



# THE MVSKOKENEWS

AUGUST 15, 2020 | “HIYO RAKKO” BIG HARVEST MONTH | VOL. 50, ISSUE 16

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## LEEDS APPROVED FOR TRIBAL CIVIL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

MCN NC APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF STACY LEEDS TO THE DISTRICT TRIAL COURT CIVIL DIVISION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— In an Extraordinary Session the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved the nomination of Stacy Leeds (Cherokee) to the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on August 4.

Legislation to approve Leeds passed unanimously during a remote session. Robert Hufft sponsored the bill and motioned for its approval. James Jennings seconded the motion.

Leeds was on the call to talk with the council about her experience where she pointed out her long history of civil matters and roots with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Leeds has presided in nine

different tribal court systems and became the first Indigenous woman to lead a law school in 2011. She is Dean Emeritus during the 2020-2021 academic year with the University of Arkansas as she takes leave of absence to work on writing and public service projects.

‘Some of you might remember the tobacco litigation back in the 1990’s, the Phillip Morris litigation, that was my first exposure to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Judicial system,’ Leeds said.

Leeds holds law degrees from the University of Wisconsin (LL.M.) and the University of Tulsa (J.D.), a business degree from the University of Tennessee (M.B.A.), and an undergraduate degree in history from Washington Univer-

LEEDS— 2



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Civil Court Division is set to add renowned Indian Law expert Stacy Leeds to the MCN Civil Division Court. She was sworn in on Aug. 10. (Submission)



The Gaming compact case, originally filed in the western district court on Dec. 31, 2019 has been answered. Chief United States District Judge Timothy DeGiusti rules the compacts renewed. (MN File Photo)

## JUDGE RULES COMPACTS RENEWED AUTOMATICALLY ON JAN. 1 2020

LEGAL TEXT COMES THROUGH FOR TRIBES A SECOND TIME IN JULY AS A JUDGE RULES ON THE RENEWAL STATUS OF TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— The gaming question that has been in the U.S. Western District Court of Oklahoma since Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt attempted to force tribal nations to come back to the negotiating table for a new gaming deal has been answered by Chief United States District Judge Timothy DeGiusti on July 28.

According to DeGiusti’s ruling, ‘The Court finds that Plaintiff’s (the gaming tribes) and Intervenor Compacts with the State of Oklahoma automatically renewed for an additional 15-year term on Jan. 1.’

The case was originally filed in the Western District Court on Dec. 31, 2019. In 2019, Gov. Stitt took to news outlets with opinion pieces urging tribes to come to the table. Gaming tribes maintained they had never had formal invitation for negotiations, and maintained that the agreement would renew without such negotiations.

Part of the States view was ‘a timely request for renegotiations triggers the opposing party’s obligation to engage in negotiations as a condition of precedent to renewal.’

The Court found that the argument not to be supported

in the language of the compacts and unsupported by the facts.

One of the problems with the State’s request is that their stance requested a renegotiation of the entire Compact and so the court rules that their arguments did not effectively invoke special provisions of negotiations.

The tribes further upheld their stance on the gaming compact renewal by pointing out ‘the undisputed organization licensees (horse racetracks) have been authorized, and are currently authorized, to conduct electronic gaming as well as betting on live horse racing.’

Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, a state agency created by state law to oversee horse racing, racetrack personnel, and organization licensees, allowed racetracks to engage in pari-mutuel wagering on live horse racing.

According to compact language the authorization of those entities to execute electronic gaming also engages reauthorization for the tribes compacts to renew for an additional 15 years or until such time that both parties mutually agree to the negotiations.

The Court further ordered that each party should inform the Court of any remaining issues for decision no later than August 7.

## 2020 MUSCOGEE (CREEK) FESTIVAL CANCELED

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) FESTIVAL AND PAGEANT BOTH CANCELED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation team has canceled the 2020 Muscogee Nation Festival.

The Muscogee Nation Festival began in 1974, with a softball tournament and an all-Indian rodeo with additional activities serving as a reunion of sorts for Muscogee people.

Today, the festival is a celebration of the culture, heritage and togetherness of the Muscogee people providing a safe and fun atmosphere with free admission to 25 or more activities and live concerts open to all people of all ages.

This year MCN would have celebrated their 46th annual festival. According to the Tourism and Recreation Department along with the Nation’s Administration, on July 22 the announcement of the cancellation was made.

“We had to cancel because of the virus,” Director of Tourism and Recreation Kyle Lee said.



The 46th Annual Muscogee Nation Festival and Scholarship Pageant have been canceled. Events such as the traditional bow shoot, picture above, will not take place. (Photo by Angel Ellis)

“There was a concern of hosting an event that large to the public, it did not feel like it was a good idea concerning what is going on in the world.”

This would be the first year they have canceled the festival, according to Lee. As far as it

goes for next year’s festival, Lee did not have much to say about the planning.

They will continue to monitor situations and see what they are allowed to do with their

FESTIVAL— 2

## ZERO THE K-9 HERO

MCN K-9 UNIT REACTS TO CALL ABOUT A SUSPECT LEAVING ONE FIRE CASINO ON JUNE 24

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

TULSA, Oklahoma – During the early morning hours of June 24, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse K-9 Unit Sergeant Chad Morris and partner Zero received a call about a suspect leaving the One Fire Casino.

“The suspect was traveling at a high rate of speed and crashed out on a land owners property,” Morris said. “We started a track with Zero, went probably 100 yards or so and located the suspect in a barn hiding under some debris under a golf cart. We tried several times to have the suspect show us his hands and



Muscogee (Creek) Nation K-9 Unit Sergeant Chad Morris and partner “Zero” doing monthly maintenance training. (Photo by)

ZERO— 2





LEEDS

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sity in St. Louis (B.A.).

Her early career experience involved working with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

‘My work with Creek Nation goes back 25 years,’ Leeds said. ‘When I was law student at University of Tulsa one of my first jobs was working with Judge Moore at the District Court.’

Leeds was recently one of the top experts for Arizona State University’s Indian Legal Programs webinar held on July 20. The webinar featured important information concerning the recent SCOTUS opinion on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s reservation.

She is a recipient of the

American Bar Association’s Spirit of Excellence Award and an elected member of the American Law Institute. She is a former Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellow affiliated with the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University and a former Sequoyah Fellow at Northeastern State (OK) University.

A teacher and scholar of American Indian law and policy, her most recent book Mastering American Indian Law Second Ed., co-authored with Angeliqe EagleWoman was published in 2019.

Her new book A Matter of Cherokee Justice: Talton v. Mayes, co-authored by Professor Taiawagi Helton will be available in 2021.

Festival

Continued from Page 1

budget.

With the cancellation, citizens provided feedback to the department which was all positive notes.

“Everyone said it was the right thing to do, and we didn’t really get any negative feedback at all,” Lee said. “People were glad we was putting everyone’s health first.”

Before cancelling the festival, they had spoken to other tribes who host big celebrations as well. Many others had already canceled their celebrations, which helped Tourism and Recreation decide to cancel.

Along with the festival, the MCN scholarship pageant has also been canceled.

Since the pageant does coincide with the festival, Royalty Coordinator Shelby Botone said that is where they introduce the new royalty and is their biggest event.

“We felt that since this year

is uncertain and we are definitely in some unprecedented times right now, its best that we don’t have the competition this year and wait until next year,” Botone said.

Although the pageant has been canceled, the committee has extended the reign of the current royalty.

Botone said the current Miss MCN could not extend hers but Jr. Miss MCN Jadyn Randall accepted and extended her reign until 2021.

“The current Jr. Miss will end her reign next year, but right now we are focusing on changes and upgrades to our current program,” Botone said. “As far as how Jr. Miss goes it will probably be more of video content like virtual reign, just because there isn’t anything going on right now.”

Botone hopes to make next year’s pageant the best one yet.

For more information and announcements follow Mvskoke Royalty on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Zero

Continued from Page 1

he wouldn’t do that so Zero engaged him and bit him on the left ankle.”

Zero is considered an officer and this would also be considered an arrest on his behalf along with partner Sergeant Morris.

“He is a tool and that’s his job, he’s a locating tool,” Morris said. “Just like a gun or flashlight, he’s a tool.”

Zero joined Sergeant Morris and the MCN Lighthorse K-9 Unit in 2013 and is now eight years old. He is a German Shepard breed originally from Yugoslavia and takes his commands in Czechoslovakian.

“We selected Zero and he was shipped here,” Morris said. “I then took him through a handler training and we have been partners ever since.”

The dogs have a general training before selected. Once selected, they go through a handler training with their handler which is anywhere between 80 hours to 200 hours. The officers and canines are required to complete 16 hours of maintenance training monthly. Maintenance train-

ings consist of narcotic tracking apprehension, evidence search, canine bailout training, decoy training and more.

“We are a team,” Morris said. “We have to learn to recognize how our canine reacts during training.”

When it comes to food and shelter, each canine stay at the homes of their officer partner and is fed based upon dietary needs.

The MCN K-9 Unit has a total of four canine officers, Zero is one of the eldest and most experienced of the canines currently at the unit.

“We have had numerous drug arrest and several successful tracks,” Morris said. “I believe our K-9 unit is top notch and a great asset to the nation.”

“We enjoy working with them. Not many people get to come to work and play with dogs.”

The MCN Lighthorse K-9 Unit Facebook page can be liked and followed to find updates and current trainings on the canines.

The recent arrest made by Zero and Sergeant Chad Morris on June 24, is still pending in court.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

\*Editor’s Note: This letter originally appeared on page 2, Volume 15, Number 1, January 1986 issue. It has been requested by the original author to be re-printed as he “feels it is as true today as it was 35 years ago.”

December 27, 1985

To the Editor:

The recent conclusion of litigation in District Federal Court reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. It should give us satisfaction that a judge saw fit to command that the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the Tulsa District Attorney honor treaties and promises made to the Creek people.

This battle was won, however, the fight has just begun. As in the past, there will always be a battle to protect our very existence as a people. The price of

continued sovereignty will not be a small one. We must continue our vigilance and be prepared to insist that those treaties and promises be honored no matter how financially troubled the state becomes. We must be ever watchful of those persons who would, through the pretense of so-called “civic duty,” advocate not only economic but cultural and social genocide of all Indian people and their governments.

The arrogance of the uninformed, displayed during the court proceedings, revealed an ardent hostility toward our people because we exercised the rights guaranteed to Indian tribes by the Unites States government while it was perpetrating the most scandalous land transaction in history.

I am sure that there will be

future attempts to erode the sovereignty of our nation and our right to exist and be responsible for our own destiny.

We must now unite and setting aside our personal jealousies, face our responsibilities in a common challenge to develop economically, culturally, and socially to provide for our young and old; all Muscogee people. Yes, the price is high, sacrifice of time, effort and personal difference to act as a unified people in designing the future for our children and their children’s children. Failure to accomplish this simple goal will lend truth to those words pictured by an Indian artist “AND WE WILL BE NO MORE.”

Sincerely,  
Nelson C. Johnson  
NCJ/sb

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning the Energy Program administered through the MCN Social Services. Some repeated and very concerning actions are happening 3-years in a row.

The first time, I may believe their excuse of “lost email”. But for this to happen, 3-years in a row, twice a year during the submission time for spring and fall utility help?

You can’t keep using the same excuse and make it sound plausible. Either they are lying or there are some serious issues.

First, for the past 3 years on the day of submission, I’ve emailed my completed form. When I followed up with Ms. West on June 4th, she emailed me back that they never received my application due to computer issues.

This is the same excuse they gave me for 3 years in a row, twice a year. My sister, a tribal member too, also emails her application on the same day I do.

Usually minutes apart. She gets a postcard in the mail within 2 weeks and has the

money deposited within 30 days. While mine gets “lost” due to computer issues.

I live on social security disability, and even with that I still fall within the 400% below poverty level.

I am also diabetic. The MCN is great in providing those of us who are citizens with diabetes an air conditioner.

The excessive humid heat is a health issue so during this hot season the air conditioner is most helpful. However, it makes my electric bill rise to \$95-125 a month. So, the energy program is necessary.

With the high electric bills without the energy, program assistance causes my already low income into even a more dire situation.

It is very normally after all bills are current, I am left with just \$20 for myself the month.

The severe mishandling of the Social Services department leaves me in a very dire situation.

Their 3 years in a row, twice a year excuse is that an excuse. The Chief should have the IT department run a tracker on

this and find how they lose my email two times a year for three years a row now.

If it is happening to me, then I can bet you it’s happening to other citizens who also live in the 400% below poverty level. The most vulnerable. These vulnerable, myself included, are continually beaten down by endless pain and hunger. And to think the negligence of the Social Service department is making our citizens more vulnerable.

Again, the IT department can easily investigate this issue to see where these emails actually are going, which I think are being deleted.

I think the Chief needs to know if others are suffering in this manner.

I encourage all citizens who also get their application lost by Social Services to call and lodge a complaint with the Chief’s office.

He needs to know which of our citizens are being neglected by the repeated abusive practices of the Social Services department.

Sincerely,  
Mark Maxey

Dear Editor;

On Thursday, July 29, 2020, a day that will resonate throughout Mvskoke (Creek) Nation (MCN) as a day to remember that the legislative body gave up, or rescinded, partially the hard-fought legal battle for MCN to be recognized as a legal independent sovereign Nation.

I am referring to the ICWA Agreement with the State of Oklahoma via TR 20-134. The ICWA Agreement gives the State of Oklahoma jurisdiction (concurrent) over our MCN children.

WHAT! One has to inquire as to why enter into such an Agreement when such an Agreement infringes upon our hard-fought legal battle that fully recognizes MCN as a legal independent sovereign Nation?

I have repeated sovereign

Nation in order to get across that giving the State of Oklahoma any jurisdiction in any matter punches holes in our sovereignty status.

Our MCN children are the future of our MCN Nation and are our independent responsibility to protect and not to rely on the State of Oklahoma for any determination.

Granted we may not have the manpower at this time to give necessary guidance to handle abused or neglected MCN children but, MCN should have legislated to increase funding for additional MCN ICWA workers and to fund a safe house for MCN children that may not be immediately placed with an extended family member until a legal determination has been reached as to the placement of the child.

Not legislate away any portion of our sovereign status regarding MCN children.

It has been acknowledged by the MCN NC, and the legal representation in the McGirt matter, that an amicus brief was filed by MCN in the McGirt matter which incorporated some language referencing that MCNs existing ICWA agreement with the State of Oklahoma regarding child welfare would not change. So what!

The amicus is not legally binding and not in any part of SCOTUSs holding.

This MCN citizen, and maybe other MCN citizens, would inquire as to WHY? What solid reasoning is there to relent partially our legal sovereign status?

MVTO!  
Rick Wilde Tulsa

THE MVSKOKE MEDIA

Rita Courtwright, Managing Editor | [rcourtwright@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:rcourtwright@mvskokemedia.com)

Angel Ellis, Reporter/Layout | [aellis@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:aellis@mvskokemedia.com)

Lani Hansen, Reporter | [lhansen@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:lhansen@mvskokemedia.com)

Morgan Taylor, Reporter | [mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:mtaylor@mvskokemedia.com)

Jerrad Moore, Multi-Media Producer | [jmoore@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:jmoore@mvskokemedia.com)

Clinton Sinclair, Videographer | [csinclair@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:csinclair@mvskokemedia.com)

Gary Fife, Radio Specialist | [gfife@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:gfife@mvskokemedia.com)

Chelsie Rich, Mvskoke Markets | [crich@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:crich@mvskokemedia.com)

Breanna Dawson, Advertising & Sales | [bdawson@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:bdawson@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](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com).





## COUNCIL COVERAGE

# EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

A Muscookee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary Session was held on Aug. 4 via Teleconference. (MN File Photo)

### COUNCIL APPROVES LIGHTHORSE FUNDING AFTER SCOTUS DECISION RULES MCN RESERVATION INTACT COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPANSION AND CONFIRMS DISTRICT TRIAL COURT JUDGE NOMINATION

**Angel Ellis**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– A Muscookee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary Session was held on Aug. 4.

All legislation passed will be signed into law with the signature of the Principal Chief.

The following legislation was considered in the Extraordinary session. The interpretation of the legislation is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 20-143 A tribal resolution of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation nominating Stacy Leeds to serve as the District Trial Court Judge of the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Robert Hufft.

The legislation allows for the nomination of Stay Leeds to serve as the District Trial Court Judge of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation Court Civil Division.

The Legislation was adopted 14-0.

NCA 20-054 A law of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification in excess of

ten percent (10%) for the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services fiscal year 2020 budget. Sponsored by Joyce Deere.

The legislation comes from the MNYS requesting a modification in excess of ten percent of its total budget for FY 2020. Legislation accompanied by unpublished budget modification request.

The Legislation was adopted 14-0.

NCA 20-056 A law of the Muscookee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the Muscookee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse police department for fiscal year 2020. Sponsored by Robert Hufft.

The legislation allows for a supplemental appropriation for \$2,249,359 for fiscal year 2020, a need amplified due to the recent SCOTUS opinion. According to the legislation the budget increase will fund 39 new positions, supplies, telephone communications, contractual obligations, vehicle units, fuel purchases and other costs associated with the additional staffing.

The Legislation was adopted 10-4.

Audio of the meeting can be found at [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD WELCOMES KELLEN BIBLE

FORMER MARINE CORPS OFFICER SELECTED TO SERVES AS ADMINSTRATOR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

**Lani Hansen**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Hand picked by the Chief’s office and approved through National Council, Kellen Bible will serve on the executive cabinet.

Bible is of the Bird Clan and resides in Warner, Ok and he has three children. After high school, he went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in Native American Studies from the University of Oklahoma before joining the Marine Corps.

Second Lieutenant Bible was a Logistics Officer assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 8 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

“My classmates and I graduated Logistics school early in order to catch up to our units departing for Fallujah, Iraq,” Bible stated.

First Lieutenant Bible was then assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 6 in Al Asad, Iraq before completing his active duty orders.

After leaving active duty, Bible joined the Marine Corps Reserves and completed Artillery School so that he could attend graduate school. While he was studying Native American Studies in graduate school, he was mobilized for a deployment to Afghanistan as an Artillery Officer.

Upon completion of graduate school, Bible returned to Glenpool, Ok in order to work for the Muscookee (Creek) Nation. Bible later worked at Bacone College as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Student Support Services before returning to the Muscookee (Creek) Nation in 2020.

Bible was nominated to serve as the Office of the Veterans Affairs Services Administrator in a tribal resolution TR 20-093, during the Health, Education and Welfare Committee session.

“Having conversations with Principal Chief Hill and Second Chief Beaver about the direction they wanted to take the tribe developed into me being



Pictured is Kellen Bible the new Director of Veterans Affairs (Submission)

*“My main goal is to help veterans understand what they are eligible for, so they can maximize resources,”*

**Kellen Bible**

here,” Bible stated about his position.

Bible plans to modernize the department and the way they conduct business. He wants the department to have a digital focus, utilize community resources and maximize the benefits of the veterans so they can better serve a larger population of tribal veterans.

“I’m excited about the opportunity we have to provide more outreach and provide more education about what the Veterans Administration (VA) can provide,” Bible said. “We’re going to provide more information and resources for our veterans.”

Bible’s first step is to establish relationships and enhance existing ones. Bible and the MCN Veterans Affairs Services Office already coordinate with

the federal Veterans Administration offices, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, and will establish relationships with resources in the community.

“My main goal is to help veterans understand what they are eligible for, so they can maximize resources,” Bible said.

Bible said they are creating a new website, implementing social media accounts and exploring other ways to connect with veterans. They will also be developing a full marketing plan to provide outreach in order to initiate conversations with more veterans.

Bible appreciates the support of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, National Council, his family and employees on his new position as Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

# LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:	)	DISTRICT COURT FILED
J.T.,	)	2020 AUG -7 A 8 56
A minor child, DOB 06-04-2009	)	MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
A.A.,	)	DONNA BEAVER
A minor child, DOB 08-09-2014	)	COURT CLERK
A.A.,	)	
A minor child, DOB 12-20-2016	)	
AND	)	
A. A.,	)	Case No. GD-2020-04-SP
a minor child. DOB 12-18-2018	)	

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

TO: MANUAL TORRES AND ALEJANDRO AYVAR.

You are hereby notified that SHIRLEY TOLEDO has filed in the District Court of the Muscookee Nation of Oklahoma, a petition praying that Letters of Guardianship be issued to her upon the persons and estates of J.T., A.A., A.A., and A.A. minor children.

And that the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court of the Muscookee Nation, Oklahoma, has been appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they can, why such appointment should not be made.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

DONNA BEAVER, Court Clerk

By: *Jobie King*  
Deputy

Spencer Torbett, OBA #33778; MNBA #964  
Attorney for Petitioners



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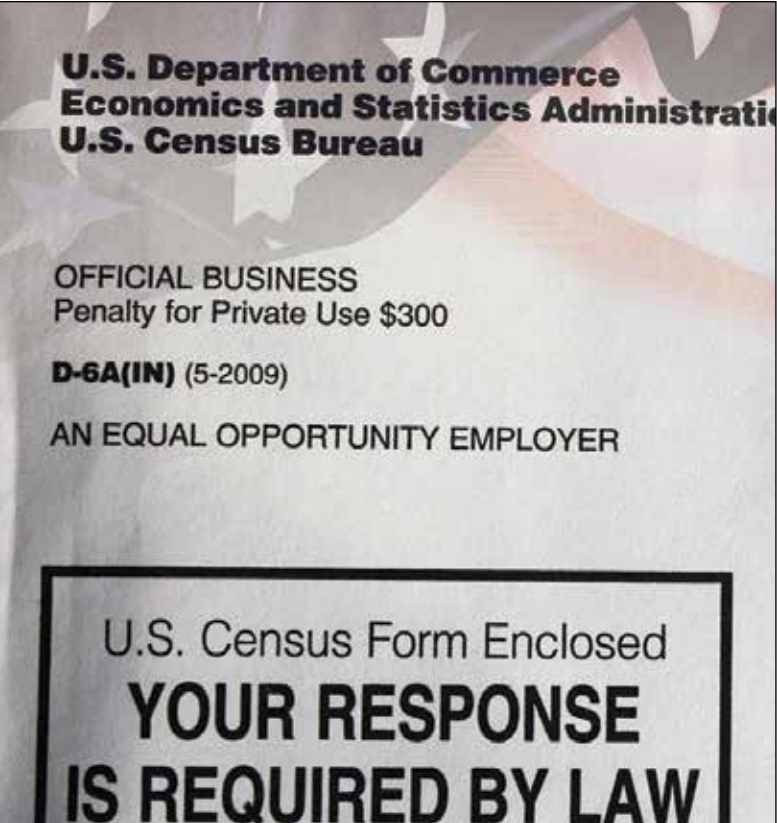
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Your Connection to Better Rewards!





Participating in the Census is important for the tribe to receive federal funding. (Shutterstock)

## MAKE IT COUNT IN THE 2020 CENSUS

AS THE CENSUS ENTERS ITS LAST PHASES; THE TRIBE REMINDS CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– In March, households received official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail.

Starting mid-April, the Census Bureau mailed paper questionnaires to the homes that had not yet responded online or by phone. According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Commerce, Terra Branson-Thomas the US Census Bureau refers to this phase of the Census as the “self-response time”.

“Due to the pandemic, the Census had decided to delay the follow up for non-responses until August, because the US Congress had allowed for more time under one of the COVID packages,” said Branson-Thomas. “They were supposed to go from August until October. I believe, but the Trump Administration had recently announced that the phase will end September 30.”

This means that all responsive counting must be reported by the end of September. Oklahoma as a state has a response rate of 62%. According to Branson-Thomas McIntosh Co. is one of the lowest response rates in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with a total rate of 30%.

“We need every native to respond to their Census and hopefully count themselves as head-of-household on their Census response,” said Branson-Thomas. “For every head-of-household that we have that’s one more household that’s counted. That makes our voice more powerful. That number is reported

to the US Congress and federal entities.”

Housing and Urban Development, also known as HUD, uses Census data to allocate funds that are received from HUD which is one reason completing the Census is important.

“If someone doesn’t complete their Census, we could be without the federal funds for that agency,” said Branson-Thomas. “One example, is that when we received funds for the CARES Act the Department of Treasury used information from HUD that was based off of the numbers from the 2010 Census.”

Federal funding is large part of the Annual Budget for the tribe.

“Anytime there is miscount in the Census it can have a negative implication on the funding that tribe receives,” said Branson-Thomas.

It is important for the tribe to count as many people as possible during the 2020 Census as head of household.

“One example, is that of our clinic in Okmulgee,” said Branson-Thomas. “We have actually outgrown that building many times. We applied for an IHS program that would help us update our facilities but our Census numbers were not competitive enough with other tribes to participate in that program in the past.”

As the Census enters its last phases, the tribe wants to remind the citizens to participate in the 2020 Census. This is the first year with an online option, which can be convenient for some.

Any citizen with questions regarding the 2020 Census can visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) or call their hotline at 1-(844)330-2020.

## MCPEAK GRABS THE NATIONAL TITLE FOR AGRICULTURE

CITIZEN CROWNED 2020 NATIONAL JUNIOR MISS UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jade McPeak is the 2020 National Junior Miss United States Agriculture.

According to the Miss United States Agriculture website, the 2020 National Pageant was held in June in Orlando, Florida at the Grand Orlando Celebration Resort. Queens from all over the U.S. traveled to compete for crowns and scholarships.

Agriculture advocates from across the nation sign up to represent their state agriculture through the Miss U.S. Agriculture program. While advocating for agriculture these queens spend a lot of time in the crown and sash.

McPeak resides in Checotah, Oklahoma where she attends middle school. She is the daughter of Jason and Emmy McPeak. This was her first time competing in this pageant.

“I was glad I got to experience this because I was able to meet girls from all over the country,” McPeak said. “I was able to tell them about my state and my tribe, and I’m just glad I got to go and compete for this title.”

During the pageant, McPeak had to compete in five different categories such as interview, introductions, state fun fashion, evening wear and on-stage question. She won in all of those categories including photogenic.

McPeak has a strong heart in agriculture, aside from her title she shows cattle and goats and is a helping hand in community service through the 4-H pro-



Jade McPeak was crowned 2020 National Junior Miss United States Agriculture in June. (Submission)

gram. For over three years, she has been active in the McIntosh 4-H program.

“We make stockings for veterans during Christmas, we ring the bell for Salvation Army and we have a community garden,” McPeak said. “I personally put out flags during Veterans Day and 4th of July.”

McPeak was already serving as the Oklahoma’s Junior Miss Agriculture, so with this title she was able to visit farms around the state, meet the president of the Cattlemen’s Associ-

ation and more. All she did as Oklahoma’s Junior Miss made her want to run for the National Junior Miss title.

“I was shocked at first but after that I was excited,” McPeak said when they announced her name.

Her roles as Junior Miss is to represent at state pageants for the agriculture program. McPeak hopes to visit more farms with her title and read to elementary students about agriculture, also host community service events.

## CMN GOES ONLINE FOR FALL TRIMESTER

CMN TAKES PRECAUTION AND WILL BE CONDUCTING ONLINE CLASSES DURING COVID PANDEMIC

Lani Hansen  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– College of the Muscogee Nation President Robert Bible recently announced that they will be conducting all classes online beginning in the fall trimester due to the recent COVID pandemic.

As CMN continues to adapt to the ever changing health environment, they are proceeding into the Fall trimester with the health and safety of their students, faculty and staff in mind.

In an effort to maintain social distancing and health precautions for the community, the decision has been made to continue with online instruction.

The Fall trimester will begin online August 31 and will end December 11. Enrollment has began Wednesday, July 29 and will end September 2. Enrollment



CMN announced all classes will be online August 31 and end December 11. (Submission)

CMN– 6

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OPINIONS

These opinions are that of the author and do not reflect those of Mvskoke Media.

David Hill  
MCN PRINCIPAL CHIEF

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– I looked into the eyes of the Muscogee citizens seated around me, and I knew from the emotion on their faces that it meant as much to them as it did to me. For all of us, this victory was hard fought. It was not just the result of our own resilience, but the day also belonged to those who came before us.

Just a little over one hundred years ago, my great-grandfather, Charley Coker was part of a group that testified before a Select Committee of the Senate. In 1906, a few people in Congress wanted to make Oklahoma a state and erase us. It was then that my great-grandfather traveled—alongside the great Chitto Harjo—to Washington D.C. to oppose legislation that would disestablish our Reservation and destroy our tribal government.

As Justice Gorsuch said, Congress considered eliminating our Reservation at the time of Oklahoma’s Statehood—but did not. My great-grandfather was part of the Muscogee (Creek) delegation that prevented the passage of legislation that would have disestablished our Reservation forever. We won because they never gave up. No matter how intimidating the odds, they never sat down. Truly, this victory is our ancestors’ just as much as it is ours.

In the aftermath, I have faced some very tough decisions. While I greatly value our Nation’s solidarity with our sister sovereign tribal nations and I want to continue what has, so far, been a successful cross-jurisdictional partnership with the State of Oklahoma, I will not voluntarily surrender the sovereignty that my great-grandfather worked so hard to protect. On July 17, I announced that our Nation would not sign Attorney General Mike Hunter’s Agreement in Principle that would in effect reverse the Supreme Court’s decision.

We have heard rumors that legislation is inevitable and that our insistence on standing for full victory is a futile effort. As referenced in the Tulsa World’s editorial (“Lacking Diversity”), we are also aware that many powerful interests may be stacking the deck against our position. They claim that an established Muscogee Reservation will result in economic instability or decreased public safety for Oklahoma. However, the continued existence of our Reservation is not harm-



Principal Chief David Hill is pictured above holding a photo of his great Grandfather, Charlie Coker. (Submission)

ful to the economic growth of Oklahoma. As evidenced in a recent economic impact study, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had an \$866 million impact on Oklahoma in 2017 through investment in public education, public safety, transportation and health care. The recent ruling by a federal judge in favor of our tribal gaming compacts will strengthen economic stability within our borders and across Oklahoma. The outcome is a testament that by working together we can accomplish more. Like any sovereign nation, we encourage and seek commerce, and we understand the importance of working with all public and private partners to ensure the shared prosperity of those who live and work within our borders.

The Court’s decision will not leave our lands lawless. Well before the Supreme Court ruling, we had countless inter-governmental agreements with the State of Oklahoma and local municipalities to ensure the safety and protection of anyone located within our borders. The Court’s decision only affirms our right, as a Nation, to sit at the table of sovereigns. To that end, I have established the Mvskoke Reservation Protection Commission to conduct in-depth analysis of law enforcement and public safety, Indian child welfare and social services, government-to-government relationships and

policy, judicial affairs, legal and regulatory matters, business and commerce and violence against Native women and murdered and missing Indigenous women. The commission will collaborate with other governmental entities including federal, tribal, state, county, and municipal authorities, to ensure criminal, civil adjudicatory and civil regulatory jurisdictional issues are addressed through mutual understanding and cooperation throughout eastern Oklahoma.

Whatever the motivation to undo the Supreme Court’s opinion and disestablish our Reservation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will not sit down. Like my great-grandfather and Chitto Harjo, we will appeal to Congress to stand for the sovereignty of our Nation. Like those who came before us, we will defeat any legislation that seeks to erase us.

To the State of Oklahoma, the counties and municipalities, and the members of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation, we stand ready to work with you. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is here to help create a better Oklahoma for everyone. A better Oklahoma does not require adherence to a legislative agenda that seeks to eliminate our sovereignty or our Reservation. The Supreme Court’s affirmation is not a problem to fix, but rather an opportunity to flourish.

OBITUARIES

LUCY MVHAYV CHUPCO

Lucy Mvhayv Chupco, beloved daughter of Travis and Kayla Chupco, was born on Friday, August 19, 2016, in Sapulpa, Oklahoma and passed away on August 1.

From the moment she was born, Lucy adored her parents, Travis and Kayla, and was deeply cherished by them. A joyful and funny little girl, she was thoughtful and full of life. She loved everyone she encountered, and they loved her back. She enjoyed singing and making others laugh, especially her two sisters, Kamille and Mya. Her dolls and Peppa Pig toys were never far away, and her joy in playing was a delight to witness. Lucy was always happy to be outdoors, playing with all creatures from fuzzy to creepy crawly. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandparents and aunts and going to City Church. Above all, Lucy was a fighter with a huge heart and an unshakeable spirit that inspired everyone who knew her.

Left to cherish memories are Lucy’s parents, Travis and Kayla Chupco; sisters, Kamille and Mya Chupco; paternal grandparents, Johnny and Mona Chupco; maternal grandparents Elsie and Ronnie Lena; aunts Lola Jackson and husband, Keith; Mariah Lena; Dana Tehee and husband, Joseph; great aunts, Sheri Winn, Mary Dowler, and Jill Miller; cousins, Kaniyah Tiger, Joseph Jr.



(L. J) Tehee, Josiah Tehee, Sophie Palinskee; and numerous cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Ruby Chupco and Samuel Chupco; great-grandfather, Namon Bullett; great uncle, Samuel Chupco; great aunt, Cindy Harley; great cousin, Stacie Dry; great uncle, Theron Winn; grandpa, Terro Bendle Winn; and great grandma, Ada Winn.

A funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on August 7, at the Tallahassee United Methodist Church in Okmulgee. A viewing was held Thursday, August 6, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. at McClendon-Winters Funeral Home. A wake service was held at 6:00 p.m. August 6, at Tallahassee Church in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Lucy’s Tribute Page at [www.mcclendon-winters.com](http://www.mcclendon-winters.com)

TIMOTHY RAY LOWE

Timothy Ray Lowe, 65, a resident of Mounds, OK, went on to be with the Lord on Friday,

May 1st, 2020, in Tulsa, OK. Mr. Lowe was born September 29, 1954 to the late Reverend John and Minnie (Randall) Lowe in Oklahoma City, OK. Timothy was raised with his four brothers and one sister. He was married to his wife Regina (Wind) over 42 years.

Tim was pastor of the Randall Indian Baptist Church in the Wilson Community where he loved to sing the Mvskoke Creek hymns. He would also take the Youth and members to Indian Falls Creek where he would counsel the Youth and encouraged each one who attended.

After Tim graduated from Wilson High School, he attended OSU Technical School. He also served in the Army National Guard for six years. In May, 1978, he went to work for the Conoco Oil Company for the next 28 years. He received Awards and Commendations for the Safety Record while he was a Pipeline Operator of the petroleum company. Then the next twelve years, Tim went to work at the Sapulpa Indian Clinic as the Maintenance

Technician. He had several friends-at- the clinic who became family also. He would say they were “golden”. He loved his “Breakfast Club,” as he called them.

Tim would give of his talents whether to visit and pray with someone at the hospital or fix someone’s hot water heater. He willingly gave of his time because he knew he would be serving the Lord. To relax, Tim liked to ride his motorcycle down the high-



way, enjoying nature and the National Parks with friends. He also loved visiting with his children and grandchildren for he knew were a “Blessing”; he attended their activities. Tim loved all that came on his path. He will be remembered for his friendly laugh, his humor, and his concern for others.

Timothy is preceded in death by his parents: Reverend John and Minnie (Randall) Lowe and one brother: Jacob Lowe. Those left to cherish his memory are: Wife: Regina (Wind) Lowe, of the home, daughters: Katrina Lowe Sequichie of Tulsa, OK; Alicia Lowe of Sapulpa, OK; Brandi Lowe of Kiefer, OK; 8 Grandchildren: Kayla, Keilan, Dylan, Audrina, Ryleigh, Lucas, Boston and Amelia, 1Great-grandchild, Woodrow; 1 sister Rachael Sumka of Henryetta, OK, and 3 Brothers: Wilbert Lowe of Henryetta, OK; Tony Lowe, Marvin Lowe of Bryant, OK

The Funeral service was officiated by Reverend Eddie Lindsey and Reverend Wallace Gambler on May 5, 2020, at Randall Indian Baptist Church, Wilson Community. The Pall Bearers were Keilan Josie, Dylan Dunn, John Burris, Micah McDermott, Stephen Haumpy, Bob Lena, and Richard Lindsey.

SUBMISSIONS

Thank You from the Family of Timothy Lowe

The family of Timothy Ray Lowe are forever thankful for each one’s prayer, kindness, and encouragement for Tim during his final walk of life. Our special gratitude to the Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic staff for blessing our family in a special way to cherish Tim’s memory. Many Blessings to All

Thank You from the Family of Timothy Lowe

Tulsa Creek Indian Community’s upcoming Election is set for September 24th, 2020 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The positions of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer is for one 2-year term beginning October 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2022. The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent stating position applying for and payment of \$15 for a background check is July 17th by 4:30 p.m. Candidates are required to attend the TCIC meeting August 27th, 2020 to give their qualifications and a brief bio prior to election. New Board officers will take their Oath of Office on October 1st and take office effective October 1st, 2020. For more information contact the TCIC office at 918-298-2464.

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ATTORNEY

DRU R. TATE

Is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association and has served the Tribe through its various departments and its Citizens since 2011.



## STORM SAFETY INCLUDES STORM SHELTERS

### MCN OFFERS PROGRAM TO KEEP CITIZENS SAFE DURING THE STORM SEASON

**Morgan Taylor**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— For the month of August, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources will be accepting applications for storm shelter installation for eligible citizens.

An enrolled Muscogee (Creek) homeowner living in the MCN jurisdictional boundaries is eligible to receive a storm shelter one time at their primary residence on a first come, first serve basis.

There are two types of storm shelters available to citizens—below and above ground shelters. Citizens requesting an above ground shelter must provide documentation of physical limitations that warrant an above ground storm shelter. Above ground shelter applicants must have adequate space and a sufficient concrete slab for installation.

The Storm Shelter Program was created in 2017. With a limited budget

appropriated for the program, the selection for the SSP will not be on a first come, first serve basis. However, it will be based on a point-preference system that determines the risk of safety concern for each applicant.

There are no income guidelines to be eligible for this program.

A preference point will awarded to those citizens over 65 years old with an additional point for those over 75 years old.

Handicapped and/or disabled MCN citizens who can provide sufficient medical documentation stating physical limitation will receive a preference point.

MCN citizens providing caregiver services to a disabled or elderly MCN citizen who resides in the home owned by the caregiver with proof of disability/elder status and citizenship of dependent will be awarded a point.

With official proof of discharge, MCN veteran citizens will receive preference point.

MCN citizens who reside in rural

areas and those who reside in mobile homes will be awarded a preference point as well.

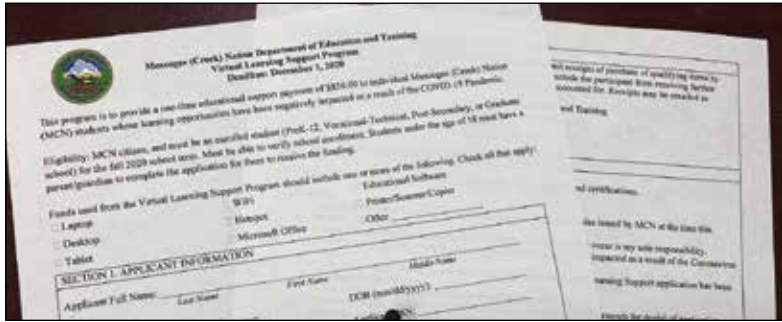
Approved applicants should receive a letter in the mail by Sept. 30 stating approval. The contractor will then contact the applicant to schedule installation. The Nation will make direct payments to the contractor.

The last day to apply for the SSP will be Aug. 30. Applications will not be accepted after the last day.

The SSP application can be found online or by contacting the MCN Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Office Manager Amy King at 918-549-2555.

Applications can be mailed, emailed, or faxed.

Mail to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Storm Shelter Program  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
Email to: aking@mcn-nsn.gov  
Fax: 918-549-2965; Attn: Amy King.



The Virtual Learning Support Program will help students gain technology tools for distance learning (MN File Photo)

## STUDENTS CAN SEEK ASSISTANCE THROUGH MCN EDUCATION

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION USES CARES FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

**Lani Hansen**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training is assisting students in need through the Virtual Learning Support Program.

The Virtual Learning Support Program is a part of the CARES funding the tribe received this year. It is part of the human services component of the overall budget.

This program is to assist citizens who are going to be students in the fall and who are going to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through their schools who are potentially going through virtual learning, according to Secretary of Education Dr. Monte Randall.

“The main portion for us is to provide students with a one-time payment of \$850.00 so they can purchase whatever they need,” Dr. Randall said.

MCN citizens who are currently enrolled as a student whether it is elementary, middle school, high school or college is eligible for funding. The class or course must be from a place where the student is certified, like a technical school or public school.

There are two ways how to apply, one is an online application and the other is a hard copy application, both of which are open now.

“Both of those applications are on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

website on the home page,” Dr. Randall said. “The link and paper application information are all on the home page, then of course on our Facebook pages Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training. I have seen it shared hundreds of times by individuals.”

The deadline to apply for the funding is December 31; with the CARES Act regulations all funding for the Department of Education must be spent by the end of the year.

“We’ve kept that deadline open for as long as we could,” Dr. Randall said. “We are also requiring citizens to return receipts to show that they did purchase technology or help facilitate virtual learning. Receipts are due by the 31st as well.”

The funds received are for anything that supports virtual learning such as; laptops, tablets, hotspot, desktop, chromebooks, or any other technology that may be deemed necessary to complete their education needs.

With the completed application they also require proof of MCN citizenship and proof of student enrollment. The student enrollment can be anything from the school, a letter with a school letterhead, something printed from a portal, or a schedule.

The funding is available to all MCN citizens who are students.

For more information contact MCN Department of Education at 918-732-7727 or email detcares@mcn-nsn.gov

**CMN**  
*Continued from Page 4*

can be completed by contacting Admissions, meeting with an Academic Advisor or a member of the Student Success staff.

CMN will offer two online formats for the Fall trimester schedule:

Asynchronously is when student and instructor will not meet at a specific time, but students will instead submit assignments and projects by specified due dates, usually via Desire 2 Learn (D2L).

Synchronously is when student and instructor will meet during the scheduled class time and day using video conference software such as Microsoft Teams.

Assignments and projects will be submitted according to the syllabus.

If the conditions of the pandemic improve, this format will allow CMN to conduct classes on

campus beginning the eighth week of the trimester.

“The reason we did things this way was so that students would get used to the schedule for time and days,” President Bible said. “After the eighth week of the semester of this coming fall if everything is going well with the COVID-19 and everything is starting to open up we can start bringing students back on campus and they will already have a schedule on campus.”

Students who wish to enroll in person must make an appointment by calling 918-549-2800. All visitors are required to wear a mask and have their temperature taken. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees and above, will be asked to reschedule their appointment.

Students who enroll in 9 credit hours or more for the Fall trimester only, will receive a laptop with internet access; the students who received a laptop from the Summer

trimester are ineligible for an additional laptop.

Procedures for picking up the laptop and textbooks will be announced at a later date.

“Students who are returning from summer will continue their internet service,” Bible said. “When students enroll our IT person will get their service connected on the first day of classes.”

CMN encourages students to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC offers tips on their website that can be useful in avoiding the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus.

They are monitoring this situation closely and will provide updates to CMN community should further steps become necessary.

President Bible asks the students to continue monitoring CMN website at [www.cmn.edu](http://www.cmn.edu) or their Facebook page for more information and updates.

# The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Office



### Voter Registration forms can be found on the Tribal Website under Election Board

#### Eligibility Checklist for Voter Registration

- o You are a tribal member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- o 18 years of age at the date of the election
- o You have fully completed the voter registration form
- o You have provided the accurate mailing address and physical address
- o You signed your registration form

#### How To Submit The Voter Registration Form

- o Email to [election@mcn-election.com](mailto:election@mcn-election.com) or Fax to: 918-938-0799
- o Save form attachments as: PDF Document, Word document end with .doc or .docx, JPG file, or PNG file
- o Mail to the following address:  
MCN Election Office PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447

### Primary Election

**Early Voting**  
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021  
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021  
**Election Day**  
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021

### General Election

**Early Voting**  
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021  
Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021  
**Election Day**  
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021

PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447  
Email: [election@mcn-election.com](mailto:election@mcn-election.com)

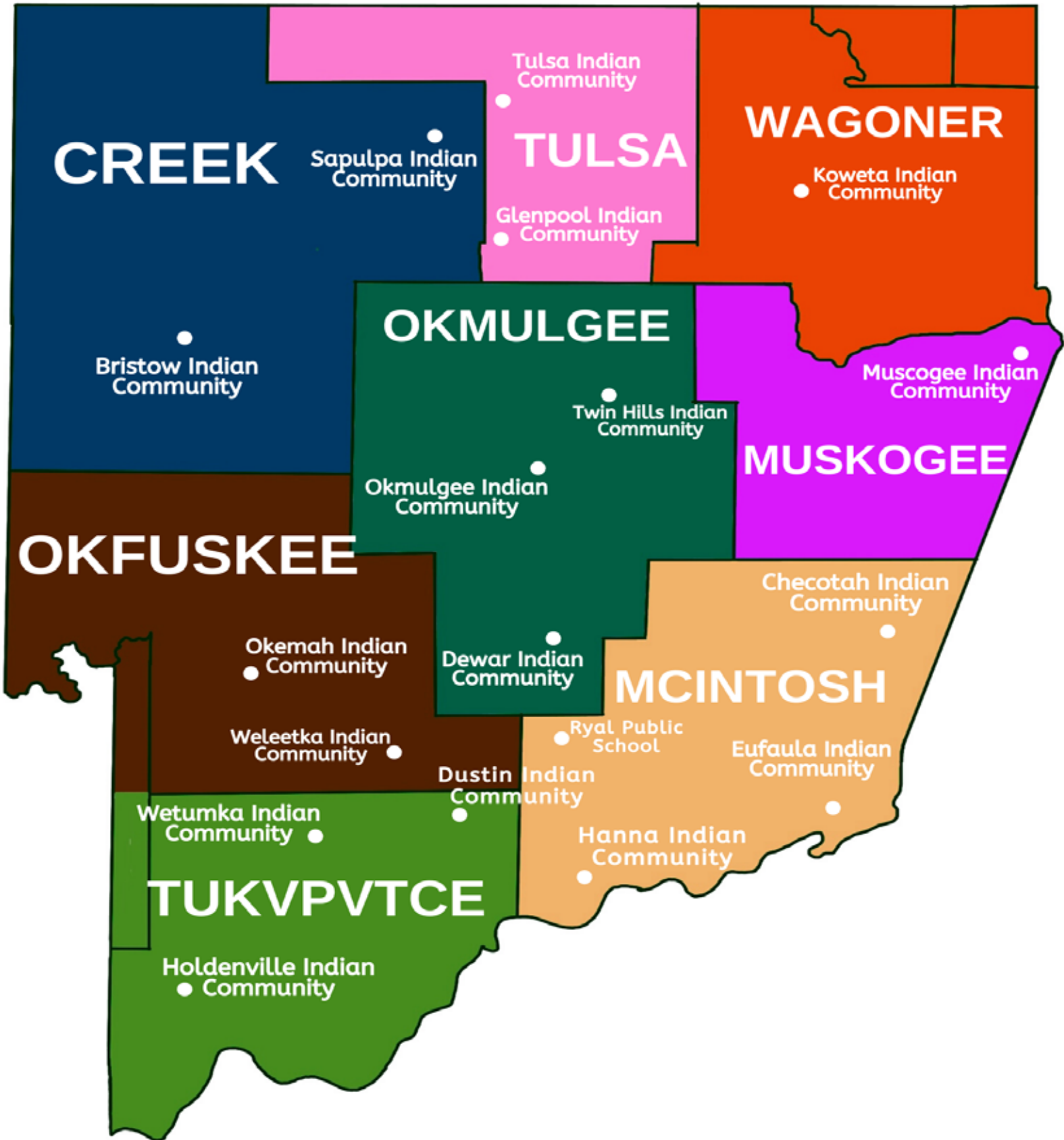
Toll Free: 1-800-482-1979  
Local: 918-732-7631  
Fax: 918-938-0799



MCN Polling Sites Address

1. BRISTOW COMMUNITY: 710 South Main Bristow, OK. 74010
2. CHECOTAH COMMUNITY: 500 Owens Ave. Checotah, OK. 74426
3. DEWAR COMMUNITY: 903 E 6<sup>th</sup> Dewar, OK. 74431
4. DUSTIN COMMUNITY: Intersection of Broadway Ave & Sparks Ave Dustin, OK. 74839
5. GLENPOOL COMMUNITY: 13839 South Casper Glenpool, OK. 74033
6. HANNA COMMUNITY: E of Hwy 52 on E1250 Rd Hanna, OK. 74845
7. HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY: 224 East Poplar St. Holdenville, OK. 74848
8. KOWETA COMMUNITY: 3092 E 141<sup>st</sup> St S Coweta, OK. 74429
9. MUSCOGEE COMMUNITY: 335 N 4<sup>th</sup> St Muskogee, OK. 74401
- 10.OKEMAH COMMUNITY: 1100 S Woody Guthrie Okemah, OK. 74859
- 11.SAPULPA COMMUNITY: 1020 N Brown Sapulpa, OK. 74067
- 12.TULSA COMMUNITY: 8611 S. Union Ave. Tulsa, OK. 74132
- 13.TWIN HILLS COMMUNITY: 8110 N. Hwy 52 Okmulgee, OK. 74447
- 14.WELEETKA COMMUNITY: 603 S Chickasaw Weleetka, OK. 74880
- 15.WETUMKA COMMUNITY: 608 N Creek Wetumka, OK. 74883
- 16.EUFAULA COMMUNITY: 800 Birkes Rd Eufaula, OK 7443
- 17.OKMULGEE COMMUNITY: 2701 N Miami Okmulgee, OK 74447
18. RYAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (Yardeka): 110535 S 3960 Rd Henryetta, OK 74437

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Boundries and Precincts







# "I'm Bored" & Adolescents Pt. 2



In the last article we talked about the adolescent brain and how it is a very unique thing. It is not developmentally working like an adult nor is it functioning like a child. The adolescent brain has a chemical cocktail called LTP (long term potentiation) that is 1 ½ times greater than in children and adults. LTP is what we all use to learn. The adolescent brain is wired to learn 1 ½ times faster than the rest of us.

Theoretically, this means adolescents should learn really fast and not keep making the same mistakes over and over again. But anyone who remembers what it was like when they were an adolescent or has an adolescent in their home knows this to not be the case.

The Amygdala, the part our brain where our feelings predominantly come from along with sensations of pleasure, keeps getting in the way. It is very active, especially in children, which is why they are prone to acting on their feelings. The hope is as the child ages their frontal lobe (the part where logic and reasoning are located) starts working more which helps them to stop and think and not always act on their feelings.

The building of the pathways to the logic and reasoning part of the brain is like building a highway through a grassy field. You don't just drive it a couple of times and the highway just appears. It takes identified learning opportunities, repetition, and effort. But there are a couple hindering factors that delay the development or miss direct the use of the logic and reasoning part of the adolescent brain. They are societal norms, creating opportunity to learn and boredom.

When an adolescent says they are bored, what they are saying is they need or want more stimuli, a situation that evokes a good or extreme feeling, a pleasurable sensation, or this moment does not fit into what I want right now/expectation. In essence, it is a sign they are looking for something to meet one or more of these desires. The concern is what do they find to fill this desire.

When an adolescent is looking for something and doesn't really know what, is a potentially dangerous situation. The best example of this is the teen standing with the refrigerator door open saying they are hungry but can't find what they want. They just know they want something but not what is in the refrigerator. Often, they aren't starving but looking for something that tastes good at that moment. Sometimes they will concede and pick something and other times they will shut the door and say "there is nothing to eat", even though the refrigerator is full.

What happens if a teen is bored and they start looking for something? The availability of options will dictate the outcome. Boredom can be the precursor for mistakes, unhealthy possibly destructive behavior, unhealthy habits, and addiction.

All addiction starts out with a first event or the try. Often this first try is when the adolescent is bored and is looking for something. If they are not happy with what they see they may be more willing to try or do something new. The new may be something they have been warned or told not to do, something a friend introduces or has seen media sources promote. If that something they do or try triggers the emotional/pleasure part of the brain the teen will want to do it again. The grater the emotional/pleasure intensity the greater the desire to repeat it again and again and again. Each time looking for the intense response which is called chasing the high.

Since adolescents have a 1 ½ times higher potential to learn, they will also become addicted 1 ½ times faster than an adult who does the same thing. This is why it is very important to prepare our adolescents to learn from mistakes, be mindful of boredom, learn how to not let their feelings control them, know the risks of addiction, and learn to set future goals and the steps to achieve those goals.

- Some things we can do with our adolescents are:
- Take time to talk with, not to, and build a relationship
  - Reflect on positive ancestral history
  - Ask them what do you think is the best way to respond to different situations
  - Ask about future dreams/goals and help them learn how to achieve them
  - Educate on the warning signs of boredom, addiction, life skills, etc.
  - Keep them busy and involved in: school activities, cultural events, bike riding, walking/running, doing an activity together, going to an event or practice, making something together, fishing, helping someone in need, doing something related to their goals, time with quality friends, taking or letting them drive, redesign their room, planning an event, cooking, etc.
- Our adolescents are our future and we need to do our best to protect, prepare, and educate them for success.

If you or someone you know is experiencing anxiety, worry, fear, stress, or even depression and you feel like talking to someone about would help, contact Muskege (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910. • Text "Creek" to 741-741 if you or someone you know is in a crisis. Or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255.

Mvto!

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The Food Distribution Program provides USDA donated foods to qualifying low-income Native American households as an alternative to the SNAP Program. The Food Distribution Program's goal is to provide timely services to any eligible household while preserving their pride and dignity.

- DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY:**
1. CDIB/Federally Recognized Citizenship Card.
  2. Social Security Card for all household members.
  3. Current utility bill with name and address.
  4. Income Verification for the past thirty days.

OKMULGEE	*WETUMKA	*KOWETA
Muskege (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program 3001 N. Wood Dr.   P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447 Phone: 918.549.2401 Fax: 918.549.2419 Email: mhalton@mcn-nsn.gov	Muskege (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program 614 Spokeke Circle Wetumka, OK 74883 Phone: 405.452.1175 Fax: 918.549.2419 Email: natashah@mcn-nsn.gov	Muskege (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program 31830 E. State Hwy 51 Coweta, OK 74429 Phone: 918.549.2412 Fax: 918.549.2419 Email: aroberts@mcn-nsn.gov
Office Hours: 8am - 5pm	*Closed from 12pm - 1pm	

For eligibility, income guidelines or additional information and services, you may contact one of the Food Distribution Centers located near you or visit our website.  
**1.800.482.1979 | www.mcn-nsn.gov | This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**

- To protect the Food Distribution participants and staff during this time, all 3 sites are closed to the public. Participants will need to call in to their designated site to place their food order and to receive a pick up time.
  - For Home Delivery Participants, no home assessments are being done at this time due to COVID safety measures.
  - Application documents can be either emailed, faxed, mailed, or put in the drop box located at each site. Applications are worked in the order it is received, and a Certification Worker will contact the participant to conduct the interview. *Please make sure a good working phone number is included on at least one of the documents. This will help speed up the process.*
- \*\* Documents can be sent to one of the 3 sites as listed above. \*\***

## ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Muskege (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Program provides a nutritious meal, 5 days a week, for Native American Elders 55+. Meals are provided at 10 Nutrition Centers within Muskege (Creek) Nation boundaries. **Monday - Friday from 11:30am - 1pm.**

- Guidelines:**
1. Must be 55 years or older.
  2. Must complete an Intake Form and provide a copy of a federally recognized Citizenship Card or CDIB.
  3. Non-Native must be married to a Native American who is eligible to receive a free meal.

For additional information and how to apply, you may contact an Elderly Nutrition Center near you or visit the Muskege (Creek) Nation website.  
**Phone: 918.549.2401 | Fax: 918.549.2419 | Toll Free: 1.800.482.1979 | www.mcn-nsn.gov**

<b>BRISTOW CENTER</b> 121 W. Lincoln Bristow, OK 74010 Phone: 918.367.2227	<b>EUFULA CENTER</b> 800 1/2 Birkes Rd. Eufaula, OK 74432 Phone: 918.689.7622	<b>KOWETA CENTER</b> 30901 E. 141st St. S. Coweta, OK 74429 Phone: 918.486.6248	<b>OKEMAH CENTER</b> 1112 S. Woody Guthrie Okemah, OK 74859 Phone: 918.623.3623	<b>SAPULPA CENTER</b> 1020 N. Brown Sapulpa, OK 74066 Phone: 918.224.7987
<b>DEWAR CENTER</b> 903 E. 6th St. Dewar, OK 74431 Phone: 918.652.3310	<b>HOLDENVILLE CENTER</b> 224 E Poplar Holdenville, OK 74848 Phone: 405.379.8010	<b>MUSKOGEE CENTER</b> 111 S. Virginia Muskogee, OK 74401 Phone: 918.682.2072	<b>OKMULGEE CENTER</b> 2975 Martha Berryhill Ave. Okmulgee, OK 74447 Phone: 918.756.2982	<b>WETUMKA CENTER</b> 608 N. Creek Wetumka, OK 74883 Phone: 405.452.3131

- In order to protect elders and staff during this time, Elderly Nutrition Centers are currently not serving meals in a congregate setting. Participants can pick up their daily meals at any of the 10 locations. There must be a current Intake on file in order to receive a meal. Intakes can either be dropped off at any of the 10 sites or put in one of the drop boxes located at Okmulgee, Wetumka, and Koweta Food Distribution.
- For Home Delivery Participants, no home assessments are being done at this time due to COVID safety measures.