



MVSKOKE NEWS

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REP. WHITECLOUD CHARGED WITH FELONY COUNTS

WHITECLOUD WAS CHARGED WITH 4 FELONY COUNTS OF PREVENTING OR ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL ACTS



Representative Robyn Whitecloud. (MCNNC)

BY **JERRAD MOORE**
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

OKMULGEE – Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Representative for Okmulke District Seat A, Robyn Whitecloud, has been charged in the MCN District Court with four felony counts of preventing or attempting to prevent performance of official acts (MCNCA Title 14, § 2-803).

The charges were filed on Jan. 16. Mvskoke Media obtained the charging documents, as well as the probable cause affidavit filed in the case by Lighthouse investigator Anthony Thompson. According to the affidavit:

Your affiant knows, on January 2, 2026, he received a complaint from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Representative-elect Lucian Tiger III regarding the unauthorized removal of official correspondence addressed to him and other members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

The correspondence consisted of sealed envelopes addressed to multiple Council Representatives and Representatives-elect and related to official National Council business. These communications were intended to be delivered to elected officials in order for them to review, consider, and act upon matters within their official capacities.

Representative-elect Tiger reported that his correspondence was removed from the designated outbox of Julie Sharp (Scott), who is responsible for the handling and distribution of National Council correspondence. The removal was not authorized. Tiger identified Council Representative Robyn Whitecloud as the individual who removed the correspondence, acting individually and/or in concert with another. The removal of the correspondence delayed and interfered with the timely receipt of official communications, thereby preventing or attempting to prevent Council Representatives and Representatives-elect from performing official acts.

Additional complaints were received from Representative-elect William Lowe and Council Representative Galen Cloud, both of which were consistent with the initial report.

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MCN FILES SUIT AGAINST ODWC DIRECTOR AND SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

WADE FREE AND RUSSELL COCHRAN ARE ACCUSED OF PROSECUTING TRIBAL CITIZENS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING ON THE MVSKOKE RESERVATION

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation filed a lawsuit in federal court against Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) Director Wade Free and Special Prosecutor Russell Cochran. The suit alleges Cochran and Free are prosecuting Tribal citizens for hunting and fishing on the Mvskoke Reservation without ODWC-issued licenses. MCN filed the complaint on Monday, Jan. 5. This comes after the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Choctaw Nation filed a lawsuit against Governor Kevin Stitt, Cochran, and the ODWC in November 2025.

The 46-page complaint details the MCN's sovereign right to regulate hunting and fishing activities within the Mvskoke Reservation. According to the filing, Free directed his staff to enforce state fish and game laws against Tribal citizens who lawfully hunt and fish on the Mvskoke Reservation. It further claims that Cochran received citation referrals from the ODWC and initiated criminal legal proceedings against

the aforementioned Tribal citizens. MCN claims this "infringes on tribal self-government" by regulating an act that the Tribe already regulates.

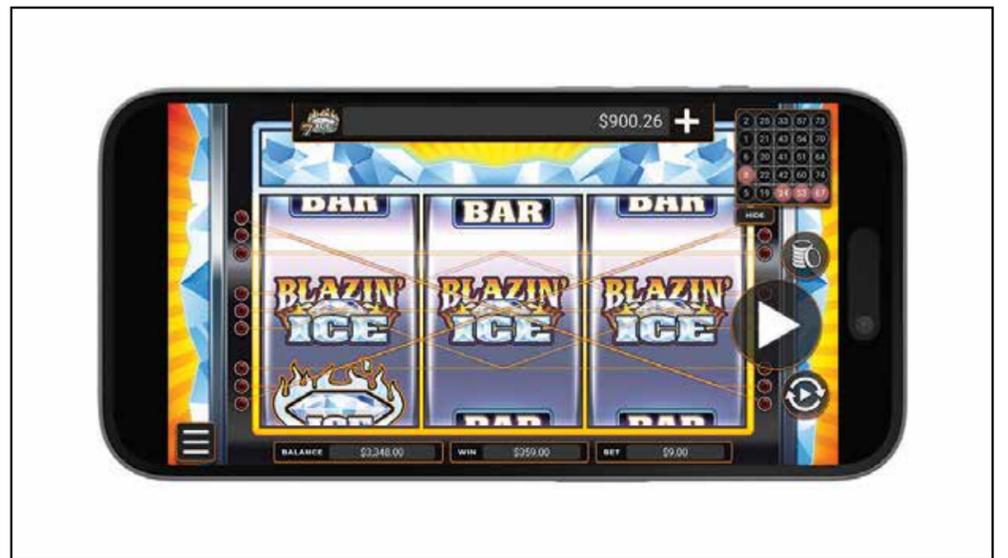
Governor Stitt and Attorney General Gentner Drummond previously made statements on the suit filed by the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, and the Chickasaw Nation. Drummond's legal opinion stated that the ODWC lacks jurisdiction over lands where tribes already have a wildlife agency, per *New Mexico v. Mescalero Apache Tribe*. In that case, the U.S. Supreme Court argued that trust lands held by Tribes are the jurisdiction of the Tribe, not the state in which it resides.

The lawsuit also states that per the Five Tribe Reciprocity Agreement, any Tribal citizen enrolled in the Choctaw Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, or the Seminole Nation can hunt on the Mvskoke Reservation. The agreement, according to Article 2 section B, provides that all "hunting, fishing, trapping and/or gathering activities of any member or citizen of a signatory Nation shall be subject to and must conform with the laws of the signatory Nation on whose reservation such activities occur."

The filing's second and third exhibits contain emails sent from AG Drummond to Free on Thursday, November 6, 2025, and Thursday, November 13, 2025, respectively. In the first email, AG Drummond strongly advised against prosecuting Tribal citizens for hunting without an ODWC license on Tribal lands. After allegedly disregarding the directives in the first email, AG Drummond's second email sternly warned that they were unenforceable and violated federal law.

Mvskoke Media reached out to the ODWC office for comment on the litigation. ODWC replied that they are currently reviewing the filing and will have "further comment at the appropriate time."

Mvskoke Media has also reached out to the MCN Executive Branch for comment on the suit. At the time of publishing, they have not provided a statement.



(Image Courtesy: MNGE)

NEW MUSCOGEE GAMING APP ALLOWS PLAYERS TO SCORE BIG ON THE GO

PLAYERS CAN NOW PLAY CLASS II BINGO-STYLE GAMES FROM THEIR POCKET

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA - Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises launched a new mobile application called "MNGE" on Thursday, Jan. 15. The app platform features 20 Mobile Class II electronic bingo and bingo-style games. These include penny, five-dollar, and ten-dollar games. It does not include Class III games, such as table games and sports betting, which require a separate compact. The app was developed by Everi, an International Game

Technology developer that specializes in mobile casino gaming.

Due to the app's function as a gaming platform, rigorous identification methods are used for initial sign-up and login. Players must be 21 years old to use the app. To sign up, players must scan in a government-issued form of identification like a driver's license. Players then set up a mobile digital wallet in order to deposit funds. After a denomination is made in their game of choice, players can start playing on the go.

The app uses geofencing technology to track where players are. Geofencing is a feature that uses global positioning systems to develop virtual boundaries around specific real-world areas. The app's features will only function within the boundaries of the Mvskoke Reservation. If a player using the app steps outside the Reservation's virtual boundary, the app's gaming features will be disabled. Gaming features will

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also be disabled if a player turns off location tracking on their mobile device. Other apps like "Pokémon Go" also use geofencing technology to track players' locations.

Jackpots can be won through the app. However, players who win their first jackpot must claim it in person at one of the ten Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino locations. After initial verification, jackpot winnings are automatically processed. Larger jackpots may require an additional in-person verification.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill remarked that the app will enhance the player experience while asserting sovereignty on the Reservation.

"This launch represents a major step forward for the Muscogee Nation," Chief Hill said. "We are investing in technology that strengthens sovereignty and expands opportunity for our citizens. Leading the nation with the first reservation-wide Class II mobile gaming platform reflects

our commitment to innovation and responsible governance."

MNGE Chief Executive Officer Pat Crofts said the app has been tested among customers and has received positive feedback. So far, the app has had at least 1,300 users sign up, and currently has 800 active users. According to Crofts, as mobile gaming technology has evolved, so too has the appetite for gaming on the go.

"People now are looking for more mobile entertainment. They have their phone in their hand all the time. If it's not in their hand, it's in their pocket," Crofts said. "It's just the convenience of it, they can play it at home, they can play it at a restaurant or wherever."

MNGE Chief Operating Officer Andy Langston (Mvskoke) said that although this is not the first gaming app launched by an Indian casino, it is the first to be accessible anywhere on a Tribal reservation. Players are not restricted to using it on premises within the physical parameters of a casino building.

"We're the first to take its

entirety to the Reservation," Langston said. "People come into a casino wanting a social aspect. When you launch it (an app) within your four walls there's not a high acceptance rate. We've already seen that happen at other casinos. Taking it to the entire Reservation, to the eleven counties, approximately 1.5 million people, it makes a lot of sense financially for the Nation and it allows us to express our sovereignty."

Both Crofts and Langston agree that the app has the potential to increase significant revenue for the casinos. This means more revenues to support Tribal social programming.

"Our Nation has always been pioneering and has been a front runner leader. We're carrying forward that tradition. The Nation has supported us every step of the way with this app. The benefits have kept the Nation and MNGE on the forefront of innovation," Langston said.

The app "MNGE" is now available on the Apple Store for iPhone users and on the Google Play Store for Android users.

OUR BLOOD INSTITUTE REPORTS EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE

ORGANIZATION ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE DONATIONS AMID SHORTAGE OF PLATELETS AND O-POSITIVE AND O-NEGATIVE BLOOD

BY THOMAS JACKSON
REPORTER



(Image Courtesy: OBI)

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - As the annual Tribal Blood Drive Challenge comes to an end, Our Blood Institute, which provides blood to all of Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas and Texas, is reporting a critical shortage of blood.

According to a statement released by OBI, their supply has dropped to roughly 2,200 units of blood, compared to approximately 5,200 units at this time last year, a drop of almost 60%. According to Susan Addison, the Director of Donor Recruitment, OBI is reporting shortages of platelets and O-Positive and O-Negative blood.

In addition, Addison says the number of accidents and injuries over the holidays has outpaced their ability to collect, leading to an even greater shortage.

"On a good day, we only have a 3-day blood supply. This time of year, we get really nervous about winter weather and cold & flu season, and actually, what's putting us into an emergency right now is very high usage," Addison said. "Over the holidays, there were a lot of accidents and emergencies that required a lot of blood, and it's outpacing our ability to collect right now."

"We know some difficulties are in the weeks ahead, because we haven't had our winter weather yet, and we haven't had our big hit of cold & flu yet, which usually impacts the blood supply for a week to two weeks at a time."

According to Addison, the shortage has gotten so severe that it has led to the need to import units of blood from other areas, such as a recent import of around 400 units from the East Coast. Addison also notes that if donors do not step up, hospitals could be strained even further.

"So, as I said, we only have around a 3-day blood supply, so those impacts of cold, flu, and winter weather are going to be felt very quickly. We're starting to get to the point that if donors don't come out now and help get us replenished, the next hurdle is going to be patients and doctors having to have conversations about, for example, 'You need a blood transfusion, but you're going to have to wait, and I don't know how much time you have,'" Addison added.

Addison underscored how beneficial donating blood can be, and how much good even a single donation can do, let alone multiple donations.

"Our theme for January is 'Give Hope.' We're reminding people that blood donation is a selfless act for someone you don't know who's likely having the worst day of their life, and you are giving them hope that they have a chance to heal and recover from whatever is putting them in that hospital. I don't think there's any greater hope than to impact someone that way." Addison said.

An average of 1 in 7 hospital admissions will use blood, and even if it doesn't get used, it will still be on standby for a wide variety of procedures, whether it's safely delivering a baby, going in for surgery, or even receiving treatment for cancer.

"I don't think people realize how important that blood supply is to the health and well-being of themselves and their communities until we end up in situations like this," Addison said. "It's all of our responsibilities to take care of one another and support our community, and it's as simple as people donating blood twice a year to make sure that we have enough."

"You can donate whole blood up to six times a year, once every 56 days to be precise, so when you look at it that way, you can't help but be like 'Well, why aren't more people doing it?'"

To contact OBI to schedule an appointment or ask questions about your blood donation, call 877-340-8777 or email customer-service@obi.org. Upcoming events, such as blood drives at South Eastern Oklahoma State University on Feb. 2 and 3, can be found at https://ourbloodinstitute.org/events/.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Media and Citizens of the Great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I am a 90 year-old citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I served eight years as an MCN National Council Representative, four years as the MCN Second Chief and eight years as MCN Principal Chief. I have seen many troubling things as well as many wonderful things happen in our sovereign Nation. I have Parkinson's Disease, but I am still able to see what a spectacle of our Tribal sovereignty and democracy was displayed during the 2026 MCN National Council Inauguration.

It is unknown to me when the "coin toss" was passed by the National Council to be placed into the rules and procedures booklet. Was I listening to the beginning of a football game declaring what team won the kickoff? No, I was listening to my Nation's way of choosing the leader of the Legislative Branch of our government.

In reading Section 8 of the National Council 2025-RULES-AND-PROCEDURES-ADOPTED-BY-NCA-25-001 on March 29, 2025 in Regular Session, there is no rule or procedure stating the vote for Speaker, Second Speaker, or Sergeant at Arms shall be by secret ballot. The citizens deserve transparency. Our elected representatives should stand with a voice vote for their choice of leaders.

MVTO,
A.D. Ellis
Former Leader of Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Dear Editor, While speaking to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen today, I learned that RiverSpirit Casino does not have access to wheelchairs for our elders. This conversation was prompted by a flyer at our community center announcing the "2026 Elder's Sweetheart Dance" being held February 19, 2026 at RiverSpirit. She said they would not be able to attend because there are no wheelchairs available to get her mother upstairs, where the event is being held. My husband can no longer make the long walk either.

Her mother is 101 years old and unable to make the long walk from parking to upstairs. She took her mother to the 2025 Elder Christmas Party. They parked via valet and asked for a wheelchair. They were told no wheelchairs were available because too many had been stolen. They then went to security for help and security had one wheelchair for emergencies. They were able to use it and attend the party.

The walking distance to events at RiverSpirit is long and hard for those of us with bad hips, knees and just can't walk long distances any longer. Maybe MCN could purchase or rent wheelchairs for special events held for our elders. There should be many ways to prevent theft of wheelchairs.

What if the Chief, Second Chief and National Council Representatives were at the entrances of the casino with wheelchairs to take our elders to their party? After all, don't the casinos belong to the citizens and don't those elected work for the citizens?

Mvto,
Gail Ellis
Non-Muscogee (Creek) citizen
Wife of Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Have something to share? Mvskoke News is always accepting opinion articles and letters to the editor on any subject. Articles can be sent to info@mvsokemedia.com, subject: op-ed.

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Your affiant obtained and reviewed surveillance video. The video was consistent with witness statements and depicted conduct consistent with the unauthorized removal of correspondence. Julie Sharp advised that she is the primary individual responsible for the distribution of Council correspondence and that it is rare for any other individual to remove correspondence from the mailbox.

Following the National Council Inauguration on January 3, 2026, Representative Robyn Whitecloud returned sixteen (16) envelopes consistent with the correspondence previously reported missing. These envelopes were turned over to Speaker Randall Hicks, who then transferred them to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police.

The correspondence belonged to the following Council Representatives and Representatives-elect: Charles McHenry; Darrell Proctor; Thomasene Yahola-Osborn; Anna Marshall; Nelson Harjo Sr.; Dode Barnett; Galen Cloud; Robert Hufft; Leonard Gouge; Joyce Deere; Patrick Freeman Jr.; Mary Tiger; Lucian Tiger III; Lora Harjo-King; William Lowe; and James Factor.

Mvskoke Media contacted Rep. Whitecloud for comment on the charges but has not received a response as of presstime. Online court records indicate that a hearing was initially scheduled for Feb. 16 in the case, but was moved to Jan. 26. That hearing was postponed due to inclement weather, and was rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 2. at 1:30 pm at the MCN court house in Okmulgee. Mvskoke Media will continue to cover this developing story.

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The Mvskoke News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Mvskoke News in any regard. The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

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

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

TRIBAL NATIONS PUBLICLY CONDEMN ICE ACTIONS, NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND RELEASES LEGAL GUIDE ON WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT A TRIBAL CITIZEN IS DETAINED



(Braden Harper/MM)

BY **BRADEN HARPER**
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA – Reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stopping and detaining Tribal citizens continue to unfold in Indian Country. Tribal leaders from the Five Tribes and various Native American nonprofits have condemned ICE's actions and have provided resources on what to do if an ICE agent stops a Tribal citizen.

ICE has expanded its agency and seen a significant increase in its operating budget since President Trump took office in 2025. Tensions among the public and ICE have increased since agents shot and killed two U.S. Citizens in Minneapolis. Renee Good was shot by ICE officer Jonathan Ross on Wednesday, Jan. 7. Alex Pretti was shot by an unnamed ICE officer on Saturday, Jan. 24. Reports of ICE agents detaining four Tribal citizens from the Oglala Sioux Tribe on Thursday, Jan. 8, have been condemned by Tribal government leaders. An ICE detainment of a Diné citizen, Peter Yazzie, was scrutinized and described as “unlawful” by Arizona state leaders. In a public statement made on Sunday, Jan. 25, by the Standing Rock Tribe, they announced that one of their Tribal citizens had been detained but was released.

In Oklahoma, Operation Guardian Sweep has been in effect since it was announced on Monday, September 29, 2025. The joint operation between the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and ICE has conducted targeted enforcement actions along Interstate 40.

Oklahoma tribes, including Absentee Shawnee, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Muscogee (Creek), have issued statements on the issue

of ICE detaining Tribal citizens. The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma (UINO) issued a travel advisory to Tribal citizens amid the expansion in federal immigration enforcement. UINO's statement reads:

Thirty-eight federally recognized tribes are headquartered in Oklahoma, and Tribal citizens from hundreds of Native nations call this state home. It is deeply concerning that Tribal citizens have been questioned or detained despite their lawful status. Given these developments, there is no reason to assume Native people in Oklahoma could not or are not already facing similar encounters. We strongly urge all Native people to carry any Tribal, state, or federal identification available to help protect themselves and their families.

NARF Legal Guide

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF), a nonprofit that provides legal assistance to Tribal citizens, released a detailed guide on what to do if ICE approaches a Tribal citizen. If in public, NARF recommends remaining calm, avoiding physical resistance, and not lying when questioned. Tribal citizens have the right to remain silent and may verbalize something to the effect of “I am exercising my right to remain silent.” They also have the right to request to speak with a lawyer.

It is recommended that Tribal citizens carry a Tribal or State Real ID to prove U.S. citizenship. Not all State IDs are enough to prove U.S. citizenship. If an ICE agent does not

accept a Tribal ID, request to speak to their supervisor.

ICE agents are not always clearly identified. Some agents have been reported to wear unmarked clothing or to drive unmarked vehicles. ICE agents have also been spotted wearing clothes that say “POLICE.” For those approached by a law enforcement officer, it is their right to ask the officer for their identification.

According to NARF, ICE agents cannot legally enter a private residence without a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. An ICE agent issues an administrative warrant, which is not the same as a judicial warrant issued by an immigration judge.

According to the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution and decades of legal precedent, law enforcement may enter a private residence only with a warrant issued by a judge. However, according to a leaked memo by Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons, ICE agents have been directed to use administrative warrants to forcibly enter private residences. The leaked memo was published by the legal nonprofit, Whistleblower Aid, on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Whistleblower Aid asserts that entering a private residence without a warrant is a violation of the Fourth Amendment. According to a public statement by Whistleblower Aid Senior Vice President and Special Counsel David Kligerman, the Fourth Amendment was designed to prevent abuses such as forced removal and trespass.

“No court has ever found that ICE agents have such legal authority to enter homes without a judicial warrant,” Kligerman said. “This administration's secretive policy advocates conduct that the Supreme Court has described as ‘the chief evil against which the wording of the Fourth Amendment is directed’ – that is the warrantless physical entry of a home.” This is precisely what the Fourth Amendment was created to prevent.”

A complete list of valid judicial warrants can be found at nilc.org. NARF warns that if ICE agents enter a private residence without the resident's permission or without a valid judicial warrant, they should not physically resist or obstruct their search. Resisting and obstructing could subject the resident to potential criminal charges.

If ICE approaches a Tribal citizen in their car or in public, they have the right to ask if they are being detained. If a Tribal citizen is not being detained, they should be free to go.

According to NARF, ICE agents have stopped cars and approached citizens based on their perceived ethnicity. If in a vehicle, drivers must roll down their windows upon request by an ICE agent. Drivers are required to present their driver's license if asked; passengers are not required to provide personal information. If an ICE agent requests a driver or passenger to step outside of the vehicle, it is the driver or passenger's right to ask why. ICE agents can only search a car with a valid judicial warrant.

It is not illegal to record an ICE agent performing official duties; however, NARF advises doing so at a safe distance and without physically obstructing an ICE operation. At any time an ICE agent searches a residence or car without a valid judicial warrant, the resident or driver has the right to say, “I do not consent to a search.”

ICE agents can enter a public workspace without a warrant. Public workspaces include office lobbies, supermarkets, retail stores, or dining areas. ICE agents cannot enter private spaces, such as employee-only areas, without the employer's permission or a valid judicial warrant.

ICE Detainment

NARF advises that, if ICE detains a Tribal citizen, they communicate any known medical issues or any arrangements that need to be made for childcare. If an ICE agent does not speak the detainee's language, request an interpreter. If the detainee is a U.S. Citizen, say, “I am a U.S. citizen,” and ask why they are being detained.

ICE has detained minors. NARF asserts that minors have the same protections as adults and have the right to remain silent or request to speak to a lawyer. Minors are not legally required to carry identification unless they are operating a vehicle. If a minor is carrying identification, it should be done only with safeguards, such as in a sealed document labeled “Confidential legal documents.” If detained, minors have the right to remain in contact with their parent or guardian.

For those who believe they are at risk of ICE detainment, it is recommended that emergency contacts be identified and memorized. It is also recommended to make arrangements for children in case their parents may be detained.

When a detainee is released, NARF advises them to write down their encounter with ICE. Include officer names, badge numbers, and anything that was said or done during the encounter. The released individual should discuss the information with an attorney.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation released a public statement on Saturday, Jan. 17, regarding ICE activity within the state. Tribal citizens are advised to carry Tribal documents, such as their MCN citizenship card or Certificate of Indian Blood Card. The statement reads:

We have confirmed that officials from the federal immigration agency ICE are now in Oklahoma. Please be advised that the Muscogee Nation is monitoring the situation to ensure the safety of our citizens both on and off the Reservation. Citizens are encouraged to keep their tribal identification with them as accessible. Should you be contacted by ICE, remain calm, respectful, and know your rights.

In response to concerns about ICE activity in Indian Country, NARF is hosting a free 60-minute “Know Your Rights” webinar, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session. The webinar will provide clear, practical information on what to do if you are approached by an ICE agent at home, in your car, or in public. It will also provide policy and government-focused framing on what Tribal Nations can do for their Tribal citizens. Those interested in the webinar can register here.

The Muscogee Nation Lighthouse Police Department dispatch has direct access to verify citizenship for any Mvskoke citizen, regardless of whether they have been stopped on or off the Mvskoke Reservation. Lighthouse Police Department can be reached at (918) 732-7800.

Native American citizens who believe an ICE agent has violated their rights in any capacity may contact NARF at 303-447-7776 or by email at info@narf.org.

ADULT WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS

THE PROGRAM OFFERS GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR CITIZENS SEEKING FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

BY **SHAYLN PROCTOR**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – The MCN Employment and Training's Adult Work Experience Program provides hands-on work experience for adults 22 and over. The program is designed to help citizens develop skills and help them move into full-time employment.

MCN ET Manager Jessina Factor (Mvskoke) spoke about how the program has been ongoing for quite some time and has since expanded. She said that the program falls under their Career Readiness Program.

“What we do is, we make sure individuals are career ready or job ready before placing them on the work program. We work with businesses outside the Nation and departments within the Nation. They have to sign a work-site agreement stating that they'll hire the individual if they meet the work-site expectations. The goal is to get them full-time permanent employment,” Factor stated.

Factor has seen individuals within the work experience pro-

gram go into a wide variety of jobs and career fields- welding, construction, clerical, and medical clinic. She's worked with the MCN Department of Health and veterinary clinics in placing program participants.

“It's just whatever business is willing to work with us, and as long as we can meet in the middle with this client,” Factor said.

During this program, the MCN ET prepares a case plan with the individual to help them reach their goals and address any barriers they may encounter along the way. For example, if a work site requires a driver's license, MCN ET can help with the associated fees or even send them to a driver's ed school in Okmulgee.

Factor knows this program can help others, as she has firsthand experience participating in it.

“I got on it, it was just a point in time when I was really trying to better myself. That's what we do is make the program for us individuals that have those bar-

riers that just need a chance, or it could be somebody graduating college, and they don't have that experience so we try to give them that hand up, just to help them get their foot in the door and they get to do the rest,” Factor said.

“We'll be there to assist them, guide them, motivate them. If we have to provide support services to help them become successful, we'll look at doing that. But I really believe in it because it gave me a chance when I needed it, and I'm still here today.”

Citizens wanting to participate in the Adult Work Experience Program must be 22 and older, a member of a federally recognized tribe, reside within the MCN Reservation, and meet income guidelines. Participants must also be willing to obtain a high school diploma or GED and have, or be willing to obtain, a valid driver's license.

Factor shared that the department offers more than just their Work Experience Program; they also offer resume help, job searching, and, if they want to

(Flyer: MCN Employment and Training)

look into other Career Readiness Programs, they can assist in that area.

Anyone wanting to learn more about the Adult Work Experience Program or other MCN ET programs can contact the department at 918-732-7773

or eta@muscogeenation.com.

Applications are also on the MCN ETA website under MCN Employment and Training; click the “Career Readiness Program” and choose the application you're applying for.



Carol Tiger teaches students how to cook wild onions. (Image Courtesy: Cassandra Thompson)

TALKING FOOD WITH CAROL TIGER

THE MVSKOKE COOK SHARES HOW SHE GOT STARTED AND WHAT SHE ENJOYS ABOUT TEACHING

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – From her home, Eugenia “Carol” Tiger (Mvskoke) runs Hompvks Ci! Mvskoke Cooking & Catering, which offers traditional and home-style food and instruction. Since her retirement after 34 years from the glass plant in Henryetta, Tiger has embraced the kitchen.

With tutorials on her YouTube channel featuring the Mvskoke Meal Series, Tiger walks viewers through recipes like ‘safke and taklik-kvmokse. Her calm demeanor instructs students step by step and offers advice and encouragement.

Before her mother passed, Tiger watched her in the kitchen. After her passing, she went to her community and learned to cook different foods from elderly ladies.

“I had to learn that way. I went and talked to a lot of elderly women when my mother passed

away because there was nobody left to show me, and I just remembered how she cooked,” Tiger said.

She enjoys cooking older dishes that nobody cooks anymore. The dishes she’s usually asked to cook are sofke, chicken and dumplings, and blue bread, if she has the ingredients.

One of the Mvskoke traditional foods she first tried was hominy and meat; she used pork. Now, she mostly makes sofke, and hominy with meat.

One ingredient that she always needs on hand is flour and oil. Tiger is always asked to make frybread.

Her daughter Cassandra Thompson (Mvskoke) sparked her interest in making videos. Wherever she went, her daughter would ask her, “Can we do this?” or “Can we set up somewhere?”

“One person that approached me was the Tulsa library, that’s how the videos got put out there, they were asking me if I would

show them how,” Tiger said. The recipe videos were made for the Tulsa City-County Library American Indian Resource Center.

She sees the younger cooks wanting to take the time to learn how to cook these traditional foods. Tiger spoke about how she shows them and tells them what ingredients to get to prepare these meals.

“It’s stuff that they normally don’t cook, but would like to learn. Some of them are grape dumplings, sour cornbread, hominy and meat, chicken and dumplings, fry bread,” Tiger said.

Tiger does enjoy cooking, but that’s just one of the things she enjoys about doing this. Recently, she taught a class on making fry bread, and Tiger noticed how much the participants enjoyed it.

Some recipes take time, some take practice, and some take both.

For Tiger, it doesn’t take long to make certain dishes. She does need to know ahead of time what to cook, because some dishes can take all night, like sofke. Tiger stresses to students that making dishes takes time and a ton of practice.

“I told them, I said, ‘Fry bread takes a lot of practice.’ You have to take your time, and if you want to learn, you just have to keep practicing, whether it turns out good or bad, you still practice how to make your bread. Any of the dishes that I have shown, you have to practice on how to make it, when to make, and how long it takes,” Tiger said.

Tiger’s videos can be found on YouTube at her account Hompvks Ci! and on Facebook at HompvksCe.

AARP OKLAHOMA OPENS NOMINATIONS TO HONOR NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS



NOMINATIONS FOR THE AARP OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN ELDER HONORS OPENED ON JAN. 5 AND WILL CLOSE ON MAR. 31

BY THOMAS JACKSON
REPORTER

TULSA – AARP Oklahoma opened up nominations for the AARP Oklahoma Native American Elder Honors on Jan. 5. Nominations will be open until March 31.

The requirements for the award are as follows, according to a press release by AARP Oklahoma:

- Nominees must be at least 50 years old.
- They must be enrolled citizens of an Oklahoma Indigenous tribe.
- They must not be a candidate campaigning for an elected office.
- They must not be an AARP staff member.
- They must not be a previous honoree.
- The actions or achievements for which they are being nominated for the Honor must be in line with AARP’s vision and mission.

According to a press release by AARP Oklahoma, “AARP’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for all as we age. AARP’s vision is a society in which all people live with dignity and purpose and fulfill their goals and dreams.”

For more information on the requirements for nomination, visit their website at <https://states.aarp.org/oklahoma/aarp-oklahoma-opens-nominations-for-the-2026-aarp-oklahoma-native-american-elder-honors> or contact Mashell Sourjohn at (405) 715-4474 or at msourjohn@aarp.org

JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Health, Education, and Welfare, Jan 20

NCA 26-001 Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the legislation, which passed to the Business, Finance & Justice committee 4-0.

NCA 26-002 Representative Lora Harjo King sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-003 Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the bill, which passed to the Business, Finance & Justice committee 4-0.

NCA 26-004 Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed to the Business, Finance & Justice committee 4-0.

NCA 26-005 Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-006 Rep. McHenry sponsored the bill, which passed to the Business, Finance & Justice Committee 4-0.

NCA 26-007 Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill, which passed 4-0.

Land, Natural Resources, and Cultural Preservation, Jan 20

TR 26-001 Representative Robyn Whitecloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-008 Representative Dode Barnett sponsored this legislation, which passed with a vote of 4-0.

NCA 26-009 Rep. Barnett sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-010 Representative Cody Phillips sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-011 Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation, which passed 3-0.

NCA 26-012 Rep. Phillips sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-013 Rep. Barnett sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-014 Rep. Phillips sponsored this legislation, which passed 4-0.

Business, Justice, and Finance, Jan. 22

TR 26-002 Representative James Factor sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

TR 26-003 Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-015 Representative William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-016 Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-017 Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-018 Rep. Factor sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-019 Rep. Factor sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-020 Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

NCA 26-021 Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.



(Image Courtesy: Casandra Thompson)

CAROL'S TAKLIK-KVMOKSE RECIPE

Ingredients:

- ½ cup white rice
 - 8 cups water
 - 4 cups flour
 - 4 cups white cornmeal
 - 4 tablespoons baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
- Additional supplies needed: a bowl with a tight lid and a wooden spoon for mixing
Oil or cooking spray for cooking

Instructions:

In a bowl with a lid, combine the flour and white cornmeal, then set aside.

In a pot, cook the rice with 8 cups of water. Bring it to a boil for a few minutes, then cover and let it simmer until soft. Allow it to cool.

Once the rice has cooled, gradually incorporate it into the flour and cornmeal mixture. Mix thoroughly until the mixture is completely moist.

Tightly cover the bowl with the lid and place it at room temperature. Allow it to sit for about 3 to 5 days, or until the lid pops off.

After the fermentation period, add the baking powder, salt, and sugar to the mixture. The batter should have a bubbly appearance and a fermented aroma. It is ready when it slides off the wooden spoon easily.

To cook, heat a skillet over medium heat and coat it with oil. Pour about 3 large cups or spoonfuls of the batter into the skillet, spreading it evenly. Cover and cook for 5 to 8 minutes, or until the edges appear cooked, there are fewer bubbles on top, and the edges lift up, similar to cooking a pancake. Before flipping, drizzle a spoonful of oil on top, creating circles to prevent sticking. Flip and cook for an additional 5 to 8 minutes.

This recipe yields 3 to 4 rounds of bread.

Do you have a traditional or family recipe to share? Mvskoke News is accepting recipes and food stories from citizens. Submissions and inquiries can be sent to info@mvsokemedia.com, subject: food.

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The MCN Sapulpa Health Center broke ground on Jan. 16. (Thomas Jackson/MM)

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BREAKS GROUND ON SAPULPA FACILITY

NEW FACILITY WILL DOUBLE CURRENT CAPACITY

BY THOMAS JACKSON
REPORTER

SAPULPA – Mvskoke citizens in and around the city of Sapulpa will soon have a brand new medical facility on Highway 117, as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its Department of Health broke ground on the facility's construction in a ceremony on Jan. 16.

According to Secretary of Health Shawn Terry, the new facility will be roughly double the size of the old facility in terms of space and staff. "We outgrew this clinic many years ago. Over the years, we've had to rent space downtown in different buildings," Terry said.

"We've annexed a couple of different buildings, and this building, which I believe was built sometime in the early 70s, has 22 exam rooms. So as we build this new facility, it's gonna more than double our capacity with exam rooms."

Terry explained that the building's scale provides more space for health workers and patients. "We're going to 54 exam rooms, and that's gonna give us a lot more space to be able to put more doctors, more nurses, and all of the staff that we're gonna

need to take care of patients. This facility is also gonna be a two-story facility, and it'll be almost 150,000 square feet. So, it's going to be a really, really large building," Terry said.

Mvskoke language and culture are at the forefront of the building's design, according to Terry. "As we started to figure out what we wanted to do here, we wanted to have a purpose. If you're gonna put up a wall, you also have a chance to tell the story behind it," Terry explained.

"Furthering this mission, you're going to see Mvskoke healing words on the exterior of the building, in the artwork inside, and the entire theme of this clinic will be a remembrance and a reminder of our Mvskoke language and who we are as a people."

MCN leadership, Sapulpa city officials, and Sapulpa medical staff at the current facility attended the groundbreaking. MCN leadership attending the ceremony included Secretary Terry, MCN Sapulpa Health Administrator Becky Moore, National Council Second Speaker Thomasene Yahola Osborn, and Representatives William Lowe, Charles McHenry, Darrell Proc-

tor, Dode Barnett, Laura Harjo King, and Cody Phillips, as well as Principal Chief David Hill and Press Secretary Jason Salsman.

During his talk, Principal Chief Hill explained the significance of MCN Health's work and the need to build facilities like this on the reservation. "Providing effective health is all about people. Top to bottom, both patients and providers, it's not only about the care folks you see here in our facility, but in the manner in which it's provided."

Chief Hill reaffirmed that the Muscogee Nation and its Department of Health will continue to work to make Indian Country better for everyone. "I wanted to assure you all here today that we will continue to do just that, and we will continue to grow and stand together, making sure that the future of Indian Country's number one health service is brighter and brighter for our people, for our community, and for our future," Principal Chief Hill added.

For those interested in learning more about the MCN Department of Health, its facilities, and the work they do, visit their website at <https://www.creekhealth.org/>

CMN PARTNERS WITH SNU

AGREEMENT GIVES CMN STUDENTS AN ADDITIONAL OPTION AFTER GRADUATION



Leadership from CMN and SNU signed an articulation agreement on Jan. 15. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) and Southern Nazarene University (SNU) held an articulation agreement ceremony on Thursday, Jan 15. This partnership will help future CMN graduates earn their bachelor's degree after earning their associate's degree from CMN.

CMN employees and graduates attended SNU in the past. As a result, because both colleges are part of the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium, discussions of this agreement began.

"This articulation agreement is to benefit the graduates. It gives them an opportunity and ability to move into that bachelor's degree program. We also talk about not just the transfer credits, but we also talk about services and how we can help advocate for our graduates, and in trying to negotiate different services," stated CMN's President, Dr. Monte Randall (Mvskoke).

CMN is glad to offer another opportunity for CMN students through new partnerships, such

as SNU. "Just showing them the versatility of the degrees that they're receiving at the College of the Muscogee Nation, really demonstrating to them that there's value in higher ed and the College of the Muscogee Nation is recognized by these partnership institutions, that these institutions seek us to have our graduates attend their institutions," Randall said.

What Randall enjoys most about adding different partnerships is giving students a variety of degree options to pursue after receiving their associate's degree from CMN. Having institutions well known in science or legal studies can help motivate students to continue into higher education.

Randall believes this can positively impact students, knowing that institutions are looking out for their best interests and providing services similar to those the students received at CMN.

Randall is looking forward to connecting with other partner institutions and with any institutions interested in working with CMN.

POSITIVE FLU CASES ABOVE BASELINE ON MVSKOKE RESERVATION

MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAYS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RECEIVE A FLU SHOT

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - Flu season has returned with above-baseline positive cases in Oklahoma. According to data from the Oklahoma State Department of Health website, the state is currently 13.6% above the baseline for positive influenza cases as of Friday, Jan. 17. Five out of the eight health regions in Oklahoma are above the statewide baseline for influenza. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is located in regions four, five, and seven. Regions five and seven are currently above the baseline; region four is at or below baseline. The data showed a peak in positive influenza cases on Saturday, December 27, 2025.

The highest positivity rates in the state are Influenza A and influenza-like illness. Influenza-like illness is defined as having a fever lower than 100 degrees Fahrenheit and exhibiting a cough and sore throat.

According to the MCN Department of Health, it is not too late to receive a flu shot. MCN Health Communications Manager Ashtyn Salsman said in a statement that now is an optimal time to get a flu shot, as cases could rise over the next few weeks.

"We do anticipate a rise in positivity for flu during the months of January and February. Preventable precautions for respiratory season include vaccination, hand hygiene, avoiding large indoor crowds, and staying home when sick," Salsman said.

The MCN Department of



(Shutterstock)

Health says there are easy ways to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. All coughs and sneezes should be covered by using the bend of your arm or a facial tissue. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. For those experiencing a runny nose, sore throat, or cough, it is advised that they stay at home. Likewise, it is recommended that patients stay up to date on their vaccinations, including influenza, RSV, and COVID-19.

Flu shots are currently available at the Eufaula, Koweta, Okemah, Okmulgee, Sapulpa, Wetumka clinics, as well as Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare. Patients can schedule an appointment, and walk-ins are also welcome. It is advised that pediatric patients schedule an appointment with their pediatrician for a flu shot. The MCN Health Department serves all citizens of federally recognized Tribes.

To schedule an appointment, call 918-233-9551. To stay up to date on clinic hours and programming, visit the department's Facebook page, Muscogee Nation Department of Health.



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INDIAN CHURCH PASTORS MEET WITH MVSKOKE LEADERSHIP

TRIBAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS DISCUSS AVAILABLE GRANT RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT-CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS



Pastors from across the Mvskoke Reservation listen to a presentation on how to apply for grant resources. (Braden Harper/MM)

BY BRADEN HARPER
MANAGING EDITOR

TULSA - The annual Chiefs and Pastors Meeting saw Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal government leaders and spiritual leaders from across the Mvskoke Reservation gather to discuss ways to strengthen their relationship. The meeting addressed current issues Indian Church pastors face and how to receive support from the Nation. The meeting was led by MCN Second Chief Del Beaver and Veteran Affairs Secretary Grover Wind, both ordained ministers. Members of the National Council's Land, Natural Resources, and Conservation Committee were present to answer questions about grants available to churches.

The meeting discussed the rising costs of propane and electricity. LNC Chairman Representative Galen Cloud said that vehicle repairs can be serviced by MCN Fleet Services. The department offers discounts on minor repairs, such as tire rotations and oil changes, to registered Indian churches on the Reservation. The

churches also have the opportunity to apply for lawnmowers.

Wind said that the Tribe's relationships with spiritual leaders are important. Wind has preached at many churches across the Mvskoke Reservation. According to Wind, he has seen firsthand the physical needs of each church.

"The purpose of the meeting is to get our relationships together with our Nation," Wind said. "With the way that times are now in this country and in this world, it's important that our churches step forward. One of the problems we've had in the past is that we haven't stepped forward. With this unity, we'll be able to step forward and do the things we need to do."

Second Chief Beaver echoed Wind's remarks, saying that the Nation's job is to support the churches. He emphasized that it's not the government's job to tell the churches what to do; the Nation is simply a resource.

"The churches are churches, they're autonomous. The Nation is just there to help whenever we

can," Second Chief Beaver said. "It's about our people, our pastors, our membership. We have to make sure we're lifting each other up as a collective. We're here to make sure that each of our churches are healthy, and that they have what they need."

Pastors Respond

This year's meeting marked the first for Springfield UMC Assistant Pastor John Wolfe (Cherokee) and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Pastor Clarence Yarholar (Thlopthlocco/Mvskoke).

Yarholar said most of the information presented at the meeting was not new and that it was a good reminder of the proper channels for filing for financial assistance from the Tribe. He remarked that it is important to stay current with bureaucratic procedures because they can change with new legislative leadership.

Yarholar grew up in Springfield UMC. He currently pastors Choctaw citizens in Oklahoma City. Yarholar appreciated that the event brought information to spiritual leaders in person, especially because not everyone has access to it online. An absent topic from the meeting Yarholar wanted to discuss was how to bridge the spiritual gap between younger and older generations of Native Americans.

"Because we've been Christianized, urbanized, assimilated, parts of our identity as Native people has been taken away. We know that because of historical trauma," Yarholar said. "A part of our Native origin still applies to us. Unfortunately, as Native people, we don't always know

how to identify or practice that."

Although Yarholar is a Christian, he shared that his spiritual needs come from his Native American culture. As a Native pastor, he is always seeking ways to meet the unique spiritual needs of Native Americans in his ministry. He admitted that it can be hard to spiritually appeal to Native Americans who view Christianity as a colonizer religion.

Wolfe is not Mvskoke himself and described himself as "assimilated" into the culture. Ways Wolfe practices his spirituality include singing Mvskoke hymns and participating in sweat lodge ceremonies. When asked about his experience at the meeting, Wolfe said he had hoped to discuss topics of spirituality and culture. Specifically, he hoped to learn and share new ideas for connecting with Native communities through a nondenominational lens.

"On a spiritual note, I wanted to learn how to connect with others, regardless of what religion you are," Wolfe said. "Meth-

odist, Baptist, Free Will, I wanted to learn how to come together as a community as a whole and help one another."

When discussing physical challenges for his ministry, Wolfe said there is a need to maintain ramps and pathways on the property. Many other pastors expressed frustration that they did not know the status of their grant applications after they were filed. Their understanding of their application status was that it would not be approved until every other church ahead on the waiting list had been approved. However, churches that did not receive grants were unaware that they needed to reapply annually to stay in the queue. Wolfe described this as a "communication flaw," and said he would like to see more active communication from the Tribe regarding where his church is on the grant list, as well as annual reminders of when to reapply.

Seven grants that churches and Ceremonial Grants can apply for can be found at mcnnc.com/grant-applications/.



Second Chief Del Beaver explains the role of the MCN government in helping Indian churches on the Mvskoke Reservation. (Braden Harper/MM)



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board

2026 Special Election

Dates & Deadline

<p>Date 13 February, 2026</p> <p>ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST MAIL OUT</p>	<p>Date & Time: 30 April, 2026</p> <p>ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT</p>	<p>Date & Time: 6 May, 2026 AT 05:00PM CT</p> <p>ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE</p>	<p>Date & Time: 19 May, 2026 AT 05:00PM CT</p> <p>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</p>
<p>Date & Time: 27&28 May, 2026 7AM-7PM BOTH DAYS</p> <p>EARLY VOTING</p>		<p>Date & Time: 30 May, 2026 7AM-7PM</p> <p>ELECTION DAY</p>	

918-732-7631

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Scan QR Code for website Information



MCN ELDER SERVICES HOSTING THEIR ELDER SWEETHEART DANCE

By SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER



(Flyer: MCN Elder Services)

TULSA – The Muscogee Creek Nation Elder Services will be hosting the annual Elder Sweetheart Dance at the Tulsa River Spirit Casino Ballroom on February 19th at 5 pm-8 pm. This year, there will be dancing, dancing contests (prizes involved for the winners), music, and dinner. Pre-registration is required for elders and one guest each.

Pre-registration has begun, and elders must be enrolled MCN citizens and 55 years of age or older. For the one guest who is a spouse or caregiver, they do need to be registered as well; however, they do not need to be an elder or an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen.

In the past, the dance has been held at the Glenpool Community Center and has been catered by Olive Garden; this year, it has been relocated to the Tulsa River Spirit. This year's food will be catered by Tulsa River Spirit, and it will be a seated meal.

According to MCN Elder

Services Office Manager Angi Neumeyer (Mvskoke), last year they had a full house, and, as far as she knows, everyone had a good time. "Usually, the elders enjoy these events, and they always tell me how much fun they had. I had a lady call, who is 85 years old, and she told me she can't wait to get there and shake a leg," Neumeyer said.

Neumeyer enjoys doing these activities for elders, whether it's just meeting them or during these events. "I try to get out and participate with them if I have time, and I just enjoy being around our elders. They usually have a lot of fun and a lot of insight if you listen to them speak," Neumeyer said.

Neumeyer said they have limited seating for 600. Currently, that has been met, but Elder Services has a waitlist.

For information about pre-registration, you can contact MCN Elder Services at 918-732-7765.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Income Tax Filing Vita/TCE Tax Program
Starts on Feb. 2
Open to all Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens whose total household income is \$69,000 or under. In-office tax days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 by appointment only.
4900 N. Wood Drive., Okmulgee

Elder's Meeting
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.
2900 N. Osage Pl., Okmulgee

Citizen Outreach Beyond the Reservation
Feb. 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
OKC Resource Center
4111 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City

Proctor Family Reunion
Descendants of Lewis Proctor
Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Okmulgee Indian Community Center
2900 N. Osage Pl. Okmulgee
For info, contact 918-671-7008

Caring Love Fundraiser Four Mother's Collective
Feb. 7, 1-4 p.m.
Free Valentine making, raffle, and art auction. All proceeds benefit the film project "Self She is Now"
1306 E. 11th St., Suite C., Tulsa

Coffee and Donuts
Veterans Affairs Services Office
Feb. 12
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1006 Bear Ln., Okmulgee, Okla
Questions, contact 918-732-7739

Hearts of Honor
Veterans Affairs Services Office
Feb. 12, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
A valentine-themed get-together for Muscogee Veterans.
Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center
8611 South Union Avenue, Tulsa
Questions, contact 918-732-7739

Indian Taco Sweetheart Lunch
Mvskoke Nation Youth Council
Feb 13
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fundraiser and Silent Auction
2710 N. Miami Ave., Okmulgee
Questions, 918-549-2557

Veterans Food Bank
Feb. 18, 11 a.m.
Event will give away groceries to Muscogee veterans.
Claude Cox Omniplex
200 Preston Road, Okmulgee
Questions, contact 918-732-7739

Elder's Sweetheart Dance
Elder Services
Feb. 19, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Pre register by Feb. 4. Open to MCN elders 55+. Each elder may bring one guest: a partner or caregiver.
RiverSpirit Casino
8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa
To preregister, call 918-732-7765

Tribal Women Veterans Summit
Veteran Affairs Services Office
April 2, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
RiverSpirit Casino
8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa
Registration starts at 8 a.m. and is open to all military veterans.
To preregister, call 918-732-7739

Health Shelf Donation Drive
CMN Health & Wellness is seeking hygiene products, detergent, and gently used linens for students in need. Donations can be dropped off at 2170 Raven Circle, For more information, contact 918-549-2800.

IN MEMORIAM

Joe Elbert Thornburgh peacefully passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, in Tulsa, OK, at 89 years old. Born in Okmulgee, OK, on Christmas Day, December 25, 1936, he was the son of the late Bert and Margaret (Alden) Thornburgh.



JOE ELBERT THORNBURGH

As a young man, Joe enjoyed playing sports, especially basketball, baseball, and softball, and he loved hunting. Joe graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1954 before attending the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He completed his education at Oklahoma City University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing. Joe served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 and again from 1961 to 1962. He was a proud citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Joe had a successful career with General Electric in sales and operations management, and later served as the Human Resources Manager for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Joe married Wanda Jean Norman on July 3, 1965, in Oklahoma City, OK. They resided in Oklahoma City, El Paso, Texas, Richardson, Texas, and in 1979, they made Broken Arrow their home. Joe's greatest joy was spending time with his family, especially his beloved daughter, Rhana Jaree (Thornburgh) Perkins. He was an avid sports fan and loved watching college football and college basketball games with her. He eagerly looked forward to visits from his grandchildren, sharing countless stories and endless belly laughs. Throughout his life, Joe touched many lives and leaves behind a circle of loving family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bert and Margaret Thornburgh.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Wanda Thornburgh of Tulsa; his daughter Rhana Perkins and her husband, David L. Perkins Jr. of Tulsa; grandchildren Delaney McKnight and her husband Tyler of Edmond, Drew and Will Vickers of Oklahoma City; great-grandchildren Wes and Scotty McKnight of Edmond; sister Mary Lou Hasselman of Okmulgee; along with nieces, nephews, and many other relatives.



KATHERINE SUE FARVE

Katherine Sue (Fish) Farve, age 77, passed away on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at Davis, Oklahoma. Funeral services were held at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church, Wetumka, Oklahoma. Officiating the service was Pastor Josh "Jay" Downing. Interment followed at Salt Creek Cemetery, Hughes County, Oklahoma.

Katherine was born on February 8, 1948, to Wadley and Wynema (Berryhill) Fish at Claremore, Oklahoma. She graduated from Weleetka High School in 1966.

She moved to Dallas, Texas, in 1967. Katherine met Emil J. Farve, Jr., and the couple married in 1985. She worked for various nursing homes throughout the area as a Nurse's Aide and as a Dietary Aide. She was an avid reader and loved doing word search puzzles. Katherine was a BIG animal lover.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Emil Farve, Jr.; her parents; her sisters, Reinetta Joyce Hokte Fish and Lucinda Fish Simpson; and her son-in-law, Wendell Marris.

Katherine is survived by her daughter, Lawanda Farve-Marris, daughter, Cynthia A. Farve-Jones and her significant other, Cecil Mills, son, Charles S. Farve, son, Emil W. Farve, daughter, Rachael M. Farve-Wallace, and husband, Jason, and daughter, Emily L. Farve, six grandchildren: Isaac, Gabrielle, Katie, Ashton, Alexis, and Payden, and two great-grandchildren, Serena and Ezra. Sister, Ramona Voisine of Maryland. Four brothers: Clifford Fish and Samuel Fish, both of Wetumka, and Anthony Fish and wife, Karen, and Marcus Fish and wife, Nico, all of Holdenville, Okla.

Pallbearers were her sons, Charles Farve and Emil Farve; grandson Isaac Jones; and Cecil Mills, Jason Wallace, Dakota Fish, and Joshua Simpson.



(Image Courtesy: OIC)

GET UP AND DANCE!

OIC HOSTING FREE LINE DANCE CLASSES

By SHAYLN PROCTOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE – The Okmulgee Indian Community Center (OIC) has started line dance classes every Thursday from 6 pm to 8 pm. Classes are free and open to the public. According to the OIC chair of the Healthy Living subcommittee, Jeremy Tecumseh (Mvskoke), the classes offer many benefits for citizens.

Tecumseh shared that the classes are scheduled every Thursday for the next two months, depending on the number of participants. Tecumseh also teaches Mvskoke and Seminole youth wrestling in Okmulgee County and has also helped elders get active and exercise. He hopes to interest everyone in between, so he can help build a healthier tribe.

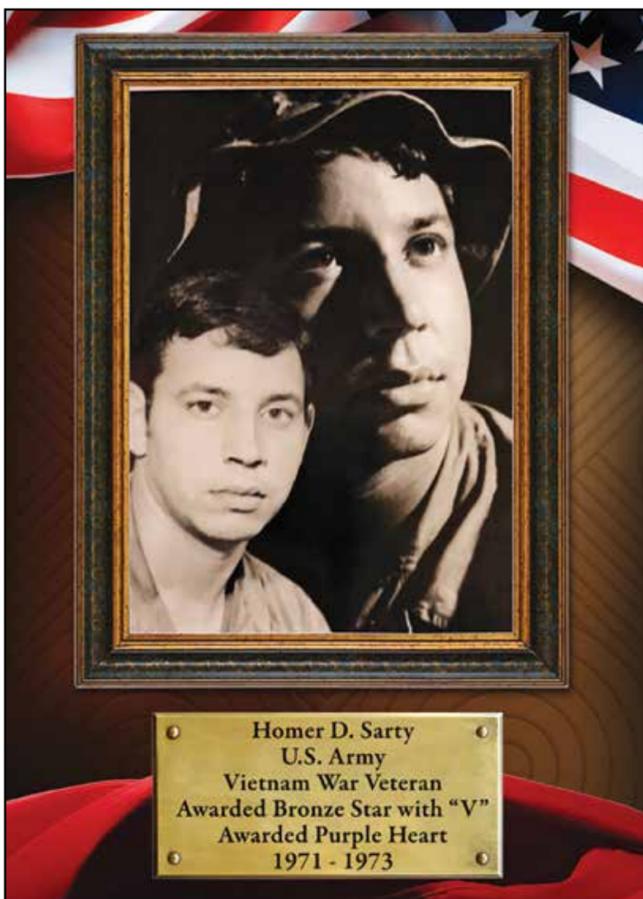
"I'm a certified personal trainer, and this aligns with what I do. What I enjoy is that the

majority of the people that show up are our elders, which is why I really push the walking and the chair volleyball. For our elders, it is helping them lead a healthy life at later stages, which is very important," Tecumseh said.

"Health is something that has fallen off within our tribe and all tribes. Obesity and diabetes, which stem from non-exercise, have really affected our people. I've made it my life's mission since I've changed my life around and got sober, to kind of lead that charge with our tribe. I feel like this is a stepping stone towards that by being able to help the elders," Tecumseh said.

The line dance class is part of healthy living programming at the center. They do exercise classes, walking classes, and chair volleyball. For more information, contact OIC at 539-321-0068. Tecumseh is available on Mondays from 9 am- 12 pm and Tuesday-Friday from 10 am-1 pm.

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT



The Muscogee Nation Veterans Services Office is proud to honor the late Homer D. Sarty for his dedicated service to the U.S. Army, the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Homer was a tribal veteran and honorably served just over two years from 1971 to 1973 and is a recipient of several honors: Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Purple Heart Medal, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Mvto Mr. Sarty for your selfless service to your country and your community.

MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF)
L.M.J., dob 10-23-2012,) Case No. GD-2026-02
E.M.J., dob 01-15-2014,)
MINOR CHILDREN.) Judge Masters

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION, TO: *Jennifer Mariah Taylor and Bryon Robert Jones and All Persons Interested In The Person and Estate Of L.M.J. and E.M.J., minor children.*

Take Notice that, a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Person and Estate of *L.M.J. and E.M.J.*, minor children, was filed in this Court by the Maternal Great Grandmother and Paternal Grandmother, *Aona Jo Fife and Vicki Lynn Slice*, seeking this Court to issue a *General Decree of Guardianship with regards to the minor child, L.M.J. born 10-23-2012 and E.M.J. born 01-15-2014.*

A hearing on said Petition is set for the 10th day of March, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 o'clock, A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee Oklahoma, before the Honorable Judge Masters.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP AT THE TIME AND PLACE ABOVE SHOWN WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE REQUEST AND RELIEF SOUGHT: HOWEVER, YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL

SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN SAID PETITION BEING GRANTED AND ORDERED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT AS WELL AS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MINOR CHILD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

Signed and Ordered this 22 day of January, 2026.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
Janice Rankin, OBA #18796/MCN421
Attorney at Law
206 West 7th Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-3271 Telephone
(918) 756-3271 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioners Aona Jo Fife and Vicki Lynn Slice

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:)
EDWARD LEE HARJO, dob 08-08-47,) Case No. GD-2026-03
an Incapacitated Adult.) Judge Masters

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION, TO: *Steven Eugene Harjo and All Persons Interested In The Person and Estate Of Edward Lee Harjo.*

Take Notice that, a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Person and Estate of *Edward Lee Harjo, incapacitated adult*, was filed in this Court by the Paternal Nieces, *Linda Sue Dale and Penny Lynn Harjo*, seeking this Court to issue a *General Decree of Guardianship with regards to Edward Lee Harjo.*

A hearing on said Petition is set for the 10th day of March, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 o'clock, A.M. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee Oklahoma, before the Honorable Judge Masters.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP AT THE TIME AND PLACE ABOVE SHOWN WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE REQUEST AND RELIEF SOUGHT: HOWEVER, YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE MINOR CHILD'S WELFARE, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY

CONSTITUTE DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE MINOR CHILD'S WELFARE, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN SAID PETITION BEING GRANTED AND ORDERED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT AS WELL AS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MINOR CHILD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

Signed and Ordered this 22nd day of January, 2026.


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:
Janice Rankin, OBA #18796/MCN421
Attorney at Law
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Attorney for Petitioners Aona Jo Fife and Vicki Lynn Slice

PREVENT the SPREAD of RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

-  **COVER YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES**
-  **WASH HANDS OFTEN**
For at least 20 seconds
-  **STAY HOME WHEN SICK**
including having a runny nose, sore throat, and/or cough
-  **KEEP AIR CIRCULATING & VENTILATED**
-  **STAY UP TO DATE**
with your vaccinations, including Flu, RSV & COVID-19

MCNHealth EXPRESS CARE CLINICS

-  **COUNCIL OAK**
10109 E. 79TH ST.
TULSA, OK 74133
918.233.9550
-  **OKMULGEE**
1400 S. WOOD DRIVE
OKMULGEE, OK 74447
918.591.5733

HOURS OF OPERATION:
MON-FRI (7AM-7PM)
SAT-SUN (9AM-5PM)

WALK-INS WELCOME
+
NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

SERVING CITIZENS OF
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

creekhealth.org