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MCN SUPREME COURT: "BY BLOOD" CITIZENSHIP IS UNLAWFUL

DISTRICT COURT DECISION UPHELD IN THE GRAYSON/KENNEDY CASE

BY JERRAD MOORE
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE – On July 23, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court issued its order and opinion in SC-2023-10, Citizenship Board of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Rhonda Grayson. The high court affirmed the district court's decision in the case. According to the opinion:

The Court AFFIRMS the District Court's September 27, 2023, Order and Opinion on Appeal from Citizenship Board of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Denial of Creek Freedmen Citizenship Appli-

cations, on grounds that the Appellant acted "contrary to law" when it failed to apply Article II of the Treaty of 1866, and denied the Respondents' applications for citizenship solely for failure to trace to a lineal descendant on the Creek By-Blood Dawes Roll. Further, the Court finds that any reference to "by blood" citizenship in the 1979 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution to be UNLAWFUL and VOID AB INITIO. The matter is REMANDED to the Appellant, Citizenship Board, who is directed to apply the Treaty of 1866

and issue citizenship to the Respondents, and any other future applicant who is able to establish a lineal descendant on the Creek By Blood Dawes Roll, or the Creek Freedmen Dawes Roll.

On July 24, Mvskoke Media received the following statement from MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman, "We are currently reviewing the order to understand its basis as well as its implications for our processes. It may be necessary to ask for a reconsideration of this order to receive clarity so that we can ensure that we move forward in a legal, constitutional manner."



The Lil Chiefs Basketball team poses for a group photo after winning the Native Jr. Nationals in Mesa, Arizona. (Courtesy: Larissa Jones)

LIL CHIEFS VICTORIOUS!

YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM CLAIMS SECOND NATIVE JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

MESA, Ariz. – The Lil Chiefs 3rd-4th grade boys basketball team recently won their division in the diamond bracket at the Native Jr. Nationals on June 27-29. They now have an automatic berth into the Indigenous Hawaii Classic in April 2026.

Joshua Roberts (Mvskoke) is one of the team's parents. His son, Kian, joined the team this season. According to Roberts, Kian (Mvskoke) underwent intensive training and learned a lot about the game.

"We would have brutal training. We would have brutal practices," Roberts said. "The Lil Chiefs would practice with the Big Chiefs. We have a fifth and sixth grade team that also made nationals. Coach Micco Kionute combined the practices. They would be pretty grinding."

Micco Kionute (Delaware) is the head coach for the Lil Chiefs and the Big Chiefs. Although the two teams Kionute coaches are composed of third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders, he treats them just like a professional or college team. Practice involved exercises like bear crawls and all-out wind sprints. Team parents, in solidarity, would participate in the exercises as well.

Roberts remarked that the team is lucky to have Kionute leading the boys. Although his methods are rigorous, he cares about who the boys are as people, not just athletes.

"He doesn't play favorites. He analyzes the game pretty well," Roberts said. "He can decide which player is needed during a certain time of the game. He's very competitive. He's always looking out for the kids and their interests. It's not just basketball, he's teaching them a lot about becoming a good person. He's a good coach."

Kian and his family are fans of the Oklahoma City Thunder, and watching the NBA Finals was exciting for the family. "If we weren't practicing for the Lil

Chiefs, getting ready for Mesa, we were at home preparing dinner for the Thunder games," Roberts said.

Roberts and Kian were among the crowds cheering on the Thunder as they made their way down the streets of Oklahoma City for the historic championship celebration two-mile parade. Roberts said he and Kian could feel the excitement from the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to see their favorite team.

Star players that have inspired Kian include shooting guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and former shooting guard Lindy Watters III (Kiowa/Cherokee).

A Buzzer Beater

The Lil Chiefs went up against the Cass Lake Minnesota Supremes in the National Jr. finals. Down in the final few seconds of the game, team player Clarence Ross made the winning three-point shot to secure the team's second national title.

"It was a very overwhelming sensation, emotional," Roberts said. "It was hard for the dads. All the moms were crying of course. It was hard for the dads to hold back. Once the shot went through the net it was pandemonium. It was an overwhelming sensation of joy."

The team now has a secured spot in the 808 INDGNS Hui Classic in April 2026. The three-day tournament features boys and girls brackets for grades three through 12. Attended by NCAA coaches, it provides athletes with exposure and helps them stand out when it comes time to commit to a college team.

The Lil Chiefs are currently in the process of fundraising money to travel to Hawaii for next year's tournament. For those who would like to help the team, donations can be made through Cash App, username OKChiefs2032. Roberts said any donation made is greatly appreciated.

MCN CELEBRATES SOVEREIGNTY DAY

TRIBAL LEADERS AND LEAD COUNSEL REFLECT ON THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT DECISION THAT AFFIRMED MUSCOGEE NATION'S RESERVATION



A panel discusses the past five years since the McGirt Decision was released and the progress the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has made in exercising their sovereignty. (Braden Harper/MM)

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE – A Sovereignty Day program was held at the College of the Muscogee Nation on July 8 to mark the fifth anniversary of the historic McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling. Event speakers included Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill, lead attorney for the MCN in McGirt v. Oklahoma Riyaz Kanji, and Muscogee National Council Speaker Randall Hicks. The main feature of the program included a panel of Tribal leaders including Deputy Attorney General Geri Wisner, Deputy Secretary of Health Tim Hicks, Secretary of Culture and Humanities Raelynn Butler, and Chief of Staff Jeff Fife. MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman moderated the panel. The event commissioned a time capsule with contributions from Tribal departments including documents, photos, artwork, and other various items that captured moments in Mvskoke history from 2025.

Chief Hill remarked that the day the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision was a paramount one for the Nation because it reaffirmed the United States' prom-

ise outlined in the Treaty of 1866. According to Chief Hill, although sovereignty has not always been properly recognized and respected, it has shaped the Nation into what it is today.

"July 9, 2020 changed Muscogee Creek Nation. July 9, 2020 changed Oklahoma. July 9, 2020 changed Indian Country," Chief Hill said. "They tried to bury us but they didn't know that they were planting the seeds. That's who we are today."

The McGirt case heard oral arguments during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when court proceedings were conducted by teleconference. Kanji argued the Nation's case before SCOTUS in front of a computer screen in his living room. According to Kanji, their strategy for winning was to simply tell the story of the Mvskoke Nation.

"When people ask us, 'how did we win the McGirt Decision?' The answer is that we were able to vindicate the Creek Nation's sovereignty because the Creek Nation exercises its sovereignty in such a robust way,"

"The Nation had never ceased to function as a robust government. That's what made all the difference in the (McGirt) case. That's what gave the Supreme Court Justices the comfort to do the right thing and follow as Judge Gorsuch said 'The rule of law as opposed to the will of the strong'." - McGirt Lead Attorney Riyaz Kanji

Kanji said. "We simply had to tell the story. The story was being written through the incredible governance by the Creek Nation."

The story involved MCN Light-horse Police and its efforts assisting other law enforcement agencies on the reservation. Kanji's team also told the story about the Nation's health department and the services they provided to all Tribal citizens of federally-recognized tribes, not just Mvskoke citizens. Education, including Headstart and the College of the Muscogee Nation, were both integral to painting the picture of how the Nation exercises sovereignty.

Speaker Hicks described sovereignty as "the heartbeat of the Nation that has endured all odds." He remarked that sovereignty predates

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THREE PONDS ELDERLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STUCK IN SIX-YEAR QUAGMIRE

AS THE PROJECT INCHES TOWARDS COMPLETION DATE

BY MEREDITH JOHNSON
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – On March 28, 2019, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a groundbreaking ceremony and announced the beginning of the AKHVSE TVT-CENEN- Three Ponds Elder Housing construction project. It has been six years since the project was announced.

The project, as part of the MCN Tribal Master Plan, includes 72 cottage-style single housing units to elderly MCN citizens. The community-structured housing development would be located near the tribal complex off Mission Ave. in Okmulgee. The plans, designed by

New Fire Native Design Group, featured a 36-acre development that would also host a central activity center, community gardens, and walking trails.

At the groundbreaking, then Principal Chief James Floyd commented on the need for elderly housing. “More of our citizens are getting into the elderly category in normal time. So, the demand is only going to rise but they are living longer and we wanted to make sure that we have a plan for them to have a healthy lifestyle as they age.”

The \$13M HUD funded project was awarded to Harris Construction in June 2020. MCN Executive quarterly reports from

2019-2025 paint a picture of a project marred by setbacks and delays. Since announcing the project, the MCN has had six different Secretaries of the Department of Housing: Jaime Nichols, Beverly Snow, Tracy Revis, Natie Beauty, Jeff Fife, and current Secretary of Housing Little Snowfield. According to the reports, the official start date of the project was July 2020 with work to be completed in early 2022. This start date was pushed back to July 2021 with the reports citing “site grading and weather issues.”

Work began on slabs, framing, and civil work in Oct. 2021 and continued until July 2022, when a wetlands issue emerged in the reports. Scant information is given about the necessary restoration, but according to the reports, the restoration was completed nearly

a year later in June 2023. The cottages and activity center were completed by April 2024.

According to the 1st quarterly report from FY 2025, “Akhvse Tutcenen (Three Ponds) project units and buildings are complete. The roads are still under construction. The manager has been processing applications and working on the waiting list. The maintenance staff has helped with cleaning up around the buildings, mowing, weed eating, placing sod down and watering the grounds.”

According to the recent 2nd quarterly report from FY 2025, “Three Ponds Drainage, Roads and Driveway Construction began on October 1, 2024 with McGuire Brothers Construction. It should be completed by July 2025. The Elders Center (Three Ponds) and

the Maintenance Building is at 100% complete and utility services are online. The Roads are being worked on by the McGuire Brothers. They are working on the roads and drainage project under the direction of the Federal Roads.” It also states, “The road and drainage project are 40% complete. The total project is 98% complete.”

The site served as a location for FX series “Reservation Dogs” set, appearing in Season 2, episode 3 “Roofing” that aired on August 10, 2022.

Mvskoke Media has reached out to Principal Chief David Hill, Chief of Staff Jeff Fife, and Housing Secretary Little Snow Fields for a statement about the setbacks and an updated completion date. As of press time, we have not received a response.



Original concept of the development, 2019. (Image Courtesy: New Fire Native Design Group)



Three Ponds development on July 3, 2025 with newly constructed roads. (MM)

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION FILES SUIT AGAINST THE CITY OF HENRYETTA

MCN ALLEGES HENRYETTA CONTINUES TO ASSERT JURISDICTION OVER NATIVE AMERICANS.

BY JERRAD MOORE
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

MUSKOGEE – The Muscogee Creek Nation has filed suit against the City of Henryetta in federal court. The suit, which was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, alleges that Henryetta continues to assert jurisdiction over Native Americans on the MCN reservation. According to the filing:

On September 23, 2024, in response to reports that the City was continuing to prosecute Nation citizens and other Indians notwithstanding the McGirt decision, the Nation sent a letter to the City Attorney, informing him of the controlling jurisdictional principles in effect within the Nation’s Reservation and seeking additional information regarding the City’s practices and policies with

respect to prosecuting Nation citizens and other Indians. Although the City Attorney did not respond to this letter, the Nation subsequently received information that the City’s Chief of Police had instructed his officers not to call the Nation’s Lighthorse Police Department for assistance regarding the arrest or ticketing of Nation citizens or other Indians detained or arrested within the City. In response to this information, the Nation’s Attorney General contacted the City Attorney, who confirmed the City’s position that it possesses jurisdiction over Nation citizens and other Indians within the Creek Reservation notwithstanding the McGirt decision. Although the Nation’s Attorney General informed the City Attorney that these prosecu-



MCN v Henryetta

tions violated federal law and the Nation’s sovereign rights, and offered to assist the City Attorney in ensuring that the City’s policies conform to law, the City Attorney has declined the Nation’s offer. The Nation is aware of multiple instances of the City pursuing prosecutions against Nation citizens since the Nation’s Attorney General raised the issue with the City Attorney. These prosecutions have been undertaken despite clear knowledge on the part of the City that the defendants in question were Creek citizens. In many instances, the City’s refusal to recognize and honor the Nation’s juris-

diction has resulted in significant hardships for the Nation citizens in question. The City is engaged in law enforcement practices that conflict with the Nation’s own considered approach to law enforcement involving Indians within its Reservation and in so doing is further impairing the Nation’s federally guaranteed rights of self-government.

The suit asks for a declaratory judgement that the City of Henryetta lacks criminal jurisdiction over Native Americans. It also asks for a preliminary and permanent injunction barring the City from exercising jurisdiction over Native Americans on the MCN reservation.

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colonization, it is what has allowed the Mvskoklvke to thrive today.

“Sovereignty is not a word we celebrate only in ceremony or in courtrooms. It’s the spirit that moves through our governance, our language, our lands and our daily lives,” Speaker Hicks said. “Long before the founding of the United States the Muscogee Nation governed itself. We held council fires, we honored a clan’s responsibilities. We protected our homelands. That sovereignty was not granted to us by a treaty. It existed long before treaties. It is not bestowed by court, but is undeniably affirmed by a case like McGirt vs. Oklahoma.”

Although the decision reaffirming sovereignty has been the rule of law for the past five years, Kanji said the fight to progress and preserve continues on.

“The five years since the McGirt Decision had been decided has been both inspiring and challenging,” Kanji said. “Inspiring because the Nation has continued to govern and has expanded its governance and has risen to the challenge of the decision. Challenging because as Principal Chief said, there remain opponents, great opponents of this exercise of sovereignty.”

After the panel, Chief Hill and Kissee locked and sealed the Muscogee Nation Time Capsule. The capsule will be stored in the new Citizenship Services Building and will remain there until it is scheduled to be opened on July 9, 2050.



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OKFUSKEE INDIAN COMMUNITY COACH ACHIEVES MILESTONE

2025 MCN FEST' MARKED IRENE CULLEY'S 40TH YEAR AS JR. OLYMPICS COACH



The Okfuskee Indian Community Coach Irene Culley on her 40th year as coach. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)



Farron Culley coaches an OIC team. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)

by SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

BEGGS – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Junior Olympics took place at Beggs High School on Saturday, June 28. According to the AthleticLive,19 teams competed this year in softball throw, tug of war, jump rope, long jump, foot-ball throw, and track events. That Saturday also marked the 40th year for Irene Culley (Mvskoke) to coach the Jr. Olympics team for the Okfuskee Indian Community. She spoke to Mvskoke Media about starting out, her motivation, and what she has enjoyed the most in her decades of service.

When Culley and her late husband, Farron (Seminole/

Mvskoke), moved back to Mason in 1984 from Ada, they both were very active in sports and with youth groups. They were later asked by Geneva Douglas from Mason School if they would like to help with the MCN Junior Olympics team.

“Our first year in 1985 we had 19 kids, who were all country cousins in the Mason area. The kids were from the Harjochee, Phillips, Hicks, McPerryman, West, Smith and Culley families,” Culley said.

“We started the practice in our backyard ball field, and as we started having more participants we moved them to the IXL ball field then to the Henryetta track field.”

For Culley, every child should

get the opportunity to train and compete. “We have had 40 to 90 participants, they came from our alumni, friends, cousins and the kids who got left out in their community. We never turned down any kid who wanted to run,” Culley said.

Culley’s husband coached for 28 years, and he loved motivating the team and the opportunity to help kids. After Culley lost her husband to cancer in September 2008, she and their children continued his legacy with help from friends, family and alumni.

Culley’s motivation of pushing forward was to stay active and keep the kids active in sports. She explained that her community during that time didn’t have any

activities for the youth throughout the year, so they wanted to help keep them active.

“Also my children and grandchildren are my biggest motivators, they want me to keep coaching ‘til my youngest grandchild is participating and he’s two years old, I can’t say I’ll still be coaching that’s a few years away. I’ve been trying to retire and they won’t let me,” Culley said.

After doing this for 40 years, Culley most enjoys seeing kids return each year until they age out. Culley sees the excitement and happiness when they are on her team.

One of Culley’s greatest memories in coaching is the team winning 1st place. Culley remembers

that day very well, she saw the excitement and smiles and heard the screams when their team was announced. After that, she said that the kids became determined and motivated to win.

Culley gets help throughout the preparation and day of Junior Olympics from her family, friends, and alumni. “I want to thank all the families that have been on this journey with me, love you all!” Culley said.

“In my 40 years of coaching I have made so many wonderful friends, and I have seen community changes with the Junior Olympics, I’ve seen community change coaches, event coordinators, even locations, and I’m so glad it is still continuing,” Culley said.



Coach Farron Culley at the 2008 MCN Junior Olympics. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)



The OIC Jr. Olympics Team from the 1980s. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)



The OIC Jr Olympics Team celebrates with their trophy after their win. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)



The OIC Jr. Olympics Team from the 1980s. (Photo Courtesy: Talia Culley King)

CANDIDATE PROFILES.

Mvskoke Media will be publishing candidate profiles for the 2025 National Council Seat B election in the September 1 edition of the Mvskoke News. If you would like to have your profile appear in this issue of the newspaper, have your campaign contact info@mvskokemedia.com or call 918.732.7720 by **MONDAY, AUG. 4 @ 5:00 P.M. CST.**

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DANA TIGER: BEAUTY FLOWS

BY RILEY MORRIS
UNT

The following article is an original work, written and produced by student reporters from the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. In March 2025, Mvskoke Media hosted nine students for a site specific, field reporting program with a focus on the history, culture, and people of the Mvskoke Nation. Their week-long efforts on the reservation culminated in written and visual projects, the full scope of which can be found at the project’s website [Muscogeevoices.com](#).

MUSKOGEE – At the end of a short road in a corner of Muskogee, the Tiger Art Gallery sits in an unobtrusive row of buildings. The small parking lot is laced with cracks showing green stems crawling through. The building is set low into the ground with an old concrete staircase.

A narrow pathway winds past odd items and an old ambulance in the side yard and into the cluttered work space, filled from floor to ceiling with paintings, supplies, T-shirts, cases, tables, chairs, easels and a great big fluffy cat.

Standing at a desk is the gallery’s namesake, a whirlwind of an artist named Dana Tiger.

“I think of this as the center of the world,” she says.

She welcomes visitors like old friends, talking about anything and everything. The gallery seems to match her perfectly with its colorful aura. It’s a small room, filled to the brim with memorabilia. The walls are covered in her art. A cat is wandering around and meowing.

“He’s interrupted so many interviews” Dana says while introducing Fat Cat.

Tiger, 63, is a world renowned artist, known for her portrayals of strong women and for using her art as a medium for activism and awareness. She has been painting since she was 24 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame in 2001 for her work. She has lived with Parkinson’s disease since 1995 and has adapted her painting style to fit her body’s movements. She says her key to life is laughter.

The Beginning

Her father was legendary artist Jerome Tiger, who died from an accidental shooting when she was only 5. Her mother, Peggy Tiger, created the Jerome Tiger Art Company to remember him.

“[Growing up], we were surrounded by his art [and] that kept him close to us: me, my sister, and my brother,” she says, looking off to the side, seemingly in deep thought.

Dana says she never wanted to be an artist. She went to school for political science for three years. After her boyfriend was killed, however, she dropped out and went back home. She turned to alcohol for the following year to cope.

“Painting your thoughts and feelings – you can either go that route or use drugs and drink – and I had done that before – and art is what I replaced that with,” she says. “I can always remember that I quit drinking when I was 24 and made a promise that I would paint or draw every day for a year to see what would happen.”

She looks off to the side for a moment once more, hands shaking from the Parkinson’s.

The Art

Dana started painting after being inspired by her father. She says at first she copied his style, such as his depictions of the Trail of Tears. She took inspiration from his knowledge. His parents were fluent native speakers of Muskogee and he grew up surrounded by the culture.

This original paternal inspiration shows itself in most of her art. She talks about one painting in particular, titled “Freedom to Choose.” There is a woman sitting, head in fist as she looks off in thought. The bottom half of the painting has deteriorated from being passed around for several decades.

“In our cultural, tribal way, the

women decide for their own body what was going to happen. It wasn’t a big legislative decision,” she says. “And, you know, they had to dis-empower the women before they took control of the whole land base that we had.”

She also said her brother, Chris, was a similar inspiration for her. He was murdered in 1990.

“My brother and my father had true vision. They loved art, they loved doing it. I had that turmoil [with it].”

Dana talks a lot about her mother, Peggy, and sister, Lisa, noting that they are some of the biggest inspirations for her art. She boasts about how strong her mother was, adamantly stating that she could do anything. She speaks about her almost reverently.

“She always believed in me, too, even though I was a wild child,” she laughs.

She describes her mother’s love of books, her brilliant mind, and all the hard work she put into taking care of the family.

“An earthquake could happen and the street could fall into the depths of the earth and [it] wouldn’t faze her. She was so tough.” Dana grins. She’s been laughing as she spoke, seeming to find joy in the remembrance.

Her mom passed away young, Dana says. She had been in a wreck and was in the hospital on life support. But Peggy was able to make it home before she died. Dana remembers that night vividly.

Dana gestures to a few lines on a painting sitting next to her. She painted it for Joy Harjo’s book “Washing My Mother’s Body: A Ceremony of Grief.”

“These trees right here symbolize the trees in my front yard at the house she built on the west side of my bedroom that I grew up in. And the day she died – that night when they were taking her body out for the last time, she was leaving the house, this star shown between those trees.”

She recalls the Larry McMurtry novel “The Evening Star” and the movie based on it, which makes her cry every time she watches it.

“And there that star came to me, I swear to God, that night that she left. And how, how effing powerful is that? I mean, that’s my mother just being shining on for me. The day she left the house, she was still there, and would always be there.”

She speaks of her sister, Lisa, with respect. Her sister also has Parkinson’s, but in addition is HIV+. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dana describes Lisa as one of the strongest people she knows and the source of inspiration for most of her artwork. When Lisa was diagnosed with HIV, Dana says she didn’t know what was going to happen.

“I asked her what could I do? I’d do anything when she got AIDS cause I didn’t know what – I thought she was gonna die immediately or something.” She looks at a poster in the corner that says “HIV/AIDS: It’s Not Over,” which she designed in her sister’s honor.

All Lisa wanted was for Dana to marry Donnie – her now husband of 32 years – and let her be the best woman at the wedding. Despite Dana’s previous pride in not getting married, she followed her sister’s wishes. She says she doesn’t regret it.

Dana was diagnosed with Parkinson’s in 1999 but had been experiencing symptoms since 1995. Parkinson’s is a progressive neurological disorder that mainly affects movement in a way that causes tremors, balance problems, and other similar symptoms. There



Dana Tiger Prays in her Prayer Circle in Muskogee, Okla. (Riley Morris/UNT)

is no known cure; however, Dana expresses that she believes she can find a cure through holistic remedies. When she stops painting, she wants to do more gardening to pursue this.

Dana summarizes her experiences both with living with Parkinson’s and receiving her diagnosis. “I just thought, you know, that’s life. But it was a relief to figure out I had something that had a name and they had a medication that could help me be somewhat normal.” She laughs before continuing. “I do not know what normal is like.”

Because of her Parkinson’s diagnosis, Dana had to find a new way to paint. She adopted a more free-flowing style that coincides with her body movements. She describes it as “just flinging paint around.”

“It worked. People loved it better than they loved my other stuff!” She continues by saying every painting she’s made has sold. She says that if her Parkinson’s had prevented her from painting with her hands, she would just “scoot [her] body across the floor and make something.” She laughs, saying, “when you want to create something, you find a way.”

The Future

Another side of the family business is selling T-shirts with the Tiger logo on them. Her son, Lisan, prints them in a back room at the gallery. Her mother and uncle started the company and it gained huge traction in the mainstream. The business provided for Dana and her siblings growing up. Dana is the eldest Tiger now and she is in charge of the company that her mother and uncle worked so hard for. She believes, however, that it isn’t all on her now, although it was for a time. She, her husband, and her children all work to keep the family’s art and business alive.

“Everybody kind of comes together and some beauty flows. I love that.”

Her daughter, Christie, named

in honor of Dana’s brother, and her son, Lisan, named in honor of Dana’s sister, are both award-winning artists. Christie’s specialty is drawing and painting and Lisan’s specialty is sculpture.

“It’s really not about me anymore. But I’m so lucky, I’m so thankful, [that I have] such great beauty around me.”

Dana is confident that her children will be able to be able to take care of themselves like everyone that came before them.

“I just really look [forward to] the day that they let mama retire!” She laughs.

Recently, an award winning short film was made about Dana Tiger’s life and legacy. It won an award at the Sundance Film Festival.

“It’s setting for the future in a good strong way that’s gonna take care of what we have to say ‘cause we need those messages to get out there that we gotta control our own destiny, through food, through art, through stories, we gotta sing it and paint it and live it.”

The director of the film, Loren Waters, hopes to get grant money to build another gallery nearby the original to showcase Tiger art and be a welcoming place for people from all over the world.

The Legacy

The sun blinds us as we walk outside. She leads us down the small path in front and past the

side yard to a small field. The path in the grass is worn down from years of foot traffic.

It seems several stones are missing from the walkway. The field is empty except a few cedar trees, a far-away stickball field, and her prayer circle. It’s on a mound of sticks and brush. Half-made walls surround it, forming a circle around three large branches forming a point over where she sits in front of a small circle of rocks.

She lights pieces of cedar from the trees on the edge of the property in a seashell. She waves it over herself, staring up into the sky every once in a while with an ethereal expression on her face.

She invites us to join her and allows us to wave cedar smoke over ourselves. The ground is solid, packed down firmly into a large mound. She tells us that on a certain date in October, the sun is positioned perfectly to shine directly on the mound. She’s made it into her own mini holiday. She shows us her paper pile where she creates fertilizer from trash. She shows us the young peach trees near the front of her yard and tells us how their seeds are from the trees her ancestors carried over on the Trail of Tears from Georgia.

She has kept this land that her mother left to her and will carry on the family’s legacy here.

“It’s good when we finally realize what we are, what we have within us and can do. And I love it when my art makes people see that within themselves.”



Riley Morris is a student in the Department of Media Arts with a minor in photography. They want to pursue broadcasting through producing or video editing when they graduate in December 2025. They have worked with North Texas Television in many capacities and currently intern at the Dallas Cowboys in their event presentation department. To get in touch with them, you can email them at kaitlynmorris101@gmail.com

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS FROM MUSCOGEE NATION JOIN FORCES IN ARIZONA FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS

Three enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Nation firefighters have been on the front lines in Arizona, battling wildfires that have scorched thousands of acres across the state over the past two months.

Robert Nix of the BIA-Eastern Region, Nelson Battiest from the BIA-Okmulgee Agency, and Brayden Brown, also from BIA-Okmulgee, were deployed as part of a coordinated federal wildfire response. The team has spent several weeks supporting firefighting operations alongside tribal, federal, and state partners throughout Arizona.

“These men have shown incredible dedication and professionalism,” said a Bureau of Indian Affairs spokesperson. “They’ve worked in extreme conditions to help protect land, communities, and cultural resources.”

The firefighters are pictured below in front of the Tohono O’odham Nation Emergency Management Mobile Command Office, one of several key staging points during their deployment.

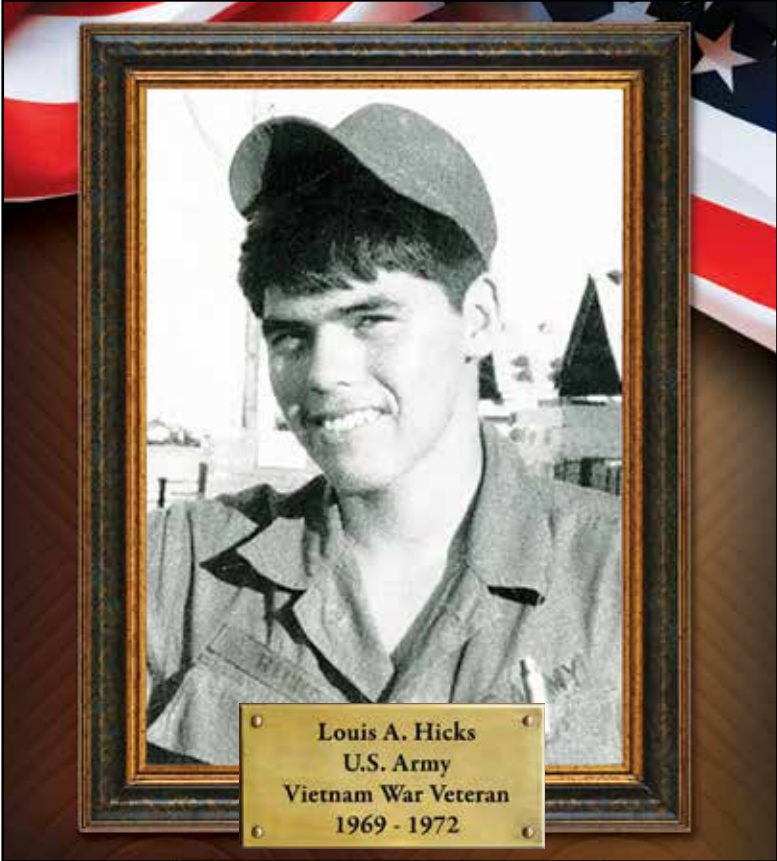
Their service is part of a broader interagency mobilization effort during what has already proven to be an intense fire season in the Southwest. The team expects to rotate back home in the coming weeks, pending fire activity and operational needs.



Left to right: Robert Nix (BIA-Eastern Region), Nelson Battiest (BIA-Okmulgee Agency), and Brayden Brown (BIA-Okmulgee Agency) stand outside the Tohono O’odham Nation Emergency Management Office during their wildfire deployment in Arizona.

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

LOUIS A. HICKS



(Image Courtesy: VASO)

The Muscogee Nation Veterans Services Office is proud to honor tribal veteran Louis A. Hicks for his dedicated service to the U.S. Army, the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Louis honorably served over two years from 1969 to 1972 and is a recipient of several honors: Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, 2 Overseas Bars and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Mvto Mr. Hicks for your selfless service to your country and your community.

MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

CMN HOLDS RESOURCE FAIR IN OKEMAH

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTERS PART OF PREVENTION WORK

BY THOMAS JACKSON
REPORTER

OKEMAH – The College of Muscogee Nation continued its community outreach work by holding a health resource fair at the Okemah Indian Community Center on Monday, July 14. The event was attended by multiple organizations that work to keep the public informed, including the following:

- Muscogee Nation Social Services
- Muscogee Nation Center for Victim Services
- Muscogee Nation Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mvskoke Nation Youth Services

- Muscogee Nation Reintegration
- Muscogee Nation Children and Family Services Administration
- College of Muscogee Nation Health & Wellness

The booths promoted topics ranging from stopping substance abuse to promoting safety and stability in families.

This resource fair was organized by Kim Morrison, a Case Manager with the College of the Muscogee Nation’s Health and Wellness Services and part of a larger effort to work with local community centers on mental health and prevention.

According to Morrison, the fairs bring information and



The College of the Muscogee Nation was one of many organizations giving out free resources at the Okemah Indian Community Center on July 14 (Thomas Jackson/MM)

activities that communities request, with activities ranging from resource fairs like this one to first aid and mental health training. Activities such as stickball, storytelling, yoga, and clothing making are also provided.

“Our goal is to provide prevention/resources to the students and to the citizens within the reservation regarding mental health, suicide prevention, and substance abuse,” Morrison said.“We have a lot of activities on campus for the students, such

as Wellness Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. in the Administration Building Lobby.” For more information on the work that CMN’s Health & Wellness Services does, visit their website at <https://cmn.edu/health>.



Tribal Nations in Oklahoma had a 23.4 Billion economic impact in 2023 (Photo Courtesy: MA+ Architecture)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRIBAL NATIONS IN OKLAHOMA TOTALS \$23.4 B

THE REPORT EXAMINES DATA FROM 2023 INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT, TRIBAL BUSINESS, AND NATIVE NATIONS CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

BY FRANCES HERROD
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY – Tribal governments and businesses had a \$23.4 billion impact on the statewide economy in FY 2023, according to the United for Oklahoma Economic Impact of Tribal Nations in Oklahoma report that was released May 23, 2025.

Oklahoma City University Economics Professor Kyle D. Dean examined 2023 data, which included employment, tribal business, and capital projects expenditures, to arrive at the overall financial contributions Tribal Nations bring to the state.

Oklahoma is home to 38 Native Nations, however just 19

are represented in the report, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation included.

According to the report, the participating Nations directly employed 55,695 workers in Oklahoma and paid out \$3.3 billion in wages and benefits, including healthcare and retirement plans.

The \$23.4 billion represents the largest increase in economic activity between fiscal years to date. The increase from FY 2019 to FY 2023 is a \$4.9 billion increase, almost double the impact of FY 2017 to 2019.

“The positive impact of our tribal nations has long been known in Oklahoma,” said State Representative Scott Fetgatter (Choctaw) R-Okmulgee, accord-

ing to a press release.

“This report gives concrete data to show just how significant that impact is to all of the people who call our state home – whether that be through stable and secure housing, good-paying jobs, education, health care services, contributions to our state infrastructure or much more. That’s not even accounting for the cultural enrichment the tribes bring to our state. I’m grateful for the relationship we have with the leaders and citizens of our tribal nations.”

United For Oklahoma is a public education initiative supported by a coalition of tribes that are committed to nurturing mutual respect, shared strength and productive partnerships.

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BY **THOMAS JACKSON**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – On July 8, the Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation Committee held an in-person meeting. Passed legislation will go on to the next full council meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

TR 25-055 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute three Memorandums of Understanding, two with the County of Okmulgee and one with the County of Hughes, regarding the maintenance of

AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOLUTION PASSES LNC

MCN TO FUND ROADS REPAIRS IN OKMULGEE AND HUGHES COUNTIES

roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program passed with a vote of 3-0. Representative Robyn sponsored the resolution.

If adopted, this resolution will allow the Muscogee Nation to fund the repair of public roadways in Hughes County and Okmulgee County.

TR 25-056 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Okmulgee and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the relocation of utilities, the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or approved by the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored the resolution.

If adopted, this resolution will allow the Muscogee Nation to fund roadway reconstruction and drainage improvements on Fairgrounds Road in Okmulgee.

TR 25-057 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Okmulgee for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored the resolution.

If adopted, this resolution will allow for the remodeling of a por-

tion of Highway starting east of Highway 56 and proceeding east to the corner of Old Morris Highway and North 280 Road.

TR 25-058 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Eufaula for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program passed with a vote of 3-0. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored and Representative Galen Cloud co-sponsored the resolution.

If adopted, this resolution will allow for the removal and replacement of roughly one mile of asphalt on Birkes Road and roughly 0.10 miles of asphalt on Industrial Drive in Eufaula.

TR 25-059 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit an Affordable Housing Tax Credits Program, Low

Income Tax Credit application to the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency for the benefit of the Department of Housing passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Cloud sponsored the resolution.

If adopted, this resolution would potentially allow for the establishing of more affordable housing units and for the remodeling and upkeep of existing affordable housing units.

NCA 25-061 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the benefit of the Department of Housing, to the amount of \$31,693,897, passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Cloud sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this law will allow the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to use money awarded for the purpose of creating more affordable housing, in accordance with the Indian Housing Block Grant.

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

HEW APPROVES EARLY IN PERSON VOTING SITES

ZOYAHA FEST FUNDING PASSES TO FULL COUNCIL



BY **FRANCES HERROD**
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – On July 8, the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee held an in-person meeting. Passed legislation will go on to the next full coun-

cil meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

TR 25-054 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the early in person voting

sites for the 2025 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election cycle. The resolution passed 4-0. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the resolution.

The resolution approved the Eufaula Indian Community Center, Tulsa Indian Community Center, Okemah Indian Community Center and the Okmulgee Indian Community Center as sites for early in person voting for the 2025 election cycle.

TR 25-060 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the absentee workers for the 2025 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election season. The resolution passed 4-0. Rep. Yahola-Osborn sponsored the resolution.

The resolution approved 10 absentee workers and two alternates to serve during the 2025 MCN election: Lynetta Eyachabbe, Holly Dunn, Cindy Harjo, Lillian Thomas, Mona McManus, Mary

Peak, Brenda Hilligoss, Rena Patterson, Diana Beasley, Wendy Dunson, Carolyn Billy (alternate), and Janelle Proctor(alternate).

NCA 25-058 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation food distribution program. The legislation passed 4-0. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation.

The legislation authorizes the expenditure of \$230,000 awarded through the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Indian Reservations Nutrition Education Plan Grant, which will be used to create and distribute culturally relevant nutrition, food safety, meal planning, and healthy living information.

NCA 25-059 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds

awarded as a pass through entity with the National Indian Health Board and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The legislation passed 4-0. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation.

The grant, totaling \$15,000.00, will be used to support Covid-19, Flu, and RSV vaccination events.

NCA 25-060 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNA Title 35, Chapter 12, entitled “Donations.” The legislation passed 4-0. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation.

The legislation amends MCNA Title 35, Chapter 12 to include a yearly allocation of \$15,000 for the annual ZOyaha Fest to begin in FY 2025 and be included in the FY2026 Comprehensive Annual Budget and annually thereafter.

To view the full agenda, visit mcnnc.com.

2025 National Council Seat B General Election Dates & Deadlines

(Formerly titled as Primary)

Early Voting

Wednesday
September 17th & 18th
7AM-7PM

Thursday
August 21st
First day absentee ballots will be mailed to voters

Election Day

Saturday
September 20th
7AM-7PM

Wednesday
August 27th
Deadline to request an absentee ballot for the General Election

Tuesday
September 9th
Deadline to register to vote in the General Election

The election titles were changed by the adoption of NCA 25-040.

Contact us for any information
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(Courtesy: BESH)

SOUR SOFKEE

BY FUS YVHIKV

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

“It’s All Creek to Me”

“Thluh, thluh, thluh,” Tarpalechee stammers.

“Duh, duh, duh,” I say mockingly.

The Frybread Boys crack up laughing.

“Spit it out, Tarp,” Yahola says.

“You can do it!”

“No he can’t,” Fixico says.

“Look at that contorted face!”

Tarpalechee’s face is indeed



(Courtesy: BESH)

severely contorted. He has the pained expression of a man who just ate two Burrito Supremes at Taco Bell and now has acute gas and bloating. His strained face is made more comical due to his lips forming an “O” while flicking his tongue as he tries to correctly pronounce the Creek R sound.

“I think he needs to head to the cukuce. Stat!” Fixico says as he tosses a roll of toilet paper at Tarpalechee.

Tarpalechee’s face returns to its normal hang dog expression.

“Shhh! You boys go away,” Tarp commands. “Can’t you see I’m in my Creek language class? I’m trying to pronounce the R sound in our language.”

Tarpalechee points to his Dell laptop which is covered in duct tape. The image of the Creek language instructor is grainy and cloudy, but the audio is surpris-

ingly good for a 15-year-old laptop. Tarpalechee closes the laptop and pounds it with his fist. When he reopens it, the picture is clear as White Lightening.

“You’re taking a Creek language class?” Yahola asks.

“Why would he do that. He still hasn’t mastered basic English,” I say.

“Aaaaaaaay,” Yahola and Fixico respond.

There is no R sound in the Creek language as in English,” the Creek teacher says. “In the Creek language the R has a sound like ‘thlee’ as in ath-THLEE-t. Mr. Tarpalechee, would you care to try the pronunciation?”

“How can she see me?” Tarp asks.

“Tawvte! Even that old computer has a camera,” Yahola replies.

“Mr. Tarpalechee?”

“Yes, yes, Mvhayv. I’ll be happy to give it a try.”

Tarp clears his throat as he stretches his tiny T-rex arms over his head. He clears his throat again and then is silent.

“While we’re still young,” I say.

“Thluh...thluh...thluh,” Tarpalechee stammers.

“You have to put the tip of your tongue against the back of your upper teeth. Then aspirate out the sides of your tongue,” the Mahaya says.

“What does aspirate mean?” Tarp asks.

“Heyluh!” Fixico says as he hits

his forehead with the palm of his hand.

Tarpalechee attempts to put the tip of his tongue against his upper teeth, but he only manages to flick his tongue. With his puffy chipmunk cheeks, he resembles a rat snake.

“Injun’ speaks with forked tongue,” Fixico jokes.

“Mvts ci! Goot Won,” I say between peals of laughter.

“Thluh, thluh, thluh,” Tarpalechee continues to babble.

His attempts to aspirate drizzles us in a fog of spittle. Me, Yahola, and Fixico step back away from Tarp’s mist cloud. Fixico shakes his head and lights a cigar. He tilts his face towards the ceiling and blows a large smoke ring. Suddenly, Fixico moves next to Tarpalechee. His face is so close to Tarp’s that Fixico’s cigar could burn Tarp’s cheek.

“Now, repeat after me,” Fixico orders. “Thlee. Thlee. Thlee. Try it.”

“Thluh. Thluh. Thluh.”

“Thlee!”

“Thluh.”

Fixico’s brow furrows and his jaw tightly clenches as he gives Tarp a Clint Eastwood narrow-eyed stare. Fixico abruptly grasps Tarp’s mouth and jaw in his large hand.

“Now say it with me. Thlee!” Fixico says as he maneuvers Tarp’s lips.

“Glabba..f-frooni.” Tarp babbles.

Fixico tightens his vise-like grip on Tarp’s mouth which causes his lips to protrude. He now looks like Catfish Tarp.

“Heyluh! Again! Thlee!”

“Glabba...f-frooni.”

Fixico’s face turns a beet red. He stands with his hands clenched in a fist so tight that his knuckles are white. Tarp eyeballs Fixico warily.

“Hey boys,” I say to Fixico and Yahola. “I’ve got an idea. Desperate times call for desperate measures.”

I walk over to Tarpalechee and without warning, bop Tarp on the head with the bottom of my fist.

“Thlee!” Tarpalechee immediately blurts out.

“Naget! He said it!” Yahola excitedly says. “Hvtvm, makaks ci!”

“Thlee, thlee, thlee,” Tarp says gleefully!

“I think he’s got it,” I observe.

“Say some Creek words.”

“Rakko. Rehute. Rvfo. Rvro. Rvro Pvnkv,” Tarp says with a wide grin. “It’s all Creek to me!”

The Frybread Boys joyously high five Tarp and congratulate him on mastering the R sound. Fixico is giving Tarp a bear hug when we hear the sharp voice of the Creek Mvhayv.

“Mr. Tarpalechee!” the Mvhayv sternly says. “Please read and pronounce this word: ohhon-vvyhanetskekotos.”

“I’m not going to read that,” Tarpalec

IN MEMORIAM



(Photo Courtesy: J.T. Morriss & Son)

GERALD DWIGHT ALEXANDER

Gerald (Jerry) Dwight Alexander, 84, of Chester, Virginia peacefully passed away on July 9, 2025. He was born on

September 8, 1940 in Claremore, Oklahoma to the late Grover Cleveland and Charlotta Christaena Alexander. He was a beloved husband, dad, papa and a proud member of the Muscogee Nation Tribe. After 21 years of service in the United States Army, he retired and attended Austin Peay State University where he was awarded a bachelor’s of science degree in engineering. That achievement led to a long career as a mechanical engineer at NASA. Jerry married the love of his life, Judy H. Alexander, on December 14, 1974. They shared 50 wonderful years together. He is

survived by his wife, Judy; three daughters Michelle (Naomi) Alexander, Jennifer (Chris) Brnich, and Lisa (Chris) St. Hilaire; nine grandchildren, Rachael, Alex, Jacob, Madelyn, Benjamin, Lauren, Elton, Liam and Lily and four great grandchildren; as well as four of his siblings; Patty, Janiece, Ronnie, and Teena. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make a donation to the charity of your choice.

A graveside service will be held on August 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia.



(Photo Courtesy: Schaudt's Funeral Service)

ESTHER GRONA

Esther, a vibrant spirit, passed away peacefully in her beloved home of Okmulgee at the remarkable age of 92. Proudly Mvskoke, Cherokee, and Catawba, she embraced her heritage with passion. Her educational journey led her to the Seneca, Chilocco, and Sequoyah Indian Boarding Schools. She continued with computer technology and grant writing at Green Country Tech-

nology Center.

A devoted genealogist, Esther was fascinated by her family’s history, meticulously keeping records of the Dawes Roll and allotments. One of her most cherished experiences was her adventure to Horseshoe Bend. She said, you can “find out who you really are.”

A fierce advocate, Esther taught the misconception of the Oklahoma Land Run, proclaiming, “It was not free land; it is Indian Land, for which many lives have died for.” She was relentless in her pursuit of answers from the BIA. She wrote many letters to question the injustices of land theft.

Esther had a natural talent for beading and moccasin-making. With dexterous hands, she could bring any design to life, adorning her moccasins with stunning beadwork. Throughout her life, Esther made significant contri-

butions to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Okmulgee Indian Community Center. Esther left a legacy of strength, pride, and creativity that will be cherished by all who knew her.

Esther is preceded in death by her husband, Herman Grona; her brother, Robert Harley; her father, Yarkin Harley; her mother, Mary Lee Gorden; and her paternal grandparents, Sampson Harley and Jennie McGilbra. She is also preceded by her maternal grandparents, William Gorden and Willie Davis.

Honorary Pallbearers are Arthur Harley, Robert Harley, Timothy Harley Jr. and Leon Harley.

She is survived by her son Richard LeRoi Grona and dog Yang of Okmulgee, Jessica Harley of Okmulgee, April Harley of Okmulgee, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a great host of cousins and friends.



(Photo Courtesy: Integrity Funeral Service)

EUGENE FRANKLIN HARJO

Eugene Franklin Harjo, 92, a resident of Henryetta passed peacefully at his home Tuesday June 17, 2025. Eugene was born November 6, 1932 in Seminole

to Wisey (Morgan) Frank and Fousharjoche Harjo.

Eugene is preceded in death by his parents, sister Silby Walker, brothers Fred, Homer and John Harjo, daughters Cassandra Harjo, Renita West, and son Victor.

Mr. Harjo leaves behind a legacy of serving others. At the age of 18, he joined the army, bravely serving his country for several years. He was baptized June 25,1955 in Sasakwa, Oklahoma. He began his ministry work March 3, 1979. Prior to his passing, he served as the Pastor of Hutchechuppa Indian Baptist Church.

Eugene is survived by his wife Mary Jane, of the home; two

daughters Augustine Harjo of Shawnee, Oklahoma and Shannon Humphrey and husband Ryan of Holly Springs, Mississippi; three sons Darrell Harjo of Shawnee, Oklahoma; Carlos Harjo of Shawnee, Oklahoma; Benny Harjo of Arlington, Texas; and stepsister Nora Thompson of Henryetta, Oklahoma. He also leaves behind 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren as well as a host of family and friends.

Officiating: Rev. Charles West and Rev. Jimmy Hicks

Those serving as Pallbearers: Benny Harjo, Carlos Harjo, Darrell Harjo, Rodney Harjo, Ryan Humphrey and Maddox Humphrey.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Elder’s Meeting
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
2900 N. Osage Pl. Okmulgee, OK.
Aug. 6
9:30 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts
Veterans Affairs Services Office
August 14 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1006 Bear Ln,
Okmulgee, OK 74447
For questions,
contact 918-732-7739.

Health Shelf Donation Drive
College of Muscogee Nation
Health & Wellness is seeking hygiene products, laundry detergent, and gently used blankets and pillows for students in need. Every five items donated will enter donors into a drawing. Donations can be dropped off at 2170 Raven Circle, Okmulgee, OK. For more info., contact 918-549-2800.

Farmer’s Market
CMN Extension/
Looped Square Meat Co.
August 9 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3300 U.S. 75 North, Beggs, Okla
For questions, contact 918-549-2861.

Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion
Wetumka Indian Community Center
Aug. 30
608 N. Creek St., Wetumka, Okla.
Activities begin at 9 a.m., lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. Family members are encouraged to bring a covered dish/ dessert, a door prize, auction item or child’s gift card. Activities will include a children’s water slide, golf chipping/putting/ closest to the pin. Bring swimwear, towels, golf clubs/balls. For questions call 918-650-8868.



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IHCRC CUTS THE RIBBON ON EXPANDED FACILITY

TRIBAL CITIZENS IN TULSA WILL NOW HAVE ACCESS TO OPTOMETRY SERVICES, DENTAL SERVICES AND A FIVE LANE PHARMACY



Indian Health Care Resource Center leaders, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Del Beaver and Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols cut the ribbon on the new expanded facility on July 2. (Braden Harper/MM)

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA – Tribal citizens in the Tulsa metro will now have access to expanded medical services provided by the Indian Health Care Resource Center (IHCRC). The nonprofit cut the ribbon on their new 62,000 square foot expanded

facility on July 2. Leaders in attendance included Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Del Beaver and Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols. This year marks the 49th year the nonprofit has served the Tulsa community.

The opening ceremony saw a strong Mvskoke presence. The Mvskoke Women’s Honor Guard, Este Cate Hoktve Suletawv, pre-

sented the colors. A flag song was performed by David Bible and other local community members. Second Chief Beaver led the opening prayer.

The expanded facility has been in development for five years. Construction lasted 18 months. According to Indian Health Care Resource Center CEO Carmelita Wamego Skeeter (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), the expansion will add more services the nonprofit already provides. This includes optometry, dental, and wellness services.

“It will offer more dental services which are desperately needed because we have a waiting list. It will offer more optometry services because we are hiring another optometrist in addition to another dentist and dental hygienist. We enlarged our wellness department. We will have physical activities for anyone that wants to come in and take part in the gym.” Skeeter said.

The expansion will overall double the size of the IHCRC’s current facility. The drive-through pharmacy will expand from two lanes to five. Optometry will expand from three to six exam

rooms and dental operatories will expand from four to ten.

Nichols was ecstatic about the IHCRC’s opening and the potential it has to offer expanded services to Tribal citizens in Tulsa. He remarked that while the expansion is a victory for Indian Country, there is still more that can be done to address the problem of healthcare disparities among Native American populations.

“I’m just grateful because we have these strong partnerships, we have this clinic, this 49-year commitment to providing first class care to Indian Country right here in Tulsa,” Nichols said. “I’m excited about the 62,000 square foot expansion but I’m thinking we need more. We need more because we know that health outcomes are not what they should be across ethnicities. We know there is more that we have to do but today is a day that we can celebrate.”

Skeeter was one of the IHCRC’s original four employees when the nonprofit opened in 1976. The main

change Skeeter has seen during her long tenure with IHCRC is the greater focus community members have placed on their health because of access to healthcare through the nonprofit. This has cut down on the amount of procedures due to diabetes complications and the need for dialysis. Skeeter said the biggest health issue they are fighting now is obesity.

Throughout her 49 year career at IHCRC, Skeeter has found that her favorite part about her job is meeting new faces and serving others.

“Meeting people, meeting individuals and being able to help any way that we can.” Skeeter said.

The IHRC is located at 530 S. Peoria Ave. To stay up to date on IHCRC events, visit their website, ihcrc.org. They can also be found on Facebook, Indian Health Care Resource Center.

“What a cool thing, to celebrate unity. What a cool thing to celebrate as Indian Country. What a cool thing to celebrate as a city whose origins start, continue to be and will always be tied to the past, the present and the future of Indian Country.” - City of Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols.

LEGALS

GD-2025-42

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT


IN THE MATTER OF: }
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: }
K.B., } Case No. **GD-2025-42**
Minor Child. }
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 10 49 AM
CYNTHIA FREEMAN
COUNTY CLERK

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN

Notice is hereby given that MARY TIGER has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting the appointment of a guardian of the person and property of K.B., date of birth March 5, 2020.

And that the 04th day of SEPTEMBER, 2025 at the hour of 3:00 o'clock P.m., in courtroom of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court has been appointed as the time and place for hearing the petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why such appointment should not be made.

DATED this 10th day of July, 2025.


JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

JV-2024-22 (CALVIN LEO HOPSON)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: }
A.H.; DOB: 03/07/2017 }
A.W.; DOB: 01/16/2014 } Case No. **JV-2024-22**
A.W.; DOB: 03/23/2021 }
K.W.; DOB: 01/04/2009 }
P.W.; DOB: 09/25/2018 }
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 10 49 AM
CYNTHIA FREEMAN
COUNTY CLERK

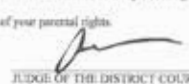
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

ALLEGED FATHER, CALVIN LEO HOPSON, as to A.H. & A.W.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a **Motion to Terminate Parental Rights** has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on September 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child(ren) remain ward(s) of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FURTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child(ren), which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

V-2024-22 (JOSHUA TODD BENNETT)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: }
A.H.; DOB: 03/07/2017 }
A.W.; DOB: 01/16/2014 } Case No. **JV-2024-22**
A.W.; DOB: 03/23/2021 }
K.W.; DOB: 01/04/2009 }
P.W.; DOB: 09/25/2018 }
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 10 49 AM
CYNTHIA FREEMAN
COUNTY CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

ALLEGED FATHER, JOSHUA TODD BENNETT, as to K.W.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a **Motion to Terminate Parental Rights** has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on September 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child(ren) remain ward(s) of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FURTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child(ren), which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

JV-2024-22 (MICHAEL ALAN FISCH)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: }
A.H.; DOB: 03/07/2017 }
A.W.; DOB: 01/16/2014 } Case No. **JV-2024-22**
A.W.; DOB: 03/23/2021 }
K.W.; DOB: 01/04/2009 }
P.W.; DOB: 09/25/2018 }
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 10 49 AM
CYNTHIA FREEMAN
COUNTY CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

ALLEGED FATHER, MICHAEL ALAN FISCH, as to A.W.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a **Motion to Terminate Parental Rights** has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on September 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child(ren) remain ward(s) of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FURTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child(ren), which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

JV-2024-22 (UNKNOWN FATHERS)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF: }
A.H.; DOB: 03/07/2017 }
A.W.; DOB: 01/16/2014 } Case No. **JV-2024-22**
A.W.; DOB: 03/23/2021 }
K.W.; DOB: 01/04/2009 }
P.W.; DOB: 09/25/2018 }
DISTRICT COURT
FILED
SEP 10 10 49 AM
CYNTHIA FREEMAN
COUNTY CLERK

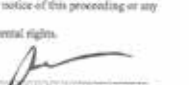
NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

UNKNOWN FATHER(S), as to A.H., A.W., A.W., K.W. & P.W.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a **Motion to Terminate Parental Rights** has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on September 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FURTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the children, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

NOW OPEN!

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 Our Website
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