



# MVSKOKE NEWS

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## PETITION FOR REHEARING DENIED IN GRAYSON/KENNEDY CASE

MCN SUPREME COURT ORDERS THAT THE CASE WILL NOT BE REHEARD

by JERRAD MOORE  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE – The Muscogee Creek Nation Supreme Court has denied the MCN Citizenship Board’s petition for rehearing in the Grayson/Kennedy Case. The order, issued Aug 20, states that the petition failed to establish the grounds for a rehearing required by MCN code. According to the order:

It is a well-established judicial concept within this Nation’s court system, as well as in many foreign jurisdictions, including the U.S. federal and state judicial systems, that decisions made by courts not only resolve the issue at hand; but that the underlying principles supporting that decision, or the ratio decidendi, create a general legal precedent to be followed in similarly situated cases moving forward. It is entirely within reason for

this Court to direct the parties to apply the precedent set by this case to future similarly situated citizenship applicants. In any event, this is an issue that has been fully considered by the Court and is not sufficient to establish grounds for rehearing under Rule 24 (B). IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Appellant’s August 4, 2025, Petition for Rehearing is DENIED for failing to establish grounds for rehearing as required by M(C)NCA Title 27, App. 2, Rule 24 (B), as explained above.

Mvskoke Media contacted the MCN Executive Branch to determine if litigation will be continued in the case or if the Citizenship Board will grant Grayson and Kennedy their citizenship. We received the following statements from MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman:

Even though the Court left

critical issues unaddressed, the Citizenship Board is beginning the work of researching and exploring a process for applying Article 2 to citizenship applications. This rule-making process will take time to ensure it is done carefully and correctly. Should the Court’s lack of clarity cause issues along the way, they will be addressed in the proper jurisdiction, including the courts where appropriate. We will continue to move forward thoughtfully, exploring all options to ensure our actions remain within the law and in accordance with our Constitution.

As previously reported, the Citizenship Board filed a petition for rehearing in the Grayson/Kennedy case at the MCN Supreme Court on Aug 4. Grayson/Kennedy’s legal representation filed their opposition to the rehearing petition on Aug 11.

## STITT FILES TO COMPEL CITY OF TULSA TO PROSECUTE TRIBAL CITIZENS



MCN Principal Chief David Hill and Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols shake hands on June 25 after signing the settlement agreement ending MCN v City of Tulsa. (Photo Courtesy: MCN)

ASKS OK SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE WHETHER CITY CAN PROSECUTE TRIBAL CITIZENS THAT COMMIT CRIMES ON TRIBAL JURISDICTIONS

by BRADEN HARPER  
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE – On Aug. 20 Governor Kevin Stitt announced an emergency filing with the Oklahoma Supreme Court to compel the City of Tulsa to enforce state and municipal laws within its jurisdiction. This comes after the June 25 settlement agreement between the City of Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The settlement ended a lawsuit launched by the MCN against the City of Tulsa regarding city prosecution of Tribal citizens within areas of Tulsa that are in the MCN Reservation.

According to a statement released from Governor Stitt’s office, the terms of the settlement agreement between the City of Tulsa and MCN were not derived from the decision in *McGirt v Oklahoma* which reinforced the MCN’s status as a sovereign nation and changed criminal jurisdiction in eastern Oklahoma. Governor Stitt claims the settlement poses a threat to the state.

“More than anything, this is a public safety issue,” Governor Stitt said. “No mayor has the authority to pick and choose which Oklahomans are subject to the laws of our state. By entering into this agreement, Mayor Nichols has essentially made Tulsa a sanctuary city with two systems of justice. One for those with tribal membership and one for everyone else. This makes our state less safe.”

MCN Principal Chief David Hill responded to the filing in a public statement. According to Chief Hill, many local leaders have made an effort to recognize the MCN’s sovereignty in regards to its right to prosecute Tribal citizens that commit crimes on the reservation. The statement reads:

More of the same... It is disappointing—but not at all surprising—that Governor Stitt is once again trying to undermine agreements that strengthen both our Nation and the state of Oklahoma. The settlement between Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a responsible solution that respects sovereignty, improves public safety, and benefits all Oklahomans, so of course, he wants to block it. We have so many that understand and value the relationship with tribal Nations. The Oklahoma legislature, city officials, Mayor Nichols, the City

of Bixby where we’ll proudly raise a Muscogee flag soon.... heck even our world champion Oklahoma City Thunder! Yet, our own Governor continues to be divisive and refuses to work together. We’re beyond frustrated. Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on divisive lawsuits, the Governor should be working with us to build stronger partnerships for the future. I’ll say it every time.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin also issued a public statement in response to Governor Stitt’s emergency filing. According to Chief Hoskin, he describes the governor’s actions as “hostile”. The statement reads:

It is no surprise that Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt believes that tribal and non-tribal government cooperation is a bad idea. He has always viewed the exercise of tribal sovereignty as coming at the expense of other governments and public interest. The historic agreement between Muscogee Nation and the City of Tulsa strengthens the blanket of public safety across Tulsa while respecting Muscogee Nation’s treaty rights of self governance over its reservation. Gov Stitt’s hostility to tribal sovereignty and his remarkably uninformed views on the subject are, fortunately, outliers in a state full of civic, business, faith leaders and government leaders - like Tulsa Mayor Monroe Nichols - who see tribes as partners, not enemies. Gov. Stitt’s backward views on tribal sovereignty are destined for the dustbin of history.

On Thursday, Aug 21 the Oklahoma Supreme Court filed an order directing responses to the filing no later than Wednesday, Sept 10.

According to the City of Tulsa, collaboration with Tribal partners, including the MCN, to streamline processes like public safety procedures for municipal cases is ongoing. In a special public meeting on Friday, Aug. 21 at Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare Center, City of Tulsa Director of Tribal Policy Partnerships Amanda Swope (Mvskoke) updated the public on the filing. Swope stated that in spite of the filing, the MCN and the city have established a work group to go forward with collaboration.

“The language in the settlement does set up a timeline for our workgroup for a mutual plan to be submitted back to the court within eight months. We’re anticipating a February deadline to work through all the discussions,” Swope said.

## TWO DAYS OF HANDS-ON LEARNING SPOTLIGHTS MVSKOKE CULTURE

THE MVSKOKE TRADITIONS 4-H CAMP HOSTED AT CMN RECEIVED A STRONG RESPONSE, LEADING TO AN OFFICIAL MVSKOKE 4-H: OCMULGEE CLUB



A group photo of the campers attending the Mvskoke Traditions 4-H camp featured in photo Shelby Lofton, Courtney Natseway, Ben Yahola and Chriz Azbell. (Photo Courtesy: Shelby Lofton)

by SHAYLN PROCTOR  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – The Mvskoke Traditions 4-H camp was held at the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) on July 30-31. The two day camp was a hands-on learning experience in Mvskoke traditions, art, language, and foodways for youth in grades 3-12. The camp was open to all tribal youth- some of the campers were Mvskoke, Cherokee, Navajo, Osage, Yuchi, Paiute, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, and Ojibwe.

The camp was a collaboration between the CMN Extension Program, Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension, OSU-Okmulgee County Extension, and the OSU Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP).

The camp reached full capacity, and according to Shelby Lofton (Cherokee) the good showing opened doors to have an official launch of a Mvskoke 4-H: Ocmulgee Club. Lofton explained, “The camp quickly reached its 25-student cap, with over 40 young people registering — highlighting the strong demand for culturally grounded youth programming.”

4-H is a national youth development organization coordinated through university extension programming. 4-H programs use hands-on projects in health, science, agriculture, and community

work with an emphasis on developing the four Hs: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

Lofton works as the OSU Extension Agriculture / 4-H Youth Development / FRTEP

**“The experience created space for culture, identity, and education to come together — and set the tone for what’s to come.”- Shelby Lofton**

Educator for Okmulgee County and the MCN and coordinated the event.

“This camp was more than just a two-day event — it marked the first time CMN Extension and OSU Extension (through both Okmulgee County and the FRTEP Educator) partnered to offer 4-H programming to Muscogee youth. It was a milestone moment for both institutions and a meaningful success,” Lofton said.

“Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to connect their children with traditions and knowledge that they may not encounter elsewhere.”

The cultural atmosphere was set the first day of camp when campers were split into groups named after the Three Sisters: Vce (Corn), Tvllako (beans) and Tvhhvyv (squash), and learned the traditional meaning behind their names.

During the two-day camp,

CMN instructors and staff Ben Yahola (Mvskoke), Colton Wood (Mvskoke), Danielle Fixico (Chickasaw/Mvskoke), Thomas Berryhill (Mvskoke), and Matthew Yates (Mvskoke) lead activities in pottery, painting, and cultural games, like stickball. Instruction included traditional knowledge and details like traditional pottery-making techniques, and the Mvskoke clan system. Cassandra Thompson (Mvskoke) and the MCN Department of Education and Training led the campers in corn husk making

Campers were also introduced to the game of chunky. “The group then moved into a special session of chunky using two authentic chunky stones brought by Ben Yahola. One of the stones was from the Cahokia Mounds Chunky Court and dates back to 900 AD. The other was from the Wickliffe Mounds Chunky Court and dates to 1300 AD,” Lofton said.

“This marked the first time a game of chunky had been played by youth on the CMN campus. The experience of physically engaging with these ancient game stones and learning their cultural significance created a powerful connection between youth and

### MVSKOKE CULTURE

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A youth camper playing one of the activities that were offered at the Mvskoke Traditions 4-H camp. (Photo Courtesy: Shelby Lofton)





# OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO STEWARD THE W.E. DODE AND LULU MCINTOSH COLLECTION



Kayla Miller, Dr. Ken McIntosh, and Oklahoma History Center Registrar Veronica Redding with The W.E. Dode and Lulu McIntosh collection at The Oklahoma History Center (Photo Courtesy: Dr Ken McIntosh)

THE RECENTLY DONATED PERSONAL PAPERS AND MEMORABILIA OF THE LAST FEDERALLY APPOINTED MVSKOKE CHIEF WILL BE THE FOUNDATION OF THE COLLECTION

by **FRANCES HERROD**  
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY – The descendants of the last federally appointed Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief, W.E. Dode McIntosh, have donated his personal papers, photographs, and memorabilia to the Oklahoma Historical Society for preservation. This stewardship of the new W.E. Dode and Lulu McIntosh Collection will ensure these important pieces of Mvskoke history will be available at the Oklahoma History

Center for future generations.. The collection was donated by Dr. Ken McIntosh (Mvskoke), history instructor at Clarendon College, on behalf of the McIntosh family. “I am honored to represent Chief McIntosh’s nine grandchildren, most of whom live in Oklahoma, in the presentation of these materials. It is our hope that the collection will inspire future generations to learn from McIntosh’s dedication to public service in Tulsa and tribal leadership for the Muscogee Nation,” stated McIntosh in a press release.

W.E. Dode McIntosh led MCN as Principal Chief from 1961-1972. He also served on the board of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The collection is currently in boxes as it awaits curation. Although the public is invited to see it now, it is a treasure hunt to find anything until it is fully archived and finding aids are available. “Since it is a new collection just coming in, we have not had a chance to really peruse and see what all it is. It looks to be mainly just his paperwork from his time as Chief,” said Veronica Redding (Osage), Registrar at the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division. The collection isn’t exclusively about MCN. “There is... a lot of like general counsel, the Five Tribes (Intertribal Council) paperwork I’ve seen, and so it doesn’t only cover Muskogee Creek. There is information about some of the other tribes in there, but it looks to be like it could be valuable for researchers and especially people in Muskogee (Creek) Nation,” continued Redding. A few of the items in the collection are prints by Mvskoke artist Jerome Tiger, the architectural plans for the Eufaula dormitory sent by the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, and a booklet about life at the Old Wetumka Creek Indian Mission 1880-1910 featuring stories of those who survived. The booklet is the newest addition to the board-

ing school documents already archived at the OHC. “In more recent years there’s been the whole push for people looking into boarding school history,” explains Redding. “I would like to let people know we have those type of documents here. That’s one of, I think, one of the most important sets of records that we have here just because so many people are looking for their ancestors that were in these schools.” Redding, working with Archival Collections Manager Malory Covington, hopes to launch a shared stewardship program in which the Native Nations whose boarding school records are held by the History Center will have input into how those records are presented to the public, or if they are presented at all. It’s about respect for Redding. “We’re hoping to eventually make these connections with the various tribes that we do have records for and ask their input on how we can better get this information out, or are we even supposed to put this information out? Some of it might be culturally sensitive, and we don’t know, you know.” The History Center also has a Research Center that offers free admission to everyone. The Center provides access to paid genealogy sites such as Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest Online, and Fold3 and offers a paid research service for those interested in a particular person or historical event. Independent researchers and amateur family genealogists may be surprised by what the Center has to offer. “We have one of the largest newspaper collections in the whole United States. The Oklahoma Historical Society was founded in 1893 with the purpose of saving all of the newspapers in the new territory,” notes Redding. “That can be helpful because a lot of transactions that were going on at the time of allotment era, all of that had to be printed in newspapers back then...and people’s obituaries that might show survivors. So newspapers are one of the most valuable resources.” In stewarding these collections The Oklahoma Historical Society preserves a pathway that allows all visitors to reach across the centuries and the generations to understand and honor those who came before. The Oklahoma History Center is located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Admission rate varies. The Research Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, and all state holidays. Admission is free. Online collections and databases are available on the History Center website.

## MVSKOKE CULTURE

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their ancestors.” Campers also got into the garden with an outdoor scavenger hunt led by CMN Extension Horticulture Educator Courtney Natseway (Mvskoke/Yakima/Laguna Pueblo). Youth were able to explore CMN’s garden while they identified different plants. After the game, campers did a personalized dish garden activity using a variety of plants either grown by CMN Extension and CMN Environmental Science Club or the Okmulgee County Community Gardeners and other local contributors. “This gardening experience helped youth connect with where their food comes from, deepening their understanding of plants and land stewardship. It also introduced them to foundational ideas of food sovereignty — understanding how growing and caring for plants contributes to community wellness, independence, and cultural survival,” Lofton said. To close out the 2 day experience, the camp ended with a pottery painting, story telling and music session with Yahola.

“Youth learned new Creek words and phrases, practiced songs, and reflected on their experience — wrapping up two full days of cultural learning, community building, and personal growth,” Lofton said. The success of the camp has led to creating an official Mvskoke 4-H:Okmulgee Club, which will serve youth from both tribal and non-tribal backgrounds. According to Lofton, “The club is a result of the growing partnership between CMN Extension and the OSU Extension FRTEP Educator for the MCN to deliver year-round youth programming that centers community, leadership, and Muscogee culture.” “While open to all, the club is intentionally designed to blend Creek language, values, and cultural teachings into the proven structure of 4-H — giving youth the best of both worlds.” While the club had their official launch on August 21 at CMN, youth and families interested in being part of this new chapter can reach out to Shelby Lofton by phone at 918-756-1958 or though email at shelby.lofton@okstate.edu



A group of youth campers posing with their plants in one of the activities that were offered at the Mvskoke Traditions 4-H camp. (Photo Courtesy: Shelby Lofton)

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“Lahoma believes that Sovereignty Propels Action. She also believes in honoring our past, empowering our people, and celebrating our Mvskoke culture.”

On September 20, 2025

Vote for

Lahoma (Hicks) Schultz

Post by: Lahoma (Hicks) Schultz, 70

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2025

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 8-11

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

is an annual campaign to educate the general public about the warning signs of suicide. MCN Health participates with numerous events all week to help promote hope, raise awareness, and normalize help-seeking.

SEPT 8

Chalk Out the Stigma

Come spread messages of awareness and hope, and help “chalk out” the stigma surrounding suicide.

10AM–1PM

Mound Building (Okmulgee)  
Eufaula Clinic  
Creek Nation Community Hospital (Okemah)  
Sapulpa Clinic

SEPT 9

Self-Care Day & Yellow Ribbon Activities

Self-care is essential! Join us for a day dedicated to exploring various ways to take care of your mind, body, and spirit. Discover tips for managing stress and share what helps you during tough times by decorating our yellow ribbon.

10AM–2PM

Okmulgee - Solomon McCombs Building (Lobby)  
Sapulpa Clinic (Lobby)  
Okemah Clinic (Lobby)  
Eufaula Clinic

SEPT 10

“Talk Saves Lives” Suicide Prevention Training

Learn the necessary tools to help save a life with just 3 simple steps.

9AM & 2PM

College of Muscogee Nation  
Lecture Hall

11AM & 2PM

Creek Nation Community  
Hospital (Okemah)  
1st Floor Conference Room

10AM & 2PM

Eufaula Clinic

SEPT 11

Hope Walk

Walk to remember those who have lost their lives to suicide.

12PM

Eufaula Clinic

4PM

Mvskoke Dome

4PM

Okemah Clinic

MCNHealth

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



# ROOTED IN TRADITION: THE STORY OF BIG CUSSETAH'S WILD ONION DINNER

By **CYNTHIA MENDOZA-AGUILAR**  
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.

MUSCOGEE, Okla — The smell of wild onions clung to the aprons of the women moving behind long folding tables, their feet stepping gently on ground walked by generations before them.

Wild onion dinners aren't just about tradition, they're about staying rooted. In community, in memory, in love. The scent of onions lingers long after the meal, just like the voices, the stories, the care packed into every leftover plate. This isn't just food, it's identity, resistance, and celebration, served together, on purpose.

Clad in muted-yellow shirts with "Big Cussetah Bunch" printed across the front, the women moved with familiarity, laughter, and purpose, preparing to serve a crowd gathering outside, those who had lined up and paid \$15 for a plate and a memory.

Every March, Big Cussetah United Methodist Church hosts its annual wild onion dinner, one of many held across the Muscogee Nation and beyond. These dinners are far more than fundraisers or meals; they are living ceremonies, deeply woven into the history and survival of the people.

Wild onion dinners bring together traditional foods that have withstood the test of time. Onions may be the opener, but they are not the only star of the show. Alongside bubbling pots of wild onions and eggs, guests find grape dumplings, sofki (a traditional corn drink with an acquired sour taste), frybread, macaroni and cheese, fried potatoes, ham, and salt meat dishes that tell a story far older than Oklahoma itself.

Harvesting wild onions has been a part of Muscogee culture since long before the Trail of Tears forcibly relocated tribes from Georgia and Alabama to Indian Territory in the 1830s: Cussetah, one of the relocated tribal towns, honors that heritage with each dinner. In the Muscogee language, March is "Tafvmpume Hompetv Hvse," Eat Wild Onions Month, a time not just to harvest, but to gather, remember, and reconnect.

At Big Cussetah, the dinner involves everyone: children digging their hands into the soil to gather onions, women working together in the kitchen, and elders passing down recipes that have survived generations of upheaval and change. As Teresa Tarpaleche, one of the organizers, explained, "We just know it has to be done. It's our home, and it makes you feel good."

For Teresa Tarpalechee, her sisters, and everyone else who grew up here, the dinner is a calling, not a chore. Every year, they prepare food for hundreds of guests, many driving in from Tulsa, Texas, and neighboring tribal towns. "By Saturday night, we're going to be tired," Teresa laughed. "But it's worth it. We're doing it for the church."

Yet even as the lines grow longer and the tables fill with laughter, many elders quietly worry about the future. "There's not a lot of young people around anymore," Teresa admitted. Some, like her son, have moved to cities like Broken Arrow or Tulsa, drawn by jobs, school, or new lives far from the small towns and church grounds where they grew up.

Photos of past generations



Big Cussetah Methodist Church, Tarpaleche sisters. (Cynthia Mendoza-Aguilar/UNT)

line the walls of the dining hall, a reminder of those who came before, and a quiet question for the years ahead. The women preparing the meals know what's at stake. "We took over what was taught to us," said Diana Lynn Beasley. "Now we just hope the next ones take over, too."

Despite the thinning numbers, the commitment remains. Nephews are learning how to cook pork. Little kids try to sneak pieces of salt meat off the tray. Elders share their memories, their recipes, their jokes, and their hopes, passing on not just how to make dinner, but why it matters.

The connection to the past is visible just outside the kitchen doors, where many of their loved ones rest in the church cemetery. "That's where I'm going to be," Teresa said softly as she giggled, not because she found it funny, but because what else is there to do other than laugh.

Each generation adds something new without letting go of what matters. Wayne Coaser, a member of the Cussetah Tribal Town and Fox Clan, recalled learning traditional ways or picking onions even when he didn't appreciate them as a boy. "Man, I hated it... I'm glad they showed us how, though," he said, smiling.

Recently, a shiny new turkey fryer was incorporated into the kitchen for cooking the salt meat, a modernization that didn't erase tradition, but made it more sus-

tainable. Ninety pounds of pork later, it wasn't just about feeding the crowd; it was about being together, filling the air with familiar scents that echo across decades.

"Nothing's more important than keeping our pride, keeping our heritage," said Christopher James Harjo, who learned to cook the pork butts over a pecan wood fire from his grandmother, Stella Haley Coser.

The line for food stretches long by 10 a.m., filled with locals, out-of-towners, members of other tribes, and first-timers drawn in by word of mouth. "Every year, without fail, we see someone new," Teresa said.

Visitors cross all walks of life. One man arrived to his first onion dinner wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, and was welcomed without hesitation. "It's not about politics," said Raelynn Butler, Muscogee Secretary of Culture and Humanities. "It's about

the will to have a good meal."

At Big Cussetah, food isn't just nourishment, it's memory, survival, and an act of quiet resistance. Every dish carries a story that predates Oklahoma, predates the church buildings, predates even the notion of a United States.

In the cemetery behind the church, the truth of the tradition becomes tangible. Wild onion dinners aren't reenactments of the past; they are living practices. New tools enter the kitchen, young hands learn old techniques, and the fire of culture burns on, warm, open, and enduring.

Wild onion dinners root the Muscogee people in community, memory, and love. The scent of onions lingers long after the plates are cleared, like the voices and stories that refuse to be forgotten. Each plate is not just a meal, but a continuation, a quiet declaration that a people, and all they carry, still live.



Elena Andra Stocia (Elena Andra Stoica/UNT)

**Cynthia Mendoza Aguilar** is a student in the Mayborn School of Journalism majoring in broadcast journalism. She is a first-generation Mexican American who wants to use her voice as a journalist to amplify that of her community and others who are underrepresented. She has worked for UNT's NTTV and plans to seek an anchor/reporter job when she graduates in 2026.

# VETERANS EDITION

Mvskoke Media is now taking submissions for the 2025 Veterans Edition of the Newspaper set to publish on November 1st

— ★ ★ ★ —

For submissions, please submit a biography including the name, branch, years served and any other relevant information. Please include a high resolution photo to accompany the bio as well.

Submissions will be accepted no later than Monday, October 20th at 5pm CST

Send submissions to [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com)



# FIRE WORKSHOP AND FIELD DAY IN OKMULGEE ON SEPT 10



"Prescribed fire is a powerful tool, but it requires people, equipment, and preparation," explained Shelby Lofton. (Photo Courtesy: Shutterstock)

## FIRE ECOLOGY, BURN PLANNING, AND MORE ON THE AGENDA

by SHAYLN PROCTOR  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – On September 10, a prescribed fire workshop and field day is taking place at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds. During the workshop discussions will cover fire ecology, burn planning, grazing and wildlife benefits, safety, equipment use, and how to form a Prescribed Burn Association.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m on Sep. 10, with a \$20 fee. Lunch is catered by Loop Square Meat CO, and participants are asked to RSVP by Sept. 1. Coordinating this event is Shelby Lofton (Cherokee), OSU Extension Agriculture Educator for Okmulgee County and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP). Lofton partners with the College of the Muscogee Nation Extension program to provide research-

based knowledge and education for Tribal citizens and communities. In her work with the MCN, Lofton wants Tribal citizens to know how important prescribed fire is to land management. One of Lofton’s messages is how prescribed burns lead to healthier landscapes and stronger communities. “And the more prescribed burn associations we have, the more burns we’re able to carry out safely and effectively,” Lofton said. “That directly feeds back into the ecological health of the land—improving forage quality, promoting native plant regrowth, enhancing habitat for wildlife, and reducing invasive species.” Prescribed burns can also help manage wild land fuels such as dried grasses, brush and leaf litter. “According to OSU Extension, using fire to reduce those fuels is one of the most cost-effective and ecologically practical methods available,” Lofton said. “In fact, areas that are regularly burned have sometimes acted as natural firebreaks—helping protect nearby towns and housing additions during wild-fire events,” Lofton said. “So even though weather conditions like wind, humidity, and moisture levels all play a role, prescribed burning remains a critical tool in lowering the risk of severe wild-fire damage.”

Prescribed fires have historically been used by Indigenous people. According to Lofton, “And beyond the ecological benefits, prescribed fire also connects back to traditional land management practices. Native communities, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, have used fire intentionally for centuries as a way to care for the land, restore balance, and encourage regrowth.” “So this isn’t a new practice—it’s a return to something that’s always been here.” The workshop was designed and planned to help meet the needs for producers, by showing how to manage their lands effectively and sustainably. The workshop features experts in fire ecology and land management: Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension Fire Ecology Specialist John Weir, OSU Extension Wildlife Specialist Mark Turner, OSU Extension Rangeland Ecology Specialist Laura Goodman and Chickasaw Nation Senior Watershed Fire Planner Miko Brandon. “I also invited Miko Brandon, the Senior Fire Planner for the Chickasaw Nation, after receiving a recommendation from Professor Kent Sanmann at the College of the Muscogee Nation. I wanted to make sure we included a speaker with tribal affiliation who could bring that perspective into the discussion, and Miko

turned out to be a great addition to the lineup,” Lofton said. Depending on the weather conditions there will be a live demonstration. This will give participants the opportunity to see how a prescribed burn is safely conducted, such as setting firebreaks, igniting and monitoring the fire and ensuring that it is controlled safely, according to Lofton. “A major part of this workshop is also about encouraging the formation of Prescribed Burn Associations—which are neighbor-led groups where community members come together to help one another burn,” Lofton said. “Prescribed fire is a powerful tool, but it requires people, equipment, and preparation. These associations allow producers to pool their resources, share knowledge, and support one another in managing their land effectively and safely.” To pre-register, you can scan the QR code on the flyer, use the form, or call the Okmulgee County OSU Extension Office at (918) 756-1958. For questions about the event, contact Shelby Lofton at OSU Extension in Okmulgee County at 918-756-1958 and email at shelly.lofton@okstate.edu For technical or in-depth questions about prescribed fire, contact John Weir at 405-744-5442 and his email is john.weir@okstate.edu

# HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN MVSKOKE CREATION STORY BIOME DIORAMA

MIA HOSKISON SHARES THE MVSKOKE'S STORY OF HOW THE WORLD CAME TO BE THROUGH ART AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY

by BRADEN HARPER  
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA - Students now have the ability to reconstruct the Mvskoke creation story thanks to Gilcrease Community Engagement Manager Mia Hoskison (Mvskoke). To create your own creation story biome, the Gilcrease Museum has published a how-to guide on their social media channels titled “Create Biomes Inspired by the Muscogee Creation Story!” Hoskison, who previously worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the Youth Services department as a youth specialist, was inspired by an illustrated children’s book produced by MCN Youth Services, “The Mvskoke

storytelling with interactive art.” The first time Hoskison heard the Mvskoke Creation story was from her grandmother, Esther Holloway. The story tells us how the world was formed and how its inhabitants, people and animals, found themselves where they are today. It also explains how clans were formed, as well as their relationship to one another and the Creator. The biome dioramas invite artists to recreate their own visual interpretation of the creation story with easy-to-find materials around their household. Hoskison is Wotko, Raccoon Clan, and is of the Alabama-Quasartie Tribal Town. Her biome contained a toy

who is neurodivergent. “My youngest daughter has autism. Using things with a sensory component are things I think of when I am creating art activities,” Hoskison said. Hoskison believes that art and storytelling are not just important for passing down knowledge, but also for surviving and healing. For her, art is medicine, a source of healing, cultural continuity, and leadership development. “The arts are more than just creative expression,” Hoskison said. “They are a way of surviving, remembering, resisting and creating our future. As Indigenous communities through art we carry our language, our ceremony, our humor, our resilience and vision. I see art as a way to process our trauma, assert our sovereignty and it’s another way to celebrate who we are.” The materials needed to make a Mvskoke Creation Story biome diorama are:

- A paper plate
- Plastic toy animals
- Green and blue Kinetic Sand
- Fake moss greenery
- Toy trees and shrubs

The Gilcrease Museum is currently closed. According to



Mia Hoskison holds up her biome based on the Mvskoke Creation Story. (Courtesy: Mia Hoskison)

**“It’s tactile and imaginative play. It’s immersive, visual and grounded in culture. I feel like it makes our teachings come alive in a way that resonates with kinetic learners.” - Mia Hoskison (Mvskoke)**

Creation Story.” “I came across that book and I was really moved by how thoughtfully they presented our traditional stories in a format that was accessible and engaging and culturally affirming for youth, especially for those that might not hear that at home or at school,” Hoskison said. “I wanted to build on that approach and combine cultural

raccoon, deer, and otter. The Mvskoke Creation story has been handed down from generation to generation, including in Hoskison’s family. The story that was originally passed down by Hoskison’s grandmother has now been passed down to her daughters through the biome dioramas. The project is particularly helpful for Hoskison’s younger daughter,

Hoskison, it’s projected to reopen sometime in 2027. To see other fun Indigenous cultural activities for children, visit the museum’s YouTube Channel, Gilcrease Museum. The Mvskoke Creation story has had many retellings and interpretations. Below is a retelling called “The Origin of Clans”, originally shared by former Holdenville Public Schools Creek Bilingual Coordinator Susannah Factor in

Mvskoke Media’s “From the Vault - Folklore of the Muscogee Creek People” episode. It was told by our elders that in the beginning the Muscogee People were born out of the Earth itself. They crawled up out of the ground through

**MVSKOKE CREATION STORY**  
*Continued on Page 6*

# MVSKOKE LOAN FUND

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# AMENDMENT TO THE ELIGIBILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF MCN EMERGENCY HARDSHIP PROGRAM PASSES TO FULL COUNCIL

FUNDING FOR EUFAULA DORMITORY OPERATIONS AND HEAD START CULTURALLY RELEVANT BOOK VENDING MACHINE ALSO PASS

by **FRANCES HERROD**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – On Aug. 12, the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee held an in-person meeting. Passed legislation will go on to the next full council meeting, unless otherwise noted.

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

### Fire Department Applications

Salem-Ryal Fire Department will receive a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Grant in the amount of \$3,997. The funds will go towards operations and equipment.

**TR 25-068** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Shawn Terry to serve as the Secretary of Health of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The resolution

passed 4-0. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution with Representative Darrell Proctor cosponsoring.

The resolution would confirm Principal Chief David Hill’s appointment of Shawn Terry as Secretary of Health for a term beginning upon confirmation and ending with the current term of Principal Chief.

**TR 25-078** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and several public schools. The resolution passed 4-0. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the resolution.

The resolution will allow the schools of Wilson, Mason, Okemah, Dewar, Beggs, Mounds, Sapulpa, Lone Star, Hanna, Broken Arrow, and Berryhill to host the Mvskoke Language Program so that it may teach its curriculum to students who wish to

enroll in the Mvskoke language classes.

**NCA 25-064** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 24-146 (a Law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from Casey Family Programs for the benefit of Mvskoke Nation Youth Services). The legislation passed 4-0. Representative Anna Marshall sponsored the legislation.

The legislation amends NCA 24-146 to allow for the purchase of twenty-five jackets for the Mvskoke Runners Group members to utilize during the fall and winter months when training or attending running events.

**NCA 25-065** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start program. The legislation passed 4-0. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation.

The legislation authorizes the expenditure of \$10,000 in grant funds awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the purchase of a culturally relevant book vending machine for MCN Head Start youth.

**NCA 25-066** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Education for the benefit of the Eufaula Dormitory. The legislation passed 4-0. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation.

The legislation authorizes the expenditure of \$735,546 in grant funds awarded through a Bureau of Indian Education Initial Grant to be used for the Eufaula Dormitory to operate during the 2025-2026 school year.

**NCA 25-067** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a budget modification in

excess of ten percent (10%) for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start program fiscal year 2025 budget. The legislation passed 4-0. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation.

The legislation authorizes a budget modification in excess of ten percent for the MCN Head Start Program which reallocates funds from three vacant positions to purchase a Chevrolet Tahoe and a 14-passenger bus.

**NCA 25-068** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 5, entitled “Emergency Hardship Program.” The legislation passed 4-0. Representative Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the legislation.

The legislation amends MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 5, entitled “Emergency Hardship Program” as follows: Under Types of assistance removes eligibility for funding for basic or discounted telephone expenses for Elders age 60 and older or for those for whom a telephone is medically necessary and for MCN citizens experiencing weather related “Act of God” storm damage assistance in the form of temporary emergency shelter needs no greater than \$500. Telephone assistance was removed as obsolete since it has not been used in a decade and emergency shelter assistance is now covered under Disaster Assistance.

The legislation also amends The Emergency Hardship Program funding from The Bingo Revenue Fund to the Comprehensive Annual Budget annually for the administration, professional staff, equipment and the program operations and places oversight for the program under the management and direction of the Social Service Department for the Office of Community and Human Services.

To view the full agenda, visit [mcnnc.com](http://mcnnc.com).

## MVSKOKE CREATION STORY

*Continued from Page 5*

a hole like ants. In those days they lived in the far western land beside tall mountains that reached the sky. They called the mountains the backbone of the earth. Then, a thick fog descended upon the Earth, sent by the master of breath. The Muscogee People could not see. They wandered around blindly, calling to one another in fear. They drifted apart and became lost. The whole people were separated into smaller groups. And the people in these groups stayed close to one another in fear of being entirely alone. Finally, the Master had mercy on them. From the eastern edge of the world where the sun rises, He began to blow away the fog. He blew and blew, until the fog was completely gone. The people were joyful and sang a hymn of thanksgiving to the Master of Breath. The niche group of people turned to one another and swore eternal brotherhood. They said that from then on these groups would be like large families. The members of each group would be as close to each other as brother and sister, father and son. The group that was farthest east and first to see the sun, praised the wind that had blown the fog away. They called themselves the Wind family, or Wind Clan. As the fog moved away from the other groups, they too gave themselves names. Each group chose the name of the first animal they saw. So they became the Bear, the Deer, the Alligator, the Raccoon and the Bird clan. But the Wind Clan remained the most important of all.

– As told by Susannah Factor

# HURRICANE HELENE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT PASSED LNC

MCN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SAFETY ACTION PLAN WOULD IMPROVE WELFARE OF CITIZENS

by **SHAYLN PROCTOR**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - On August 12, the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee held an in-person meeting.

The committee addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills. All legislation passed through committee will be presented in the next session for full council approval.

**TR 25-069** A tribal resolution of the MCN approving the comprehensive safety action plan

passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation.

MCN Department of Transportation received a plan grant fund from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Safe Streets and Roads for All. This was created for the safety and welfare of the Mvskoke citizens, employees, and visitors.

**TR 25-070** A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Darrell Proctor and

Co-sponsor Rep. Cloud sponsored this legislation.

The purchase of this property is to help MCN expand and utilize the land.

**TR 25-071** A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a programmatic agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest; the MCN; and The Tennessee State Historic Preservation office regarding the review and implementation of undertakings in response to Hurricane Helene passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored this legisla-

tion.

This agreement will be able to help assist with the damages from Hurricane Helene in September 2024. The Cherokee National Forest determined that the damages from the historic properties cannot be fully assessed. This agreement is not a binding financial agreement however it is a collaborative framework, “it preserves the Nation’s autonomy while offering critical support and information.”

**NCA 25-069** A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund-



ing (SLFRF) funds to be used toward the purchase of property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Proctor and Co-Sponsor Rep. Cloud sponsored this legislation.

The owner had requested the amount to purchase the property in McIntosh County, and with that amount, funds will also be going towards the cost of title opinions, surveys, title insurance, environmental studies and applicable taxes.

For more information visit, [www.mcnnc.com](http://www.mcnnc.com).



by **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – On Aug. 14, the Business, Finance and Justice 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 25-073** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Tim Wheeler to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund Board was postponed with a vote of 3-0. Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. The legislation is postponed until next month.

If adopted, this resolution will allow Tim Wheeler to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund’s Board, with his term beginning on the date of his confirmation and ending after, at the most, three years.

# LAW TO INCREASE AGE OF CONSENT PASSES BFJ

COMMITTEE ALSO PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL LANGUAGE LIMITING UKB RIGHTS

**TR 25-074** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation nominating Toni Smith to serve as the District Court Trial Judge of the District Trial Court Civil Division of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation passed with a vote of 2-0-1 with Representative Patrick Freeman abstaining. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this resolution allows Toni Smith to serve as the District Trial Court Judge for the Muscogee Nation District Trial Court’s Civil Division, starting from the date of her confirmation to December 31, 2029.

**TR 25-075** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving and authorizing the Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC (“MNGE”) Board of Directors to execute the Platinum Gaming Ventures, LLC. lease agreement passed with a vote of 3-0. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this resolution allows for the creation of a 60-month lease

agreement between Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises and Platinum Gaming Ventures.

**TR 25-079** A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation opposing proposed congressional language to limit the rights of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this resolution would allow the Muscogee Nation to formally oppose the proposed congressional language against the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, written by Congressman Markwayne Mullin.

During discussion, Rep. Barnett stated, “As many people know they’ve been under attack, parts of their sovereignty are under attack, and this is a resolution in support of their endeavor to maintain their sovereignty. I felt like it was important for us to speak out for



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILLS PASS BFJ

THE THREE BILLS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY POSTPONED ON AUG. 14.

by **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – On Aug. 19, the Business, Finance and Justice 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:

**NCA 25-071** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a

new MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-345 entitled “Digital Operation Exposing Sexual Abuse of a Minor” was passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It was previously postponed on Aug. 14.

If adopted, this law will properly define the scope of operations taken up by law enforcement to investigate and arrest those suspected of sexual abuse of a minor via digital sources.

**NCA 25-072** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-309 entitled “Stalking” was passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It was previously postponed on Aug. 14.

If adopted, this law will work to elaborate on the definition of Stalking, in order to protect victims of stalking and their loved ones.

**NCA 25-073** A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 1-401 entitled “Joinder of Offenses” was passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It was previously postponed on Aug. 14.

If adopted, this law will be amended so that separate cases involving the same victims will be joined into one single case.

To view the full agenda, visit: [mcnnc.com](http://mcnnc.com).





BY **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – On Aug.12, the Business, Finance and Justice committee and the Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation committee held an in-person joint session. Passed legislation is subject to full council approval during the regular session.

The committee addressed the

## ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION LEGISLATION POSTPONED

JOINT COMMITTEE HOLDS UNTIL AUG. 19

following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bill:

TR 25-077 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a 2025 Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) grant application was postponed with a vote of 8-0. Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the

legislation. The bill is postponed until Aug. 19.

If adopted, this resolution will allow for the Nation to submit an application for a grant with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the U.S. Department of the Interior for energy source and mineral development.

To view the full agenda, visit: [mcnnc.com](http://mcnnc.com)



BY **SHAYLN PROCTOR**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - On August 19, the Health, Education and Welfare/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee held an in-person meeting. All legislation passed through committee will be presented in the next session for full council approval.

## HVRP WILL BE RECEIVING GRANT FUNDS

THE HVRP FUNDS WILL BE GOING THROUGH APPROVAL OF THE GRANT BUDGET.

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

NCA 25-075 A law of the MCN amending NCA 24-097 (A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor for the Calendar Year 2024 Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Project) passed with a vote of 8-0.

Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored this legislation.

The grant funds of \$438,870 will be expended, consistent with approval of the grant budget. According to the bill, any supplemental grant fund received by the U.S. The Department of Labor each year starting on July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027, must be consistent with the approved grant budget.

For more information visit, [www.mcnnc.com](http://www.mcnnc.com).



BY **SHAYLN PROCTOR**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - On August 19, the Business, Finance and Justice/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee held an in-person meeting. All legislation passed through committee will be presented in the next session for full council approval unless otherwise noted.

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

TR 25-077 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a 2025 Energy and Mineral Development

## MVSKOKE TECH PARK LEGISLATION PASSES JOINT COMMITTEE

ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT ALSO PASSES BFJ/LNC

Program (EMDP) grant application passed with a vote of 9-0. Representative Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored this legislation.

According to the bill, if approved for funding, the grant will help the MCN's commitment to identification of potential energy and mineral assets on Tribal land, and align it with the values and missions of the BIA for the support of Tribal resource development.

NCA 25-077 A law of the MCN establishing the Mvskoke Technology and Innovation Park ("Mvskoke Tech Park") passed with a vote of 8-1, Representative Robyn Whitecloud opposed. Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. sponsored

and Representative Robert Hufft co-sponsored this legislation.

The creation of the Mvskoke Technology and Innovation Park will be designated on tribal lands. According to the bill, MCN understands the importance of data centers, related digital infrastructure, software and technologies. MCN wants the reservation as a hub for data centers and such Tech Improvements. This will be able to attract private investment, grow MCN's access to and ownership of Tech Improvements, create new revenue streams, and enhance workforce opportunities for tribal citizens.

For more information visit, [www.mcnnc.com](http://www.mcnnc.com).



BY **SHAYLN PROCTOR**  
REPORTER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - On August 19, the Health, Education and Welfare/Business, Finance, and Justice Joint Committee held an in-person meeting.

All legislation passed through committee will be presented in the next session for full council approval.

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

TR 25-076 A tribal resolution

## JOINT COMMITTEE PASSES EXPANSION OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

FINANCING FOR NEW CLINICS AND RENOVATIONS NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MCN CITIZENS

of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a proposal letter with attached term sheet and fee letter from BOKE, NA d/b/a Bank of Oklahoma which outlines the terms and conditions for financing new clinics in Holdenville and Sapulpa, and for renovations projects related to Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare passed with a vote of 8-0. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored this legislation.

The MCNDH needs to be able

to expand their capacity due to the demands of healthcare services for the citizens of MCN, they are needing to construct new facilities in areas that are in need. The amount of money will be going towards a new health clinic in Sapulpa and Holdenville, along with a facilities upgrade at the National Council Oak Comprehensive Health care facility in Tulsa to be able to provide new services.

For more information visit, [www.mcnnc.com](http://www.mcnnc.com).

### AGE OF CONSENT

Continued from Page 6

sovereignty in general but specifically to stand with this tribe.”

NCA 25-070 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14 Chapter 2, Subchapter 9, Subsection 2-911, entitled “Child Endangerment,” passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this resolution will expand the definition of child endangerment to include a person driving a vehicle while impaired by alcohol or other substances when a child is in the vehicle, regardless of whether or not the amount of Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) reaches the level of a DUI.

NCA 25-071 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing a new MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-345 entitled “Digital Operation Exposing Sexual Abuse of a Minor” was postponed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It is postponed until Aug. 19.

If adopted, this law will properly define the scope of operations taken up by law enforcement to investigate and arrest those suspected of sexual abuse of a minor via digital sources.

NCA 25-072 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-309 entitled “Stalking” was postponed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It is postponed until Aug. 19.

If adopted, this law will work to elaborate on the definition of Stalking, in order to protect victims of stalking and their loved ones.

NCA 25-073 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 1-401 entitled “Joinder of Offenses” was postponed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation. It is postponed until Aug. 19.

If adopted, this law will be amended so that separate cases involving the same victims will be joined into one single case.

NCA 25-074 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-326 entitled “Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Ward”; MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-327 entitled “Abusive Sexual Contact” and MCNCA Title 14, Subsection 2-342 entitled “Transmitting Information About A Minor” passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this law will increase the legal age of consent according to MCN law from 16 to 18 in order to protect minors from abuse by predators.

NCA 25-076 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs Title II Formula Grant Program funds for the Benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Juvenile Justice Program passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation.

If adopted, this law will allow the Muscogee Nation to use grant funds in the amount of \$23,723.00 to purchase life skills training packages, as well as backpacks and school supplies for juveniles attending this training.

To view the full agenda, visit: [mcnnc.com](http://mcnnc.com).



Mvskoke composer Aryn Ward appeared on Mvskoke Media's Live Wire on July 30. (Photo Courtesy: Aryn Ward)

## COMPOSER TALKS HER CAREER AND INSPIRATIONS

MVSKOKE CITIZEN ARYN WARD LOVES SHARING HER CULTURE THROUGH MUSIC

BY **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – Mvskoke composer Aryn Ward has been involved with music for years. Originally from Sapulpa, Ward has been involved off-and-on with music since she was in high school, even taking years long breaks before deciding to return to music as a composer.

Ward, who lives in Houston with her husband and their four children, spoke to Mvskoke Media's Live Wire to discuss her inspiration, her career as a composer, and the evolution of her music style.

Ward is inspired by connection and people. “I like to connect with people on a different level than usual, and music gives me that connection level. It's not just surface-level. It gets down to a more spiritual connection when you're playing and writing music,” Ward said.

“There's so many people, and so many things, and so many places that have inspired me.”

For Ward, Muscogee culture and language is an important building block in the process of creating music. It's also fundamental in determining what message, or feeling, she wants to convey through her music.

A recent piece created on the harp, alto flute, and bassoon by Ward, titled “Tafv Hotvlé” or “Feather Wind,” was performed at a faculty recital event at West Texas A&M University, being played by Dr. Conor Bell, Dr. Jessica Schury-Peckham, and Dr. Jenny Miller.

Ward was blown away when she first heard her piece being performed. “That was intense,” Ward recalled.

“It was crazy to hear my melody that I wrote being played live in front of all these kids, and these professors, and these band directors... There were even some people from other countries like Australia there.”

Ward has worked with non-profits in the past, working with Nameless Sound, a non-profit organization in Houston that works to spread a love and appreciation of music by holding concerts and workshops in places like public schools, community centers, and homeless shelters.

Ward herself has held a series of workshops with children in after-school programs and in community centers. For Ward, the workshops allow children an escape from their everyday lives by improvising and making music.

“It was always really cool when we got into a groove together, and you could feel it. When you're in a group together and that happens, it's the best feeling. It's when everyone is connected on that level of 'Oh, this is sounding really good!'”

Ward wants to continue working with youth and especially Mvskoke children, but acknowledges that her living in Houston makes doing so difficult.

Those who want to hear and see more of Aryn Ward's work can do so by checking out her YouTube channel under the name Aryn Ward, or check out her Instagram page, @mvskokemusic.



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Oklahoma NPR affiliates like KOSU, KGOU and KGWS have faced federal cuts that will now require them to fundraise the gaps in funding. (Braden Harper/MM)

## LOCAL NPR AFFILIATES FACE CHALLENGES IN LIGHT OF FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS

LOCAL COVERAGE AND EMERGENCY WEATHER ALERTS ON THE RESERVATIONS AT RISK

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

OKLAHOMA CITY – “Defunded, but not defeated” are the words currently displayed on a banner on top of the home page of the National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate KOSU’s website. The words describe the station’s situation now that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has shut down due to \$1.1 billion in funding cuts from the House Bill Recissions Act of 2025 that was signed into law on July 24. CPB was a private, nonprofit organization originally authorized by Congress in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

While KOSU will not immediately shut down as a result of the new law, it creates difficulty for the affiliate to provide its public services to the community- including Indian Country and the Mvskoke Reservation.

KOSU is the NPR affiliate for the Oklahoma City and Stillwater areas. Other NPR affiliates affected by the cuts include KGOU in Norman, KCCU in Lawton, and KGWS in Tulsa. The cuts come from a Trump Administration request, which described public broadcasting as “not part of their agenda,” and are part of the \$9.4 billion rescission bill.

KOSU Executive Director Rachel Hubbard said the budget cuts came just 23 days after the new fiscal year started for her station. While Hubbard’s team is aware of the known costs that will affect the station, there are also unknown costs, like music licensing. KOSU will now have to find a new way to retain those licensing rights.

“In terms of cash money, it’s specifically \$311,000 for the fiscal year that started for KOSU on July 1,” Hubbard said. “The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which announced on August 1 that it will cease operations following this rescission, paid for

**“Across Indian Country this will be a real issue for many residents that live on reservations where the majority of their access and connection to their community is through a local radio station.” - KOSU Executive Director Rachel Hubbard**

things like music rights. They negotiated those things on behalf of the entire public media system. Those included NPR member stations, community-licensed radio stations, tribal radio stations and public television stations.”

Hubbard estimates the annual losses could range closer to \$500k, factoring in unknown expenses like donation drives. KGOU is reporting these cuts will affect 1/7 of their budget, or \$215k. Other unknown expenses include transmitters that send signals to tribal stations that provide universal access to NPR programming for their local communities.

“There are fees associated with satellite systems that a lot of really rural tribal stations and stations that have transmitters in rural areas like Nowata County,” Hubbard said. “The Cherokee Nation is an example because they are dependent on the public radio satellite system.”

### NPR’s Coverage of Indian Country

Although the cuts leave the services provided by KOSU uncertain, a service that is certain in the near

future is its Indigenous affairs coverage- the funding for this comes from private sources. Within the last year, the station produced over 400 stories on Indigenous affairs. A total of 154 were intertribal stories, 25 specifically covered Mvskoke Nation.

According to Hubbard, tribal stations funded by CPB are at high risk of shutting down or reducing coverage in their respective communities. The cuts will affect a Missing and Murdered Indigenous People alert system that was in development. That system was supposed to start airing next month.

“Loris Taylor from Native Public Media has been working really hard on the MMIP (Murdered and Missing Indigenous People) alerts that we’re supposed to roll out in September,” Hubbard said. “That’s part of the emergency alert system that is managed by many public broadcasting entities including KOSU for large parts of northeast Oklahoma. The roll-out of that will likely be stunted or paused.”

KOSU is also responsible for broadcasting emergency weather alerts, which send warnings for severe storms like tornadoes. Due

to its importance in keeping the public informed on inclement weather, maintaining the equipment is a top priority for the station, especially in light of budget cuts.

KOSU is licensed as a non-commercial station, which means it is illegal for them to sell advertisements. However, they can air sponsorships from businesses within strict parameters. Each sponsorship only lasts fifteen seconds and can not contain qualitative language like “best” or “tastiest.” According to Hubbard, 53% of the station’s revenue came from individuals over the past year. Despite funding pitfalls, Hubbard said the response from the community has been “phenomenal.” Making up the lost funding will simply be a recurring issue the station will face annually.

Many NPR stations, including KOSU are currently hosting an emergency pledge drive. For those that would like to make a donation to support public radio, visit their website, [donate.kosu.org](https://donate.kosu.org). Donations can also be made over the phone by calling 855-808-5678.



(Photo Courtesy: MCN)

states Fox. “The other ones we try to have them up at least once a quarter like housing, realty, office of childcare, College of Muskogee Nation.”

MCN Tribal Liaison Royce Grammar-Billy stresses the importance of Outreach events.

“We try to transport our services there to bring them whatever available resources that we have. We’re just happy that we’re providing these services, so they don’t have to come out so far so they can just stay connected and to just be aware of what we do provide for them.”

A resource packet for Citizens Beyond the Reservation is available on the MCN website. The packet gives a general overview of services available for At Large Citizens. It notes that each program may have different eligibility requirements and guidelines, which are subject to change without notice.

The OKC Resource Center is located at 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd. Their main telephone number is (405) 724-8323. See the OKC Resource Center website for further contact information and directions.

## INTERTRIBAL CITIZENS LUNCH WITH THE BUTTERFLIES

29TH ANNUAL CDC TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MAKES A STOP AT THE EUCHEE BUTTERFLY FARM TO LEARN ABOUT TRIBAL POLLINATOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



A member of the CDC Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) tourist group looks up at butterflies in the Euchee Butterfly Garden’s walk-through aviary. (Braden Harper/MM)

by **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

BIXBY – A packed charter bus of Intertribal citizens made a stop at the Euchee Butterfly Farm during a tour of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on July 7. The stop was part of the 29th Annual CDC Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting hosted at the Riverspirit Casino. TAC meetings provide information on CDC programs and address the needs of Tribal communities. Two meetings are held every fiscal year, and this meeting was hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. During the tour, visitors from the group learned about the efforts the farm has made in housing pollinators, empowering Native farmers and conserving the environment. They also heard from College of the Muscogee Nation Extension Program Coordinator Chris Azbell and their efforts in community agriculture education.

Euchee Butterfly Farm Director Jane Breckinridge welcomed guests and introduced them to the world of pollinators and native plants. Visitors explored the farm’s walk-through butterfly aviary that houses native plants and over 1,000 live butterflies. The farm is also more than just a sanctuary for butterflies. It houses a seed bank containing over 270 plant species.

“We are the largest Native-led grassland restoration organization in North America,” Breckinridge said. “We work today with 85 different tribes to assist them with Native plant restoration on their lands. Whether they’re doing that because they are concerned about pollinators, Monarchs, cultural plants that are disappearing or medicine plants that are disappearing. They want better soil health, improved forage for bison and other animals.”

Another initiative Breckin-

ridge discussed is the Food Initiative for Tribes (FIT). The initiative tackles issues regarding food deserts, food insecurity and limited access to fresh produce. These can all contribute to preventable disease that affect rural areas on tribal reservations. FIT educates Tribal citizens on how to grow produce, as well as prepare it once it is ready for harvest.

“We realized over the years that we were spending a lot of time showing people how to grow healthy foods for pollinators, healthy foods for butterflies, when they needed assistance learning how to grow healthy foods for themselves and their families,” Breckinridge said.

Chris Azbell was brought in to discuss his work in agriculture at CMN. Speaking at the event and educating others on native plants was just another day at the office for Azbell.

“I kind of have a dream job working for extension,” Azbell said. “I get to talk to people and do a lot of ag programming. I get to learn from people everyday.”

Azbell discussed collaborations the department is involved in, including the Youtube Series with Mvskoke Media, “Mvskoke Gardening.” He shared the season two episode “Yaupon Tea,” with the TAC. After the video, Azbell discussed the significance of yaupon holly to North America and Native people. Visitors in the group were given yaupon holly leaves as a gift after the presentation.

For those interested in registering for the Biannual CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting, visit their website, <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal-health/advisory/meeting-registration.html>. There, registrants can find meeting resources, and the option to attend virtual or in person.

Tours of the Euchee Butterfly Farm can be booked on their website, [nativebutterflies.org/tours](https://nativebutterflies.org/tours).



Euchee Butterfly Farm Executive Director Jane Breckinridge gives a presentation on her nonprofit’s efforts in pollinator conservation and food sovereignty. (Braden Harper/MM)



Members of the CDC Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) listen to presentations given by the Euchee Butterfly Farm and the College of Muscogee Nation Extension Office. (Braden Harper/MM)

## OKC CENTER IS RELIABLE RESOURCE FOR MCN CITIZENS

OKLAHOMA CITY RESOURCE CENTER SET TO HOST MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TAX COMMISSION IN AUGUST

by **FRANCES HERROD**  
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizens Beyond the Reservation have a reliable support system at The Oklahoma City Resource Center. The center, located at 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., provides connection to services and cultural events for those residing outside reservation boundaries.

The center is available throughout the week from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday except for holidays. Children and Family services recently moved an office into the center as well. The staff is eager to assist citizens and those seeking information about enrollment. They can provide paperwork and access to the Camphouse Portal for those without internet access and can assist Elders who may require help with the site.

“Most people that come in want the applications for citizenship, social services, things like that, and some people just need copies made,” OKC Resource Center Site Coordinator Adam Fox (Mvskoke/Euchee) explains.

But pushing paper isn’t all the

center does however. Throughout the year they host cultural events, Mvskoke language classes, and events for Elders that offer a chance for food, fun, and fellowship. This is an important feature of Mvskoke culture which relies heavily upon relational community.

“Our Mvskoke Elders, we have a lunch every fourth Wednesday of every month. And we’ve been having that for at least about a year, maybe a year and a half. And we get quite a few people, 50 citizens. The last one, we got approximately 75.”

The center, in collaboration with the Office of the Tribal Liaison, also brings social services departments for in person events. Social services are located in Okmulgee, a 100 mile trek from Oklahoma City, that At Large Citizens may not readily have access to due to distance.

“We try to have an Outreach event just about every month and we’re planning one this month. Generally we try to have the main services that people need, which is citizenship. The tags have been coming, and actually, they’re coming twice a month now. Social Services. So, we try to get those,”



DAWES + CULTURAL FLUENCY = TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP

by J.D. COLBERT  
SUBMISSION

“What was given to the Mvskoke tribal towns in the beginning, and to be kept and rekindled periodically? What are the major ingredients in Sofkey? Traditional Stomp dance grounds are often headed by whom? In the story, How Day and Night were Divided, What did Wotko have that made Chewthlockchew think? Article I, Section 3 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution deals solely with what?”

These questions are a small sampling of the 400 questions that high school participants in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl must be prepared to answer. Participants in the Challenge Bowl sit in front of a panel of Mvskoke Elders (the experts) who pose these questions concerning Mvskoke culture, language, history and government. The Elders then assess whether the participant(s) have answered correctly.

The competition is among teams of four people. Two teams are present before the panel of Elders who pose a question from among the 400 questions in the Mvskoke Study Guide. Participants use the Study Guide in preparation for the competition.

When asked one of these questions, team members will quickly smash an answer button, a la the

quiz show Jeopardy!, and offer their answer. The team that answers the most questions correctly moves to the next round. Eventually team champions are recognized in the three divisions of competition; elementary, middle and high school.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl is a fun and wonderful event for spectators but at the same time cause for high anxiety among the participants. This is an annual event and it is open to the public. If you ever get the opportunity to attend the Challenge Bowl, please do so.

Watching this year's Challenge Bowl competition, I admired the Mvskoke knowledge of the students as well as, candidly, getting a kick out of their occasional malapropos (Q: What does the Creek word Estonkis 'os mean? A: I don't know. It's all Greek to me!).

At some point, I found my mind wandering to the similarity of the Muscogee Challenge Bowl to that of the U.S. Citizenship test. Like the Challenge Bowl, the U.S. citizenship test demands knowledge of the U.S. history, culture, government and constitution. In order to attain U.S. citizenship, an immigrant applicant must display proficiency in a formal way across a wide range of appropriate subject matter.

In an Einsteinium epiphany, I not only discerned a connection between the Muscogee Challenge

Bowl and the U.S. Citizenship test but also was able to articulate a tribal theorem relative to Einstein's famous equation, to wit:

Blood Quantum + Cultural Fluency = Tribal Citizenship

What if the tribes decided that more than blood quantum (and/or “blood ancestry” for those tribes enrolling by lineal descent) was necessary and desirable to attain tribal enrollment and tribal citizenship? What if the tribes, generally free to set their own enrollment criteria, required proficiency across a body of knowledge relevant to their culture as demonstrated before a group of tribal Elders as a condition (in addition to blood quantum) to tribal citizenship?

Yes, it may take years to acquire this body of knowledge (and in my opinion, it would) let alone for that person's life to reflect what I consider to be the signature Native values of eyasketv (to be humble), emetv (to be giving) and mekusvpetv (to be prayerful).

Would this not generally be a good thing for our tribes and for our people? Wouldn't this also have the felicitous effect of “thinning the herd” of the crowd of people who want tribal membership solely for “the benefits”? And shouldn't those who aspire to tribal leadership possess a basic level of knowledge of their people and tribal values?

Tribal blood is a divine gift of

Creator. Those of us lucky enough to be so blessed did nothing to earn this gift. Whether it is one drop or 12 pounds of Native blood (the weight of the six quarts of blood said to be in every person), we simply have been blessed. It thus seems to me that some amount of effort should be required of those who apply for tribal membership (beyond the requisite paper chase of the enrollment process which admittedly can be daunting!).

We can never earn Creator's blessing of Native blood but we can, and should, be expected to honor this blessing by at least making the effort to attain a base level of knowledge and proficiency of the ways, culture, history, language and government of “our tribe” and of “our people.”

Estecate En Fulletv is an Mvskoke phrase meaning “the ways or customs of Native people”. Knowledge of these ways is vitally important. There was a time when all of us as Native people learned these ways simply by growing up among our people.

Of course, that is still the case. But for many who otherwise qualify for tribal citizenship predicated solely on blood quantum, this vital knowledge is missing. These people were not further blessed to have been raised among our people and to thus have had instruction in Estecate En Fulletv.

We must therefore be very

intentional about preserving, promoting and enlarging Estecate En Fulletv among our people, particularly those who aspire to become a tribal citizen. We can and should do this by articulating a body of cultural/language fluency as may be set forth by our tribal Elders. The tribal citizen applicant should then be required to demonstrate proficiency in this body of knowledge before gaining tribal citizenship.

Let me be clear; Native blood is and always will be the sine qua non for being Native. It is only from the inherent power and properties of this Native blood that a truly Native person may be molded and developed by being open and receptive to the teaching and instruction of a Native community in Estecate En Fulletv.

Thus, more than blood quantum or lineal descendency should be required when it comes to the paramount issue of tribal citizenship. This is especially compelling in our contemporary world where more and more tribal applicants for citizenship have had less and less connection to their Native communities and thus minimal, if any, knowledge of Estecate En Fulletv. I therefore propose the formula:

Blood Quantum + Cultural Fluency = Tribal Membership.

On to the Challenge Bowl!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Adulting Series 101

College of Muscogee Nation  
Sept. 2  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Class is open to the public and will discuss sovereignty, housing, ICWA and estate planning. CMN Lecture Hall, 2140 Raven Circle, Okmulgee, Okla

Coffee and Donuts

Sept. 11  
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
1006 Bear Ln, Okmulgee, Okla  
For questions, contact 918-732-7739.

Farmer's Market

CMN Extension/  
Looped Square Meat Co.  
September 13  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
3300 U.S. 75 North, Beggs, Okla  
For questions, contact 918-549-2861.

Elder's Meeting

Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center  
Sept. 3 | 9:30 a.m.  
2900 N. Osage Pl.  
Okmulgee, Okla

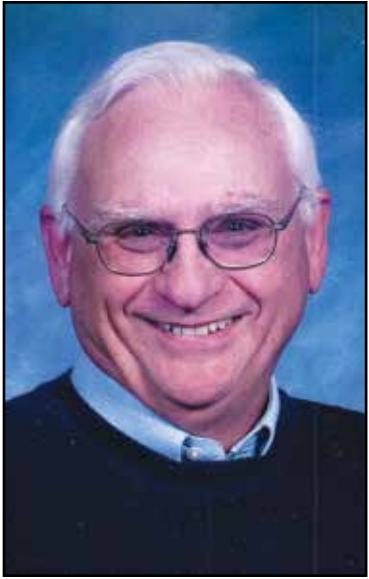
Opioid Summit

MCN Health  
Sept. 25 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
425 Boston St., Muskogee, Okla  
For questions, contact 918-300-1320

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.

IN MEMORIAM



BLUFORD WEST MILLER III

A Celebration of Life for Bluford Miller will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. at First United Methodist Church, in Duncan (2300 Country Club Road), with Reverend Mark Jardine officiating.

Bluford West “Blu” Miller III passed away on August 3, 2025, just three weeks shy of his 86th birthday. He was born on August 21, 1939, in Cushing, Oklahoma, to Bluford West Miller Jr. and Zenda Ouida Alfred Miller. Blu spent his childhood on the family ranches in Payne and Okmulgee counties, as well as in Newton, Kansas, where the family moved during World War II so his father

could work for the railroad. He was a proud member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

A graduate of Newton High School, Blu attended both Oklahoma State University and Kansas State

University, ultimately earning his B.S. (1962) and M.S. (1964) in agricultural economics from OSU.

Blu devoted his career to public service through the USDA Farmers Home Administration, leading economic development programs across Oklahoma. His work took him to Pawhuska, Perry, and Stillwater before the family settled in Duncan in 1973, where he served as Area Director for Southern Oklahoma. His proudest professional role came just before retirement in 1997, when he served as a statewide liaison to Native American tribes.

Faith, family, and travel were the guiding passions of Blu's life. He was a devoted member of First United Methodist Church, Duncan, for more than five decades, where he served in many leadership roles and was especially committed to mission work. He participated in mission trips to San Marcos, Texas, as well as to Mexico and Honduras, and supported local charities including Christians Concerned and the Duncan Food Pantry. A cherished memory was traveling with his mother on a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Holy Land.

On August 29, 1965, Blu married Sandra Jeanne Love, and together they shared nearly 60 years of love and adventure. The couple visited almost every U.S. state, returning to Hawaii five times and making frequent trips to the mountains of New Mexico and Colorado.

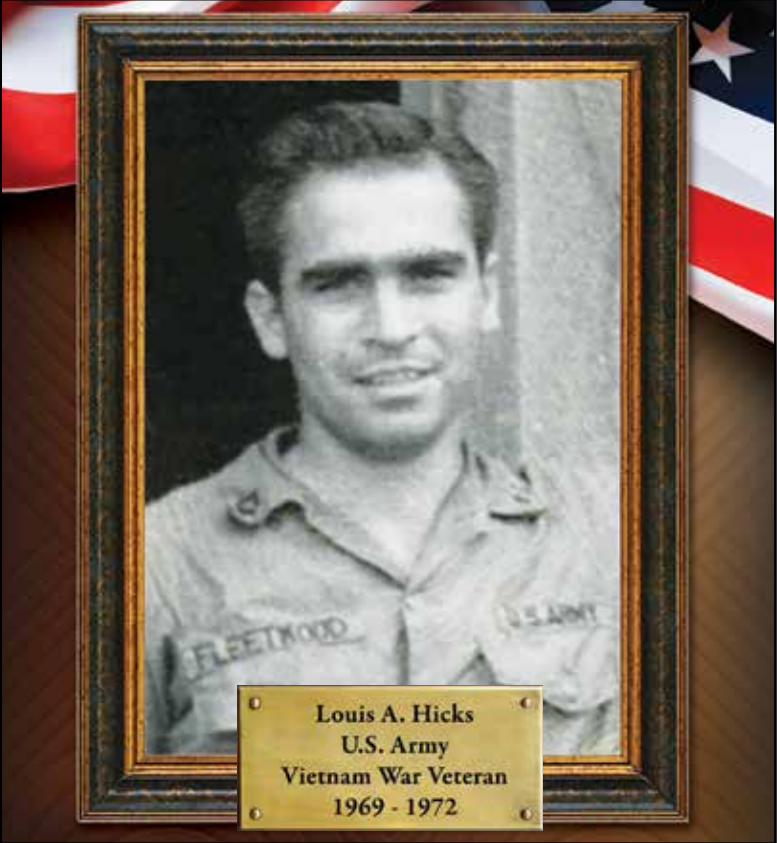
Blu is preceded in death by his parents, Bluford W. Miller Jr. and Zenda Alfred Miller; his in-laws, Frank Love Jr. and Gladys Bond Love; and his daughter-in-law, Kelly Villareal Miller.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Jeanne Miller of the home; his children: Richard and Niki Miller of Owasso, OK, Steven and Jennifer Miller of Austin, TX, and Tim and Nancy Ormand of Simpsonville, SC; grandchildren: Braxton and Cassie Kee of Longmont, CO, and their children, Olivia and Grayson; Danielle Miller of Austin, TX; Beau and Savannah Godfrey of Augusta, GA, and their son, Callahan; and Johnathan and Sarah Grace Martinez of Piedmont, SC. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Monnie and Fran Miller of Perkins, OK, along with their children and grandchildren.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church Blessing Box or the Oklahoma United Methodist Indian Missionary Conference through FUMC Duncan.

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

JIMMY L. FLEETWOOD



(Image Courtesy: VASO)

The Muscogee Nation Veterans Services Office is proud to honor Tribal veteran Jimmy L. Fleetwood for his dedicated service to the U.S. Army, the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Jimmy honorably served over two years from 1967 to

1970 and is a recipient of several honors: Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, 2 Overseas Bars and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Mvto Mr. Fleetwood for your selfless service to your country and your community.

MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

IN MEMORIAM

PAUL GENE ANGLEN



Paul Gene Anglen was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 30, 1937, to Edward and Thelma (Thomas) Anglen. Paul was previously married to Carol (Householder) Anglen and two children, Barbara and Kenneth Anglen, were born to this marriage. When their marriage was dissolved Paul moved for a short time to Florida and then to Kansas City, Missouri. He married Lavone Johnson Hedge on September 18, 1990, in Las Vegas, Nevada and they lived in Kansas City, Missouri.

Paul went to North High School

in Omaha, Nebraska and served in the US Navy from February 21, 1956, to January 30, 1962, as an electrician at Norfolk, Virginia Air Station.

Paul was self-employed as President of Commercial Office Equipment Company from 1972 to 1988, in Omaha, Nebraska. Paul was a thirty-second degree Mason and, in the Shriner's, and also a member of the Mustang group in Omaha, Nebraska.

He is survived by his wife Lavone Anglen; 2 children: Barbara Anglen and Kenneth Anglen, and foreign exchange student who was very much like a son, Leon Heller and wife, Wendy DuBoe.

SUBMISSION

THANK YOU

by SULLI MARIAH HELEN LEE

Thanks to Chief Hill and Muscogee Creek Nation for replacing my air conditioning unit! It is so nice to have our

home cool again. Thanks for taking good care of your elders! Much appreciated! Mvto, Sulli Mariah Helen Lee



# CHEWIN' THE CUD

By **CHRIS AZBELL**  
CMN EXTENSION COORDINATOR



(Courtesy: Chris Azbell)

## Will Sampson Statue Coming to Okmulgee – Help Make it a Reality

Hesci readers...it has been quite some time since our last Chewing the Cud article. When you get older, time just seems to slip away like sand between your fingers. With summer coming to an end and the kids going back to school, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a very compelling project that is in the works: a bronze statue of Will “Sonny” Sampson. As a volunteer with Okmulgee Main Street in downtown Okmulgee, our Economic Vitality Committee came up with the idea to have an art placement in the historic district adjacent to the Creek Council House.

After much deliberation, the Committee recommended a statue of Will Sampson to honor his career as an actor, artist, rodeo cowboy, and local Muscogee legend. It is also in line with Okmulgee’s new designation as a Film Friendly City – “Reservation Dogs,” “Sarah’s Oil,” and more. Right now, the final location has not been officially determined, but the size and design have been predominantly settled. The statue will be 1.25 times the size of Will who stood 6’7 in height. The statue will be based on a classic picture of Mr. Sampson with creative details added to

the design highlighting his illustrious career.

He is probably most famously connected to the movie, “One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest” as Chief Bromden but also had roles in other movies including “The Outlaw Josie Wells.” Whether sitting aside Jack Nicholas or standing next to Clint Eastwood, Will Sampson never seemed out of place. He was a true Hollywood Star that many Natives throughout the country looked up to and aspired to be.

The project is a collaboration between Okmulgee Main Street, College of the Muscogee Nation Extension, Muscogee Nation Tourism, and the Muscogee Nation Cultural Center & Archives Department among others. Right now, we are entering a full fundraising mode. The total project cost is approximately \$250,000.00 with an initial desire to produce a maquette which is a small version of the larger statue which will be used for fundraising purposes. The maquette production and artist fees are right at \$30,000.00

The committee has selected Kenneth Johnson to design and produce the statue. Kenneth is a Mvskoke citizen and an amazing artist who has produced award winning sculptures and public art throughout the United States. The plan is to go through three

rounds of design with a goal of having the statue in place by the 50th anniversary of the Mvskoke Festival in June of 2026.

With that said, we need your help. We want this to be a grassroots initiative, funded by the people who knew Will Sampson and called him a friend. To donate, you have two options. You can go to Okmulgee Main Street ([okmulgeemainstreet.com](http://okmulgeemainstreet.com)) and click on the donation tab or you can donate via the College of the Muscogee Nation ([cmn.edu](http://cmn.edu)). Make sure you tag #WillSamponson in the donation line. OMS has a wonderful page dedicated to the project with interesting facts and pictures about Mr. Sampson so please stop by and visit the site. You can also use the QR code to go directly to the site and donate. Help us make this project a reality. Ahh...juicy fruit. #IYKYK.



(Courtesy: Chris Azbell)

# TEXAS TRIBAL BUFFALO PROJECT LEADS THE CHARGE ON CULTURAL REVIVAL

THE LIPAN APACHE-LED NONPROFIT'S MISSION MUTUALLY CONTRIBUTES TO LAND CONSERVATION AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

By **BRADEN HARPER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA – The Texas Tribal Buffalo Project (TTBP) is a woman-led nonprofit aiming to reconnect the Lipan Apache people with the buffalo descendants. Leading the charge on the nonprofit is Texas Tribal Buffalo Project Founder and CEO Lucille Contreras (Lipan Apache), or Buffalo Woman. Her mission for the nonprofit comes from her passion for her ancestors and her people. Contreras appeared on Mvskoke Media’s “Live Wire” on July 31 to discuss her tribe’s history and culture, as well as her hope for the future of her people.

TTBP ranch is located in the Lipan Apache territory in Welder, Texas. The ranch was recently featured on the PBS series “Women of the Earth.”

The Lipan Apache are located in Texas. Like Muscogee (Creek) Nation, they are a matrilineal soci-

ety that trace their ancestors through their mother’s side. They descend from the Apache people that migrated from Canada to present day New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. Like so many other tribes, bison, or the American buffalo, has a significant meaning to the Lipan Apache. Their official shield contains a buf-

**“Our people (Apache Lipan) have constantly moved around, constantly fought for identity. That’s what Texas Tribal Buffalo is doing, very much like the buffalo in the winter that use their ginormous heads to clear a way and make a path in the snow to get to the grass. That’s the resiliency of Texas Indigenous lineal descendants.” - Lucille Contreras**

falo at its center signifying hunting and the Creator’s knowledge for His people.

For Contreras, forming the nonprofit was a way to reestablish a relationship to bison. TTBP oversees a 150-acre ranch that is home to 40 bison. Cultural knowledge and edu-

cation is especially crucial in Texas where so few tribes have received federal recognition, including Lipan Apache.

“I had begun Texas Tribal Buffalo Project as a way to reclaim Texas Indigenous lineal descendency,” Contreras said. “In Texas there are very few federally-recognized tribes. There are the Alabama-Coushatta in

the east, the Kickapoo in the south, and the Ysleta Pueblo in the west.”

Contreras’ approach to leading the nonprofit is traditional to Lipan leadership structure.

“I have governed Texas Tribal Buffalo Project as a matriarchal governance,” Contreras said. “We are



(Courtesy: Texas Tribal Buffalo Project)

now creating a type of matriarchal, matrilineal governance where we are forming the decisions at Texas Tribal Buffalo makes and the pathways we move forward in our initiatives of regenerative agricultural curriculum, food sovereignty, and restoring land back to Indigenous people”

TTBP was funded in part by a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher loan. It is also funded by the Seventh Generation for Indigenous Peoples and Americorp. The nonprofit has received bison as donations from the Nature Conservancy and other anonymous donors.

In addition to conservation efforts, TTBP also sells bison meat. According to Contreras, TTBP is the only bison caretaker and producer that accepts EBT and food stamps online. TTBP ships bison meat all over the United States. The

funds from sales all directly support TTBP’s operations and future projects.

Bison meat is provided for students through their Farm to School Basket initiative. The goal is to provide traditional Indigenous foods for students that are nutritious and culturally significant. Acknowledging the connection between traditional foods and material health, the nonprofit also provides bison meat for pregnant mothers through their Meat for Mamas initiative.

The nonprofit gives educational tours of the ranch. Visitors get the opportunity to learn about the bison, native plants, history of the land, regenerative agriculture, and Lipan Apache culture. To schedule a visit to the TTBP Ranch, visit <https://www.texastribalbuffaloproject.org/ranch-tour>.

# SECRETARY BUTLER EDUCATES TULSANS ON MVSKOKE, COUNCIL OAK TREE HISTORY

ATTENDEES PACKED INTO THE BACKYARD LAWN OF THE BRUT HOTEL IN TULSA TO HEAR ABOUT INDIGENOUS HISTORY



Secretary of Culture & Humanities Raelynn Butler gave what organizers hope to be the first of many talks on Mvskoke culture and history on Aug. 19. (Thomas Jackson/MM)

By **THOMAS JACKSON**  
REPORTER

TULSA – A small crowd gathered on a hot evening to hear stories from Mvskoke history in the backyard lot of the Brut Hotel, located across Boulder Avenue from Dream Keepers Park in Tulsa on Aug. 19.

Despite the high temperatures, Raelynn Butler, the Secretary of Culture and Humanities for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, gave an engaging talk on the history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the history of the Council Oak Tree,

which was located not far from the hotel. This talk was given as part of what is hoped to be a series of discussions meant to educate both Natives and non-Natives on the history and culture of the Mvskoke people.

The talk was sponsored by the Council Oak Tree Foundation, which sold merchandise to commemorate the Council Oak Tree.

Butler gave a heartfelt retelling of the Locv Pokv band of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and how the land they settled on, near the Council Oak Tree, would become what is

now the city of Tulsa.

She would then guide the crowd over to the tree itself and taught spectators more of its significance.

The crowd, which consisted of more than 50 people, and included both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from Tulsa, reacted positively to the talk.

Organizers hope that this is just the first of many events like it, with groups such as the Council Oak Tree Foundation and the Tulsa Creek Indian Community viewing it as a huge success.

Butler also hopes that the park in which the Council Oak tree is housed will be transferred fully over to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as part of an agreement with the City of Tulsa by the next Council Oak Tree ceremony, to be held on Nov. 5 of this year.

As she spoke, Butler made sure to stress the cultural importance of the tree and the hope that it lives on.

“We are hoping to do more with the park. We’re collecting acorns so that the daughters and sons of the Council Oak Tree can be preserved, so that one day, if something does happen to the Council Oak tree, that we have others around and its history can continue to live on.” Butler said.

For those who wish to know more about the work done by the Council Oak Tree Foundation, visit their website at <http://www.creekcounciloaktulsa.org>.

# SUBMISSION



(Courtesy: Kayla Seifert)

# MUSCOGEE CREEK YOUTH REPRESENTS IN WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

Maddox Seifert, recently tried out for and made Team Native America 10U and had the incredible opportunity to travel and compete in the World Baseball Classic Tournament in Waxahachie, Texas this past weekend.

Maddox was proud to represent the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the only Mvskoke tribal member on the team. He played as the starting catcher, and he and his team made it all the way to the final day of the competition.



# OUR SACRED LAMINATE: THE FRAGILE FRAMEWORK BEHIND THE CDIB

A HISTORY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD



Blood quantum verification documentation is subject to modification. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

**BY JERRAD MOORE**  
*ASSIGNMENT EDITOR*

OKMULGEE – Individuals that can show their birth mother or father is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe can obtain from the federal government a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card. This card states the amount of American Indian or Alaska Native “blood” possessed by the person named on the document.

**How was the CDIB card developed? What is its purpose? What rules govern the issuance of the card?**

The Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood is a document issued by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is a necessary document in order for individuals to obtain federal benefits such as educational loans, employment preference, and medical services.

The CDIB does not establish membership in a Tribal Nation. Tribal Nations determine their own membership as an aspect of their sovereignty.

CDIB cards are issued by the BIA with no direct statutory authority and there are no formally published regulations governing the process.

The document can be obtained from the BIA or a Tribal enrollment office, but there are no clear rules delineating how these offices grant or deny a CDIB or calculate the blood quantum listed on the document. Tribal enrollment offices can issue CDIBs under a “638” contract, which is a funding agreement between the tribe and the BIA established under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act passed in 1975.

**How did such an important document come to be without codification in statute or formal regulation?**

Some federal statutes and regulations, such as the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, have a definition of “Indian” that does not refer to Tribal membership. The IRA states: “The term ‘Indian’ as used in this Act shall include all persons of Indian descent who are members of any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction, and all persons who are descendants of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian

reservation, and shall further include all other persons of one-half or more Indian blood.”

On Aug 4, 1947, Congress passed a statute that would become known as the Stigler Act. The lands that the Five Civilized Tribes had received from the federal government in Indian Territory, and later allotted to citizens, was known as restricted fee land. Restricted fee land cannot be sold, transferred or encumbered without the permission of the Department of the Interior.

The Stigler Act set up a mechanism for this restricted fee land to be removed from restricted status.

Originally, the Stigler Act limited interests in certain allotted land maintained in restricted fee status to individuals with “one-half or more Indian blood”. This was later amended by the United States Congress in 1980 to remove this requirement for any member of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma.

In both of these instances, a CDIB would be necessary to prove the individual’s “blood quantum”.

Paul Spruhan is visiting Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico School of Law and former Assistant Attorney General for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Spruhan is the author of “CDIB: The Role of the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood in Defining Native American Legal Identity” published in volume 6, issue 2 of the “American Indian Law Journal.”

**According to the article:**

The importance of a CDIB might lead to the assumption that there are clear authorities and accessible procedures for how the BIA and tribes issue the document and calculate the blood quantum that appears on it. However, there is no specific congressional authority for the BIA to issue CDIBs. There is no reference to CDIBs at all in Title 25 of the CDIB Code. There is no mandate by Congress to the BIA to create or continue to issue CDIBs, other than the implicit direction contained within congressional definitions of “Indian” and “Alaska Native” that use blood quantum. The CDIB is an internal BIA creation, presumably issued under the Department of the Interior’s general authorities

delegated by Congress for matters involving Indian affairs. Also, there are no regulations, and have never been any regulations, in the Code of Federal Regulations authorizing or governing CDIBs.

Currently, the BIA has a page on their website that assists individuals seeking to obtain a CDIB. This page has a link to the CDIB application form which details what documents are needed to apply. The application also has a “request for CDIB form” that must be filled out and returned to the BIA.

This webpage does not describe the process for appealing the denial of a CDIB.

Because of the lack of a statutory or regulatory mandate for the creation of CDIBs, it is unclear when or how they were first developed. In the late 1930s, the BIA sought to register individuals for programs created by the Indian Reorganization Act. John Collier, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, began issuing letters to individuals attesting that they had half or more degree of Indian blood, as a way to satisfy the IRA requirements of documentation for federal purposes.

A BIA memorandum from the time states that the Superintendent of any Indian agency could grant a certificate of Indian blood as long as the applicant’s name appeared on an official Tribal or census roll of an Indian group under the jurisdiction of the agency in question. The roll utilized must have the applicant’s degree of Indian blood listed as one-fourth or more.

It seems likely that these certificates were the genesis of the CDIB card.

In 1983 a Chickasaw citizen named Morgan Underwood requested a new CDIB card. He wanted a new “plasticized” card to replace his eight and half by eleven inch CDIB he already had. When the BIA agency office received his request, it conducted a review of his blood quantum and found that there was no judicial record of paternity, and so according to the BIA, Underwood had no proof that he was the actual son of his claimed father. The BIA then reduced his blood quantum from full blood to 1/2.

It is the BIA policy to automatically assign no Indian blood for a child’s father if paternity is not proven to the agency’s satisfaction.

Underwood then filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals challenging the decision.

The BIA argued that any policy or actions the agency takes in regards to CDIBs is discretionary, because the BIA is not required to issue CDIBs at all. According to the BIA, CDIBs were granted for the convenience of the government, at the assistant secretary’s discretion. Their purpose was to facilitate the determination of eligibility for federal programs.

The IBIA disagreed, pointing out that the policies were unpublished, and thus not known to Underwood or those who would be affected by them. The IBIA blocked the BIA from changing Underwood’s blood quantum, and ordered the BIA to issue him a card with the original 4/4 blood quantum.

After the Underwood decision, the BIA did not issue final regulations. Instead, in 1987, the agency issued a notice in the Federal Register that enrollment appeals regulations would be revised.

The BIA then changed the classification of appeals of the change of degree of blood quantum so that the IBIA no longer had any jurisdiction over the decisions. The BIA administration would now hear all challenges to blood quantum changes.

Over the next decade, BIA officials from the Eastern Oklahoma Region as well as the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes worked to develop draft CDIB regulations, which were eventually published to the Federal Register for notice and comment on April 18, 2000.

These draft regulations allow different tribal blood quantum to be included on a CDIB. They require certain documents to prove paternity and how blood quantum is to be calculated from the individual’s lineal ancestors. Timelines are established for the issuance of a CDIB and appeals of procedural decisions.

Under the draft regulations, the BIA is still authorized to unilaterally alter or invalidate an individual’s CDIB. An individual whose CDIB has been altered or invalidated has the right to appeal, but only after the decision is made.

There is no restriction on when a BIA employee could decide to review an individual’s blood quantum and make unilateral changes. These draft regulations have never been finalized by the BIA. The BIA could, for example, also authorize an audit of an entire Tribe, altering or invalidating the CDIBs of an unlimited number of citizens.

Currently, a CDIB is not required to apply for citizenship at the Muscogee Creek Nation. The MCN Citizenship Office does provide copies of the BIA’s application for CDIB.

**What action can be taken to address the opaque nature of the CDIB process?**

Clear and accessible policies are necessary, according to Spruhan:

None of this is unchangeable. Threshold levels of “blood” are not inherent to Native American identity, as other definitions exist, and have existed, in federal Indian law. Congress can revise those statutes that allegedly necessitate the existence of the CDIB to eliminate the bare blood criteria, and adopt other definitions, such as tribal membership, as it has done in the Indian Child Welfare Act. The BIA could simply stop issuing CDIBs, as it created them and continues to issue them, despite the absence of any congressional mandate to do so. Further, tribal governments can, if they so choose as a matter of their own public policy, de-emphasize blood quantum, by revising their membership rules, or declining to issue CDIBs in lieu of or in addition to tribal citizenship identification documents, or both. Such actions dilute, if not fully dissolve, the claimed need for the CDIB. However, until those actions are taken, and for as long as the CDIB continues, the BIA should apply clear and accessible policies that govern its issuance by its own officials and 638 contractors. Those policies should be sensitive to the possibilities of manipulation, so as not to exacerbate internal tribal conflicts over membership and identity. Ultimately, if the CDIB must continue, because federal statutes or regulations require some proof of blood quantum, the BIA should take the affirmative responsibility to prevent its misuse as an internal weapon within tribal communities.



LEGALS

AD-2023-10, PG. 1

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

In re the Matter of the Adoption of:

K.L.H.,  
A minor child, D/O/B 9/07/2019

Case No.:

AD-2023-10

Judge:

Masters

NOTICE OF HEARING ON BEST INTEREST AND FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TO: unknown father of K.L.H.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2025, the Petitioner, Solomon Hill and Elnora Hill, by and through their attorney of record, Jay R. Bills of the Wirth Law Office, having filed his Motion for Hearing on Best Interest and Final Hearing herein, the court FINDS that the Motion should be granted and that the same should be set for hearing on Best Interest and the entry of a Final Decree of Adoption.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Court that this matter be, and it is hereby set for issuance of a Best Interest and the entry of a Final Decree of Adoption on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvmbylke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, and that notice thereof be given to all intended parties.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPURTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA .

Signed and dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2025.

In re the Adoption of K.L.H.

Notice of Hearing on Best Interest and Final Decree of Adoption

Page 1 of 2

AD-2023-10, PG. 2

Judge of the District Court

Prepared by:

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Attorney for Petitioner

In re the Adoption of K.L.H.

Notice of Hearing on Best Interest and Final Decree of Adoption

Page 2 of 2

GD-2025-47

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:

A.R.,  
Minor Child.

Case No.

GD-2025-47

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN

Notice is hereby given that JONITA ROWE 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 A.R., date of birth August 24, 2015.

And that the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2025 at the hour of 1:30 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

Judge of the Muscogee Creek Nation

GD-2025-48

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:

H.M. AND W.M.,  
Minor Children.

Case No.

GD-2025-48

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL CO-GUARDIANS

Notice is hereby given that AMBER COOPER and JOE COOPER have filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting the appointment of co-guardians of the person and property of H.M., date of birth February 4, 2009, and W.M., date of birth December 19, 2010.

And that the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2025, at the hour of 1:30 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

Judge of the Muscogee Creek Nation

AD-2025-06, PG. 1

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION  
OF:

BABY S., a/k/a  
H.S.,  
A MINOR CHILD.

Case No.

AD-2025-06

SECOND ORDER RESETTING & NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF NATURAL MOTHER, PUTATIVE  
FATHER AND UNKNOWN JOHN DOE FATHER

To: Delilah Sago  
Gustavo Sanchez Acosta  
Unknown John Doe Father

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Jack Kaudle Kaule and Barbara Stokes have filed a Petition for Adoption and an Application for Termination of Parental Rights of Natural Mother, Putative Father and Unknown John Doe Father concerning Baby S. a/k/a H. S. (hereinafter "Minor Child") an Indian Child, eligible to enroll in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, born on July 29, 2024, at Hillcrest Medical Center, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, of whom you are the Natural Mother, Putative Father and Unknown John Doe Father

A hearing on the Application for Termination of Parental Rights of Natural Mother, Putative Father and Unknown John Doe Father is set for the 30 day of Sept. 2025, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. p.m. in room 1 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Courthouse, 2501 Lvmbylke, Okmulgee, OK 74447. It is alleged that your consent to this adoption is not necessary pursuant to MCNC Title 6 §§ 1-1007(B), 1-901 and 1-902, for abandonment of the Minor Child, for failure to maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the Minor Child consecutively for six (6) out of the last fourteen (14) months immediately preceding the filing of the Application in this matter, for willfully failing to pay or to contribute any support to the Minor

AD-2025-06, PG. 2

Child and for failure to establish to take any steps to establish paternity toward the Minor Child or exercise any parental rights or duties toward the Minor Child.

YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE, WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF SAID CHILD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF INTEREST IN THE CHILD WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING, IN THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE TRANSFER OF THE CHILD'S CARE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP OR IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION. THE ADOPTION MAY BE ORDERED IF THE YOU, THE PARENT, DO NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND SHOW CAUSE WHY YOUR CONSENT IS NOT NECESSARY.

Judge of the District Court

Submitted by:

M. Jordan Berglund, OBA #32596, MCN #1205  
Natalie K. Reid, OBA #30226, MCN #1259  
BELOVED ADOPTION LAW, PLLC  
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Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137  
(918) 973-2188  
Jordan@belovedlaw.com  
Natalie@belovedlaw.com  
Attorneys for Petitioners



MCN VOTE 2025 CANDIDATES



**Russell Wind**  
**Akfvske District**

Age: 42  
Residence: Okemah, OK  
Parents: Allen Wind of Okemah & Susie (Fixico) Wind of Holdenville  
Grandparents: The late Rev. Daniel D. Wind of Okemah & Wanda J. (Harjo) Wind of Weleetka  
Clan: Bear  
Church: High Spring Baptist Church of Okemah  
Tribal Town/Ceremonial Ground: Apekv-Talledegi

Hersci! I am a longtime resident of Okfuskee County and member of Okemah Indian Community. I am announcing my candidacy for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council, Akfvske District - Seat B. Education and experience: I have a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in Tribal Management from Haskell Indian Nation University. It has opened many doors and relations for me in Indian County. I have accumulated over 10+ years of tribal government experience and was the former Chief of Staff for the Seminole Nation and Tribal Administrator for the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town during the most challenging and stressful times, 2020 – 2025. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is home to multiple culturally rich and traditional communities, churches, grounds, and people. But times have changed since the pandemic, a generational shift, our young ones getting older, older ones going on, new laws, new administration, federal budget cuts, make America great again, and the only thing you can count on is change. It is with these changes that our elected tribal leaders need to be proactive, think critically, and strategically, on how each vote and legislation impacts our tribal programs and communities. With that said, I ask for your vote and support on September 20, 2025. Mõh'Wwno.



**Sandra Golden**  
**Akfvske District**

Deer Clan  
Springfield Indian Methodist Church

Education & Experience: I graduated from Thomas High school; I received an Associate of Arts degree, from Bacone College; a Bachelor of Arts, from Southwestern Oklahoma State University; and a Master's in Public Health, from the University of California, Berkeley. I also served two (2) terms, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Okfuskee District in early 2000.

I have work experience in local, tribal, state and national programs in the areas of administration and planning in various health, education and social services programs. I have served on numerous boards and committees including four years on the American Indian Alaska Native 2000 Census Advisory committee as the chair person.

My platform is all about the Mvskoke people. My priority is putting efforts into protecting elders and investing in the children who are our future. This will uplift and strengthen communities on and off the reservation. I am honored to serve all citizens of our great, sovereign nation as a responsible and accountable representative. I will continue to work hard and answer my phone. Mvto



**Patrick Freeman Jr.**  
**Creek District**

My name is Patrick Freeman, and I am running for re-election for Seat B, Creek District. I have lived in Sapulpa since 2001. I am married to Cynthia Freeman and have one daughter and three grandchildren. My parents are the late Patrick Sr. and Vera Freeman. I am of the Tiger Clan and I'm a member of Newtown United Methodist, in Okmulgee.

I am running for re-election to continue my work on the National Council. I believe that Muscogee (Creek) Nation has progressed in many ways. I would like to help enable and facilitate that progression by further strengthening the Tribe's economic and business potential. It is important to build economic development and sustain that growth. In turn, a strong economic force will support and improve the Tribe's services to citizens of Muscogee Creek Nation.

Mvto, Patrick Freeman



**Cody Phillips**  
**Creek District**

Hesci,

My name is Cody Randall Phillips. My clan is Akteyatevlke. I'm a member of Akfvske Ceremonial ground. My wife is Erin (Bucktro) Phillips. Erin and I have an abundance of cousins and family. Erin and I have one precious little girl Ella Diane Phillips. My wife is a member of Sand Creek Ceremonial ground. We are both active in going to ceremonial dances just about every weekend. Erin and I come from big families and do have hopes of adding a sister or brother to our precious Ella.

My platforms include Elder care- Housing for elder's and repairs or retrofitting houses for disabled elders. Education- Native youth programs at schools for youth, after school programs, language lessons, and cultural lessons. Jobs- Native employment, education, and trade schools available for all citizens. Human services- look closer at the programs and see if there is any kind of change that can happen to strengthen our programs for all citizens.

Education: bachelor's from Oklahoma State, Associates NOC, and Associates TCC. Work History: Facilities Director Bristow public schools, Social Worker Muscogee Nation Social Services, and Teacher Bristow Public Schools. For me I want to be involved with as many citizens as I can be on a day-to-day basis. All the experience that I received from the places I have worked has led me down the path that I'm on. It has led me to want to help our MVSKOKE people by being there and seeing what the people need.

Mvto



**James Factor**  
**Kowetv District**

My name is James Factor. I was born in Wewoka, raised in Cromwell, and am the son of James "Jimmy" Factor and Diane (Marshall) Factor. I graduated from Butner Public Schools, attended Seminole State College and Oklahoma State University, and earned my degree from Saint Gregory's University. For the past 14 years, I've lived in the Broken Arrow/Coweta area, raising my two daughters. Before starting my own businesses, I worked 25 years in tribal gaming, gaining valuable experience in operations and management. I later launched Tribal Gaming Ventures, a marketing and promotional products company, and S/C Builders, a construction firm. Through these businesses, I've worked with tribal governments across the country, gaining unique perspectives on governance, growth, and collaboration. I decided to run for office because I felt called to give back to my community. I believe my experience has prepared me to help lead our Nation forward. My priorities include investing in technology, such as artificial intelligence, to streamline services and get help to citizens faster, as well as pursuing opportunities like data centers that will strengthen our economic future. I believe that data is the oil of the future and artificial intelligence will be the refinery. My decision-making is guided by honesty, forward-thinking leadership, intentional growth, ensuring proper care for our elders, and the preservation of Mvskoke language and history. By learning from other tribal nations, I've seen approaches and partnerships that can benefit us here at home. When I'm not working, I enjoy golf and spending time at the movies with my daughters. I'm running to be a strong, steady voice for the Kowetv District and to help build a future where our communities thrive.



**Timothy Jackson**  
**Kowetv District**

My name is Timothy Jackson Jr, and I'm running to serve Kowetv District on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. I am married to Kelley Jackson, we have four children. My tribal town is Weogufkee and I am a descendant of the Bird Clan. I am the son of Jackie Jackson, Porter, and the late Timothy Jackson, Holdenville.

I'm a husband, father, business owner, and proud citizen of this Nation. Over the past 15 years, I've built real opportunities—creating jobs, managing large-scale projects, and supporting both tribal and non-tribal partners. I don't just represent economic development—I live it. This Nation helped raise me. From Eufaula Boarding School to earning my degree at Oklahoma State University, I've experienced firsthand the value of tribal support. Now, I'm ready to serve the people who invested in me. My platform is grounded in four priorities: 1. Economic Growth & Tribal Business-I'll fight to expand access for Muscogee-owned businesses in tribal contracts and development opportunities. I'll also support agriculture-empowering farmers and ranchers to grow our economy and feed our people. 2. Housing & Infrastructure Too many elders and families are waiting. I'll work to improve housing access, roads, and essential utilities-focusing on rural areas. 3. Youth Opportunity & Workforce Development- Our youth deserve real pathways to success. I'll support job training, internships, and entrepreneurship so young people can build strong futures here at home. 4. Protecting Muscogee Sovereignty- I will defend our right to self-governance. That means stronger oversight, transparency in spending, and decisions made with the people, not behind closed doors. I believe our sovereignty should extend to all citizens on the reservation and beyond. I'm not here for promises-I'm here to do the work. With your vote, we can build a stronger future, together.

Vote Timothy Jackson Jr. on September 20, 2025





Adam Jones III

McIntosh District

NUKOSE CLAN BEAR  
LITTLE COWETA INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
My name is Adam Jones III. We live in Stidham Oklahoma. I am married to Amanda Jones of 22 years. We have 6 children, 4 sons and 2 daughters. We are members of Little Coweta Indian Baptist Church. My grandfather was the Late Reverend Adam Jones and Hattie Jones. My parents are Adam Jones Jr and Mary Jane Jones. I am of the Nokuse Clan. I have served on the National Council for 14 years prior as your McIntosh District Representative and have had the privilege to serve as your Representative. I have sat on the Land, Natural Resource and Cultural Committee and Business, Finance and Judicial Committee. I will work hard to help improve our resources to help our Muscogee Creek Citizens.



Galen Cloud

McIntosh District

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco  
Ceremonial Ground: Nuyaka  
Clan: Ecovlke

For the past three years I have served the citizens of The Great Muscogee Nation as a full-time Council Representative. I have learned about many of the services the Nation offers along with legislation, committee business and how politics outside of our great nation affect our everyday lives on the reservation.

I have also worked diligently to assist citizens who were in need of services across the reservation by listening to their needs and effectively communicating those needs through the appropriate channels. My efforts didn't stop there though, as I have assisted various churches and ceremonial grounds find the resources they needed as well. I only offer up this information to provide a synopsis of how I have spent my first term as a National Councilman for the Muscogee Nation and hope that I will be able continue on this path.

On the legislative side , I am very proud to say that I was able to sponsor the department of Cultural and Humanities legislation, which will assist in the continued efforts to not only preserve, but revive the Mvskoke culture and language. This was important to me because I grew up in a traditional home, was raised at the ceremonial grounds by my elders, and am a first language speaker, which has given me a way of keeping the culture alive in myself. So, in my eyes, I look at the culture, language and traditional ways as the backbone and foundation of this great Nation. With this in mind, I am reminded of something my dear friend and Mekko once told me:

“Got to humble yourself. Got to be happy to see your people and most of all you got to have hope and faith that we are going to “survive as one”. That’s our way. As long as you have that and don’t lose sight of that, we all will make it,” – Mekko Bobby Yargee



Jeff Francis Jr.

McIntosh District

My name is Jeff Francis Jr. I am the son of Jeff and Cindy Francis, grandparents George and Mary (Wacoche) Francis. I was raised on Tiger Mountain, and graduated from Checotah High School. I am an active member of the Checotah Indian Community. I enjoy fishing and watching sports. I am running for MCN National Council McIntosh District to be a representative who listens and gives voice for all Muscogee citizens.



Jessina Brown

Mvskoke District

Born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma in 1953, raised in the community of Morris Oklahoma all my childhood. I moved to Dallas, Texas in 1973 making this my home for 37 years. I Married and had 5 children and many grandchildren and great children. I moved back to Muskogee Oklahoma in March 2007 making this my hometown.

I am full blood Mvskoke Creek with the beliefs of Creek traditions. Being a descendent of my Grandmother Cinda Hill and Great Grandfather George Washington Hill the fourth appointed Chief of Muscogee Nation. I'm from the family of Bird Clan Fuswthe, my tribal town is Tulwathlocco. I attended Grave Creek Baptist Church most of my childhood. The teachings of our traditional beliefs, foods and ways were taught by my grandmother and mother. The most important teachings were the respect, morals and dignity of mankind, neighbors and family. Being a high school dropout, education was always my goal. Believing someday I would continue my education. I continued my education in May 1985 with an Associate following more education with my compassion in Social Work and Substance Abuse.

I have the experience of working with different cultures and nationalities. I feel I have the knowledge to help our people within their needs and concerns. I have compassion for our elders, young, disabled and veterans and people in crisis situations. I’m here to listen to the people and help resolve our concerns with communications. I believe we can make this happen if we all work together.



Lora Ann Harjo-King

Mvskoke District

My name is Lora A. Harjo-King. I am Muscogee Creek and Choctaw. My father was full blood Creek belonging to the Bear Clan. I am Wind Clan through my mother, who was Choctaw. I’m an active member of the Missionary Baptist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

I hold an MBA from Tabor College (Wichita, KS), a SBA from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and an AS in Business from Bacone College. I have over 40 years of experience in tribal government, having worked in the Department of Housing, Office of Child Care, Children and Family Services, and Management Information for the Muscogee Creek Nation, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. I have served six years in higher education at Tabor and Bacone Colleges, one year in the Oklahoma public school system, and eight years as a consultant for Head Start programs. I am grounded in the values of honesty, loyalty, and service-instilled in me by my parents. My strengths include Belief, Consistency, Responsibility, Empathy, and Connectedness. These traits drive my purpose: to serve with integrity, understand community needs, and help create fair and lasting solutions for our people.

I am committed to bringing transparency, accountability, and a strong voice to the National Council for all citizens of the Mvskoke District.



Sandra Parish

Mvskoke District

RaccoonClan  
Peach Grounds  
Butler Creek Baptist Church

There are many changes that I would like to see, starting with the National Council. The legislation written by the NationalCouncil needs to be followed. The council needs to be held accountable for their actions. How can we expect citizens to follow the guidelines set forth ifCouncil does not follow them? Things need to be addressed in a timely manner.

Any new legislation put before me will be read and I will use my knowledge of the legislation to decide if it would help our Nation end citizens. When we are elected by our citizens, we are their chosen voice. I have worked in our prison system, children’s home and long-term care facilities. This has given me much insight into what our citizens need and what the tribe should be focusing on. I am only one person, but I believe we can work together to address all concerns. I will ask the tough questions that need to be answered and make your concerns known.

I am running for this seat based on what i believe I can do for the citizens and would greatly appreciate your vote on September 20, 2025





**Joshua Wind**  
**Okmulke District**

My name is Joshua Wind, though many of you know me as J.R. I am proud to be of the Deer Clan. My parents are Daniel and Anna Wind, and my grandparents are Benjamin and Mattie Scott; Jackson and Beatrice Deere.

I graduated from Henryetta High School and Langston University, earning a BA in Liberal Education. I've been married to my wonderful wife, Shauna, for 16 years, and we are blessed with two amazing children.

For the past four years, I've served as the Community Specialist with Community Research & Development. This role has been incredibly rewarding. Meeting with citizens across our communities has given me a deeper understanding of the needs and priorities not only of individuals but of our communities as a whole.

During my time in this role, I've seen meaningful growth take place. I am committed to working with other representatives to continue that progress and help create new opportunities for economic development.

I believe our citizens should feel empowered to voice their concerns about the direction of our Nation-without fear. I've always said that our communities are the backbone of our Nation, and those elected to serve should be accountable to the people.



**Nelson Harjo Sr.**  
**Okmulke District**

**Clan:** Wind  
**Church/Ceremonial Ground:** Little Cussetah Methodist

I was married to the late Georgia Harjo (Burgess) for 39 years. We had two sons, Nelson Harjo Jr and Julian Harjo. I have one grandson, Jaice Harjo-Bush. My parents are the late Billy Joe Harjo and Hepsy Harjo (Scott). I am the sitting National Council Okmulke District Seat B Representative. I graduated from Weleetka High School. I have a degree in robotics from Oklahoma State University. A list of former positions I held are: former licensed pastor in the United Methodist organization, former Chair of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, former adjunct instructor at the College of Muscogee Nation, and operated my own business, N&G Data Solution. Helping to change the status quo, and continue the fight to uphold our Sovereignty and Reservation.



**William Lowe**  
**Okmulke District**

I am honored to seek your support as a candidate for the National Council, Okmulgee District Seat 8. As a proud Mvskoke citizen, United States Marine Corps veteran, former elected Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and MBA graduate, I bring a lifetime of leadership and service to this campaign. During my tenure on the Council, I championed legislation that protected our tribal sovereignty, promoted government transparency, and supported programs that directly improved the lives of our citizens. I understand the challenges our people face, and I have the experience of bringing practical solutions that respect our traditions while moving us forward.

My focus remains on three priorities:

- Strengthening Tribal Sovereignty - Defending our inherent rights to self-govern and manage our own affairs without outside interference.
- Supporting Business Development - Promoting economic growth through Native owned businesses, tribal enterprise expansion, and sustainable investments that benefit our communities.
- Expanding Access to Programs - Ensuring equitable access to healthcare, education, housing, and workforce development for all citizens, regardless of where they reside.

With the discipline of a Marine, the insight of a business professional, and the heart of a public servant, I am ready to lead with integrity and accountability. I humbly ask for your support and your vote to continue serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in a stronger, more prosperous capacity. Mvto, William Lowe



**Elizabeth Anne Gover-Miller**  
**Tukvptce District**

Hesci. I am Elizabeth Anne Gover-Miller also known as Anne Townsend Gover-Miller. I am the daughter of Full Blood Mvskoke citizen, the late Elizabeth West Townsend, and the late John H. Townsend. My maternal grandparents are the late Albert Gouge and the late Sallie Spaniard Gouge of Hanna OK. I am of the Deer clan and my tribal town is Weogufkee. I grew up attending Trenton Indian Baptist church with my family. I am running for seat B for the Tukvptce district. I have chosen to run because it has always been in my heart to serve Mvskokvlke. My experience working for the tribe qualifies me to be an advocate for our citizens. I have worked in many roles within the tribe beginning with summer youth in the election board, to full time employment in various roles and programs over the past 20 plus years and my last role within the nation was The Tribal Liaison with Citizens Beyond the Reservation. I hold a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Northeastern State University. I want to be a servant to all Mvskoke Citizens no matter where you live. I want to continue to prove to the people that I am working for all Mvskokvlke. If I am elected, serving as your council representative will be my full-time job. I will spend my time dedicated to serving all Mvskoke everywhere, Ce-mvtotke towis ce!! I am working for you, and I mean it!!



**Thomasene Yahola Osborn**  
**Tukvptce District**

Clan: Wind

Ms. Yahola Osborn is seeking her third term as the Muscogee (Creek) National Council Representative for the Tukvptce District. She and her family attend the Wetumka Assembly of God, where her husband, Jeff, serves as a deacon and daughter, Taylor, is a member of the worship team.

She and Jeff have been married for 41 years. Their children are Taylor, her husband, Jeremy, Reagan, and their late son, Cameron. They have seven grandchildren, Emilee, Maelee, Bentley, Braxton, Camry Rae, Ace, and Aleck. Her parents are Thomas Yahola, and the late Leona "Pinky" Yahola. Her grandparents are the late Simeon and Beulah Cully Bemo, and Bertha Yahola. Her father, Thomas Yahola, served as the National Council Representative for the Tukvptce District for 27 years.

Within 5 months of her first term, Ms. Yahola Osborn's youngest and only son, Cameron was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was 19 years old and was in the Air National Guard. One way of keeping his memory alive, she and Jeff made the decision to offer two \$500.00 education scholarships. One is through the MCN Scholarship Fund and the second is awarded to a Wetumka High School graduating senior. Ms. Yahola Osborn was named 2019 Woman of the Year by the Mvskoke Women's Leadership. During her tenure on the National Council, she has served as Vice-Chairwoman of the LNC Committee, Chairwoman of the Fact Finding and the BF&J Committees, Sergeant-at-Arms, and is currently serving as the Second Speaker. Thomasene humbly asks for your vote to continue to serve the citizens of our nation.



**Ashley Wolf Voice**  
**Tvlse District**

Hesci! My name is Ashley Wolf Voice, and I am running for the Muscogee Nation National Council Tvlse District Seat B. I am a lifelong resident of Broken Arrow, a proud Mvskoke citizen, small business owner, mother, and community leader with deep ancestral roots and a strong sense of civic responsibility. I was raised by a single mother and grew into a provider/care-giver for my family. I married my high school sweetheart, Scott. We have two sons, Nokuse and Evan. USMC Dolphus Wolf Voice Sr. and Michelle Boudinot Wolf Voice were my parents. USMC Daniel Burgess and former Tvlse District Council Representative Okema Boudinot Randall were my grandparents. My great-grandparents were Mitchell and Eloise Childers Boudinot. My great great grandparents were (Kowetv Mekko) Cornelius Sr. and Susanna Kennard Boudinot, and Daniel and Mildred McIntosh Childers. Mildred was elected secretary of the House of Warriors in 1903. A member of the deer clan, my family represents six generations of fellowship at Broken Arrow Indian UMC. With over 35 years in the tobacco industry, I rose from freight stocker to the owner of two smoke shops operating on original allotted land. My experience navigating business in a fast paced, high risk political environment makes me uniquely equipped to serve on the National Council, I offer resourcefulness, reliability and a dedication to putting people first. Currently serving as Vice Chairperson of Broken Arrow JOM, I am committed to education, economic justice, and the well-being of all Mvskoke citizens. I seek to be a strong, steady voice for the people of the Tvlse District and most of all our Nation. With sincere respect to our communities and our people, I humbly ask for your support and vote as I seek to serve as your National Council Representative for Tvlse District, Seat B.





# Lahoma Schultz

## Tvsle District

I am honored to accept the request from my fellow citizens to run for the MCN National Council - Tvlse District. My life's journey has been shaped by the love and support of my family, my roots in our communities, and a commitment to serving others. I share my life with my spouse, Bobby Schultz. We live in Bixby, OK We have a son, a daughter, and three grandsons. The third of seven children, we were raised in OKC by George Hicks of Salem, OK, and Mollie (Jones) Hicks of Lamar, OK.

My professional path has included teaching at high school, middle school, and university levels. I have had the honor of training future teachers, counselors, and psychologists. My dedication to service includes 11 years as a social worker, 9 years as a counselor, and 14 years as a psychologist. My work as a behavioral health clinician/director at a VA 638, and an Indian Health Service clinic deepened my understanding of the challenges and opportunities within our healthcare system. I have served on state and national committees and work groups advocating and legislating. I serve on the University of Oklahoma's PRIME Project, recruiting/developing mental health workers for our rural schools. My candidacy for Council is driven by a steadfast belief in the power of collective action, the value of every individual's voice, and the transformative impact of service. With your support, I hope to continue working for the well-being, progress, and unity of our district and our Nation.



# Leonard Gouge

## Tvsle District

Holds a Paralegal Degree, which launched his career at Oklahoma Legal Services, assisting Native clients across the state. Having worked with Seminole, Muscogee and Cherokee Nations. • Brings 36 years of experience in Indian Child Welfare, advocating in both state and tribal courts across Oklahoma and the U.S. • Served as Chairperson of ICWA boards and on national panels to strengthen state-tribal partnerships. Military Service: • Retired Master Sergeant with 28 years in the U.S. Army. • Served in Germany, became a Drill Sergeant post-9/11, volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan. • Awarded the Bronze Star for his leadership and contributions to the mission. Community Involvement: • Previously active in Muscogee communities: Oklahoma City, Muscogee, Koweta (Chairman), and Tulsa (Chairman): • Appointed by Chief James Floyd to the Citizenship Board (later elected Chairman). Appointed by Chief Hill to a commission addressing Indian Child Welfare issues. Muskogee National Council Contributions: • Served on the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee. Chaired the Mound Committee and Fact-Finding Committee. Participated in Veteran Affairs meetings, addressing homelessness and PTSD Contributed to the creation of the Office of Cultural Preservation.

Personal Life: Married to Johnna Deere-Gouge for 33 years. • One Daughter Melinda, passed in 2018. • Parents are the late Felix and Minnie Gouge. • Member of Apeka Ceremonial ground. • Clan-Eco • Hysvklat'kv • Committed to protecting Native children and supporting families to build healthy, united communities. • Do what is right and what is fair, has always been my motto.



## Lucian Tiger III

## Tvsle District

I have lived within the boundaries of the Mvskoke Reservation most of my life. I am married to Liz Tiger and I have 6 children. I am a graduate of Kellyville High School, attended Connors State College and Oklahoma State University. I have owned and operated local businesses in the Tulsa area for the past 30 years. It was my honor to serve our great Nation from 2014 to 2021 as the Tvlse District Seat B Representative. During those eight years, I served our Nation and citizens as Speaker of the National Council from 2016-2019, as well as Chairman for the Health, Education & Welfare Committee from 2020-2021. I look forward to representing not only the Tvlse District, but all Mvskoke citizens as your next Seat B Representative.

# Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election

## September 20th, 2025



## ELECTION DAY VOTING SITES 7AM - 7 PM

**BRISTOW INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
710 S. Main / Bristow, OK

**CHECOTAH INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
500 Owens Ave. / Checotah, OK

**DEWAR INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
903 E. 6TH / Dewar, OK

**DUSTIN INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
Intersection of Broadway Ave  
& Sparks Ave. / Dustin, OK

**EUFULA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
800 Birkes Rd. / Eufaula, OK

**GLENPOOL INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
14023 S. Casper/ Glenpool, OK

**HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
EAST Of HWY 52 on E. 1250 Rd. / Hanna, OK

**HOLDENVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
224 E. Poplar. / Holdenville, OK

**KOWETA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
30925 E. 141 ST / Coweta, OK

**MUSKOGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
335 N. 4TH ST / Muskogee, OK

**OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
1100 S. Woody Guthrie / Okemah, OK

**OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
2900 N. Osage Pl. / Okmulgee, OK

**SAPULPA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
1020 N. Brown / Sapulpa, OK

**TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
8611 S. Union / Tulsa, OK

**TWIN HILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
8110 N. HWY 52. / Okmulgee, OK

**WELEETKA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
602 S. Chickasaw / Weleetk, OK

**WETUMKA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
608 N. Creek / Wetumka, OK

**YARDEKA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
114089 S. 3980 Rd. / Henryetta, OK

## September 17th & 18th, 2025

### Early Voting Sites

**7AM - 7 PM**  
**(Each Day)**

**EUFAULA INDIAN COMMUNITY**  
800 BIRKES RD. EUFAULA, OK

OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY  
1100 S. WOODY GUTHRIE. OKEMAH, OK

OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY  
2900 N OSAGE PL. OKMULGEE, OK

TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY  
8611 S. UNION. TULSA, OK