not too little at the same time, so I like it," Lane said.

NWIC is on the Lummi Reservation and according to Trazil Lane it helps the Lummi Tribal members pursue college. Students also come to NWIC from across the United States: Hawaii, Alaska, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon and Wyoming.

"We just have students all over, and it's just a blessing."

Trazil Lane felt like he built a

really good relationship with the team and they've also been able to travel everywhere to play. "We just build a closer bond no matter what the score outcome is, no matter what," he said.

NWIC head coach Adam Lane (Lummi Nation) has been coaching the men's team for his third year, and during his time as a coach

AIHEC

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FOR RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS
SEE PAGE 8



Smoke shop owners are nervous about their future. (MM file)

MCN TOBACCO COMPACT EXPIRED

MVSKOKE CITIZENS' LIVELIHOODS IN JEOPARDY

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - A Mvskoke citizen smoke shop owner recently provided Mvskoke Media a copy of an email that appears to be from the Oklahoma Tax Commission to an unnamed tobacco wholesaler. The email contains a signature block for Jondra Rupp, Tobacco Excise Tax Senior Specialist at the OTC. The email states:

The following tribe's tobacco compact extensions have expired effective March 31st, 2025. Muscogee Creek Nation, Osage Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and Seminole Nation. All tobacco sales to these tribes will be at full rate and cigarette sales should have the green stamp applied to all packs as of April 1, 2025 until further notice.

Mvskoke Media contacted the OTC to confirm the content of the email. On April 7, Emily Haxton, External Communications and Press Coordinator for the OTC, responded with the following statement:

The Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) does not participate in the negotiation of tobacco tax compacts but does work with wholesalers and compacting tribes to administer the compacts. When a tribe's compact expires, the OTC informs whole-

salers that the tribe's authorized retailers are no longer eligible to purchase cigarette products bearing the Unity (tribal) stamp and tobacco product sales must be made at the regular state tax rate. On March 31, 2025, when the Muscogee (Creek) Nation compact expired, the OTC notified wholesalers of that expiration. As of April 1, 2025, cigarette and tobacco sales to the tribe's retailers will be subject to the regular state tax rate. Because rebates to the tribes are based on compact-rate sales, no new compact rebates will be available to be paid the tribe for sales on or after April 1, 2025.

The OTC will promptly administer the terms of any new agreement if the State of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enter a new cigarette and tobacco compact.

Ashley Wolf Voice, Mvskoke citizen smoke shop owner, shared how her business has been impacted by this email. Wolf Voice stated:

We were contacted by our wholesaler Monday afternoon about the tribe's tobacco compact extension that will expire effective March 31, 2025, the future orders will be stamped

SMOKE SHOP
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Lighthorse Officials use the department's new Tactical Response Vehicle to locate Clint Wesley Menzo Lawrence, a fugitive who barricaded himself in a Jenks residence during a six-hour standoff with law enforcement. (MCN Communications)

OKMULGEE HEALTH COMPLEX GOES ON LOCK DOWN DUE TO TERRORIST THREATS, LIGHTHORSE INVOLVED IN SEPARATE SIX-HOUR STANDOFF IN JENKS

LIGHTHORSE POLICE ASSISTED IN ARRESTING A WANTED FUGITIVE THE MORNING OF MARCH 27, LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THE MCN HEALTH OKMULGEE COMPLEX WENT ON LOCKDOWN AFTER CREDIBLE THREATS WERE MADE TO THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND LIGHTHORSE OFFICERS

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - Lighthorse officers responded to two separate public threats on Thursday, March 27. Early in the morning Lighthorse Police were called to a standoff that lasted a total of six hours. In the early afternoon, the MCN Okmulgee Health Complex went on lockdown due to credible threats from a family member of a patient at the hospital.

At 3 a.m., Lighthorse Police attempted a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle stopped by police was identified as Clint Wesley Menzo Lawrence. According to MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman, Lawrence was wanted on a

U.S. Marshals' warrant in Texas and Oklahoma. Lawrence is not a tribal citizen, however Lighthorse was the law enforcement agency that initiated the traffic stop.

"He (Lawrence) didn't stop, he evaded, when they tried tactics to get him to stop, he sideswiped some cruisers," Salsman said. "Our vehicles weren't damaged, they were just a little bumped. He meant to get away. Lighthorse pursued and followed him to a residence in Jenks where he pulled into a house, and literally did not stop the car and ran inside."

Lawrence then barricaded himself inside the residence. The Lighthorse SWAT Team and Tulsa Police Department were brought in on site for assistance. South Elwood Avenue between 71st and

81st street was shut down as a precaution. When Lighthorse began giving verbal commands, four adults exited the house. Lawrence remained barricaded and refused to comply with commands given

LOCK DOWN
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Morgan Paul Freeman is now in Okmulgee County custody after making credible threats to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Health Complex. (Official Mugshot)

AIHEC

Continued from Page 1

he has brought home two championships in 2023 and this year, 2025. This year was his first time traveling to the Mvskoke Reservation.

Adam Lane, who grew up on the Lummi Reservation, spoke about the importance of success on and off the court. "I think it's really important to get them educated and make sure they come in and get their degree. They can do two years or four years with us," Adam Lane said.

"We want them to at least get their two years so they can go on and do big things out there after they leave us, but that's the goal. We really do our best to support the guys and really push them to be their best," he said.

Adam Lane also shared the challenging schedule his team embraces. He said, "It's been really good and we're part of AIHEC. We actually schedule all levels of college basketball so we travel around quite a bit and we play division I schools, division II schools, division III schools, JUCO (Junior College), literally anybody and everybody that we can find that wants to play. We are always up for the challenge and we are just out here to push the guys and give them a great experience."

Common ground among the players and students is important for his team. "Some grew up on the rez, and some didn't but everyone kind of has the same back story," Adam Lane said. "Everyone goes through adversity, and we just got a

really great group of kids this year, they got really great attitude, really positive, really hard working and we want to see them have success here, or on the basketball court and in the classroom as well."

Many MCN tribal employees, citizens, and leadership came to watch the tournament. CMN college students filled the Dome, as well. Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver attended games throughout the three days of tournament play.

MCN National Council McIntosh District Representative Galen Cloud (Mvskoke) had watched CMN's previous live streams of the tournament in years past. When he heard about who was hosting it this year and where it will be located he was excited.

cheering for both teams out on the floor. That was something good to see."

Rep. Cloud was glad to be able to have the chance to watch the Ravens in person and it was an experience he will remember. "I'm glad the Nation and the college held this, it showcased our reservation, our Dome and also the surrounding schools. We hold a lot of district games, regional games for high school and we've held this," Cloud said.

"We are moving up on a bigger scale and it made me feel proud to see that and to see everybody from different colleges from different states that came in. They maybe got a little taste of our culture and our tradition, especially our school and how proud we are of them."

SMOKE SHOP

Continued from Page 1

green, which means full rate, non-tribal, 100% state tobacco excise tax will be applied to each pack. The tribe will receive 0% of the state tobacco excise tax. For the past nine years the tribe has been at the 50% rate, the state has used the state portion of collected compact taxes in accord with Oklahoma law. The Nation has retained \$2.50 of the tribal portion per carton for all cigarettes sold and distributed the remaining tribal portion at its exclusive discretion. Tobacco has produced hundreds of millions for the tribe since the early Nineteen Eighties.

Mvskoke citizen Darrell Chisoe has operated his smoke shop in south Tulsa for 30 years. Chisoe also issued a statement on the matter:

The impact of this no tobacco compact is far reaching. I have longtime valuable employees with young families to raise, that depend greatly on their income who will suffer severe loss. The

business will not be sustainable with this loss of tax revenue. This loss will cause lay-offs, and closure of a 35 year-long business. The landowners will no longer have their rent incomes. Muscogee Creek Nation will suffer extreme economic hardship with this loss, in the millions generated annually by our smoke shop revenue for our Muscogee people.

Mvskoke Media contacted the MCN Executive branch on the status of the tobacco compact. They issued the following statement:

We are still actively engaged in talks with the state seeking a resolution to this matter, and we remain committed to doing everything we can to take care of our Nation's future, our business owners, and the state's economy. We are staying in communication with our smoke shop owners and communities, along with our legal team, so that everyone has the information they need as we proceed.

Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.

LOCK DOWN

Continued from Page 1

by law enforcement. Tear gas and pepper balls were used to get Lawrence out, but he did not respond to either deterrents.

K-9 officers were then brought in, along with the department's brand new Tactical Response Vehicle which now transports the department's UAV drones. The drones were able to pinpoint Lawrence's position in the attic of the residence. Lawrence was apprehended by the K-9 officer and was treated for minor injuries. No Lighthorse officers were harmed during the standoff.

The residence Lawrence barricaded himself in was located near Jenks Northwest elementary. The standoff resulted in a delayed opening for the school. According to Salsman, Lawrence will face additional charges for disrupting a school day.

Okmulgee Health Complex Lockdown

At 1:53 p.m. MCN employees were informed that the Okmul-

gee Health Complex was closed due to a credible threat, and that employee IDs would be required to enter the facilities. A half hour later at 2:23 p.m., Lighthorse Police issued a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) alert for Morgan Freeman, a 50 year old white, male who was last seen driving a black Hyundai Sante Fe. The BOLO also stated that the suspect was armed and made direct threats to law enforcement, stating he would "take out" any law enforcement officers that got in his way.

At 3:20 p.m. officials announced that Freeman was apprehended by Tulsa Police Officers.

According to Salsman, Freeman's mother was a patient at the Okmulgee hospital. Freeman had struggled with mental health issues in the past. Freeman had tried to visit his mother earlier in the week, but was escorted out by security for saying what Salsman described as "inflammatory language".

"It ramped up to a call where he (Freeman) said 'I'm getting a

bunch of people together, we're storming that place (Okmulgee Hospital) and getting my mom. Anyone that gets in our way is going down, I don't care to die, I don't care to kill anybody else.' So it became a much larger issue." Salsman said.

Freeman claimed that he was organizing a group to "storm the hospital". Lighthorse was unable to validate that claim, but learned that Freeman had access to firearms. At that point the threat was deemed credible and a lockdown order for the complex was put into effect.

After Freeman was apprehended, he was moved to Okmulgee County where he remains in custody for felony charges of Planning to Attempt to Conspire to Perform an Act of Violence. According to Salsman, no one was hurt during the lockdowns, and Freeman no longer poses a threat to the public. The MCN Health Complex will see increased security presence out of an abundance of caution.

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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AFFIRMS MCN IN COMPLIANCE FOR THPO GRAN

MVSKOKE MEDIA HAS VERIFIED THE COMPLIANCE LETTER SENT BY THE NPS

BY **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - On Jan. 25, NCA 25-013 was adopted unanimously at the Muscogee Creek Nation National Council Quarterly Session. This bill approved the expenditure of a grant from the National Parks Service to fund the MCN Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

As previously reported, former MCN Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Turner Hunt had alleged the MCN was not in compliance with the requirements of the THPO Grant application. During the quarterly session, MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Director Robin Soweka Jr. stated that the department was in the process of obtaining a letter verifying compliance from the NPS THPO manager.

Mvskoke Media has been able to obtain a copy of the letter from MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman. The letter was sent by Lloyd Masayumtewa, NPS Tribal Historic Program Manager. Mvskoke Media contacted Masayumtewa, who confirmed that he had sent the letter on Feb. 6.

According to the letter, "This letter confirms that the Muscogee

Nation is in good standing with the WASO, Tribal Historic Preservation Program. The Muscogee Nation will be eligible to receive the FY25 yearly allotment for their THPO program."

Mvskoke Media contacted Hunt for comment on this letter, and he replied with the following statement:

In order for Mr. Masayumtewa to confirm compliance with the agreement he must have a copy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Pre/Post McGirt Comprehensive Reservation-Wide Preservation Plan. Many citizens, including myself, would like to have access to this document.

The THPM receives self-reported information nationally, from THPO programs in the form of yearly accomplishment reports. Without the National Park Service conducting its four-year review of THPO programs, they only receive what the Tribal Nation submits. If a THPO program only submitted positive accomplishments, what information would the THPM have to make a well-founded determination on MCN's standing?

Nothing in this letter addresses any of my allegations regarding

specific compliance issues that existed while I was employed as the THPO. The NPS letter does not acknowledge non-compliance with the MOA or negative impacts to the National Historic Landmark, Creek Council House - as would be typical for any correspondence from a federal agency addressing such concerns.

Questions remain regarding what information MCN submitted to Mr. Masayumtewa while asking for a letter of good standing. Additionally, the shift to Good Standing in lieu of wording that clearly indicates the MCN THPO program is compliant with the MOA is concerning.

I have submitted Freedom of Information Act requests regarding correspondence sent to Mr. Masayumtewa for him to generate this letter. Additionally, I hope to be able to finally see the MCN's preservation plan by asking the U.S. government to disclose the document. I encourage anyone who is interested to do the same. To submit a FOIA request for the Department of Interior go to foiaexpresspal.doi.gov



Beans Factor (Chickasaw) smiling on the big day of signing with Manhattan University. (Photo Courtesy: Beans Factor)

BEANS TAKES A SWING AT THE BIG APPLE

BEANS FACTOR (CHICKASAW) SHARED HER EXCITEMENT ABOUT PLAYING GOLF FOR MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY

BY **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

MANHATTAN, NY- Beans Factor (Chickasaw) attends Sequoyah High School and is currently a 17 year old senior that has been accepted by Manhattan University (MU) in Riverdale, New York where she will pursue a career in golf. She recently spoke to Mvskoke Media about her sport, her major, and the opportunities on and off the green.

Factor visited the campus in January, and she will tour it again in June on her 18th birthday before starting in the fall. She currently doesn't know anyone that will be attending the university, but she is excited for the adventure.

"I chose MU because of the new opportunities it brings, as well as the coach, and most importantly the academics. I want to major in Finance and MU is one of the top business schools, ranked #52 over-

all in the U.S. college ranking by NY (New York Times," Factor said.

"The school itself is a very good place for me to be able to get the education that I need and want for me to succeed. The golf courses around are amazing, and it has some of the best golf courses in the U.S."

Factor hopes to see that her coach can help her improve as a player and grow as a person. "I hope to become the best player I can be and find a new way to view the game of golf and how it can help me to become successful in the golf tournaments and possibly try to go pro," Factor said.

Factor is full of excitement about connection and growth off the course as well. Factor hopes that this will bring many opportunities and success in her career. Factor said, "The biggest advice I could give is definitely do not settle for the first school that contacts you. Find a school that fits you and will better you as a player and a person."



One of the jerseys that were auctioned off by the Tulsa Oilers (Photo Courtesy: Tulsa Oilers/DASH)

TULSA OILERS HOLD NIGHT DEDICATED TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

THE TEAM ALSO AUCTIONED OFF A NUMBER OF JERSEYS WITH A MVSKOKE-STYLE DESIGN

BY **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla. - Friday, April 4 was a night of celebration in Tulsa as the Tulsa Oilers, a double-A hockey team with the ECHL, formerly known as the East Coast Hockey League, and an affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks in the National Hockey League (NHL), hosted a night dedicated to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for their second-to-last home game of the season.

To celebrate the occasion, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gave out free ticket vouchers, which were good for up to four tickets in the Fan Zone of the BOK Center. These vouchers were available at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee as well as the following Muscogee

Nation Health locations: Council Oak, Okemah, Koweta, Sapulpa, and Eufaula.

The Oilers also hosted a "Pack the House" night on the same day, sponsored by the Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), with fun events beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-game party. There were giveaways before the game, including a Tulsa Oiler Hawaiian-style shirt for the first 1,000 people to arrive. There was also an auction after the game in which hockey jerseys made specifically for the MCN night were auctioned off. Several of the jerseys were worn by the players during the game. There was also a jersey with a customizable last name, jerseys for both the team mascot, Sledge, and the head coach Rob Murray, and a #24 jersey for the whole team.

The game itself began at 7:05 p.m. when the puck dropped and the Oilers played against the Wichita Thunder, an affiliate of the NHL team, the San Jose Sharks.

The Oilers would go on to beat the Thunder 3 to 1, with the Thunder scoring once in the 2nd period and the Oilers responding with three unanswered goals in the 3rd period.

The Tulsa Oilers are an ECHL affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks of the NHL, and of the San Diego Gulls, a member of the triple-A, American Hockey League (AHL), the NHL's main developmental league.

For additional information and for information on tickets, visit the Tulsa Oilers website or call the Tulsa Oilers' Ticket Sales Department at 918-632-7825.

TARA MOSES PREMIERES "THE MVSKOKE PROJECT" IN COLUMBUS, GA



Tara Moses, the director of "The Mvskoke Project" (Photo Courtesy: Tara Moses)

THE SEMINOLE/MVSKOKE DIRECTOR HOPES TO HONOR MVSKOKE CULTURE THROUGH HOMECOMING

BY **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

COLUMBUS, Ga. - Tara Moses, a citizen of the Seminole Nation with Muscogee (Creek) heritage, didn't expect to get into theater growing up. As a child, she mostly saw theater as an escape from being the only Indigenous kid she knew at school in Tulsa. She had no idea that her after school activities at the Tulsa Spotlight Theatre would lead to a career, let alone lead her to direct a play at the historic Springer Opera House. The Columbus, GA theater has hosted legends such as Oscar Wilde, Ethel Barrymore, and John Phillip Sousa.

Moses spoke to Mvskoke Media's LiveWire on March 25 about her life in theater and her

latest project, "The Mvskoke Project."

The play, written by Moses and Bailey Huerta, Mvnte C. Jones, Rose Landrum, Lea McCormick, Eri Nox, Stacy Pratt and James Whitecloud is the sum of four years of work. It centers around three generations of a Mvskoke family, the Fixico family, and its matriarch, the grandmother Lahoma, who is soon to pass on from this world. What follows is a number of tales from the family, both old and new, who have returned to honor the legacy of their family's leader. These tales range from the supernatural, such as ghosts, dreams, and visions, to memories of family and entertain-

MOSES

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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MOSES

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ing stories, including a retelling of a Muscogee creation story by one of the characters, a trickster known as Cvfe. “The play is about homecoming,” Moses said on LiveWire.

Moses and The Mvskoke Project tell just one of the many stories of Muscogee heritage and history in conjunction with the Muscogee Homecoming, a regional celebration of the area’s original inhabitants. The Muscogee Homecoming will be part of a multi-day event. It will include a tour at Fort Mitchell, where some 15,000 Muscogee people were gathered before being forced from their lands, a community forum, and plays from Moses and Mary Kathryn Nagle. A delegation from the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation, including Secretary of Culture & Humanities Raelynn Butler, will also attend.

A portion of the royalties from the show will directly support the Muscogee Language Revitalization Program at the College of the Muscogee Nation. The funds will support the preservation of culture, heritage, and sovereignty of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by spreading knowledge of its language and people.

The Mvskoke Project will be hosted at the Springer Opera House in downtown Columbus, GA from April 3 to 13.

For showtimes and additional information on the play, visit springeroperahouse.org or call the Springer Opera House’s box office at 706-327-3688.

LINDA IMPERIAL TALKS HER CAREER AND HER NEW SINGLE “TULSA ROSE”

THE NEW SINGLE IS MEANT TO PROMOTE HER MVSKOKE HERITAGE

BY **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla. - Musician and Muscogee citizen Linda Imperial has had incredible success over the course of her career, and now, she’s returning to her roots with her latest single “Tulsa Rose.”

Imperial spoke with Mvskoke Media’s LiveWire about her life in music.

Her song “Tulsa Rose” was

inspired by stories of her great-grandmother, Nancy Harjo Posey, and her grandmother, Matty Posey. “I believe that If they could have endured times of such incredible misery and upheaval, I should be able to endure anything and persevere,” Imperial wrote previously about the song.

Imperial was born in Tulsa but left at an early age, and now she’s returning to her family’s roots on the Muscogee Reservation. She grew up all over eastern Oklahoma



Mvskoke citizen and singer-songwriter Linda Imperial released a new single, “Tulsa Rose.” (Photo Courtesy: Linda Imperial Facebook)

in towns like Pawhuska, Hominy, Tulsa, and Broken Arrow. Her upbringing, along with her family largely consisting of singers and musicians, greatly influenced her and her music.

To her, music was her way of

IMPERIAL
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the cancellation of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, which will affect Tribal nations within the State of Oklahoma. (Shutterstock)

TRIBAL NATIONS AFFECTED BY USDA PROGRAM CUTS

SHORTAGES IN FUNDING COME DURING TIME OF INCREASING FOOD INSECURITY ON AND OFF RESERVATIONS

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

WASHINGTON D.C. - Tribal food programs within the State of Oklahoma and across the United States are experiencing funding cuts after it was announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cancelled the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). This program was responsible for providing funding to states and tribes to purchase food within their state or within 400 miles of delivery destinations. Particularly, it served healthy food and beverages to underserved regions and producers.

Tribes affected by the cancella-

tion of this program include Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation and Osage Nation.

The cancellation of LFPA comes at a time of rising food insecurity rates. According to the USDA’s website, in 2023 13.5 percent of households, or approximately 18 million, were defined as food insecure. This was a rise from 2022, which saw 12.8 percent of households experience food insecurity. The concept of food insecurity is defined by the USDA as households that “at times during the year, were uncertain of having or unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of all their family members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food.” This includes households

with low and very low food security.

For Native American communities, food insecurity numbers are worse. According to the National Library of Medicine, 25 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives face food insecurity. The rate in rural communities is even higher.

The cancellation of LFPA has seen opposition from U.S. Senators and calls to reverse it. Democratic Senators Michael Bennet, Senator Adam Schiff, along with 30 other senators believe the programs are necessary to fight food insecurity. In a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, the letter states:

We write to express serious concerns regarding the cancellation of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs supporting local and regional food purchases providing assistance to those in need. These successful programs, the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS), allow states, territories, and Tribes to purchase local foods from nearby farmers and ranchers to be used for emergency food providers, schools, and child care centers.

At a time when food insecurity remains high, providing affordable, fresh food to food banks and families while supporting Amer-

USDA PROGRAM CUTS
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(Image Courtesy: Fus Yvhiqv)

SOUR SOFKE

BY **FUS YVHIKV**
COLUMNIST

Editors Note: The following column is a fictionalized satirical story written in the genre of ‘Creek Dialect Writings’. The events and characters depicted are fictitious.

“FORE!” Tarpalechee screams as he takes a mighty cut at his golf ball. With his short alligator arms, he choked up on the club past the grip and onto the metal shaft. As he swings downward, his sweaty hands cause him to lose his grasp. The club flies swiftly through the air twirling sideways like the rotating blades of a helicopter. The spinning club brushes Yahola’s hair, giving him a temporary flattop.

As the menacing club flies through the driving range, patrons scream and hit the deck. The club smashes into the letter P of a neon sign that spells TOPGOLF. It now reads TO GOLF.

“Heyluh!” I scream at Tarp. “Whaddya think you’re doin’?”

“I didn’t do that on purpose!” Tarp protests. “I lost control!”

“You and those alligator arms!” I say.

“Looks more like T. rex arms to me,” Fixico says laughing. “We should put him in Ripley’s Believe It or Not Circus. Could make some real toknawv. Just saying.”

“I’ll show you toknawv, Fix!” Tarp screams as he shakes his short-armed fist at Fixico.

“Cepan! You’re going to have to get closer,” Fixico taunts. “Fus, hold the este lopocke at eye level. That’ll make for a fair fight.”

“Why you!” Tarp says as he bull-rushes Fixico.

Yahola intercepts Tarpalechee. “Wikvs! You boys calm down! We have to apologize to these people before we get thrown out,” Yahola says.

Yahola is correct. We forgot about the offended patrons. People are staring at us with a mix of fear and anger. It was time to charm the spectators. “Fix, we need you to calm the waters,” I say. “Work your magic.”

“Why me?” Fixico asks. “Cause you got the charm,” I reply. “Think of it as snagging a crowd instead of another ‘Skin.’”

“I’m your man,” Fixico says. Fixico turns to address the shocked crowd.

“Ladies and Gentlemen,” Fixico says. “We apologize for what just happened. My friend here with the T. rex arms is new at golfing.” Fixico motions toward Tarpalechee. Tarp shoots Fixico a Clint Eastwood narrow eyed glare. “And just to make everything right,” Fixico continues, “The next round is on my friend here, Fus!”

My chin drops to my chest. “Whut?!” I ask incredulously. Fixico chortles.

THWACK! A Native woman delivers a hard slap to Tarpalechee’s chipmunk cheek. His eyebrows are raised, and his mouth forms a large “O”. Tarp slowly raises his arms and places his palms on his beefy cheeks. The woman stands face to face with Tarp. Her eyes are narrow, and her nostrils flare with each deep breath. I recognize her from a photo Tarp showed me. “Nage’te?” Tarp meekly asks the woman.

“What? What is right!” the woman replies. “As in ‘WHAT’ are you doing here?”

“Vne?”

“Yes you!” You lying sack of-

“Why you so cvpakke?”

THWACK! The woman delivers another stinging slap. She has a posse of five stern looking Native women standing behind her. We avoid looking them in the eyes.

“I’m mad because your lame, lying cvpo told me that you were volunteering at the soup kitchen!”

“I...uh...uh...ahem!”

“Spit it out, Tarp!” the woman commands.

“I, I, I was,” Tarp stutters. “Yeah, that’s it. I was headed to the soup kitchen when Fus called.”

The posse of Native women fix their warrior stare on me. I take a step back. “Don’t throw me under the bus,” I say.

“Yeah! Don’t you be blaming your friend,” the woman says as she shakes her head. “I’m not doing this! I’m not doing this!”

“Doing what?” Tarp asks.

“This! Rez Love! I’m not doing this anymore!” she declares as she spins on her heels. The Native women warriors stalk off with her.

“Don’t leave! Please don’t leave,” Tarp pleads. His lower lip is quivering, and tears well up in his eyes.

“She was the love of my life,” Tarp says sorrowfully.

“You’ve known her for two weeks!”

I say. As tears stream down his face, Tarp picks up a small Igloo cooler and a huge turkey leg. He takes a large bite of the turkey and strikes the Igloo cooler with the turkey leg. We hear the heartbeat of the Igloo cooler.

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

“Heyluh!” Yahola says. “He’s going to sing a 49 song.”

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

“Tawete! Here?” I ask. “Somebody stop him!”

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

Tarpalechee sings.

“Hey, hi, yo, Hey ah, hey ahhhhh Way hay uh, Way hay ya”

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

“There was a time you loved me, and I loved you too,

Oh baby, what did I do?

To make you dump me like an old cell phone,

Baby, baby, losing you make me moan,

Like when I wreck a rez car on loan,”

Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!

We circle Tarp and begin to round dance. The Frybread Boys silently stare far off into the distance. I see Tarp’s eyes glistening.

“Hey, hi, waya heeeyeee Way hey uh,

Hi ya, hey ya

SOUR SOFKE
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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Office of Environmental Services

<p>FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025</p> <p>Community Clean-Up Event</p> <p>Registration will be at the MCN Tribal Executive Building Canopy at 12:30 P.M.</p> <p>Routes to be determined Crews will clean from 1 P.M. – 3 P.M.</p> <p>Gloves, bags, vests, hand sanitizer, and bottled water provided to volunteers</p> <p>Afterwards, volunteers will meet at the MCN Recycling Center for fellowship, cookout, t-shirts and prizes!</p>	<p>FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025</p> <p>Recycle Collection Event</p> <p>Free Document Shredding from 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. Due to the limited capacity of the shredding truck, it will be first come, first served, and you must stay with your documents while they are being shredded.</p> <p>NO books, 3-ring binders, large clips, or magazines</p> <p>Free Electronic Recycling from 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. TVs, monitors, cell phones, small appliances, and other electronics for safe and responsible recycling</p> <p>Other Items Accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White goods such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, and freezers (ALL DOORS MUST BE REMOVED) • Automobile batteries and alkaline batteries (NO LITHIUM BATTERIES) • Automobile Tires (NO AGRICULTURAL TIRES) • Cardboard, paper, plastics #1 & 2, and aluminum cans <p>DO NOT bring any hazardous materials Hazardous waste includes paint, medications, glues, fluorescent bulbs, and chemicals such as pesticides, cleaners, and insect repellants. These types of items will not be accepted at this event.</p>
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MCN RECYCLING CENTER
12675 GUN CLUB ROAD
OKMULGEE, OK 74447
FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT: 918-549-2580

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
RECYCLE CENTER

IMPERIAL

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“letting our spirit out and releasing my spirit,” she said. Music was always a part of her life, whether it was her singing with family or achieving breakout success with the dance music group Loverde in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Her love of music and singing has led to an incredible career. Imperial has performed with numerous groups such as Jefferson Starship and New York Jazz Explosion.

For Imperial, the process of working on this song and the song

itself was a way of paying homage to the women in her family, “who were just such strong, beautiful Native American women,” Imperial stated. Likewise, Imperial shared that she pays homage to the elders who taught her so much and struggled so much to give them a good life.

“I wanted people to understand that women are so incredibly powerful and important in the world of the human race.”

Linda Imperial’s new song “Tulsa Rose” is available on her website, www.lindaimperialmusic.com/, as well as YouTube and Spotify.

MVSKOKE LULLABY PERFORMED AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

DR. KIRSTEN KUNKLE WAS JOINED BY FIVE-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, STEPHANIE, IN A FIRST FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE

BY MEREDITH JOHNSON
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla.- Mvskoke soprano Kirsten Kunkle recently performed a lullaby in the Mvskoke language at the Kennedy Center. She was joined on stage by her five-year old daughter, Stephanie. To Kunkle’s knowledge it may be the first time an Indigenous language has ever been performed at the prestigious performing arts center.

“This was truly, to our knowledge, the first time Native languages have been sung in the Kennedy Center,” Kunkle said.

The performance came about through Chickasaw composer Jerrad Tate, who has been asked to curate a concert with PostClassical Ensemble, a Washington D.C.

based orchestra. When Kunkle was asked by the conductor, Ángel Gil-Ordóñez, if she could perform something in Mvskoke she immediately thought of “Mvskoke Lullaby.”

She also immediately thought of her daughter, who has been listening to the song since she was born. “I learned it and I wanted her to grow up hearing it. She knows it and has sung it her entire life. She’s actually performed it with me before at a school event for Indigenous Peoples Day,” she shared.

Gil-Ordóñez was thrilled at the idea, and her daughter was as well. “She did amazing, she was such a pro, we practiced every night what it would be like singing and leaving. I think she stole the show.”

Kunkle learned the song through language material offered



Mvskoke soprano Kirsten Kunkle performed “Mvskoke Lullaby” at the Kennedy Center with her daughter, Stephanie. (Photo Courtesy: Kirsten Kunkle)

by the Mvskoke Language Program, which has lyrics, sheet music, and historical recordings of the song. She said, “It’s probably the most recognizable piece in Mvskoke and I’ve used it in outreach before, so I know it pretty well.”

To view a video of this first for Native language performance and an interview with Dr. Kunkle, visit our youtube channel, [youtube.com/@MvskokeMedia](https://www.youtube.com/@MvskokeMedia).

USDA PROGRAM CUTS

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ican farmers is critical. Notably, LFPA and LFS have benefitted producers and consumers by providing funding for purchases through all 50 states, four territories, and 84 tribal governments. Through LFPA and LFS, USDA has prioritized the procurement and distribution of healthy, nutritious, domestic food. It has also taken an important step towards ignit-

ing rural prosperity by expanding and strengthening markets among farmers and rural economies. As of December 2024, the programs had supported over 8,000 producers, providing increased marketing opportunities.

Although the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not a listed recipient of the LFPA Tribal Government award purchases, the full list of tribes can be found on the USDA website, ams.usda.gov.

SOUR SOFKE

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Way hey ya”
Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!
Ka-Boom!
“My hair is still long, my eyes are brown,
My heart is broke, my eyes are down,
Now I have no one to make my frybread,
I guess this is what it means to be Red.”
Tarp’s lips are quivering. Perspiration breaks out on his forehead. A disobedient tear steams down his left cheek. Tarp bites down on his trembling lower lip.
Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!
Ka-Boom!
“Hey, hi, waya hiiiiiiii
Way hay uh, Hi ya, hey ya, Way hey ya”
Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!
Ka-Boom!
“I will always love you till the day I die,
You mean the world to me, I’m not gonna lie,
On Tiger Mountain I’ll stand up high above,
And sing to you my song of eternal love.”
Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom! Ka-Boom!
Ka-Boom!
On the final beat the turkey leg shatters. That’s Rez Love for you.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Department leaders, along with MCN tribal leadership cut the ribbon at the new expansion to the emergency department at the Muscogee Nation Medical Center. (Photo Courtesy: MCN Department of Health)

MUSCOGEE NATION MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES EXPANSION

TREATMENT ROOMS NEARLY DOUBLED FROM SEVEN TO 12

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Patients checking in at the Muscogee Nation Medical Center will see new, expanded services. The Muscogee Nation Department of Health (MCNDOH) announced the opening of a new 13,000 square foot expansion to the emergency department in the tribe’s capitol in Okmulgee. Originally the department contained seven treatment rooms. Now it holds 12 to meet the “growing demand for emergency

services.”
These enhancements include new rooms and new physician coverage as part of an effort to reduce patient wait times and ensure that critical care is delivered more efficiently. The new facility will feature a redesigned layout with a central nurses’ station, which will improve communication among medical staff and allow them to monitor patients more closely. Dedicated spaces for isolation, decontamination, X-Rays and CT imaging will be used by medical staff in the new facility as well.

According to MCN Acting Secretary of Health Shawn Terry, the expansion was a much-needed improvement.
“This expansion reflects our commitment to investing in the Muscogee people and our surrounding communities,” Secretary Terry said. “We’ve heard your feedback – we needed more space, and now we’ve made it happen. By increasing capacity and adding providers, we are enhancing the emergency care experience for our patients.”
MCNDOH Director of Nurs-

ing Jimmie Jones believes the new facility will be beneficial for both patients and staff, particularly in situations that involve lifesaving measures.
“This new space allows us to streamline effective emergency care when every second counts,” Jones said. “With expanded capacity and an improved patient care design, our team can respond more efficiently to critical cases, leading to better outcomes for our patients and their families.”
MCNDOH operates several hospital locations across the Mvskoke Reservations that serve all citizens of federally-recognized tribes. To schedule an appointment, call the main line at 800-782-8291.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Elder’s Meeting**
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
2900 N. Osage Pl. Okmulgee, OK.
May 7 | 9:30 a.m.
- Coffee and Donuts**
Veterans Affairs Services Office
May 8 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1006 Bear Ln,
Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions,
contact 918-732-7739.
- Job Fair & Health Expo MCN Health**
April 17 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Mvskoke Dome | 2950 Warrior
Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447
- Spring Arts & Crafts Market**
Holdenville Creek Indian
Community Center
May 3 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
set up at 9 a.m.
224 E. Poplar, Holdenville, OK 74848
- Carry the Cross Good Friday Remembrance**
Big Cussetah UMC | April 18
Members and guests are invited to the church at 2:30 p.m., the walk will begin at 3 p.m., which will honor the historical journey of Jesus. Refreshments and dinner will follow.
20566 Prairie Bell Rd., Morris, OK 74445
For questions, contact
J.R. Barnes at 539-281-9468
- Arizona Outreach Beyond the Reservation**
May 10 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Talking Stick Resort
9800 Talking Stick Way,
Scottsdale, AZ, 85256

- 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
- Farmer’s Market**
Looped Square Meat Co.
3300 U.S. 75 North, Beggs, OK
Event will feature live music,
vendors and food trucks
Every second and fourth
Saturday of the month
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
April 26 - Sept. 27.
- 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.
- Mvskoke News Graduate Edition**
All Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are graduating from high school, military, college, or technical school are invited to submit a profile for the June 1 edition.
For questions,
contact 918-732-7636
Submissions Deadline:
May 1

SUBMISSIONS



(Photo Courtesy: Cynthia Smith)

ELIAS SMITH
Elias Smith was invited to the 2025 Individual Player National Championship Tournament to be held in Chicago on April 6, 2025. This is a Highschool level tournament. Elias Smith is an 8th grader at Morris Middle School.

He is the son of Mike and Cynthia Smith, His maternal grandmother was the late Elizabeth Townsend (Okmulgee) and paternal grandparents were the late Gawexsky and Dollie Smith. Elias is a proud citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation as well as being of Cherokee descent. He is Deer clan and is proud of his ancestry. He participates in various activities such as Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Football, Track, basketball, Powerlifting, Band and the Academic team. Elias has won numerous awards/medals for all of his activities.
He is the captain of the Morris Middle School 8th grade team. The 8th grade Academic team also qualified for the 2025 Middle School National Championship

Tournament to be held in Chicago on May 9-11, 2025. On March 29th, 2025, the 8th grade team traveled to Redlands College in El Reno to be crowned the State Champions for OAAC Mid level Challenge of the Champions.
Elias Smith attends various camps throughout the summers. He attended the OU football camp for the past 5 years, Academic Quiz bowl camp, Falls Creek. He is also a member of the Morris First Baptist Church and youth group.
Elias Smith did well at the National Academic Quiz tournament placing 188th out of 249 contestants. This was an opportunity and learning experience for Elias (8th grader) by competing against highschool level participants.



(Photo Courtesy: Kristen Wittman)

ETHAN WITTMAN
Ethan Wittman (Mvskoke Citizen) won 1st place at the Oneta Ridge middle school talent show on Thursday April 3rd. Ethan played a

medley of several songs on his electric guitar. After he was finished he was met with chants of “Ethan! Ethan! Ethan!” from all of his classmates.
His Dad (Thomas Wittman,

Creek nation citizen) and Mom (Kristen Wittman) are beyond proud of him!
Ethan has been playing guitar for 7 years and hopes to become the greatest guitarist of all time!

IN MEMORIAM



AVALYNN LORANE CANTRELL

Avalynn Lorane Cantrell, a resident of Jenks, formerly a resident of Henryetta, passed away on Monday, March 31, 2025, in Tulsa, OK, at the age of 18. She was born August 13, 2006, in Okmulgee, OK, to Jared Ellis and Angel Lynn Ellis. Avalynn was a proud citizen of the Muscogee Nation who was known for her fierce, competitive spirit. She loved leading chants with her softball teammates. She played tennis at Henryetta Public Schools and later made the Jenks Public School Color Guard for two years.

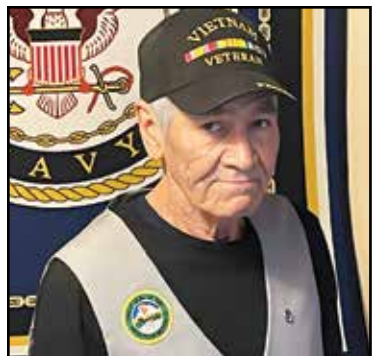
Outside of sports, she loved spending time with her friends and boyfriend. She loved concerts, often singing and dancing. As a student she proudly made the Principal's Honor Roll and was always

a hard worker at her job, which funded her love of shopping and fashion.

Avalynn developed a love of baking at a young age and was famous for her brownies made from scratch. She was an adventurer and loved trips to the beach, and even once walked the red carpet at the Sundance Film Festival.

She is preceded in death by her grandfather, Larry Stiver and her great-grandparents, Thomas and Lois Pate, Billy and Mary Cantrell, Guy and Lucille Hammack.

Avalynn is survived by her parents, Jared and Angel Ellis of Jenks, OK; two brothers, Jacob Cantrell and wife, Tajahae of Norman and Brighton Cantrell of Jenks; her grandparents, Timothy Cantrell of Tiger Mountain, Lesa Cantrell of Henryetta, and Teri Stiver of Henryetta; Her uncles, David Cantrell of Tiger Mountain, Timmy "Blue" Cantrell and wife Shelly of Tiger Mountain, and Jesse Stiver of Dewar; Her cousins, Austin Green and wife Cheyenne of Henryetta, Timmy Cantrell of Tiger Mountain, Rylee Cantrell of Tiger Mountain, Jasmine Cantrell of Henryetta, McKenzie Cantrell of Henryetta, Aden Ellis of Henryetta, and boyfriend Isaac Sanders.



FRANK CHISHOLM

Frank Chisholm Jr. of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the age of 78.

Born on December 8, 1946 at Shawnee City Hospital in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Frank was the son of Frank Buck Chisholm and Winona Mae Williams (Wells). Frank graduated from Star Spencer High School, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy for four years after being drafted during the Vietnam War, demonstrating the dedication and strength that would define his life. He attended church and was a member of Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Frank was also a long-term employee at East Central Electric Company, where he worked as a lineman for 18 years, retiring in 2000. His strong work ethic and commitment to his craft were well respected. A simple man with a kind heart, he found joy in life's quiet pleasures. He was

an avid NASCAR fan and had an unwavering love for animals, especially his dogs, who often held an even bigger place in his heart than people.

Frank met the love of his life, Linda Asbury, and together they built a family filled with love, raising their four children: Bonnie Chisholm, Frank Eugene Chisholm, Christopher Clay Chisholm, and Crystal Dawn Chisholm. Their life together was a testament to devotion and partnership.

Frank is preceded in death by his father, Frank Chisholm Sr.; his mother, Winona Williams; his son, Christopher Clay Chisholm; his daughter, Crystal Dawn Chisholm; his grandson, Elijah Jordan Chisholm; his sister, Yvonne Autaubo; and his sister, Wilma Dean Moore.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda Chisholm; his son, Frank Eugene Chisholm and wife Sherry; his daughter, Bonnie Chisholm and companion Joey; his sister, Delores Nestelle, and husband Tim; his brother, Thompson Williams; his seven grandkids, nine great-grandkids, and a host of nieces, nephews, loving relatives and dear friends who will cherish his memory.

Frank will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his hard work, and his deep love for animals. His legacy of kindness and quiet strength will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.



(MM File)

NATIONAL COUNCIL ENACTS FELONY CHILD ENDANGERMENT LAW

THOMPSON AND HARJO WARE NOMINATIONS TO MCN SUPREME COURT CONFIRMED

BY FRANCES HERROD REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held a regular session in the Mound Building on March 29, 2025.

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

NCR 25-001 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council adopting the Rules of Procedures of The National Council which includes an amendment to limit Emergency Sessions to 9 times a year. Adopted 8-7. Opposed: Representatives Barnett, Gouge, Harjo, McHenry, Osborn, Randolph, and Whitecloud.

TR 25-005 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adopting an updated procurement policy for the expenditure of Indian Housing Block Grant Funds. Adopted 13-2.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) requires a written procurement policy. This resolution would update the procurement policy to include written procurement standards of 2 CFR 200.

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. Adopted 15-0.

The Citizens Beyond the Reservation Office is hosting an event May 9-11 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 (ODHS) and the MCN for the benefit of the MCNs Summer EBT Program. Adopted 15-0.

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 to Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT) enhancement charter. Adopted 15-0.

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.

TR 25-019 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Trane Technologies for the benefit of the Citizens Services building. Adopted 15-0.

This legislation allows for MCN to upgrade technology systems for the Citizens Services Building.

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 MCN. Adopted 15-0.

This resolution will allow George Thompson to serve on the MCN 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 MCN. Adopted 15-0.

This resolution will allow Leah Harjo Ware to serve on the MCN Supreme Court.

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. Adopted 15-0.

This resolution will allow the Principal Chief to settle an ongoing legal case involving the MCN.

TR 25-023 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending TR 23-082 (A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the construction of three new child-care facilities for the MCN Office of Child Care. Adopted 15-0.

This bill authorizes a further expenditure of \$5,956,838.40 for the construction of three new Child Care facilities on tribal property located in Wetumka, Okemah, and Eufaula, Okla due to an increase of cost of materials.

TR 25-024 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a lease agreement with Oral Roberts University, an Oklahoma corporation, for Mvskoke Media to lease office space at Cityplex Towers. Adopted 15-0.

This resolution will allow Mvskoke Media to use Cityplex Towers in Tulsa, Okla as an office space for the purpose of establishing a new home office for its news team.

TR 25-025 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs' Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant for the benefit of the MCN Tribal Utility Authority. Adopted 15-0.

According to the legislation, this resolution will allow the MCN to reduce energy costs, improve energy independence, enhance climate resiliency, and improve the quality of life for Tribal Citizens.

TR 25-007 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation adopting an updated payments and rents policy of the MCN Department of Housing. Adopted 14-1. Opposed by Representative Golden.

This legislation would adjust the schedule of ceiling rents and payments, based on the NAHASDA and 24 CFR Part 1000.10.w, for the MCN Department of Housing.

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. Adopted 11-4. Opposed by Representatives Deere, Golden, Marshall, and Proctor.

This law provides for the eligibility of MCN citizens who are certified teachers that teach K-12th grade in a public school within the MCN reservation to apply for a donation in the form of a grant in

CHILD ENDANGERMENT LAW

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



(MM File)

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR MVSKOKE MEDIA'S NEW OFFICE APPROVED BY BFJ AND LNC

THE BFJ/LNC JOINT COMMITTEE ALSO PASSED LEGISLATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS AND POSTPONED A BILL TO RENAME CREEK DISTRICT

BY THOMAS JACKSON REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Business, Finance and Justice committee and Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation committee held a joint meeting at the Mound Building

on March 25. 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 25-024 A tribal resolution of

the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a lease agreement with Oral Roberts University, an Oklahoma corporation, for Mvskoke Media to lease office

LEASE AGREEMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

LEGALS

GD-2022-03

Court document for the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Case No. GD-2022-33, dated March 27, 2025. The document is an order and notice of hearing petition for the appointment of a general guardian for a minor, ADDIE HICKS. It states that the guardian was appointed on April 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court. The document is signed by the Judge of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

CHILD ENDANGERMENT LAW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the amount of \$500.00 per school year for classroom or educational activities.

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 MCN Department of Health. Adopted 15-0.

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.

NCA 25-029 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of the Interior for the benefit of the Office of Environ-

mental Services. Adopted 15-0.

This legislation benefits the Office of Environmental Services which has been awarded \$2,624,051 in grant funds. 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 Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 28, Chapter 8 entitled "Building Code" to be replaced with the Life Safety Division. Adopted 15-0.

This law will 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 MCN and the general public.

NCA 25-031 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing the MCN Life Safety Division Revolving Fund. Adopted 15-0.

This legislation will create a revolving fund for the Nation's Life Safety Division to collect and

receive funds from issued permits and performed inspections.

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. Adopted 15-0.

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". Adopted 15-0.

This law will provide adequate support for a child testifying as a witness in a case 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. Adopted 15-0.

This law will provide private

peer support counseling to members of the MCN Lighthouse 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. Adopted 15-0.

This law will change the amount of drugs or paraphernalia required to receive a trafficking charge, as well as update the sentencing for certain 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 MCN District Court for the FY 2025 budget. Adopted 15-0.

This law increases the budget of the MCN District Court by more than ten percent in order to fulfill certain contractual obligations.

NCA 25-037 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new MCNCA Title 14 Chapter 2, Subchapter 9,2-911 entitled "Child Endangerment." Adopted 15-0.

According to the legislation, this new Child Endangerment law addresses behaviors that endanger a child whose commission warrants a stronger charge than misdemeanor Child Neglect but does not meet the standards of felony Child Abuse. It covers situations where a parent, guardian, or responsible adult knowingly and/or recklessly permits physical, mental, or sexual abuse, when a child is exposed to the manufacture, trafficking, or possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), when the child is allowed in a vehicle operated by an impaired person, and when the presence of CDS is detected in the blood of a newborn or an infant. It will not apply to any parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the welfare of a child acting or failing to act in accordance with a good faith selection and dependence upon spiritual, religious, cultural, traditional, or means of prayer for the treatment or cure of disease or remedial care for such child. Child Endangerment is a felony charge.

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(MM File)

BFJ & HEW COMMITTEES PASS BILL TO PREVENT CHILD ENDANGERMENT

THE LAW OFFICIALLY CLASSIFIES THE CRIME OF CHILD ENDANGERMENT A FELONY

BY **THOMAS JACKSON** REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. - TheBusiness, Finance and Justice committee and the Health, Education and Welfare commit-

tee held a joint meeting at the Mound Building on Mar. 25. 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 bill:

NCA 25-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new MCNCA Title 14 Chapter 2, Subchapter 9, Subsection 2-911, entitled "Child Endangerment" was passed by the joint committee. The law was sponsored by Representative Leonard Gouge of the Tvlse District. It was passed with a vote of 8-0.

If adopted, this law will define the crime of Child Endangerment within the Muscogee Nation, and it will make the act of committing the crime of Child Endangerment within the Muscogee Nation a felony.

This law comes after Kaytlin Fultz, a Cherokee Nation citizen living within the Muscogee reservation, was charged with a misdemeanor for child neglect in MCN District Court. Her husband, who isn't a member of a federally-recognized Indigenous Tribe, was charged with a felony for the same crime, as previously covered by Mvskoke Media.

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LEASE AGREEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

space at Cityplex Towers 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 adopted, this resolution will allow Mvskoke Media to use Cityplex Towers in Tulsa, OK as an office space for the purpose of establishing a new home office for its news team.

TR 25-025 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a grant application to the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs' Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Tribal Utility Authority was passed by the joint committee. The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was passed with a vote of 9-0.

According to the legislation, this

resolution will allow the Nation to reduce energy costs, improve energy independence, enhance climate resiliency, and improve the quality of life for Tribal Citizens.

NCA 25-017 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation creating new law in MCNCA Title 30 Chapter 2, entitled "Legislative Districts" to rename the Creek district boundary jurisdiction to Yuchi District was postponed by the joint committee until next month. The law was sponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was postponed with a vote of 9-0, and was previously postponed on Jan. 21.

According to the legislation, this law will change the name of the Creek District, where Rep. Barnett and Representative Freeman serve as representatives, to the Yuchi District in order to honor the Yuchi tribe and its close relationship with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

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AIHEC TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS



**AIHEC
2025
RESULTS**

<u>Women's Division II</u>	<u>Women's Division I</u>	<u>Men's Division II</u>	<u>Men's Division I</u>
<i>1st place</i> Sisseton Wahpeton College	<i>1st place</i> Salish Kootenai College	<i>1st place</i> Chief Dull Knife College	<i>1st place</i> Northwest Indian College
<i>2nd place</i> Oglala Lakota College	<i>2nd place</i> Northwest Indian College	<i>2nd place</i> Navajo Technical University	<i>2nd place</i> Sisseton Wahpeton College
<i>3rd place</i> Navajo Technical University	<i>3rd place</i> College of the Muscogee Nation	<i>3rd place</i> Oglala Lakota University	<i>3rd place</i> Salish Kootenai College

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
CESO

RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT
8330 Riverside Parkway | Tulsa, Oklahoma

NATIVE OWNED
Business
EXPO

DOOR PRIZES!
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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

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

DEPARTMENTS IN ATTENDANCE

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

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