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# MVSKOKE NEWS

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## SPRING CELEBRATION!



OKMULGEE – The Tribal Child and Youth Coalition hosted their annual Mvskoke Spring Celebration on March 18 at the Mvskoke Dome. The event included games, resource booths, face painting, haircuts, and traditional arts and crafts. The Spring Celebration is held to bring families together, promote healthy, positive activities, and honor Mvskoke values, noted MCN Curriculum Specialist Cassandra Thompson. This year, the event featured interactive, physical activities and games like basketball, archery, and soccer darts. (All images: Shayln Proctor/MM)



## REP. WHITECLOUD FILES TWO MOTIONS IN MCN DISTRICT COURT

MOTIONS TO DISQUALIFY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TO QUASH THE SEARCH WARRANT

BY JERRAD MOORE

OKMULGEE – On March 2, attorney Ryan Connonie, representing Muscogee Creek Nation National Council member Robyn Whitecloud, filed two motions in the MCN District court. Whitecloud was charged with four felony counts of preventing or attempting to prevent performance of official acts on Jan 16, as previously reported.

Connonie filed a motion to disqualify the Attorney General's Office and to appoint a special prosecutor in the case. The motion points out that Whitecloud is a seated representative who can vote on matters concerning the Attorney General's office, creating a conflict of interest for the prosecution. The motion also notes that Rep. Whitecloud previously voted against the confirmation of Attorney General Geri Wisner. The motion requests that the court appoint an independent special prosecutor.

In addition to this motion, Connonie also filed a motion to quash the search warrant used in the case. Quash is a legal term meaning to suppress, nullify, or set aside. This motion asserts that the search warrant issued to confiscate Whitecloud's cell phone was overly broad and thus violated constitutional protections against "General warrants".

Whitecloud is scheduled to appear in court again on April 6, and arguments on the motions are expected to be heard then.

## GRAYSON AND KENNEDY SEEK TO HALT THE MCN SPECIAL ELECTION

A MOTION FOR A RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION WAS FILED AT THE MCN SUPREME COURT

BY JERRAD MOORE

OKMULGEE – On March 9, Demario Solomon-Simmons, representing Rhonda Grayson and Jeffery Kennedy, filed a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court.

As previously reported, the MCN SC issued its order and opinion in the Grayson/Kennedy case on July 23, 2025. The high court found that any reference to "by blood" citizenship in the MCN Constitution was void ab initio. It then ordered the MCN Citizenship Board to apply the Treaty of 1866 to issue citizenship to both Grayson and Kennedy, as well as any future applicant who is able to establish a lineal descent on the Creek By Blood Dawes Roll or the Creek Freedmen Dawes Roll.

The motion points out that a special election is being held on May 30, so MCN citizens can vote on amendments to the Constitution. The motion further indicates that delaying Grayson and Kennedy's citizenship, as well as that of other applicants, would cause irreparable harm by denying them the ability to vote.

The motion asks the MCN SC to issue a restraining order and preliminary injunction halting the May special election and postponing voter registration until Grayson, Kennedy, and all other Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen with pending citizenship applications are granted citizenship cards.

In addition to the motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, Solomon-Simmons also filed a third motion for contempt, for court enforcement of order and judgement and for an order to show cause. This motion requests that the MCN SC hold the MCN Citizenship Board in contempt and order that it issue Grayson and Kennedy citizenship cards immediately. The motion also requests that the MCN SC hold Principal Chief David Hill in contempt and award Grayson and Kennedy attorney's fees and costs associated with the motion. At press time, the MCN SC had not ruled on these motions.

Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.

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Wilson Chalakee and Mahakey, his wife, voted in the 1979 MCN Constitution vote, pictured in the Dec. 1979 edition of Mvskoke News. (Jerrad Moore/MM)

# THREE MORE QUESTIONS ADDED TO THE MAY ELECTION

## CITIZENS WILL VOTE YES/NO ON FOUR BALLOT INITIATIVES

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE – Four constitutional amendments will appear as ballot initiatives in the 2026 Special Election. Three laws to place ballot initiatives on the next special election were adopted during the Regular Session on Saturday, Feb. 28.

According to MCN Election Board Manager Nelson Harjo Jr. (Mvskoke), ballot initiatives NCA 25-109, NCA 26-030, NCA 26-031, and NCA 26-038 will appear in the Special Election scheduled for Saturday, May 30.

The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, May 19. Absentee ballot request forms must be turned in to the MCN Election Board Office by Wednesday, May 6. Harjo stated that sample ballots will be available soon; no date was given.

To become a ballot initiative, legislation required a two-thirds vote from the full council. Each initiative will require a two-thirds vote from Mvskoke voters to be ratified. Voters will vote “yes” or “no” for each question.

### Ballot Initiatives

NCA 26-030 amends Article VII (Judicial Branch). It adds language regarding justice recusal, stating that if an MCN Supreme Court Justice must recuse themselves from a case, a Special Justice will be appointed by the Principal Chief to ensure that seven justices hear each case.

The amendment also adds that the Special Justice's appointment will last only long enough to hear the case to which they were appointed. The appointment will expire upon the conclusion of the case. It was sponsored by Representative Robert Hufft and was adopted 12-3. Representatives Dode Barnett, Representative Robyn Whitecloud, and Representative Osborn voted no.

During the discussion, Rep. Barnett explained that she could not support this legislation because the MCN Supreme Court already has an

internal policy for selecting temporary justices.

“If this passes, it opens up an avenue for the administration and/or the legislative branch to influence outcomes of specific cases because you would be loading the court with specific people for specific cases instead of appointing a justice based on their own merits,” Rep. Barnett said.

NCA 26-031 amends Article IX (Amendment of Constitution). It adds language regarding the timing of a special election. The legislation states that a Special Election may be called by the Principal Chief and combined with a General Election if the constitutional amendment ordinance is enacted 90 days prior to a general election. NCA 26-031 was sponsored by Rep. Hufft and was adopted 15-0.

During the discussion, Rep. Hufft explained that this legislation will save the Tribe money.

NCA 26-038 is an amendment to NCA 25-105, which is a proposed amendment to Article VI (Legislative Branch) Section 2 (a) of the Constitution. The amendment will increase term limits for National Council representatives from one to three.

According to the law, NCA 25-105 must be amended because the original constitutional amendment was supposed to appear on the November 2025 ballot. Rep. Osborn was the original sponsor of the bill, which was adopted 14-0 during the Quarterly Session on Saturday, October 25, 2025. Term limits would take effect in the 2028 National Council Seat A election. NCA 26-038 was also sponsored by Rep. Osborn and adopted 15-0.

NCA 25-109 is an amendment that will repeal NCA 25-087, entitled “A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by replacing ‘Muscogee’ with the traditional spelling of ‘Mvskoke’ and deleting the word ‘Creek’ throughout the Constitution.” Former Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the bill at the Regular Session on Saturday,

October 25, 2025, which was adopted 14-0.

According to the bill, the constitution needs to be updated because Mvskoke is the proper name of the Nation, not Creek. The word “Creek” was used by Europeans to describe the Tribe because Mvskoke Tribal Towns were located on or near creeks and rivers.

### NCA 26-037 Fails in Council

NCA 26-037 was a proposed amendment to Article V (Executive Branch), Section 1 (a) and (c) to the Constitution. If it had been adopted into law, citizens would vote on extending the term limits for the Principal Chief and the Second Chief from two to three years. A third term could be sought by a candidate regardless of whether it was a consecutive or nonconsecutive term. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Tiger. It failed to reach a two-thirds vote, 9-6. Rep. Barnett, Representative James Factor, Representative Lora Harjo-King, Representative Charles McHenry, Rep. Osborn, and Rep. Whitecloud voted no on the legislation.

During the discussion, Rep. Tiger argued that this amendment was necessary to remain consistent with the proposed term limits for National Council Representatives. Rep. Tiger asked MCN Principal Chief David Hill and Second Chief Del Beaver for their thoughts on the bill. Principal Chief Hill explained that it should be up to the voters to decide whether expanding the chiefs' term limits to three terms is in the Nation's best interest. According to the Second Chief, expanding term limits was not fair to future Second Chief candidates.

“I believe I still have two term limits. If this passes, whether today or by a vote of the people, I still believe I only have two-term limits. I don't believe in changing the rules of the game in the middle of the game,” Second Chief Beaver explained.

For more information, visit the MCN Election Board's website, [muscogeenation.com/election-board](http://muscogeenation.com/election-board).

# TOBACCO TAX WHIPLASH

A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOBACCO TRIBAL TAX THAT WAS SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1 WAS POSTPONED, THEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

BY BRADEN HARPER

MVSKOKE RESERVATION - Tribal tobacco shop owners on the Mvskoke Reservation can now breathe a sigh of relief after weeks of uncertainty. A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal tax on tobacco products, which was scheduled to go into effect on Sunday, March 1, was postponed and then cancelled until further notice.

The original memo informing Tribal tobacco shop owners of an upcoming tax was sent on Feb. 10, just 18 days before the original implementation date of March 1.

According to a memo sent to shop owners on Thursday, Feb. 26, by MCN Tax Commissioner Mary Mashunkashey, the anticipated new implementation date was Wednesday, April 1. However, a subsequent memo from Mashunkashey, sent on Wednesday, March 4, informed shop owners that the collection had been cancelled until further notice.

The first postponement memo, from Feb. 26, explained, “This postponement is intended to allow additional time to work through discussions and concerns that have been brought to our attention and to finalize outstanding implementation matters.” The memo further stated that the tax was discussed at the MCN National Council Business Finance and Justice Committee meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Mvskoke Media can report that the tax wasn't discussed during the open meeting, but the committee did go into executive session.

Broken Arrow/Mingo Tobacco Outlet owner Trevor Taylor was pleased with the outcome of the tax. However, he explained, tobacco shop owners are still in a bind because the Nation has yet to sign a new compact with the state. The last compact expired on Monday, March 31, 2025.

“Although this is good news for the current situation, there is still a lot of work to be done to lift the MCN Tobacco Industry out of the hole that it presently sits in,” Taylor said. “With some outlets experiencing Gross Sales declines of over 20% and Cigarette Sales Volume declines of over 40%, it is the hope of the Licensed Operators that diplomacy and compromise will overcome political grandstanding.”

Mvskoke Media reached out to the MCN Tax Commission for comment on the Tribal tax on tobacco products, but has not heard anything back at the time this story was published.

# STROBLE CASE RELISTED FOR CONFERENCE AT THE U. S. SUPREME COURT

BY JERRAD MOORE

WASHINGTON – Mvskoke citizen Alicia Stroble continues to wait for a decision from the United States Supreme Court. As previously reported, Stroble filed a writ of certiorari with the high court on Sept. 29, 2025. If the court grants the writ, Stroble's case appealing the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision in her tax case will be reheard. Stroble is being represented in the case by Elizabeth Barchas Prelogar, of Cooly LLP. The Muscogee Creek Nation National Council passed NCA 25-078 in August of 2025 which appropriated \$250,000 to pay Prelogar to file the writ, with another \$1,000,000 in funding if the court grants the writ and the case is heard.

As previously reported, Stroble had sought to be exempt from Oklahoma income tax under Oklahoma tax code which contains an exemption for Tribal citizens who work for their Tribal government and live on the Tribe's reservation. The Oklahoma Tax Commission had denied her exemption, and the Oklahoma Supreme Court later upheld the denial, finding that the 2020 McGirt decision did not apply to civil and regulatory matters.

In order for Stroble's case to be heard at the United States Supreme Court, the court must first grant her writ of certiorari. Justices meet on conference days to discuss which cases to hear. Stroble's case was first distributed for conference on Jan. 9, 2026. It has since been relisted six more times, with the most recent being the upcoming date of March 20. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and Cherokee Nation have filed amicus briefs in the case. The Oklahoma Tax Commission has filed a brief in opposition. Mvskoke Media will have ongoing coverage of this developing story.

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

# HEAD START HELPS PARENTS BUCKLE UP!

## FREE CAR SEATS AND INSTALLATION PROVIDED FOR TRIBAL CITIZENS THROUGH DOT GRANT

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE - Head Start Preschool Parent Family Community Engagement Specialist Tina Ward (Mvskoke) and her team of certified car seat technicians were hard at work on Tuesday, March 10, fastening seatbelts and anchoring down brand new car seats. The Head Start Preschool Car Seat Training Event distributed a total of 39 infant seats, convertible seats, and high-back booster seats.

Each car seat was installed by one of the preschool's certified car seat technicians. According to Ward, Head Start has distributed 250 car seats since 2024. The event is made possible by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Indian Highway Safety Program Occupant Protection Grant program, also known as the Child Passenger Safety Seat Program.

According to Ward, car seats are in high demand. A Joint Economic Committee Minority report from June 2025 states that common baby gear, such as car seats, cribs, and strollers, has increased by 24% due to tariffs on imports from foreign coun-

tries. In Oklahoma, the total increase in costs for new parents was \$7.8 million.

"There are a lot of families that do not have car seats. They do cost quite a bit of money," Ward said. "Based on the past year we've done this, we have seen an increase in price. The need's always been there, especially with the economy."

According to Consumer Reports, car seats can cost between \$70 and \$650. However, the most expensive car seat does not necessarily mean it is the safest. It is recommended that parents shop for car seats in person rather than online. Retailers like Amazon may offer a wide selection of models, but cushion angles and belt placement can sometimes make car seats incompatible with a given car make and model.

Tamra Jimboy (Mvskoke) was one of the parents who picked up a new car seat. She currently has two 11-month-old twins and a two-year-old. According to Jimboy, scheduling an appointment to install a new car seat was easy. She explained that the technicians were helpful and answered any questions she

had about proper fastening.

"The manuals really help. I do go home, and I look over them in case we miss something if we have to take them out of the car. If the seats are loose, I always look at the manual to double-check and make sure everything is okay," Jimboy said.

### Car Seat Facts

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), car accidents are one of the leading causes of death for children in the United States. Car seats are legally required for children traveling in vehicles in all 50 states. They are designed based on a child's age, weight, and height. Infant car seats are required by law to be rear-facing until the child is at least two years old.

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, there are four stages of car seats: rear-facing, forward-facing, booster, and just a seat belt. Rear-facing is legally required for children aged zero to two who weigh four to 35 pounds. Forward-facing is legally required for children aged two to four who weigh 40 to 50 pounds.



Holly Stidman installs a brand new car seat. (Braden Harper/MM)

Boosters are legally required for children aged four to nine who weigh 80 pounds or more. A child must be taller than four feet nine inches before they are ready to ride without a car seat. Ward explained it is best practice to keep children in their seat stage as long as they still fit within the height and weight range.

One of the most common problems parents may be unaware of is the expiration date of car seats. Most have a ten-year life span. Ward cautioned that parents who purchase car seats at garage sales or thrift stores should pay close attention to the product's expiration date. These can be found on a sticker on the side of the car seat, with

the date it was made and the date it expires. Used car seats that have been in car accidents, even minor fender benders, can affect their safety.

"Our overall goal is to make sure that our children, whether they are Head Start children or children out in the community, are protected. They are our future. We want to make sure they are kept safe," Ward said.

According to Ward, another car seat training event will be scheduled later this year. A date has not yet been announced. Head Start car seat technicians can field any questions parents have regarding car seat installation. They can be reached at 918-732-7893.



Megan McIntyre, Holly Stidman, Tina Ward and Heather Curtis. (Braden Harper/MM)

| CAR SEAT TYPE  | AGE           | WEIGHT           |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Rear Facing    | 0-2 years old | 4-35 lbs         |
| Forward Facing | 2-4 years old | 40-50 lbs        |
| Boosters       | 4-9 years old | 80 lbs+          |
| Car Seat       | 10 years old+ | 80 lbs+/over 4'9 |

(Braden Harper/MM)



(Image Credit: Thomas Jackson)

## TUCKABACHE TRAIL VOTE POSTPONED TULSA CITY COUNCIL VOTE TAKEN OFF THE AGENDA AFTER CITIZEN VOICES CONCERNS

BY MEREDITH JOHNSON

TULSA - The Tulsa City Council's Feb. 18 vote to officially rename the Midland Valley Trail in downtown Tulsa after a Mvskoke allottee has been postponed to a future date. For concerned Mvskoke citizen Aaron Griffith, the last-minute postponement comes as a relief.

The effort to rename Midland Valley Trail after the Mvskoke allottee Tuckabache was approved during a Tulsa Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Dec. 9, 2025. A resolution renaming the trail was then passed by the Tulsa City Council Public Works Committee on Feb. 11 before being scheduled for a vote by the Tulsa City Council on Feb. 18. The vote was removed from the agenda that same day.

The 3.3-mile Midland Valley Trail, which starts on East 3rd & Madison Avenue and stretches across the Arkansas River to the Riverparks West Bank, crosses

through a Tulsa park, The Gathering Place, where Tuckabache's original allotment was located.

Griffith has pointed out that descendants of other allottees in the area should have been involved in the process. Griffith wrote, "good faith efforts to contact other allottee descendant families to seek their consent and support for this change or a comprehensive, correct list of the total allotments that the trail crosses" had not been made.

Griffith even urged the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission during public comments at their Jan. 20 meeting to "press pause" to allow time for the city to identify other allottees and for government-to-government consultation. In his statements, Griffith offered ideas to the commission. One alternative Griffith mentioned was to rename the trail, not after one man, but the Tribal Town of Locv Pokv. He also implored the commission that, if the renaming goes through, it at least

change the spelling from Tuckabache to the traditional Mvskoke spelling.

Through his own research, Griffith has identified up to 11 allottees whose lands the trail runs through: Tuckabache, Ned Tuckabache, Tom Coney, Mose Coney, Wehiley Naharkey, Moses Perryman, Alvin Hodge, Ellis Manuel, George CB Perryman, Frances Berry, and Mary Jane Bruner.

Griffith also took issue with the process itself - one that appeared to push the renaming through. This includes a claim made by Tulsa Park & Recreation Board Vice-Chair Teresa Meinders Burkett. Burkett stated during the Feb. 11 Council Public Works Committee meeting that the decision to rename Midland Valley Trail to Tuckabache Trail had "unanimous support" from the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

This statement was later contradicted during the Feb. 17

commission meeting, when GTIAC commissioner Cheryl Cohenour stated, "I don't know that we've ever even had a detailed conversation about it" and expressed concern that they were being labeled as supporting the renaming when the proposal had never been seen by the commission.

However, the commission heard a presentation by Burkett and Tuckabache descendant Tatianna Duncan (Cherokee/Mvskoke) on the history of Tuckabache regarding the renaming, which occurred a year earlier during an April 16, 2024, commission meeting. The commission voted unanimously to draft a letter of support for the renaming; however, it is unclear whether such a letter was ever issued.

During the Feb. 17 GTIAC meeting, the commission discussed Griffith's concerns and ultimately voted to issue a letter to the City Council deferring to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation about the renaming.

Amanda Swope (Mvskoke), the Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships for the City of Tulsa, reached out to MCN Secretary of Culture and Humanities RaeLynn Butler via email on Feb. 18 to inquire about Tribal preferences regarding renaming. In part, Swope wrote, "At their (GTIAC) most recent meeting last evening, they voted to submit a letter to City Council indicating the absence of any action on their part to approve the change and deferring to the Nation's preference for the renaming. Can you provide any preference the Nation may have regarding the renaming of this trail?"

According to MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman, the MCN needs time to find a name that accurately tells the history of Tulsa and the Tribe. "The Muscogee Nation feels that more time and consultation is needed

with appropriate parties, before reaching a satisfactory consensus on this matter. We feel that is the most effective way to ensure that any name change would reflect an accurate and inclusive telling of the history of this area," Salsman wrote in a Feb. 26 statement to Mvskoke Media.

During the most recent meeting on March 11, GTIAC Chair Matt Roberts gave an update about the renaming and commented, "Muscogee Nation is working with the city right now on that Midland Valley renaming, good partnership for the city as well."

Swope followed Roberts' remarks and clarified, "The Nation is supposed to be taking up the issue at their community meeting at the end of the month, to kind of get more insight and discussion on their side of things. For everyone's awareness, they are considering it and discussing it internally, as well as with their community center (TIC) in Tulsa."

Despite the controversy and concerns, Griffith is hopeful that a solution can be reached that will satisfy all parties involved.

"I am incredibly grateful, appreciative and relieved that the Tulsa City Council, at the request of the Muscogee Nation, has agreed to take a strategic pause to grant a reprieve to re-evaluate and possibly elevate the potential that this renaming process may still do a better job of engaging all potential stakeholders to arrive at a conclusion of compromise that is best for all involved," Griffith shared with Mvskoke Media.

As of publication, it is unknown when a future city council vote or public discussion for the Midland Valley Trail renaming will take place.

*This article was written in collaboration with Thomas Jackson.*



# WHAT ARE THE MVSKOKE TOWN LOT FRAUDS?

## ALLOTMENT CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRAFT

BY JERRAD MOORE

Allotment of Tribal Land in Indian Territory was an essential step in the United States Government's plan for Native American assimilation. As Oklahoma statehood loomed, wealthy businessmen and politicians conspired to profit from the confusion and chaos created by the allotment process. Mvskoke Media presents: What are the Muskogee Town Lot Frauds?

The information in this article is based on contemporary news reports and on research conducted by author Russell Cobb, as presented in his Substack article "What is Haskellism?"

In 1900, the Muskogee Creek Nation negotiated an agreement with the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes that was ratified by an act of the United States Congress in 1901. This agreement set down the myriad ground rules for the allotment of land on the Mvskoke Reservation in what was, at the time, Indian Territory. Part of this process required the MCN to examine the titles of town lots in various cities on the reservation.

MCN Principal Chief at this time was Pleasant Porter, who was elected in 1899 and re-elected in 1903. The same year, Charles J. Bonaparte, a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, recruited William Dudley Foulke to investigate the various Indian land frauds happening in Indian Territory. Foulke had been a commissioner in the U.S. Civil Service Commission under President Theodore Roosevelt and had recently retired from that position.

On October 14, 1904, Chief Porter publicly called for the prosecution of anyone who enrolled for allotments in the Mvskoke Nation by fraud, claiming that 700 individuals had done so. According to Porter, "We have proof against several persons who have been illegally enrolled, and we will be able to secure proof against about 200 more within the next weeks."

Later that same October, the MCN House of Kings passed a bill demanding that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior appoint a committee to investigate the

alleged fraudulent sale of town lots in 25 townsites in the Nation.

One year later, at an MCN National Council session, Porter's annual message concerning the progress of the Nation was read. Among the topics discussed was the need for the MCN National Council to appropriate funds to investigate fraudulent enrollments. Porter expressed doubt that the federal government would pursue a criminal investigation into the matter and recommended that civil cases be filed on behalf of the Nation to recover the lost allotments.

Foulke delivered his report on the situation to President Roosevelt in 1906. Contemporary news coverage of the report published in the New York paper The Sun on December 22, 1906, described how the frauds were executed:

Under the law governing the disposal of the Creek lands, town sites covering an area of four acres may be procured by individuals if they desire to erect a home and business houses on such tracts. The law prohibits an individual from acquiring more than one acre or lot. Through a method of fraudulent scheduling, a number of persons, among them whites and "civilized" Indians, secured town lots aggregating in value something like \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000. A better idea of the values in the Territory is given in the assertion, made upon the authority of a Department officer, that certain tracts in Muskogee are worth \$300 a front foot. The grafters, it is asserted, were enabled to get land to which they were not entitled under the law by employing dummy purchasers, who transferred the title after the deal was closed. It is asserted that certain officials in the Territory, or at least corporations with which they are connected, are in possession of Creek lands that were secured through fraud.

Following Foulkes' report in 1907, a number of separate civil suits were brought by the United States and by M. L. Mott, attorney for MCN, against sev-

eral individuals accused of participating in the town lot frauds in Muskogee. Listed among the defendants were F. B. Severs, C.W. Turner, A.Z. English, as well as Muskogee Title and Trust Company.

Mott also filed suit against Chief Porter, C.W. Turner, and the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church. The suit alleged that Porter and Turner executed a quit-claim deed of 27 acres in the city of Muskogee to the Board. This land was the site of Henry Kendall College. An act of Congress from 1898 had provided the various colleges in Muskogee with ten acres of land, on the condition that the land was already occupied by the colleges. The suit alleged that the title to the land was obtained by fraud and that the college was in possession of 27 acres, 17 acres more than the prescribed 10. The Board planned to move the college to Tulsa and obtain \$100,000 from the sale. Henry Kendall College would later become Tulsa University after relocating.

On September 3, 1907, Pleasant Porter died after sustaining a stroke during a layover to change trains in Vanita, I.T. This dismissed the MCN suit against Porter.

Moty Tiger was soon after appointed by President Roosevelt to succeed Porter as Principal Chief.

On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma was admitted to the Union, becoming the 46th state. Charles N. Haskell was immediately sworn in as the state's first governor.

A federal grand jury would hand down seven criminal indictments in the Muskogee town lot fraud case, a little over a year later, on February 3, 1909, with Governor Haskell being the most prominent among them. Haskell's indictment charged him with conspiracy to defraud the government. Clarence W. Turner, W. T. Hutchings, Frederick B. Severs, Albert Z. English, and Walter R. Eaton were also indicted as part of the plot.

The trial began on April 5. The attorneys for the prosecution were District Attorney W. J. Gregg and Assistant United States Attorneys Sylvester Rush and Oliver E. Pagen. John Marshall was the presiding judge.

Marshall eventually ruled that the indictments be quashed, finding that the grand jury which returned them had been illegally formed. Marshall's ruling pointed out that at the time the alleged frauds occurred, Muskogee was in Indian Territory, and as such was subject to the Curtis Act. The Curtis Act specified that courts in the Territory had to operate in the same manner as courts in the state of Arkansas. This meant that the grand jury needed 16 men, with only 5 needed to prevent or return an indictment. Instead, the prosecutors had used the general federal grand jury law, which provided for a jury of 23 men and required 12 to return an indictment.

On April 29, United States Attorney General George Wickersham ordered Gregg to empanel another grand jury in the case, which was scheduled to meet in Tulsa on May 10 of the same year. Haskell and the others were again indicted, and a new trial began in May 1910, with Judge Marshall at the helm once more.

During the trial, Judge Marshall ruled that the prosecution would have to prove Haskell's conscious participation with the other defendants during the three years preceding their May 1909 indictment. This was due to recent changes to the statute of limitations as a result of the United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit ruling in Lonabaugh v. United States.

Because the alleged conspiracy took place in 1902, much of the prosecution's planned evidence was inadmissible. U.S. Attorney Rush stated in court:

Your Honor, it will be impossible under the evidence which we have collected to prove a conscious participation on the part of all these defendants, Haskell, Eaton, and Hutchings, in the money payments made by the defendant Turner, which were the only overt acts in effecting the object of the conspiracy within the statutory period. We do not feel justified in taking up the time of the court further with these cases, and we suggest that nolle be entered as to all.

The prosecution had made a motion to enter nolle prosequi in the case. Nolle prosequi is a Latin term that means to be unwilling to pursue. In legal terms, it signifies that the prosecutor is no longer willing to pursue the case against the defendant. This ended the most high-profile criminal land fraud case in the history of early Oklahoma.

Mott, the MCN's attorney, had been busy throughout this period, filing civil cases. The Nation obtained \$40,000 and 110 lots through a settlement with Albert Z. English and Frederick B. Severs, two individuals indicted along with Haskell. In 1913, 27 lots were recovered from Frisco Oil and Gas Co. in Tulsa. According to contemporary accounts, by 1939 the Nation had recovered about \$100,000 through cash settlements and lot resales. An estimated 55 lots recovered by the Nation remained unsold.

Mott was replaced as MCN attorney in 1914 by Judge R. C. Allen.

Allotment land frauds and recoveries would have an indelible impact on the Nation's future. Court rulings, land titles, and historical obfuscations dictated the locations and opportunities, economic and legal, that MCN would have over the course of the 20th century and into the present era. Mvskoke citizens and descendants continue to seek out allotment information and learn about their heritage.

The Muskogee town lot frauds were only a fraction of the allotment frauds that took place on Tribal reservations in Oklahoma. These historical frauds continue to affect Tribal governments and citizens to this day.

For a source list, visit [mvskokemedia.com](http://mvskokemedia.com)



## MAKE AND TAKE ACTIVITIES ARE A HIGHLIGHT OF SPRING BREAK

THE MCN COUNCIL HOUSE OFFERED THEIR ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS ACTIVITY WEEK

TOP LEFT: Agee and her daughter work on a beading activity. BOTTOM LEFT: A participant works on his design. RIGHT: Choosing which beads to use, a young boy carefully examines the offerings. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

OKMULGEE – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a week of free spring break activities at the Council House in March. The annual event was open to everyone and featured fun cultural activities; this year, they created suncatchers, corn-husk dolls, bone-bead necklaces, and baskets.

“We offer a series of hands-on activities for not only kids but families and adults. We have plenty of adults who come that don’t bring kids. This year, a lot of things are culturally centered. It’s just something fun where kids are not glued to a tablet or phone, so they can get hands-on activities. We want them to be engaging and creative, but then also have something that’s

rooted in cultural activities,” stated MCN Cultural Center and Archives Program Manager ShaVon Agee (Mvskoke).

These activities were designed to offer a free program to the Native and general communities. Agee believes it is important to make everyone feel welcome and to encourage everyone to come in. Visitors who come only to visit the Council House end up staying to make the offered crafts, Agee mentioned.

“We can see that we’re making an impact, and it’s also becoming tradition that they come back during the same times of week and events like each time we have activities, if it’s during the summer or spring break, we see a lot of familiar faces,” Agee said.

This year’s artists were Carly Treece, Yafke Marks, and the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services. Last year, Treece taught suncatchers, and it was a fun activity for citizens, so they brought it back this year. She mentions they’re open to working with all artists, and she knows that during spring break, it can get busy.

Agee says that many of the artists will discuss what they’re making and its historical importance.

“We’ve had instances where people have come in, and they’ve done something, then they just want to learn more about it. I know we’ve had people come in and do beaded earrings, and then they want to learn to bead more. So I know it’s helped people to develop their own

skills too, once they’ve kind of just been inspired at the Council House. So maybe that’s something that they’ll want to take with them,” Agee said.

What Agee enjoys most about helping host these activities is watching kids experience the joy of making something.

“I like seeing that with the families and having them all come together as a community. Even when we have some activities, not just spring break. But we have a lot of the elders come in, just to hear them laugh. It seems like a lot of these activities have women in them, and you know us Native women can laugh it up. So I just like seeing the community aspect of it,” Agee said.

Being able to do this for the kids, families, and adults she feels is rewarding, and the staff

thinks it’s rewarding to see what they can provide for the Native community.

“Especially with how the economy is and gas prices, like not only do you have to pay to get somewhere, you have to pay to do something, and this is free. Knowing that they come back and want to keep coming back to learn and do other things. I think it’s rewarding that we’re able to provide this in our Native community,” Agee said.

Agee hopes that everyone enjoys participating in these activities and having fun. If they haven’t been to the MCN Council House, they can come and check it out, too.

The MCN Council House is open 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and is located at 100 W. 6th Street, Okmulgee.

# TRIBAL LEADERS BEAM WITH PRIDE

MCN LEADERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE SWIFT PROGRESS AT COURTHOUSE TOPPING OUT CEREMONY

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Press Secretary remarked at the Wednesday, March 18 Courthouse Topping Out Ceremony that it felt like the Nation had just broken ground on the project yesterday. The courthouse construction project has made swift progress, breaking ground on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, a mere six months ago. Tribal leadership signed the final construction beam before a crane lifted it and placed it atop the courthouse structure.

The Courthouse is part of the MCN’s three-phase Master Plan. The Nation secured funding for the project in 2022. Once completed, the two-story structure will span 43,514 square feet and will sit on the southeast corner of the MCN Tribal Complex. The Courthouse will feature larger jury courtrooms that will hold up to 150 spectators each. It was designed by New Fire Native Design Group and constructed by Candor Building Solutions.

A topping-out ceremony is a Scandinavian tradition that dates back centuries. The ceremony celebrates the milestone of placing the final beam on a structure; it does not signify the

project’s full completion. A tree is attached to the top of the final beam to signify that no structure should be taller than a tree. The final beam on the MCN Courthouse featured a tree on top, along with two lit fire emblems.

Salsman has described the past few years as “the greatest era of growth the Nation has ever seen”. Just this year, the Nation has broken ground for new healthcare facilities in Sapulpa and Holdenville. Although the project is not fully finished, Salsman remarked, “I call it the Bon Jovi Day, ‘We’re halfway there.’”

### Topping Out Remarks

MCN Principal Chief David Hill and National Council Representative Galen Cloud both agreed with Salsman’s remarks about the speed of the project. Principal Chief Hill remarked that he did not want to look back on his term as chief as a time when little had changed across the Nation.

“You can look around this campus now and see visually that we have changed the landscape,” Principal Chief Hill said. “If you last visited the Tribal headquarters in 2019, you wouldn’t even recognize it today. For that, I am extremely grateful for all the people who have shared and

executed our vision.”

National Council Speaker Randall Hicks remarked that the courthouse will carry out laws that reflect the values of Mvskoke culture. To Speaker Hicks, it not only honors the past but also helps prepare the next generation for success.

“This Courthouse represents something deeper than steel and concrete. It represents fairness, accountability, and a commitment to serve our people with integrity,” Speaker Hicks said.

MCN District Court Chief Judge Roger Wiley echoed Speaker Hicks’ remarks that the project was made possible by the ancestors who persevered through hardship. From his perspective, the justice system is merely building on the foundation that already exists.

“Those who came before us made this Nation what it is,” Judge Wiley said. “We’re just temporarily occupying our positions. My hope and my prayer is that we will make it stronger, we will keep it healthy, and leave the kind of Nation that we were lucky enough to inherit from our ancestors and pass it down to the ones that come after us.”

The courthouse’s address will be 1103 East Eufaula, Okmulgee, Okla.



TOP: The final beam of the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Courthouse is placed on top of the structure. MIDDLE: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill signs the final courthouse beam. BOTTOM: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Press Secretary Jason Salsman looks at the final beam being placed on the courthouse. (All Images: Braden Harper/MM)



Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Maintenance/HVAC Technician

This position performs a variety of maintenance and repairs on HVAC systems. Along with performing functions at the level of an ordinary skilled mechanic in one or more of the crafts or trades. The employee is capable of performing duties in his craft or trade without supervision and has sufficient working knowledge of all maintenance crafts and trades to perform these duties without supervision.

An application for employment can be found at hasnok.org. Submit your application, resume and a copy of your valid driver's license. Applicant will be subject to a nationwide background check, motor vehicle report, and drug screen. Please submit your information to: HASNOK, Attn: Administrative Officer, P.O. Box 1493, or 120 West 4th Street, Wewoka, OK 74884, or email administrativeofficer@hasnok.org (405) 257-6604. Position open until filled. The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation is an equal opportunity employer with Indian Preference.

OP-ED

BY J.D. COLBERT

The U.S. Census Bureau has forecast that whites will no longer be the majority demographic in America by 2044. That seminal date is only 18 years away. America is in the crucible of Regime Change. This will only be the 2nd Regime Change in America. The first was when the Red Man was outpopulated by the White Man. There are many extant manifestations of the present Regime Change. The election of Barack Obama and the subsequent reactionary rise of Trump and MAGA being the most salient evidence of the Sturm and Drang of Regime Change.

America is witnessing the archipelago of whiteness. As of 2026, nine states are majority-minority (i.e., whites constitute less than 50% of the population). Other states will soon flip in domino-like fashion. The U.S. has already crossed the Rubicon with regard to its 18-and-under demographics. This tipping point was reached in 2020 when children from minority groups outnumbered white children for the first time in American history. Next year, in 2027, the 18-29 age group will transition to brown. And in yet another sobering and unprecedented data point that adumbrates Regime Change, in 2025, births of minority children were greater than that of white babies for the first time ever. Taken together, these data and observations deliver a message clinched in an iron fist: that Regime Change is inevitable, ineluctable, and inexorable. Resistance is Futile. Regime Change is a freight train, hurtling forward and crushing beneath its huge iron wheels everyone and everything in its path. Such cataclysmic change! Who knew?

Wovoka. Wovoka knew. And so did all of Indian Country. Indeed, the end of whiteness was prophesied by the Ghost Dance. The Ghost Dance was given to the Northern Paiute spiritual leader, Wovoka, in 1889. Wovoka received the dance in a vision during a solar eclipse. This vision entailed the resurrection of the Paiute dead, the end of whites, and a renaissance of the Paiute people. Wovoka taught his people how to perform the circular Ghost Dance.

The Ghost Dance emphasized clean living, an honest life, and the imminent return of the dead (hence the Ghost name). However, the prophecy of the dance foretelling a resurrection of tribal power and the end of whiteness gave it great appeal to other tribes eager to cast off the hegemony of the federal government. The Ghost Dance spread like wildfire across Indian country. This was an era of the so-called Closing of the West, and where Native peoples had been "conquered" and banished to hardscrabble and remote reservations.

The tribespeople were effectively prisoners of war confined to de facto internment camps. They were completely dependent upon meager government rations. The Ghost Dance offered hope, renewal, and a return of Native dominion.

The Lakota eagerly adopted and practiced the Ghost Dance. However, this new and unfamiliar dance instilled great fear in their overlords, the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Whites were afraid the Indians were going on the warpath. The agents of the BIA were convinced that Sitting Bull was behind the popularity of the dance. Thousands of U.S. Army troops were deployed to the Standing Rock reservation to intimidate and keep the Indians in line.

The BIA ordered the arrest of Sitting Bull on December 15, 1890. A melee ensued, and Sitting Bull, as well as seven of his followers, were fatally shot. Eight BIA police were also killed. Only two weeks later, on December 29, 1890, about three hundred Lakota men, women, and children were massacred at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation. Many of those slaughtered were wearing Ghost Dance shirts. These shirts were believed to be imbued with strong medicine to ward off bullets.

As a result of these highly publicized twin tragedies and the ineffectual shirts, the Ghost Dance quickly declined in popularity across Indian Country. It still survives in an attenuated form among several tribes, including the Caddo in Oklahoma. Nevertheless, the Ghost Dance prophecy lives on. Indeed, the prophecy is being fulfilled; the end of whiteness is near.

While it is axiomatic that Regime Change is at hand, its salient implications remain to be seen. Clearly, there is an emerging plurality of ethnic, racial, and identity groups. The degree to which these groups splinter, fractionate, or coalesce will be driven by circumstance or aligned interests in pressing political/economic issues.

The definition of what it means to be an American certainly will be modified or transformed. America has a long history of proudly cloaking itself in the mantle of a melting pot. In reality, America has always been a homogeneous society with a fiat of conformity to whiteness. With a plurality of ethnic groups, perhaps a true American melting pot will manifest.

During this gauntlet of Regime Change, whiteness has become less of a color and more of a Frankensteinian amalgamation of polity and religious cult with appendages of xenophobia towards those who haven't guzzled the Kool-Aid. Whiteness entails a religious fervor of divinely ordained domination and omnipotence in the social order and in the halls of power. Yet shifting demographics and greater plurality increasingly renders whiteness flaccid. Indeed, not so long ago, it was Native Americans who were forcibly assimilated into whiteness. Now it is whiteness that stands at the threshold of assimilationist extinction. Wovoka's divinely inspired vision and prophecy is being effectuated.

In the fall of 1811, the Shawnee chief and warrior Tecumseh (also Mvskoke Creek) visited the ancient Mvskoke tribal town of Tuckbathe then located on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. Tecumseh addressed a Grand Council of Creek Indians, including several whites. Tecumseh gave a passionate speech attempting to convince the Creek warriors to join his Indian confederacy in their fight against the U.S. in the Great Lakes region. His request was denied.

An angry Tecumseh declared that when he returned to Ft. Detroit, he would stamp his feet on the ground three times and the houses of the Creeks would shake, shudder, and fall. He also proclaimed that the waters of the Great River (viz., the Mississippi) would flow backwards. The 1811 New Madrid earthquake occurred two months later. The houses of the Creeks shook, shattered, and fell. The Mississippi River flowed Backwards.

Geologists would aver that these events occurred due to shifting tectonic plates. But perhaps it was because Tecumseh fulfilled his prophecy by stamping his feet three times at Ft. Detroit, causing the Creek houses to fall? Similarly, demographers will point to a number of causal factors that have brought about the end of whiteness. But perhaps the end of whiteness in 2044 is simply the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Wovoka and the Ghost Dance.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Office of Environmental Services



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

Recycle Collection Event

Free Document Shredding from 10 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Due to the limited capacity of the shredding truck, it will be first come, first served, and you must stay with your documents while they are being shredded.

NO books, 3-ring binders, large clips, or magazines

Free Electronic Recycling from 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

TVs, monitors, cell phones, small appliances, and other electronics for safe and responsible recycling

Other Items Accepted

- White goods such as washers, dryers, refrigerators/freezers ALL DOORS MUST BE REMOVED
Automobile batteries and alkaline batteries NO LITHIUM BATTERIES
Automobile Tires NO AGRICULTURAL TIRES
Cardboard, paper, plastics #1 & 2, and aluminum cans

DO NOT bring any hazardous materials

Hazardous waste includes paint, medications, glues, fluorescent bulbs, and chemicals such as pesticides, cleaners, and insect repellants. These types of items will not be accepted at this event.

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

Community Clean-Up Event



Registration will be at the MCN Tribal Executive Building Canopy at 12:30 P.M.

Routes to be determined Crews will clean from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Gloves, bags, vests, hand sanitizer, and bottled water will be provided to volunteers

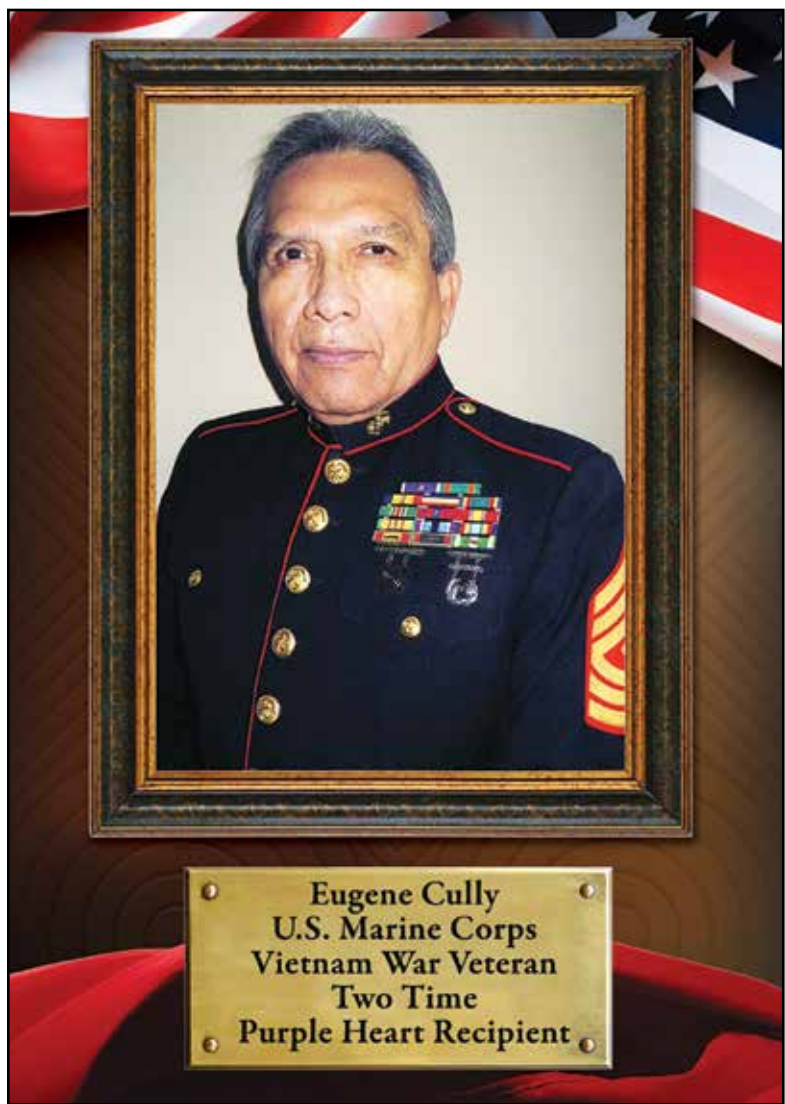
Afterwards, volunteers will meet at the MCN Recycling Center for fellowship, cookout, t-shirts and prizes!



MCN RECYCLING CENTER 12675 GUN CLUB ROAD OKMULGEE, OK 74447 FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: 918-549-2580



**VETERANS SPOTLIGHT**



The Muscogee Nation Veterans Services Office is proud to honor Eugene Cully for his dedicated service to the U.S. Marine Corps, the United States, and the Muscogee Nation. Eugene honorably served and is a recipient of several honors: Purple Heart Medal with 1 gold star device, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with 1 Silver Star Device and 1 Bronze Star Device, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Silver Star Device, Navy Sea Deployment Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star Device, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation with Frame, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm & Frame, Republic of Vietnam Civil Action IC Palm Unit Citation with Frame, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Expert Rifleman Ribbon, Navy Expert Pistol Medal with Letter E Device, Letter of Appreciation 3rd Award, Meritorious Mast 3rd Award, Certificate of Appreciation.

Mvto Mr. Cully for your selfless service to your country and your community.

*The Veterans Spotlight is submitted by the MCN VASO.*

**MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!**

**MCNNC MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**HEW, March 10**  
**TR 26-014** passed with a vote of 3-0. Representative Lora Harjo-King sponsored the bill.  
**NCA 26-039** passed with a vote of 3-0. Program. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the bill.  
**NCA 26-040** passed with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill.  
**NCA 26-041** postponed for one month with a vote of 3-0. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill.

**LNC, March 10**  
**TR 26-015** passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Cody

Phillips sponsored this bill.  
**TR 26-016** passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Phillips sponsored this bill.  
**TR 26-017** passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Phillips sponsored this bill.  
**NCA 26-042** passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored this bill.  
**NCA 26-043** passed/BFJ with a vote of 4-0. Representative Barnett sponsored this bill with Co-Sponsor Representative Randall Hicks.  
**NCA 26-044** passed with a substitute/BFJ with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored this bill.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Services for Augustine "Tina" Jimboy-McNac were held Friday, March 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Parks Brothers Funeral Home Chapel, Okemah, Oklahoma, with the interment following at the McNac-Jimboy Family Cemetery.

Augustine "Tina" Jimboy-McNac was born to Bessie Anderson on August 6, 1931. She passed away on March 16, 2026, in Okemah, Oklahoma, at the age of 94. She was raised by her grandparents until she was 7 years old. Benjamin Jimboy became her "Dad." She was very close to him, and he was very protective of her.

Augustine was saved and baptized at the Sand Creek Baptist Church near Wetumka, Oklahoma, on Easter morning in 1957. Thereafter, she became active in teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at various Baptist Churches. She also served as secretary for the WM's Sunday School Convention & Stewardship Chairman for the WM's association. She returned to her "Mother Church," the Creek Chapel in Okemah, Oklahoma, where she served as the church treasurer. After serving with her late husband, Paul McNac, she returned to Hickory Ground #2 Church near Salem, Oklahoma.

Before her early retirement, she was employed at American Optical Co. Later, she was employed at Interim Home Health in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She received a certificate of recognition for her loyalty and outstanding nursing services and became the



Augustine "Tina" Jimboy-McNac

administrator of the Interim Home Health. In the fall of 2000, she went into training through The Experience Works Program at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Office for five years.

She lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma, San Francisco, California, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, before returning to the Okemah area in 1992 to care for her parents. She had been widowed for 22 years when she met and married her late husband. His son, Eric and his wife Jessica, and Issac Mekko; twins, Jadin and Jasmin; daughter Nancy and Jeff Wincle; their children Ethan, Hulleah, and Weston; and great-granddaughter Ivey were very dear to her. She loved her nephews and nieces, along with a host of great-nieces & nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

She had been through many trials in her lifetime, and she gave glory to her heavenly Father for giving

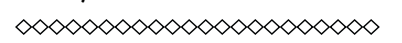
her the strength to overcome. Augustine wrote: "I leave my love to all my brothers, sisters, nieces & nephews, and one who had been like a daughter to me, Lou Fixico. Thank you for always checking on me, making sure I was alright."

Augustine is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Paul McNac; one son, Gerald McNac; 4 brothers, Wayne Jimboy, Lonnie Jimboy, Sr., Joseph Jimboy, and Reuben Jimboy; and 3 sisters, Etta Mae Pullian, Louise Holden, and Norma J. Beaver.

She is survived by 1 son, Eric and Jessica McNac of Henryetta, Oklahoma; 3 daughters, Nancy and Jeff Wincle of Henryetta, Oklahoma; Paula and Bobbie Gray of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Marla McNac of Tulsa, Oklahoma; 2 brothers, Thomas and Rosemary Jimboy of Lawrence, Kansas; and Joe Edwin and Martha Jimboy of Lexington, Oklahoma.

Serving as pallbearers were Jay Martin Jimboy, Benny M. Jimboy, James Jimboy, Mark Jimboy, Issac McNac, and Ethan Wincle.

Those serving as honorary pallbearers were Wallace Gambler, Jeff Wincle, Kyle A. Jimboy, Timothy Holden, and Kenny Allen.



*Mvskoke News provides all Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens who pass away a free obituary in the Mvskoke News. Families and funeral providers can send submissions via email to: [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com), subject: obit.*

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Income Tax Filing**  
 Vita/TCE Tax Program  
 Open to MCN citizens with a household income of \$69,000 or less. In-office days M,T,TH, & F, 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. by appointment only.  
 4900 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

**Yoga at Jenks Riverwalk**  
 Community Wellness Spring Series  
 Tuesdays, 6 p.m. thru May 9  
 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks  
 Near the Riverwalk Stage

**Elder's Meeting**  
 Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center  
 Wednesday, April 1, 9:30 a.m.  
 2900 N. Osage Pl., Okmulgee

**Tribal Women Veterans Summit**  
 Thursday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 RiverSpirit Casino  
 8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa  
 Registration opens at 8 a.m.  
 To pre-register, call 918-732-7739

**Coffee and Donuts**  
 Veteran Affairs Services Office  
 Thursday, April 9, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 1006 Bear Lane, Okmulgee

**Spring Festival**  
 Tulsa Indian Club  
 Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Art, crafts, Indian Taco Sale, and exhibition singing/drumming.  
 Jenks Riverwalk  
 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks

**Community Garage Sale**  
 Tulsa Creek Indian Community  
 Saturday, April 11, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Seeking garage sale vendors, \$10/table. All vendors must fill out an MCN Temporary Vendor's Sales License application. Contact the Jenks MCN Tax Commission Office at 918-802-2599. For information, contact 918-298-2464  
 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa

**Mvskoke Art Market**  
 Saturday, April 18, through Sunday, April 19  
 Times to be announced  
 River Spirit Casino  
 8330 Riverside Pkwy, Tulsa

**Health Shelf Donation Drive**  
 College of Muscogee Nation Health & Wellness seeks 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  
 For more information, contact 918-549-2800

**Diabetes Undone!**  
 How to fight back against diabetes and even beat it-group support, expert advice, and cooking demos  
 Thursdays, March 12 through April 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
 Light meal following  
 College of the Muscogee Nation, Student Center Rm 108  
 For information, contact Thor Shaffer 405-706-7460

**2026 Mvskoke Language Camp**  
 June 8-12  
 Camp Applications by May 1, 5 p.m.  
 Questions, 918-304-3362  
[www.mvskokeopunvkv.com](http://www.mvskokeopunvkv.com)

**New Day Discovery Bibles**  
 Native New Day Bible Studies 30-lesson series done by correspondence. Illustrated guides, written for Native people, by Native people. Discover Bible School P.O. Box 14208 Tulsa, OK. 74159-1208.

**2026 WILD ONION DINNERS LIST**

**Mitchell Memorial UMC**  
 Friday, April 3, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 \$15/plate, dine in or take out  
 221 West 7th Street, Ada

**Concharty Church**  
 Saturday, April 4, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 \$15/all meals  
 19040 Garfield Rd, Okmulgee (NE of town, S of Bixby)

**Achena Presbyterian Church**  
 Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Adults \$15/plate, Vets with ID 50% discount, Children 5-8 \$6/plate, 4 and under FREE

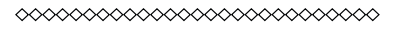
From Seminole, go 4 miles on US-377S, Right on EW131 RD 3 miles, Church is on the left

**Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church**  
 Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.  
 Adults \$15/plate, children 10 and under \$10/plate  
 EW 131 Rd. Wewoka, Okla

**Eastern Shawnee Cultural Preservation**  
**Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
 \$10/plate  
 Natives Connected, 10400E HWY 60 Wyandotte

**Seminole Hitchita Church**  
 Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. - run out  
 \$15/plate  
 Dine in or Carry out  
 11450 N 361 Rd, Seminole

**OK Chahta Tribal Alliance**  
 Saturday, May 2, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 \$15/dinner  
 baked goods, soda, and vendors  
 VFW in Del City



*Want to be added to the list? Contact us at: [info@mvskoke-media.com](mailto:info@mvskoke-media.com), subject: wild onions*

LEGLALS

NYCP COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

OKMULGEE - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education and Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) College and Career Fair is always looking ahead. With this year's theme Okētv Vtat Vhecet, or Look to the Future, the fair offered insight into what comes after graduation.

"We just want to bring awareness to the different career pathways that students can take, whether it's a college, university, or going into the workforce," stated MCN NYCP College and Career Advisor Shannon Barnett (Mvskoke).

"We have different workshops just to help them prepare with resumes, financial



Students read college material at the NYCP College and Career Fair. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

aid. We want to help them be prepared for life after high school."

For students who missed the event, NYCP is preparing a video with MCN Communications to provide an overview, highlighting the many

resources available. Barnett hopes this video can help generate more excitement and, hopefully, see more students come next year.

For information, contact NYCP at 918-549-2616 or their website mcnnycp.com.

JUDGE GREG BIGLER HONORED

PRESENTED WITH CIRCLE OF HONOR AWARD

BY JERRAD MOORE



(Image Credit: TCCL)

TULSA - Judge Greg Bigler was presented with the American Indian Circle of Honor award on March 7. The ceremony was held at the Hardesty Regional Library in Connor's Cove Theater. The award is presented to Native Americans whose contributions to society and culture throughout their lifetimes have enhanced the lives of others in meaningful ways.

The award is presented in even-numbered years by the Tulsa City County Library American Indian Resource Center and is funded by the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Foundation. In addition to

community recognition, the inductee also receives a \$15,000 cash prize.

The Circle of Honor Award was inaugurated in 2004, and in 2016, Mvskoke citizen Sam Proctor was also recognized with the award.

Prior to the ceremony, Bigler was interviewed on News Channel 8, the ABC affiliate television station in Tulsa.

"It's a great honor to be there, with all the wonderful inductees that have been there before, I know some of them and they have just done amazing things," Bigler said. "So it's a blessing to have that and I really appreciate the honor out of the blue for that."

Bigler was asked about his book "Rabbit Decolonizes the Forest: Stories from the Euchee Reservation."

Legal notice document from the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, regarding a petition for change of name.

Legal notice document listing Jason Robert Sawyer, Falon Eco Sawyer, Ajenna Rochelle Sawyer, and Minor Child A.O.R. Sawyer as petitioners.

Public health advertisement titled 'PREVENT the SPREAD of RESPIRATORY VIRUSES' with icons for covering coughs, washing hands, staying home, and getting vaccinated.

Advertisement for MCNHealth EXPRESS CARE CLINICS, listing locations in Council Oak and Okmulgee, hours of operation, and website information.