MVSKOKEN

MVSKOKE ART MARKET EXPANDED IN THIRD YEAR

ANNUAL ART MARKET SHOWCASED ART, PUBLIC LECTURES, AND ACTIVITIES



Mvskoke artist Starr Hardridge was awarded 1st place in painting for his work, "The Three Sisters." The models wear traditional dresses made by Seminole/Mvskoke artist Cynthia Yerby. (Meredith Johnson/MM)

TVLSE, Oklv. - The 2024 Mvskoke Art Market was held April 20-21 at River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa. The third annual market, held Saturday and Sunday, featured over 90 Native artists, public lectures, a comedy show, and a children's activity table.

Cherokee artist Bryan Waytula took home the Best of Show Prize for his colored pencil portrait, "The Grass Dancer." Art is a handed-down family

tradition for Waytula, whose mother and grandmother are both Cherokee treasures. "The Grass Dancer" has recently been named as a finalist for the National Portrait Gallery.

New to this year's program were a series of public lectures. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Turner Hunt presented, "Symbols, Iconography, and Myth: An Exposition of Muskogean Art Through Time."

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

Hunt spoke about the archeological and historical context of Muskogean art and creative expression. Hunt's presentation focused on non-Indigenous misinterpretations of artifacts and contemporary Mvskoke cultural continuity.

Concluding his lecture, Hunt stated, "As I've talked about art through time, how we look about art, I hope that I've answered questions and made people think about some things and want to pursue different areas because it's a really neat thing to look at, our art, our ancestors and how we can use it in the modern day to make a living, to tell stories, to honor our ancestors in the past."

Scott Hale presented "People Don't Call... A Picasso a Spanish Painting: Recontextualizing Indigenous Art of North America." Hale, a scholar and appraiser of Native art, owns Native American Art Appraisals and has worked and studied at the University of Oklahoma, the Gilcrease Museum, and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Hale's lecture gave a history of the collection of Indigenous art and focused on the ever-increasing market for contemporary Indigenous art.

Jason Asenap discussed the Indian art world of the 1970 and 1980s with his father, artist Hollis Asenap in "Portraits of the Artists." The discussion featured work by Jason that highlighted found polaroid portraits of Indian artists found in McKee's Indian Store in Anadarko, Okla during the time period.

The market also featured children's activity tables. The MCN Native Youth Community Project sponsored these tables. The activities featured Mvskoke motif stamp designs and ink pads in numerous colors. The tables were a place children and families could create and take their own art home. A list of award winners from this year's art market can be found below.

> 2024 Myskoke Art Market Award Lists:

> > Best of Show Bryan Waytula

Mvskoke Heritage Award Kenneth Johnson

> 1st Place - Innovative Award Tony Tiger

2nd Place - Innovative Award Dustin Mater

3rd Place - Innovative Award Eva Cantrell

Honorable Mention Jon Tiger

ART MARKET Continued on Page 2

GOLFSUITES TULSA EVICTED FROM RIVERWALK

INDOOR DRIVING RANGE EVICTED FOR BREACH OF LEASE AGREEMENT DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF RENT



GolfSuites at the Jenks Riverwalk was recently evicted by One Fire Holding Company on April 23. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

by JERRAD MOORE

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

JENKS, Oklv. - Muscogee (Creek) Nation business subsidiary OneFire Holding Company has evicted GolfSuites Tulsa LLC from the Jenks Riverwalk Crossing. According to MCN District Court documents, GolfSuites Tulsa was sent a notice of default on its lease agreement on August 31,

The notice listed failure to pay rent, failure to pay a proportionate share of the common area operating expenses and failure to provide a detailed monthly statement as the reasons for default.

On September 26, 2023, OneFire notified GolfSuites that its lease had been terminated, and ordered the business to vacate the premises within 30 days. On November 22, 2023, OneFire filed a civil suit in MCN District Court seeking eviction and monetary damages based on GolfSuites' failure to pay rent and failure to vacate the premises.

In a statement from One Fire Holding, the company claimed that GolfSuites' breach of contract left them no other option than to evict. The statement reads,

"GolfSuites has operated at Riverwalk Crossing since 2019. Beginning in December 2022, Onefire made efforts to work with GolfSuites to maintain their tenancy, but ultimately, their inability to fulfill their lease obligations left Onefire with no option but to pursue eviction. In November 2023, due to GolfSuites' noncompliance with the lease terms, Onefire was compelled to file a lawsuit in the Nation's District Court seeking to recover possession of the leased property and fulfillment of outstanding financial obligations.

Onefire Interim Debbie Severson said, 'We value the relationships we have with our tenants at Riverwalk

GOLFSUITES

Continued on Page 2

MVSKOKE CITIZEN IS CROWNED 2024 MISS AMERICAN INDIAN OSU

LAUREN BRANHAM SHARES ON HER UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE



This year's Miss American Indian Oklahoma State University pageant winner Laruen Branham (Mvskoke/Euchee) is pictured with her grandparents, Garry and Kathy Felix. (Courtesy: Craig Barnes)

STILLWATER, Oklv. - This year's 2024 Miss American Indian Oklahoma State University has a new winner, one from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Student Lauren Branham (Mvskoke/ Euchee) was recently crowned the winner of this year's Miss American Indian OSU pageant on April 6 at the Stillwater Community Center. This year is particularly a notable one for Branham because not only is it her first time studying as an OSU student, it is also her first time competing as a pag-

eant contestant. Branham started at OSU this past fall where she discovered the Native American Sovereign Center. That is where Branham befriended last year's Miss American Indian OSU winner, who encouraged her to run in this year's pageant. The winner of the pageant not only gets to represent their tribal nations, they also receive a scholarship. According to Branham, her victory was a surprise to be sure, but a welcome

'It was really surprising to me, I had never been on a stage like that," Branham said. "I have never done a pageant, I have not even spoken into a microphone for any extended period of time. When they called me for the miss award, I was very surprised and very hon-

The process to compete in the pageant included private pre interviews, introductions, talent and cultural expressions, as well as extemporaneous questions. According to Branham, the interviews allowed the competitors to get familiar with the judges, thus making the competition less intimidating. For the talent and cultural expression portion, Branham shared how and why her tribe shakes shells. Other competitors shared creation stories from their tribes. The category also saw competitors explain the meaning behind the regalia they choose to

Branham is currently a junior studying natural resources ecology and management with a focus in fisheries and aquatic ecology. She is a transfer student from the College of the Muscogee Nation. Branham's studies contributed to her platform on food and land sover-

by BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

An active member of the Native American community at OSU, Branham is part of the Native American Student Association (NASA). The organization meets bimonthly on Thursdays. It offers activities ranging from making Valentine's Day cards for veterans, to movie nights. The organization provides a place for Native students to hangout, fellowship and belong. According to Branham, she has only met one other Euchee student on campus, however she has met plenty of other fellow Mvskoke students.

Branham's advice for future contestants in the Miss American Indian OSU pageant is to fully commit to competing, in spite of self doubts that may arise.

"They should definitely go into it full-heartedly," Branham said. "I would like to see a lot more people proud about representing their communities and getting their foot out there. I felt like I had no business doing it, which is why I doubted myself. Young adults really need to get out of that comfort zone to do it wholly. To do it proudly is better than to do it hes-



Miss American Indian Oklahoma State University 2024 Laruen (Mvskoke/Euchee) Branham poses with a bouget after being crowned. (Courtesy: Craig

PHOTOS FROM THE 2024 MVSKOKE ART MARKET









ART MARKET

Continued from Page 1

Honorable Mention Jackie Sevier

Honorable Mention Leslie Deer

1st Diverse Category Johnnie Diacon

2nd Diverse Category Sandy Fife-Wilson

3rd Diverse Category Jamie Bennett

> 1st Basketry Michael Dart

2nd Basketry Ronda Moss

3rd Basketry Jacob Waytula

1st Drawing/Graphic Art/Photography Benjamin West

2nd Drawing/Graphic Art/Photography Ron Mitchell

3rd Drawing/Graphic Art/Photography Randy Kemp

> 1st Painting Starr Hardridge

2nd Painting Candace Shanholtzer

> 3rd Painting Jimmie Fife

1st Place Sculpture Danny Beaver

2nd Place Sculpture A. Wayne "Tay Sha" Earles

> 3rd Place Sculpture Grant Morris

1st Jewelry (Stone/Silver) Nelson Garcia

2nd Jewelry (Stone/Silver) Antonio Grant

3rd Jewelry (Stone/Silver) Mark Stevens

> 1st Pottery Tama Roberts

2nd Pottery Erna Wilson

3rd Pottery Karin Walkingstick

1st Textiles (wearable) Leslie Deer

2nd Textiles (wearable) Jaylee Lowe

3rd Textiles (wearable) Jaylee Lowe

1st Textiles (non wearable) Randi Narcomey-Watson

1st Textiles (non wearable) Cathy Abercrombie

1st Beadwork/Quillwork Deana Ward

2nd Beadwork/Quillwork Breana Hill

3rd Beadwork/Quillwork Patricia Belagarde-Cornelius

> 1st Digital Art Raven Kemp

2nd Digital Art Joseph Hopkins

3rd Digital Art Chad Earles



GOLFSUITES

Continued from Page 1

Crossing, and the economic contributions they bring to the local community are significant. However, Onefire also has a responsibility to the Nation and its Citizens uphold sound business practices and principles in our management of Riverwalk Crossing."

According to Judge Denette Mouser's eviction order issued on April 23, 2024, GolfSuites admitted that it had failed to pay rent. GolfSuites alleged that it had justifications for not paying the full rent, but the court did not find any of those reasons to be legally sufficient to overcome the obligations of the lease.

In addition to evicting GolfSuites from the Jenks Riverwalk Crossing, the order also decrees that monetary damage amounts will be determined at a hearing. The date for that hearing has not yet been set.

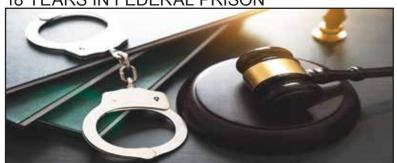
Mvskoke Media will continue to provide coverage on this developing story.





MVSKOKE MAN RECEIVES FEDERAL SENTENCE FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL

PAUL ANTHONY THOMPSON SET TO SERVE 18 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON



Mvskoke citizen Paul Anthony Thompson was recently sentenced to 18 years in federal prison for attempting to murder his wife. Thompson had a prior history of domestic violence. (Shutterstock)

GLENPOOL, Oklv. - A Mvskoke man was recently sentenced for assault with intent to murder and strangling and suffocating in Indian Country. Paul Anthony Thompson was sentenced to 18 years, or 216 months, followed by three years of supervised release. Court documents revealed that in March of 2023 Thompson tried to kill his spouse by strangling her with three different belts. The victim was beaten with one belt, then strangled

by another until it broke. The third belt was tied around her neck and used to drag the victim across the ground.

This is not the first time Thompson has faced a run in with the law regarding a domestic violence dispute in recent years. In 2018 Thompson was charged with assaulting a previous girlfriend by placing her in a chokehold and strangling her, preventing her from breathing.

The Federal Bureau of

by BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

Investigations worked with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police on the investigation. In a statement released by the Nation, they applauded LPD's efforts in keeping the reservation safe. They also praised the cooperative efforts by the federal agencies involved in this case. The statement reads,

"The Muscogee Nation is always pleased when our Lighthorse Police Department collaborates on investigations that ultimately bring criminals to justice and make our Reservation safer. We have made a commitment through programs, resources, and manpower to rid our Reservation of violence. It has no place in our families, our communities or in our culture. We appreciate the collaboration with the FBI and the USAO Northern District and working together to take violent, repeat offenders off our streets."

Thompson will remain in custody pending transfer to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.



MVSKOKENEWS

Angel Ellis, Director | aellis@mvskokemedia.com

Braden Harper, Managing Editor | *bharper@mvskokemedia.com*

Jerrad Moore, Assignment Editor | *jmoore@mvskokemedia.com*

Meredith Johnson, Reporter | *mjohnson@mvskokemedia.com*

ShayIn Proctor, Reporter | *sproctor@mvskokemedia.com*

Daniel Roberts, Ad Sales | wroberts@mvskokemedia.com

Chelsie Rich, Market Manager | crich@mvskokemedia.com



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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.

OFUSKIE PROJECTS HIS PASSION FOR PAINTING AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGH **ACRYLICS**

MVSKOKE ARTIST GEORGE ALEXANDER SHARES HIS JOURNEY FROM REZ KID TO BEING NAMED NCAIED'S 40 UNDER 40



Myskoke Artist Ofuskie is hard at work on a sketch. (Courtesy: George Alexander)

by BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

SANTA FE, NM. - Artist George Alexander (Mvskoke) has come a long way from growing up on the Mvskoke Reservation in Mason. Alexander goes by the name Ofuskie, an homage to Okfuskee, the county he grew up in. Although Alexander has been making art his entire life, his hard work and dedication has culminated into owning his own art studio where he produces original paintings. Alexander was named as one of this year's National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's 40 under 40 honorees for contributions to his com-

Alexander came from humble beginnings in Mason, Oklahoma. According to Alexander, he was always drawing.

"I started out as a kid drawing my favorite cartoon characters," Alexander said. "I didn't know it at the time but I was developing skills to become an

Alexander's parents passed away when he was just 14 years old. Drawing became a coping mechanism for him while his parents were sick in the hospital. Although Alexander lost his parents at a young age, he was left with five older siblings who helped continue to raise him. He would then find himself moving from Mason to the Tulsa area, and attending school in Sapulpa. Alexander remembered drawing during lunchtime at school, which is how he made friends. After graduation, Alexander initially wanted to enlist in the military but was unable to due to a heart condition.

For a while, Alexander worked as a casino security guard before he heard about an opportunity to hone his skills and true passion at the Institute for American Indian Art (IAIA). By age 23, Alexander knew that art was something

he wanted to do for the rest of his life. After graduating from IAIA, it was off to graduate school in Italy for Alexander. There he would attend the Studio Art College International in Florence.

"One of the main things that I learned out there is that art isn't so much about the creation of the object, but the dialogue with the object that makes it art," Alexander said.

These experiences would prove to be instrumental in Alexander's development as a professional artist. This is where he would meet lifelong friends and beloved mentors.

Ofuskie's Career

The decision to adopt the name Ofuskie came one day when Alexander was painting with his mentor, Tony Abeyta (Dinė), in his studio. Alexander said that Abeyta typically enjoyed listening to records while he painted, and put on a record with a lyric that instantly captured Alexander's attention.

"He put on this one record that was this folk singer and I didn't recognize who it was or anything," Alexander said. "This guy was like, 'I come from a place called Okfuskee'. It hit my ear and I was like, 'Who is this guy?'."

The song made references to other places Alexander grew up around like Buckeye Creek. Alexander immediately asked Abeyta who the artist on the album was. Abeyta told him that the artist was Billy Bragg, a musician from England. Although Bragg is known for his punk rock style of music, he has also produced folk songs. According to Alexander, some of those folk songs contain unreleased lyrics by the famous Oklahoma folk artist Woody Guthrie, with permission by the Guthrie estate.

From that moment on, Abeyta affectionately referred to Alexander as Ofuskie, which is the signature Alexander signs his paintings with today.

"It was not only a cool connection to my home, but also to pay a great respect to a man (Abeyta) who has given me a lot of mentorship that I use every day in my own practice," Alexander said.

Alexander is primarily known for his acrylics on canvas. In addition to Abeyta, one of Alexander's biggest inspirations for his work is Kent Monkman, a Cree artist who is well-known for his provocative pieces depicting Western European and American history.

Regardless of the medium he is working in, Alexander views all objects as sculptural, or with the potential to be formed into something else. Alexander is mindful of the medium he works in, and how the object he works with fits in its environment. According to Alexander, an artwork is more than just the physical space it occupies, it also holds conceptual meaning. Or rather, the discussion about the work becomes incorporated into it as well.

Studio and the Mvskoke Art Market

The idea for Alexander to open the Ofuskie Fine Art Studio came from Abeyta. According to Alexander it does not matter where or what an



"What's That Over There?" is one of Mvskoke artist Ofuskie's canvas works that depicts an astronaut riding a horse. (Courtesy: George Alexander)

artist's workspace is, what matters is that it is authentically their space. Alexander also remarked that a studio space is important to fellowship with other artists and create community with one another.

Although Alexander now calls the southwest home, he makes the trek back to Oklahoma for the holidays and the Mvskoke Art Market. Alexander and his works will be featured at this year's Myskoke Art Market, set to take place at the River Spirit Casino and Resort April 20-21. Among the many joys the market brings to artists like Alexander, he says what makes it special is the

"It's a tremendous market, I encourage any artist to apply, whether you're Creek or not. I've made some really great sales there," Alexander said. "more importantly I have made some great networking connections and also made some really great friends."



MVSKOKE LANGUAGE CHORAL ARRANGEMENT TO MAKE **WORLD PREMIERE MAY 5**

DR. KIRSTEN KUNKLE AND THE TREY **CLEGG SINGERS COLLABORATE ON** "MVSKOKVLKE, ESTE'CATE"



The Trey Clegg Singers spring concert will feature Native American choral composition. (Courtesy: TCS)

ATLANTA, Ga. - Mvskoke citizen, composer, and soprano Dr. Kirsten Kunkle has a new project in the works. Her new eight-part acapella choral arrangement "Mvskokvlke, Este'cate" will make its debut in Atlanta with the Trey Clegg Singers (TCS) on May 5.

Dr. Kunkle joined Trey Clegg of the TCS on LiveWire on March 27 to discuss their current collaboration.

Kunkle's piece was commissioned thanks to a recent grant awarded to the TCS from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant covers the costs to research, study, and perform music by Indigenous Native Americans. When it premieres on May 5 the spring concert will also feature works in Cher-

okee, Chickasaw, Cree, Choctaw and Navajo. Clegg related, "All my singers are learning all these different languages."

The TCS are Atlanta's premier multicultural chorus and formed seven years ago. Clegg said, "I wanted to start a chorus seven years ago that truly represented Atlanta's international multicultural population because we are rather diverse here. And so when I started it, it really caught on

immediately." Clegg himself is a professional organist, church musician, and choral singer. He works with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Atlanta Chamber Chorus. He also conducts music in one of Atlanta's major downtown

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

churches, the historic First Congregational Church.

Clegg wanted to explore the music of southeastern Native Americans, specifically he wanted to learn about the Mvskoke people, the Indigenous inhabitants of Atlanta. A mutual colleague, Chickasaw composer Jerrod Tate, connected Clegg with Kunkle and work began.

describes how Kunkle Clegg gave her creative freedom, which then gave room for exploring themes of sovereignty and origins. She stated, "Trey wanted something specifically about the Mvskoke in Georgia and what that meant. So what that meant, whether it was about the origins, which I think was important, but even more so now that sovereignty is in place, what that means that we now have that flag back on Georgia lands and what that means as far as the division between Oklahoma and Geor-

The TCS spring concert will be a premier for Dr. Kunkle's work and will also feature Indigenous works that have been performed by the chorus all season. Clegg said that the audience has not only been open to the music but they also embrace it. He sees his art as a way to educate and make

Clegg stated, "Oh, they love it. It's been overwhelming. And honestly, I mean, I'm not being funny, but a lot of it's in the way and the spirit in which it's presented and the quality which is presented as well, you know? And I don't just perform and just leave it there. I educate as I go. So I share what I've learned in my research over the last year about the works, about the nations, about the composers, because I want audiences to know, and the only way we



Dr. Kirsten Kunkle has written a new choral piece commissioned by the Trey Clegg Singers. (Courtesy: Kirsten Kunkle)

can make headway and make changes is to educate."

"Mvskokvlke, Este'cate" features the Myskoke language, which is something Dr. Kunkle has been learning for the past four years when the Covid-19 Pandemic began. From her home in Ohio she has been able to take part in online language classes taught by Mvhayv Rebecca Barnett. She started, as she said, "little by little," learning, as students do, the alphabet and from there building vocabulary and sentence structure.

Taking as inspiration not just the Mvskoke language but the history of the language today, Dr. Kunkle related the fundamental intertwining of sovereignty and culture. She said, "We are still here, we are still here... We would not be here and be able to tell these stories if we hadn't endured the Trail of Tears, if our mother's mothers had held their tongues. And I meant that in two ways. You know, they kept to themselves and did what they had to do to survive. But they also kept our language, which was so important. And

language is the key to culture in so many ways.

"Mvskokvlke, Este'cate" will also be performed on June 8 at the Chorus America Conference in Atlanta. The National Conference of American Choirs selected the TCS to headline the annual gathering this year.

Dr. Kunkle's choral arrangement can be found below.

> "Myskokylke, Este'cate" By Kirsten C. Kunkle November 16, 2023

Our mothers' mothers held their tongues. The Great Removal took our home. Death, fear, and destruction paved the path, Along the Trail of Tears from Georgia to Oklahoma.

Hawks flew overhead.(Ayo) Fast water flowed and was crossed. (Uewa) Mvskokvlke, Estecate.

Protect the children, keep them safe. Make Oklahoma home. From Ocmulgee to Okmulgee, Macon to Tulsa, Etowah to Broken Arrow... Generations pass, full of remembering, full of legacy. Sovereignty... finally. The flag on Georgian land.

Mvskoke towis. I am Mvskoke. .. In Oklahoma, Mvskoke towis. In Georgia, Mvskoke towis. We return home. Mvskokvlke, Estecate.

Removed, now returned. We exist and remain. We can go home... We are citizens of the world. We are still here. Mvskoke towis. Myskokylke, Estecate. We are still here.

(Courtesy: Kristen Kunkle)

GATHERING PLACE UNVEILS NEW LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PLAQUE

PUBLIC MONUMENT HONORS MVSKOKE NATION AND ORIGINAL ALLOTTEE OWNERS



Officials from the Gathering Place, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Lucinda Hickory Research Institute unveiled a new plaque honoring the cultural legacies of the land it resides on. (Courtesy: Gathering Place)

by BRADEN HARPER

MANAGING EDITOR

TVLSE, Oklv. - The Gathering Place has been on the national radar as one of Tulsa's newest and most popular attractions since its opening in 2018. However those that visit the free park may not be aware of the tribal nation it resides in, or whose land allotment it used to belong to. Now, thanks to the combined efforts of the Gathering Place, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Lucinda Hickory Institute (LHRI), a new monument has been installed at the park that details the history of the area located near the Arkansas River. The monument was unveiled in a ceremony held at the ONEOK Boathouse on April 15.

The monument is a plaque that shares the detailed history of Tulsa's significance to the MCN as the endpoint of the Trail of Tears. It also details the original land allottee owner, Tuckabache, a medicine man from Locv Pokv Tvlse Tribal Town. Tuckabache lived a very long life, reportedly living to be over a century old. The park's plaque also tells the history of Creek Freedman Joe Hamilton Tiger, whose allotment lies on the western border of the Gathering Place. Tiger was granted land through the Dawes Act of 1887, and the subsequent Curtis Act of 1889, albeit without the same pro-

The plaque unveiling was attended by MCN Second Chief Del Beaver, and LHRI Founder Tatianna Duncan (Mvskoke). The Gathering Place is just one of the many iconic locations around Tulsa that once belonged to an allottee owner. According to Duncan, LHRI is working to make sure that allotment history is told and not lost to the sands of time.

tections afforded to Mvskoke cit-

"It takes citizens to tell their own story," Duncan said. "That I am a big advocate of. No one can tell my story like I can, just like I can't tell someone else's story. I'm always willing to show people the way to get to those answers."

The plaque further delves into the Locv Pokv Tvlse tribal town that established their ceremonial ground near the Council Oak Tree. The tree still stands today and resides at Council Oak Tree Park, which is currently under the care of the City of Tulsa. The park has even seen recent interest from local neighborhoods like the Historic Riverview Neighborhood Association to restore it.

Just the Beginning

The plans to install the plaque took a year to finalize. However, talks of a land acknowledgement monument had been in the works for several years. All popular spots around Tulsa were originally owned by an allottee owner. The LHRI continues to research and document each allotment owner, and where their plot was located in present day Tulsa. Although Duncan believes simple land acknowledgement signage is important, the Gathering Place has bigger plans to honor the area it resides in than just signage.

"From what they told us this is just the start," Duncan said. "They've discussed doing a possible symposium. Symposiums are really important because we have to have the conversation to have these (lands) historically represented from all perspectives. As a descendant of Muscogee (Creek) full blood citizens who experienced some of the harsher treatments of this allotment history, that's my goal. I feel like I am an advocate for my ancestors in this."

There have also been talks to rename Mingo Valley Trail, the trail that runs through Tuckabache's former allotment, Tuckabache trail. According to Duncan, the Greater Tulsa Area Indian

Affairs Commision has supported the idea, as well as some members of the Tulsa City Council.

The land acknowledgement monument can be found in the ONEOK Boathouse at the Gathering Place. The park does not charge admission and is open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. LHRI is campaigning to host a land allotment exhibit symposium within the next year, however a date and location has yet to be announced.



Officials from the Gathering Place, Muscogee Nation and the Lucinda Hickory Institute gather to discuss the park, and the land it resides on. (Courtesy: Gathering Place)

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CHEWING THE CUD WITH CMN EXTENSION

by CHRIS AZBELL CMN EXTENSION COORDINATOR

Editor's Note: The following is a submission from College of the Muscogee Nation Extension Coordinator Chris Azbell.

Hesci Readers... after a short hiatus I am back and boy do we have a lot going on in the world of agriculture at the Muscogee Nation. First and foremost, I want to highlight the immense efforts of the Muscogee Conservation Commission. Julie Norem and her amazing staff have been working feverishly on a range of projects including the upcoming "Small Farms Conference: Farmer to Farmer", which is designed to connect Indigenous agricultural enthusiasts. It is an opportunity for the average Mvskoke citizen who has a passion for agriculture and the natural world to connect to others and build a professional



association that can be relied upon.

The Small Farms Conference is the brainchild of Ms. Norem who saw the need to connect local ag producers to promote food sustainability, food sovereignty, and the sharing of traditional ecological knowledge. It is an effort to spread ideas on how citizens can use small tracts of land to start businesses, promote healthier eating practices, and engage in what my friend Ben Yahola calls "Agri-fitness". The free Conference will be held on May 3 at GCTC Workforce & Economic Development Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Lisa Hill at 918-549-2609 to register.

Interestingly, there is something romantic about agriculture that drives a strong sense of nostalgia for everyone that I talk to. Recently I spoke with a professor at the College of the Muscogee Nation and he told me a story about picking cotton in Okfuskee County. He said it was always a contest between him and his siblings to get to the "short row" because it could be done quicker. He even showed me black and white photos on his phone which clearly dated to the mid 20th Century. You see, agriculture promotes a sense of community in the person, a sense of accomplishment that is hard to describe unless you experience it firsthand.

My memories of growing up include hauling hay every summer, picking okra, and understanding the money that we made was to pay bills. It made me a stronger person and taught me the value of hard work. Take some

time to attend the Small Farms Conference and begin the process of reconnecting to nature and to a past that seems so long ago. As I sit here ruminating on the idea, perhaps we can turn nostalgia for days of yore into a yearning for the days to come.













Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens can recieve a full traditional funeral service with no extra cost to families.



This package includes:

~ Complete services including viewing/visitation, wake service & funeral service

~ Casket

~ Outside Container

~ Stationary Package

- Temporary Marker

~ Death Certificate

~ Cemetery Set Up (tent, chairs, etc.)

Funeral Home Amenities:

~ Large Chapels

~ Viewing Rooms

~ Family Lounges with Live Audio/Video feeds - Help with completing all burial applications

ZERO BALANCE POSSIBLE FOR FAMILIES!

~ Lighthorse Escorts

~ Grave Opening

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CAHKEPEN

MCN DISCUSSES PROGRESS AND **DEVELOPMENT AT STATE OF THE** TRIBAL NATIONS LUNCHEON

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLDS INAUGURAL EVENT



MCN Secretary of the Nation Zechariah Harjo speaks at the inaugural "State of Tribál Nations" event sponsored by the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce on April 18. (Meredith Johnson/MM)

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

TVLSE, Oklv. - The Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce held their inaugural State of the Tribal Nations' event at the Tulsa Renaissance Center on Thursday, April 18. The fully-booked luncheon event featured panel discussions with representatives from the three major Tulsa area tribes. Representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Cherokee Nation, and the Osage Nation spoke about economic developments, tourism, and cultural edu-

cation programs. MCN Secretary of the Nation Zechariah Harjo and Secretary of Culture and Humanities Rae-Lynn Butler attended the event. The event began with a land acknowledgement given by Butler. As becoming common practice at public events and gatherings, acknowledgements recognize the Indigenous stakeholders and original inhabitants of the land. Butler acknowledged the Osage Nation,

Cherokee Nation, and MCN as well as the Caddo and Quapaw who inhabited the land before the removals.

The event featured a discussion with Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr and Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear. Chief Hoskin emphasized a theme throughout the event, the partnerships necessary for success within the state. He said,

"The Cherokee word Gadugi, working together. So you would look at what we're doing in the state, we're indispensable. We're inextricably linked to whether this state is going to succeed or whether it's going to fail. And it's going to succeed because the Cherokee people were meant to succeed. As long as we're working together, I think, success is just in our DNA."

Harjo, speaking about tribal economic development, highlighted many collaborative development projects, like the south Tulsa and Jenks Low Water Dam project, and emphasized

the opportunities for partnering with Tribal Nations. He said, "So our economic development is really surrounding the support of the communities and we have a number of projects that demonstrate that from the City of Tulsa all the way through our own communities and throughout our reservation."

Discussions also included examples of progress in infrastructure development, health technology, energy, and rural broadband access. Harjo also spoke about the intersections of technology and education, addressing access for Native students in STEM fields.

In her remarks, Butler focused on the importance of Mvskoke cultural resilience, sharing of history, and plans for an MCN welcome center and museum. She said: "With the Myskoke Nation, culture is our foundation. We wouldn't be who we are without our culture, without our language. We maintain our traditional ways of life, our churches. And we have great pride and have longevity in maintaining that culture I think, which is critical to moving forward. So our mission is really to try to preserve, protect, but also to promote and help the next generation to keep moving forward in this place."

The significance of land acknowledgement was something not to be underscored at Thursday's event. In answer to a broad question about non-Native understandings of history, Butler

"Everybody who lives south of Admiral Street or works out in Admiral is probably on a Mvskoke allotment. We can tell you who lived there. We can help you develop a land acknowledgment. We can help you tell our history and our stories of these lands... You know, there's a lot of opportunities to partner with us. We're

TRIBAL LUNCHEON

Continued on Page 7

MCN CENTER FOR VICTIM **SERVICES SCREENS "SISTERS RISING**"

THE DOCUMENTARY FEATURED MVSKOKE LAWYER SARAH DEER



"Sisters Rising" has raised awareness since it's world premiere in 2020 for the disproportionate amount of Native American women who experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. (Courtesy: Haptic

by BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

Editor's Note: The following story discusses difficult topics pertaining to sexual assault, and rape. These topics may be difficult to process for some readers. Please take care of yourself.

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The topic of sexual assault is a hard one to discuss, especially within Indian Country. On top of the severity of the subject matter, many sexual assaults on Native American reservations go unreported due to limited jurisdictional authority to prosecute non Native American perpetrators. One in three Native American women report being raped, making it 2.5 times more likely than other groups. April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Center for Victim Services hosted events all throughout the month, including a screening of the documentary film, "Sisters Rising", featuring Myskoke citizen Sarah Deer.

A lawyer and advocate for sexual assault victims, Deer is featured in the film alongside five other women who have either experienced sexual violence personally, or know someone who has. The film tells the story from the perspective of Native women, who are disproportionately the victims of sexual violence by non-Native perpetrators. Oftentime these victims will never see justice due to limited forensic examination resources, as well as lack of prosecution and health resources. According to Deer in the film, protecting fellow Native women is more than just a job to

"I started working on the issue of violence against Native women as an undergraduate law student at the age of 20," Deer said. "And ever since then, I have tried to build my life, my career, my passion, around the lives and safety of Native women."

Deer goes on to say that alcohol and drug abuse within Native communities can be attributed to trauma stemming from sexual violence; suicides rates as well.

Other subjects featured in the documentary include Dawn White (Arikara), a veteran and tribal law enforcement officer who was a victim of sexual assault in the military. According to White in the film, even in the armed forces women are not always safe from sexual violence.

"It took me a long time not to tell anybody," White said. "When you're a female and you first come in, they do tell you the statistics. You have a high chance of being assaulted."

White now serves her community and helps protect others.

Other sexual assault survivors like Loreline Lacroix (Anishinaabe) have come a long way in overcoming the horrors from their past. Not only has Lacroix learned how to heal from trauma, she now helps fellow sexual assault survivors cope and heal as well. According to Lacroix in the film, she now works with women in the Fort Berthold Reservation area.

"You take those traumas and that broken spirit and you somehow try to mend it, and it's a slow process," Lacroix said. "Like I tell the women, 'When you talk to me, you're talking to me. Anything you divulge to me, stays with me. Anything I can do for you, I'm going to

The documentary goes on to share the stories of Lisa Brunner (White Earth Oiibwe), Chalsev (Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara) and Patty Stonefish (Lakota)

SISTERS RISING

Continued on Page 7

TIMOTHY JACKSON HONORS HIS ANCESTORS BY BUILDING THE FUTURE

CITIZEN-OWNED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FINDS SUCCESS BY STAYING COMMUNITY **FOCUSED**



Narcomey Construction received an award in March from the Association of General Contractors of Oklahoma- Building Chapter for their work on the Cherokee Nation Health Annex Remodel. (Courtesy: Narcomey Construction)

TVLSE, Oklv. - Mvskoke citizen Timothy Jackson understands the importance of failure. Jackson even describes himself as "a loser who never gave up." That drive is what gives Jackson a sense of vision and purpose to grow and build his business, Narcomey

Construction. Narcomey Construction has partnered with tribal nations, banks, schools, and municipal authorities and has handled construction, remodels, and development. Recent and current projects Narcomey Construction has completed are the recent second floor remodel at Council Oak Clinic that created a hospice unit, the pharmacy, and third floor rooms for medical staff. They are currently doing work on the Hard Rock Casino, remodeling its hotel tower, and have just broken ground on a new Cherokee Nation Head Start project in Jay, Oklahoma. They were also responsible for the Cherokee Hastings Hospital, remodeling its professional building, surgical areas, corridors, and pharmacies. Additionally, Narcomey Construction was recently awarded the paint and

drywall finishing scope of work on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizens Services Building at the tribal complex in Okmulgee.

Jackson sees Mvskoke ingenuity and progress in a historical sense, stating,

"Entrepreneurialism to me, it's innate. It's who I am. It's in my DNA," Jackson said. "And you look at everything our people have endured since the beginning of time. They were never people to just do what someone tells them to do. They built their own civilization. They built their own government. They built everything, towns, the clan system. They were builders. They were entrepreneurs in a modern sense."

Jackson's drive also played a pivotal role in getting him back in school after a failed first college experience. After working as an oil-field mechanic and then on a tribal construction crew, Jackson's mom, Jackie Jackson, encouraged him to go back and get a degree in construction management.

"She said, 'If you go back to school, you should really consider construction management. You can get a job anywhere, that is the

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

future,...she was like, you can be the future of the industry. And so I listened to her." Jackson said.

The grandson of Mvskoke artist Jackson Narcomy, Jackson also credits his grandfather with helping him get back on track. He shared that his Grandpa Narcomey gave him the money to pay off debt while transferring to Oklahoma State University. He remembers his grandfather telling him, "I'll give you the money to help you pay your school, but you better do everything in your power to be the best that the market has because this money is not for nothing."

That conversation sparked a fire in Jackson. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Technology and Construction Management from Oklahoma State University in 2014. That conversation was so indelible to Jackson that he named his company after his grandfather. Jackson shared, "My grandfather didn't have any sons so his name died...So, you know, the name didn't pass on from his side. He was always in my corner when I was in school." The connection is a daily reminder as well. Narcomey's artwork takes pride of place throughout the walls of the con-

struction company's office. Jackson remembers helping build arbors at churches and doing laborer jobs to get the bills paid, but it wasn't until he learned more about the professional side of the industry that he knew it was his future. Jackson shared that he likes construction because he can make design dreams into concrete realities. He considers his architect partners the dreamers while he is the builder. He explained, "What I enjoy the most is mainly just watching it go up in its sequence and its process and knowing all the things, in and out, where everything happens, all the screws, and

> **NARCOMEY** Continued on Page 7



school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the 'MN'.

Please provide us with the following information accompanied with a digital photo file via email to info@mvskokemedia.com no later than Monday, May 13 by 5 p.m. in order to be published in the 2024 'MN' graduation edition. If you do not receive an emailed confirmation of receipt, please call the office at 918-732-7720 to verify the profile has been received.

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation.

2024 Graduate Profile Form

High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program: Bio (150-word limit):

DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2024 AT 5PM

LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

For more information, please call: 918-732-7720 or email: info@mvskokemedia.com

MCNC SUBCOMMITTEES

MEDICAL PROVIDER AND INSURANCE AGREEMENTS PASSED TO FULL COUNCIL

MVSKOKE CITIZEN ALLIE P. REYNOLDS REQUESTED FOR BASEBALL HALL OF FAME **NOMINATION**

by BRADEN HARPER

MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a Health, Education and Welfare committee meeting

All passed legislation will go to full council, unless otherwise noted. The council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 24-043 A tribal resolution

of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a credit application agreement with Beckton Dickinson & Company (BD) for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

According to the bill, the department of health is seeking to execute a credit application with BD to purchase medical supplies.

TR 24-044 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute an Indian Healthcare Provider Agreement with CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

According to the bill, the department of health is seeking to contract with Cigna to acquire reimbursements for services rendered to Cigna participants.

TR 24-045 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a provider participation agreement with Medica Insurance Company for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.

According to the bill, the department of health is seeking to contract with Medica to acquire

reimbursements for services rendered to Medica participants.

TR 24-046 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute certain agreements with Kangarootime (KT) for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the bill, which was passed unanimously 4-0.

According to the bill, the office of child care desires to enter into agreements for managed monitoring services with KT.

TR 24-047 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation respectfully requests the consideration of Allie P. Reynolds, a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen, as a National Baseball Hall of Fame Candidate on the Classic Baseball era ballot. Representative Sandra Golden and Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which passed unanimously 4-0.



The National Council Health, Education Welfare committee session via teleconference and in person on April 9. (MM File)

Reynolds was an Oklahoma A&M College athlete and a MLB player for the Cleveland Indians and the New York Yankees, one of just a handful of Muscogee (Creek) citizens to play in the league. Due to this, and many other accomplishments the Nation believes Reynolds is worthy of being inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

For further information, visit: https://www.mcnnc.com.

CHIEFS' SALARY INCREASES POSTPONED INDEFINITELY BY BFJ COMMITTEE

RODNEY LUELLEN MNB BOARD NOMINATION MOVES TO FULL COUNCIL



The MCNC Business, Finance & Justice subcommittee held a meeting in person and by teleconference on April 11 in the Mound Building. (MM File)

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held the monthly Business, Finance and Justice Committee session at the Mound Building

Passed legislation is subject to

by BRADEN HARPER MANAGING EDITOR

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 24-003 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council selecting Rodney Luellen to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business, LLC (MNB, LLC) Board of Directors. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored the bill, which unanimously passed 4-0.

If the legislation is adopted by full council, Luellen will serve as one of two council-appointed positions on the board. Luellen's term will begin upon confirmation and will end on April 30,

TR 24-002 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute an engagement letter for legal services between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission and Pipestem Law, P.C. Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the bill, which was unanimously voted to be postponed until next month's BFJ meeting 4-0.

If adopted by full council, the bill would secure legal services for the MCN Tax Commission Office including representation litigation, tax codes, enforcement of applicable tax laws, and advising on tax strategy. This bill was previously postponed from last month's BFJ subcommittee meeting.

NCA 24-031 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 2 entitled "compensation". Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the bill, which was unanimously voted to be postponed indefinitely

If adopted by full council, the bill would increase the principal chief's salary to \$350,000 per year for the period they are elected. Likewise the second chief's salary would increase to \$220,000 per year for the period they are elected.

Referred Legislation

NCA 24-030 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Mvskoke Language Revitalization Department for Fiscal Year 2024. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill, which was approved for funding.

If adopted by full council, this legislation will add three additional staff to the Mvskoke Language Revitalization Department; two language teachers and one coordinator. The funds will also cover the hiring of a new director

NCA 24-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,533.54 to the Tribal Construction Department. Rep. Golden sponsored the bill, which was approved for funding.

If adopted by full council, this appropriation will go to the tribal construction department to assist an elder with the costs of repair/ replacement of an in-home electrical system for health and safety

Other Business:

Other businesses involved Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC, and Muscogee International, LLC.

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

MVSKOKE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO EXPAND PUBLIC SCHOOL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS REVOLVING FUND ALSO **ESTABLISHED**



The Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation subcommittee held a meeting on April 9. (MM File)

by MEREDITH JOHNSON REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION-On April 9, the Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee held an in-person meeting. Passed legislation will go on to a full council meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

TR 24-048 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a MCN Department of Housing contract with Bronze Oak, LLC passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Representative Charles McHenry.

The contract with Bronze Oak,

LLC pertains to the rehab of Sunrise Trail, located at 2800 Osage Place, Okmulgee. The amount specified in the legislation is \$3,236,334 from Indian Housing Block Grant/ARPA.

NCA 24-029 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing the Muscogee Nation Tribal Driveways Revolving Fund passed with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Representative Galen Cloud.

The funds will provide the purchase of supplies and equipment to the driveways program.

NCA 24-030 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$328,017 to the Myskoke Language Revitalization Department for fiscal year 2024 passed to BFJ with a vote of 4-0. It was sponsored by Rep Cloud.

This legislation will add three additional staff to the Mvskoke Language Revitalization Department - two language teachers and one coordinator. The funds will also cover the hiring of a new director position.

NCA 24-033 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,533.54 to the Tribal Construction Department passed to BFJ with a vote of 3-2. It was sponsored by Representative Sandra

This appropriation will go to the tribal construction department to assist an elder with the costs of repair/replacement of an in-home electrical system for health and safety reasons.

To view the full agenda, visit

SUMMER EBT PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS **TOWARDS STUDENTS**

MCN WILL COLLABORATE WITH CHICKASAW NATION AND CHEROKEE NATION TO BRING MORE BENEFITS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

by SHAYLN PROCTOR REPORTER

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held an emergency ses-

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpreta-

sion via teleconference on April

tion of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 24-051 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) amending TR 24-028 (A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MCN, Chickasaw Nation, and

Cherokee Nation for the 2024 Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) for Children Program). Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored this bill, which was adopted 14-0.

MCN will collaborate with Chickasaw Nation and Cherokee Nation to work and fulfill Summer EBT program needs for their citizens. The MOU will be revised to where the Summer EBT Program will provide benefits for eligible students whose school district resides on MCN reservation. The program has been in operation now for the past couple years.

To view the full meeting, visit:



The National Council held an emergency session via teleconference. (MM File Photo)

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH **CANCER TREATMENT CENTER** PROPERTY PURCHASES APPROVED FOR **QUARTERLY SESSION**

CENTER SITE WILL BE LOCATED IN TULSA

OKMULKE, Oklv. - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council held a Health, Education and Welfare/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation joint committee meeting on April 23.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpreta-

tion of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 24-049 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Repre-

by SHAYLN PROCTOR REPORTER

sentative Leonard Gouge sponsored this legislation, which was adopted 8-0. According to the bill the prop-

erty will soon be in development and under construction. It will be turned into a new cancer treatment clinic for the MCN Department of Health.

NCA 24-032 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of third-party funds from

the MCN Department of Health to be used toward the purchase of property located in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Rep. Gouge sponsored this legislation, which was adopted 8-0.

According to the bill the purchase of this property in Tulsa will cost a little over \$1,000,000. These expenses will go toward the costs of title opinions, title insurance, surveys and environmental stud-

For more information visit, www.mcnnc.com.



The MCNC Health, Education and Welfare and the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural preservation subcommittees held a joint session in person and by teleconference on April 23 in the Mound Building. (MM)

COUNTY

Thinking About Quitting?



Get FREE patches, gum or lozenges at OKhelpline.com

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline 1-800-784-8669 **OKhelpline.com**

TSET

SUBMISSION MILDRED SMITH



Mildred Smith on her 100th birthday was able to receive her first Bureau of Indian Affairs

HUTCHE CHUPPA CHURCH CEMETARY

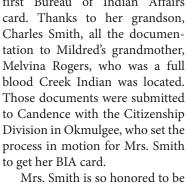
The Hutche Chuppa Church will no longer accept non-member bodies to the cemetery due to the fulfillment capacity of the ceme-



seeing the most growth in our Nation and other's at this time... Our hands are out ready to meet new people and to build partnerships with everybody because we do feel it's important that our voices are part of the decisions that are made in our communities, but also that our history is full practically. You know, if you're learning our history from a book, most likely it wasn't written by us. And so it's important for you to reach out to the Nation directly. We can help get you in touch with the right people."

The event was well attended by local and area groups. These included businesses and community partners like Arvest Bank, Tulsa World, and the Grand River Dam Authority.

Also featured at the event were the Tulsa Indian Club singers and



a full fledged member of the tribe.



(Shutterstock)

a performance by Native Praise Choir. The event was sponsored by TRCC partners Thompson Construction and Vast.bank.

NARCOMEY Continued from Page 5

everything that goes into a building, you know, that's what I enjoy."

Jackson knows it takes a village, even in the world of business. His experience as an entrepreneur, like most, is one of risk management. Jackson has learned how to incrementally take larger risks to safely grow his business.

"It's not all me. Entrepreneurialism is not just one individual," Jackson said. "I may have been the one that holds the vision and I've wanted to strive for it. I've sacrificed a lot to build this from noth-

Jackson credits his team for the success Narcomey Construction has achieved including his family, his partners, his crew, and

his accountant. Jackson especially credits his mother for giving him advice. "I was always that young kid that was just following my mother because I could see what she was doing and learn from it," he related.

For Jackson, and the future of Narcomey Construction, success is an act of recognition and respect for the past. In speaking of his ancestors, both recent and far, he said, "I honestly feel that I can't be here without them. I have to honor them in the best way I know how to. And that's simply striving for success. And that's striving to be the best that I can be, provide the best quality we can, be the best professional company that's out there that looks like us, that feels like us, that sees like us."

OBITUARIES

BETTY IGNEY

Betty Louise Igney, 92, of Checotah, Oklahoma, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Betty was born on August 24, 1931, in Eufaula, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of Paul and Mattie Gertrude (Smith) Howell. She attended school in Pierce. She was a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and a member of the Checotah Indian Community and the Brush Hill Baptist Church. Betty enjoyed gardening, fishing, crocheting, reading and spending time with her cats.

She is lovingly survived by her son, Donald G. Roberts and life partner Laura of Pierce, OK, son, Paul E. Roberts and wife Carla of Millington, TN, daughter, Chris-

HAIKEY CHAPEL

UMC TULSA

be celebrating their 120th Home-

coming on Saturday, Oct. 5 2024,

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a pot-

luck lunch. Haikey Chapel would

like to invite all of their fami-

lies and members past and pres-

ent to this event. They are request-

Haikey Chapel UMC Tulsa will

OK, daughter, H. Joanne Rothwell and husband Patrick of Hattiesburg, MS, and son, LC, Igney and life partner Donna of Checotah, OK; grandchildren, Greg Roberts, Martin Roberts, James Roberts, Lee Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Carl Roberts, Rhiannon Igney-Souder, Christi Igney-Wagoner, Amanda Beaver-Nester, Adam Beaver, Jennifer LaMasters, Deanna Madera, Christopher Graham, Nicholas Graham, Jeremy Livingston, Tracy Alred, Samantha Igney, Carissa Igney; 31 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by

ing addresses to send thier save the date and invitations soon. Please email this information to haikeychapelumc@yahoo.com. The church is also asking that if anyone has pictures or stories to email them as well. The church can also be found on Facebook, OIMC Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.



her parents, sister Bobbie Bailey, brother Homer Howell and a son, Edward M. Igney.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hunnfuneralhome.com.



(Shutterstock)

SISTERS RISING Continued from Page 5

and their efforts to fight back against sexual violence issues and help others heal from it. Brunner is a sexual violence survivor advocate, Synder is a radio personality and Stonefish is a self-defense coach.

Through these testimonies the documentary is able to share the experience of Native American women dealing with sexual violence on the reservation. The story is told from the perspective of women working across many different professions, communicating that sexual violence is a problem that everyone in the community can fight together against. In spite of the disproportionate sexual violence Native women experience, the film stresses that community is how they heal.

Help is available for survivors of sexual violence. The MCN Center for Victim Services has a crisis line available, which can be reached at 918-732-7979. In addition to events, the department provides court advocacy, crisis intervention and counseling refer-



MCN Center for Victim Services hand out resource guides on the department's services for victims of sexual violence. (Braden Harper/MM)



v.

LEGAL NOTICES

CV-20-93



IN THE DISTICT COURT IN AND FOR OKMULGEE COUNTY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

SEP 0 1 2020 OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA CHARLY CRINER, Court Clerk

BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC.,

PLAINTIFFS,

CASE NO. CV-00-93

SPRINGTIDE PETROLEUM, INC., if said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company be in existence, or if said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company be dissolved, the unknown officers, trustees, managers, successors, or assigns of said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company.

DEFENDANTS.

PETITION TO QUIET TITLE

BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC., an Oklahoma Limited liability Company, by and thru Bill J. Hill, Pro-Se, and for its cause of action against defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, alleges states as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- Plaintiff BEE Square Energy Resources, LLC., an Oklahoma Limited Liability Company("BEE"), is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Bee is authorized to do business in the state of Oklahoma.
- Defendant, Springtide Petroleum Inc. ("Springtide"), is an expired Oklahoma Corporation. By virtue of its expired status, Springtide is not authorized to do business in the State of Oklahoma. 2.
- This quiet title action concerns real property located in Okmulgee County. This court has jurisdiction over the parties and claims asserted herein and venue is proper in Okmulgee

FACTS

- Bee re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing Paragraphs 1-4
 Bee is the current holder of Oil and Gas Lease covering the following described real property in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma ("Property"), to-wit:
 - Lot 4 and the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter(W/2 of the NW/4) located in Section 03 Township 15 NORTH Range 11 EAST.
- Bee acquired the oil and gas lease by assignment from Springtide, which was filed September 04, 2018, in Book 2212, Page(s) 0340-0342, By assignment from William Joseph Hill, which was filed December 13th, 2013, in Book 2087, Page(s) 0095-0096, By assignment from Hill Family Limited Partnership, which was filed December 13th, 2013, in Book 2087, Page(s) 0093-0094, By assignment from Hill Family Limited Partnership, which was filed August 9th, 2013, in Book 2078, Page(s) 0661-0662, By assignment from William Joseph Hill, which was filed August 9th, 2013, in Book 2078, Page(s) 0663-0664, Bee went into possession of the leasehold and now is the owner and in possession of the oil, gas, and minerals in and under the property, subject to the payment of rentals and royalties provided to be paid under the Lease, all of which have been paid in accordance with the terms of the Lease.

 Bee acquired the Oil and Gas Lease from By Oil and Gas Lease from Gary B. Honeycutt, which was filed
- Bee acquired the Oil and Gas Lease from By Oil and Gas Lease from Gary B. Honeycutt, which was filed March 8th, 2012, in Book 2043, Page(s) 0919-0920, By Oil and Gas Lease from Sheila Allen Colby AIF for Nancy Allen Clover, which was filed March 27th,2012 in book 2045, Page(s) 0118-0119, By Oil and Gas Lease from Bradley and/or Alice Lumpkin, which was filed December 13th,2013 in book 2087, Page(s) 0083-0084, By Oil and Gas Lease from Hilda Armour, which was filed December 13th,2013 in book 2087, Page(s) 0085-0086, By Oil and Gas Lease from Raymond G. Neely, which was filed December 13th,2013 in book 2087, Page(s) 0087-0088, By Oil and Gas Lease from Susan G. Neely, which was filed December 13th,2013 in book 2087, Page(s) 0087-0088, By Oil and Gas Lease from Susan G. Neely, which was filed December 13th,2013 in book 2087, Page(s) 0087-0092, By Oil and Gas Lease from Suzanne Minnis Ciesiel, which was filed December 30th, 2013 in book 2088, Page(s) 0137-0140, By Oil and Gas Lease from David B. Minnis, which was filed December 30th,2013 in book 2088, Page(s) 0141-0144.
- was filed December 30",2013 in book 2088, Page(s) 0141-0144.

 Prior to granting the Lease to Bee, Bradley and/or Alice Lumpkin, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on Novmber 05th,2010 in book 2012, Page(s) 0758-0759, Suzanne Minnis Ciesiel, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on Novmber 01th, 2010 in book 2012, Page(s) 0347-0348, David B. Minnis, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on October 27th, 2010 in book 2012, Page(s) 0035-0036, Hilda Armour, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on October 27th, 2010 in Dook 2012, Page(s) 0035-0036, Hilda Armour, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on October 21th 2010 and ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on October 21st, 2010 in book 2011, Page(s) 0668-0669, Raymond G. Neely, granted an Oil and Gas Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on October 21st ,2010 in book 2011, Page(s) 0666-0667, Susan G. Neely, granted an Oil and Gas

- Lease to Defendant Springtide Petroleum Inc, ("Springtide Lease") covering the property. Said Springtide Lease was filed of record on Novmber 16th ,2010 in book 2013, Page(s) 0355-0356.
- The Springtide Lease(s) are invalid due to false "EFFECTIVE DATE" not agreed to by mineral owner(s) or lessor(s), falsification of documents notarized without mineral owner(s) or lessor(s) present in front of notary. Affidavits from mineral owner(s) or lessor(s) stating the fact that they do not know or was not in front of the notary at time of notarization.
- On or about July 24th, 2008, having no ownership, recorded lease assignments, New Oil and Gas leases, 11. summary judgement or bankruptcy filing from district court. Defendant Springtide submitted a transfer of operator to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, identifying Springtide as the new operator.
- 12. Because the Springtide Lease(s) have no validity on statutory laws of Oklahoma and mineral owner(s) or Lessor(s) terms. Springtide's submission of the transfer of operator forms was without right, which has caused Bee unnecessary expense in connection with the matter, and has clouded Bees's title to the oil, gas, and mining lease and leasehold estate to the property, and has damaged and depreciated the marketability of the leasehold estate, impending Bee's control and disposition of such oil and gas lease and leasehold
- Defendant has prevented Bee from exercising his rights under the lease and activities of the defendant has 13. greatly damaged and depreciate the value of the plaintiff's mineral estate, and plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law.

CAUSE OF ACTION

- Bee re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing Paragraphs 1-13. 14.
- Defendant each of his claim, or may claim, some right, title, lien, estate, encumbrance, claim, assignment or 15. interest in the property by virtue of the above referenced Springtide Lease(s) and/or the transfer of operator forms, all of which constitute a cloud upon Plaintiff's title. However, Defendant have no right, title, lien, estate, encumbrance, claim, assessment or interest either in law or in equity in the property.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Bee Square Energy Resources, LLC., requests:

- 1. Judgement that Defendant have no have no right, title, lien, estate, encumbrance, claim, assessment or interest either in law or in equity in the property,;
- Judgement that Plaintiff is the owner and holder of the Oil and Gas Lease covering the property;
- Judgement that the clouds cast by claims, operations, and activities of the defendant and the instruments under which they claim be removed from the record, and the instruments cancelled;
- Defendant be permanently enjoined from continuing any and all of their above-mentioned activities, placing instruments of record clouding the title of Plaintiff, and from further interfering with plaintiff in the possession, use, and development of the premises;
- Plaintiff be awarded costs in this proceeding; and
- Such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Bill J. Hill, Pro - Se 7331 S. Olympia Ave..#199 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132

CV-24-34

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR OKMULGEE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES PLAINTIFFS,

CASE CV - 34. 31
JUDGE: Veneere

V.

TARWATER OIL AND GAS LLC, SILVERTIN FARM PRODUCTION LLC, if said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company be in existence, or if said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company be dissolved, the unknown officers, trustees, managers, successors, or assigns of said corporation, partnership, or limited liability company.

DEFENDANTS.



PETITION TO QUIET TITLE

PLAINTIFF, BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC AN OKLAHOMA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, BY AND THROUGH BILL HILL, PRO – SE AND FOR ITS CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS TARWATER OIL AND GAS LLC, SILVERTIN FARM PRODUCTION LLC, ALLEGES AND STATES AS FOLLOWS:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. PLAINTIFF, BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC, AN OKLAHOMA LIMITED LIABILTY COMPANY("BEE"), IS A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILTY COMPANY ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. BEE IS AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.
- DEFENDANT, TARWATER OIL AND GAS, LLC IS AN EXPIRED OKLAHOMA LIMITED LIABILTY COMPANY. BY VIRTUE OF ITS STATUS, TARWATER IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
- DEFENDANT, SILVERTIN FARM PRODUCTION LLC, IS AN EXPIRED OKLAHOMA LIMITED LIABILTY COMPANY. BY VIRTUE OF ITS STATUS, SILVERTIN IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.
- THIS QUIET TITLE ACTION CONCERNS REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN OKMULGEE COUNTY.
- THIS COURT HAS JURISDICTION OVER HE PARTIES AND CLAIMS ASSERTED HEREIN AND VENUE IS PROPER IN OKMULGEE COUNTY

FACTS

- 6. BEE RE-ALLEGES AND INCORPORATES THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS 1
- 7. BEE IS THE CURRENT HOLDER OF AN OIL AND GAS LEASE COVERING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA("PROPERTY"), TO WIT:

SEC: 22 TWP: 14N R: 11E - SE/4 - 160 ACRES, SEC: 23 TWP: 14N 11E - S/2 OF THE NE/4, N/2 OF THE SE/4, NW/4, SW/4, SEC 24 TWP: 14N R: 11E - S/2 NW/4, SEC: 27 TWP: 14N R: 11E N/2 OF THE NE/4 CONTAINING 800 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

8. BEE AQUIRED THE OIL AND GAS LEASES BY ASSIGNMENT FROM PANAMERICAN OIL COMPANY. BEE WENT INTO POSSESSION OF THE OIL GAS, AND MINERALS IN AND UNDER THE PROPERTY, SUBJECT TO THE

- PAYMENT OF RENTALS AND ROYALTIES PROVIDED TO BE PAID UNDER THE LEASE, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE LEASE.
- 9. PANAMERICAN OIL COMPANY AQUIRED LEASES FROM MINERAL OWNERS FOR THE PROPERTY. LEASES CONVEYED ALL OF THE OIL, GAS, AND MINERALS IN, ON, AND UNDER THE PROPERTY.
- 10. TARWATER LEASE EXPIRED ON ITS OWN TERMS ON OR ABOUT 2016 FOR FAILURE TO PRODUCE AND SELL OIL AND GAS IN PAYING QUANTITIES.
- 11. ON OR ABOUT 2017 NOTWITHSTANDING THE EXPIRATION OF THE TARWATER LEASE, DEFENDANT TARWATER SUBMITTED A TRANSFER OF OPERATOR FORM TO THE OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION, IDENTIFYING SILVERTIN FARM PRODUCTION AS THE NEW OPERATOR FOR THE INJECTION WELL.
- 12. BECAUSE TARWATER LEASE HAD EXPIRED ON ITS TERMS, TARWATER'S SUBMISSION OF TRANSFER OF OPERATOR FORMS WAS WITHOUT RIGHT, WHICH HAS CAUSED BEE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MATTER, AND HAS CLOUDED BEES TITLE TO THE OIL, GAS, AND MINING LEASE AND LEASEHOLD ESTATE TO THE PROPERTY, AND HAS DAMGED AND DEPRECIATED THE MARKETABILTY OF THE LEASEHOLD ESTATE, IMPENDING BEE'S CONTROLAND DISPOSITION OF SUCH OIL AND GAS LEASE AND LEASEHOLD ESTATE.
- 13. DEFENDANTS HAVE PREVENTED BEE FROM EXERCISING HIS RIGHTS UNDER THE LEASE, AND THE ACTIVITES OF THE DEFENDANTS HAS GREATLY DAMAGED AND DEPRECITE THE VALUE OF PLAINTIFF'S MINERAL ESTATE, AND PALINTIFF'S MINERAL ESTATE, AND PLAINTIFF IS WITHOUT AND ADEQUATE REMEDY AT LAW.

CAUSE OF ACTION

14. BEE RE-ALLEGES AND INCORPORATES THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS 1 - 14. 15. DEFENDANTS AND EACH OF THEM CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, SOME RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN, ESTATE, ENCUMBERENCE, CLAIM, ASSIGNMENT OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY BY VIRTUE OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED TARWATER LEASE AND/OR THE TRANSFER OF OPERATOR FORMS, ALL OF WHICH CONSTITUTE A CLOUD UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE. HOWEVER, DEFENDANTS HAVE NO RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN, ESTATE, ENCUMBERENCE, CLIAM, ASSESSMENT OR INTEREST EITHER IN LAW OR IN EQUITY IN THE PROPRTY.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC. REQUESTS:

- JUDGEMENT THAT DEFENDANTS HAVE NO RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN, ESTATE, ENCUMBERENCE, CLIAM, ASSESSMENT OR INTEREST EITHER IN LAW OR IN EQUITY IN THE PROPRTY DEFENDANTS HAVE NO RIGHT.
- JUDGEMENT THAT PLAINTIFF IS THE OWNER AND HOLDER OF THE OIL AND GAS LEASE COVERING THE PROPERTY.
- JUDGEMENT THAT THE CLOUDS CAST BY THE CLAIMS BE REMOVED FROM THE RECORD, AND THE INSTRUMENTS CANCELLED;
- DEFENDANTS BE PERMANETLY ENJOINED FROM CONTINUING ANY AND ALL OF THEIR ABOVE-MENTIONED ACTIVTIES, PLACING INSTRUMENTS OF RECORD CLOUDING THE TITLE OF THE PALINTIFF AND FROM FURTHER INTERFERING WITH PLAINTIFF IN THE POSSESSION, USE, AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PREMISES;
- PALINITFF AWARDED COSTS AND ANY MONIES IN SUSPENSE IN THIS PROCEEDING; AND
- SUCH OTHER AND FURTHER RELIEF AS THE COURT DEEMS JUST AND PROPER.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BILL HILL, PRO-SE. 1101 W. HOUSTON STREET

- **BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA 74012**
- 918-992-0101 918-992-0236
 - PRO-SE FOR BEE SQUARE ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC



