



MVSKOKE NEWS

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MNYS HONORS FATHERS WITH HANDS-ON CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



CLASS FOCUSED ON BUILDING STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WHILE DOING FUN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

OKMULGEE – The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services (MNYS) hosted a Father’s Day War Club Painting workshop on June 9th. The workshop was open to any Mvskoke citizens between the ages of 12 to 24. Participants were allowed to bring one guest,



LEFT: Dan Beaver speaks about war clubs and shows his own artwork. MAIN IMAGE and ABOVE: Participants pose with their work. BELOW: Beaver teaches to the crowd. (Shayln Proctor/MM)

who could be a father, grandfather, or uncle. The class was taught by Mvskoke artist Dan Beaver. The MNYS Digital and Social Media Coordinator, Ticara Turner (Mvskoke), spoke about their successful Mother’s Day event in May, which led them to coordinate a Father’s Day activity. The program is working to incorporate more family activities for its youth that involve their parents. The program served barbecue, and MNYS gave a presentation about the fathers and men in their lives. For the activity, Beaver provided the wooden war

clubs, and the participants got to paint them. “We’re very excited to kind of bring more cultural aspects this time to our class. Just getting them involved even more with the culture and the activities we do here at Youth Services. We thought that the Father’s Day event would also be perfect to follow up with that,” stated Turner. Turner had known about Beaver and his artwork when the program asked him to do the program for Father’s Day.

HONOR
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OVERRIDE VOTE ON NCA 26-071 ESTABLISHES COUNCIL RAISES

VETO MESSAGE REFERENCES UNREALESSED COMPENSATION ANALYSIS

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council voted to override Principal Chief David Hill’s veto on bill NCA 26-071, “Council Raises.” During the MCNNC Regular Session on Saturday, June 20, the council reached the ⅔ of threshold needed to override the veto in an 11-5 vote. As previously covered, the law raises each National Council member’s annual salary to \$80,000 and the speaker’s annual salary to \$99,000. It originally passed to the full session at the Thursday, May 7, Business, Finance, and Justice committee meeting. It then passed Regular Session on Saturday, May 16, in a 10-5 vote. It was returned as a veto by Principal Chief Hill on Friday, May 29. Council members who voted no during the original May 15 vote and the override vote were Representatives Dode Barnett, Galen Cloud, Charles McHenry, Thomasene Osborn, and Robyn Whitecloud. The additional affirmative vote was from the MCNNC Speaker, Randall Hicks.

Principal Chief Hill’s veto message was read before the override vote. It states four main objections to the compensation increases. The first objection is that, while he does not disagree that compensation should be adjusted periodically based on responsibilities and cost of living, raises are “not responsible under present circumstances.” The second objection concerns the bill’s lack of specifics regarding the increased workload of council representatives resulting from the MCN’s growth. The third objection made by Principal Chief Hill concerns the independent “compensation analysis,” which was not publicly available nor disclosed to his office. The final objection states that it would be more appropriate for the council to consider raises during the budget review. The veto message also references the need for MCN citizens’ input.

The veto message had not been made public before the Regular Session. According to MCNNC Secretary Alicia Stroble, Principal Chief Hill had not publicly released his veto message on NCA 26-071 prior to the meetings but provided a copy to the council. The full veto message reads:

A MESSAGE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF RETURNING NCA 26-071 TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AS A VETO WITH OBJECTIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I, David W. Hill, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation do hereby return NCA 26-071 entitled “A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 30, CHAPTER 4. ENTITLED “COMPENSATION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL” AND AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FY 26 BUDGET” as a VETO with the following objections.

OBJECTIONS:

NCA 26-071 acknowledges the need for a periodic review of compensation paid to elected officials of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation based on “cost of living increases and increased duties and responsibilities consistent with the growth of the Nation.” While I generally do not disagree that the level of compensation paid to elected officials may need to be adjusted on a periodic basis, I am nevertheless vetoing this bill because the justification and the increase in compensation are not responsible under present circumstances.

A justification of the bill purports to be based on “increased responsibilities, oversight and services rendered to citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and to the Nation as a whole” and since the number of Citizens has increased by 30,000 since 2013. However, nothing in the bill describes how the constitutional duties and responsibilities of the Speaker and National Council members have been impacted by the increase in the number of Citizens, nor does the bill describe how the Speaker and National Council members are taking on expanded responsibilities or providing additional services to the Citizens or the Nation as a whole to support a significant pay increase.

OVERRIDE
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COMING HOME:
Mvskoke citizen reflects on his long journey to visit the rez

MVSKOKE REIGN:
Miss Indian Oklahoma and Jr. Miss show the crown is more than a title

COUNCIL BEAT:
Full coverage of the June Regular Session

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT:
Mvto for your service!

WHAT’S GOING ON?
Find events on the Community Calender

'EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIVE IN THE NATION, A PIECE OF MY HEART IS HERE.'

MVSKOKE CITIZEN PATRICK SMITH SHARES ABOUT HIS FAMILY HISTORY, HIS TIES TO COUNCIL HOUSE, AND HIS WOODWORK THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE 100K MIWOK ULTRAMARATHON



Patrick Smith in front of Council House. (Braden Harper/MM)

BY **BRADEN HARPER**

OKMULGEE – Mvskoke citizen Patrick Smith is taking a trip of a lifetime. On Friday, June 12, Smith made the almost 13-hour drive from his home in Rifle, Colorado, to visit the historic Council House in downtown Okmulgee. Smith described visiting the MCN Reservation and Council House for the first time as “comfort”. He explained that it had always been on his bucket list and that the experience was special.

“It was kind of a bucket list item for me to see the Council House and actually be here and feel it. It’s special.”

While discussing his family during his tour, he explained that his great-grandfather was a witness to one of the most significant moments in Mvskoke history. Smith comes from a family that has made notable contributions to the Tribe.

Smith’s great-grandfather was Andrew Berryhill, who helped with plumbing work on the Council House. Andrew Berryhill’s brother, Smith’s great uncle, Pleasant Berryhill, was the captain of the Lighthorse Okmulgee District and the last official executioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

“The two brothers (Andrew and Pleasant) were separated when they were young. There was a divorce in the family. Andrew went with his mother, and Pleasant went with his father and this was about the time of the Civil War when the Civil War was kicking off. I know Andrew had actually witnessed the Battle of Honey Springs. He writes about that and what he saw,” Smith said.

Andrew Berryhill’s account of the Battle of Honey Springs is detailed in the Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma. The article discusses Andrew

Berryhill’s trip to the battle site, where he recalled burial sites and an explosion mid-battle.

According to Andrew Berryhill’s interview, Pleasant Berryhill performed the last execution for the Nation on Friday, May 1, 1896. The last citizen executed was Timmie Jack (Mvskoke/ Euchee) for the crime of murder. A granite marker on the spot where Jack was executed stands on the north side of the Council House. The marker details the historical significance of the execution.

From Then to Now

According to Smith, his family left the Reservation in the 1930s to pursue job opportunities on the West Coast in the San Joaquin Valley. Smith was born in Salinas in 1962. He moved to Colorado in 1991 to pursue a job opportunity with Motorola.

Smith is now a technol-

ogy manager for the Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority in Rifle, Colorado. The department works with first responders to ensure they can communicate swiftly in an emergency. His job ensures the department’s operations are functional, and the technology they use is cutting-edge. Smith is also a woodworker; his pieces come in all shapes and sizes. He got into woodworking when he first built a kitchen buffet piece for his wife.

Smith said he hopes to preserve his family’s story for future generations as part of his contribution to the family legacy.

“If I can pull all this documentation together in this family history and get it in family trees and into the hands of my children, that maybe the family legacy will kind of carry on the history. Making sure that information is preserved with my kids,” Smith said.

Smith’s final destination on his trip is Pensacola, Florida. On the way back, Smith planned to go through Horseshoe Bend, the site of the battle that marked the end of the Creek Wars.



Miwok Ultramarathon plaque. (Courtesy: Patrick Smith)

HONOR

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She explained that they also have upcoming project that will feature the artist.

“We’ve always been familiar with his work and especially the more simplified version that he does for the kids as well, so we thought that it would be a great activity to have at our program,” Turner said.

One of the core benefits of hosting events like this is building stronger bonds with within families that will lead to future participation in activities.

“I think it’s just getting that time to spend time together with your loved ones, and getting to learn more about our culture,

learn from other Mvskoke men as well,” Turner said.

Turner enjoys activities like this because of the community involvement. “It offers a lot of healthier and more friendlier ways of bonding with our families and our sons and our fathers,” Turner said.

“So I think there’s a lot more healthier outlets that we’re able to offer and the path that we’re trying to explore. This is just one of those ways that we’re trying to do that.”

For more information about the program, you can call 918-549-2557. To stay up to date on events in their program, follow them on their Facebook page, Mvskoke Nation Youth Services.



TOP LEFT: A participant shows his artwork. work. BOTTOM LEFT: Participants work at tables after the presentation. RIGHT: A father and son show their creations after the workshop. (Shayln Proctor/MM)



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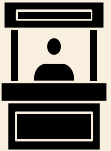


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FORMER MISS MCN TITLEHOLDERS EARN MISS INDIAN OKLAHOMA AND JR. MISS INDIAN OKLAHOMA CROWNS



From left to right: The 2026 Indian Oklahoma Miss Janaya McIntosh and Jr. Miss Olivia Beaver. (ShaylnProctor/MM)

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2024-2025 Miss and Junior Miss Royalty have recently taken the title of 2026 Miss and Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma. Janaya McIntosh, Miss Indian Oklahoma, and Olivia Beaver, Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma, have traveled together to many communities and places on the Mvskoke Reservation and now will travel together across the state.

Throughout their experience of running for the Miss and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma pageant, McIntosh had said that Beaver was one of the people who encouraged her to run after they passed their MCN crowns to the next royalty. McIntosh was also motivated by former Mvskoke Miss Indian Oklahoma royalty.

Beaver wouldn't have done this without McIntosh. She felt she had grown so close to McIntosh and wanted to encourage her before she aged out.

"I'm glad she did, and the timing, it was just the timing's crazy, all of it was on God's part," Beaver said.

Beaver explained that not only is she representing herself, her family, and God, but also her Tribe and all 39 Tribes in the state. "It's just an honor being able to compete with a bunch of amazing girls up there and seeing all the different cultures that are being expressed in one place," Beaver said.

McIntosh is the eldest in a family of all girls. One of her favorite parts of this pageant was the sisterhood she found among the other contestants. That is what drew McIntosh in, and that was what she took away from this pageant.

She also keeps in contact with the other contestants– both she and Beaver are very proud of them for what they're doing and that they're still active in their communities.

"This organization, in general, is just really powerful, helping Native American women and to be with girls who share the same passion for their people," McIntosh said. "It's always good to create those bonds and connections with them. Because it's good to see Indigenous women supporting each other."

"Just the legacy of this foundation is not only with the girls now but even with former Miss Indian Oklahoma. As I mentioned, there's a lot of Mvskoke women, so I think it was the legacy of seeing how strong their leadership is today. This is one piece of that journey in helping them get to where they needed to be."

Beaver feels the same as McIntosh and enjoys the sisterhood. She views it as an amazing thing.

Winning the titles

During the announcement of Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma, Beaver felt it was surreal. She was shocked to hear her name, but it was also an honor because she gets to continue doing what she does on a bigger platform. Sometimes she thinks she can't believe this is a thing, and that this is where she is in life.

"This is what I worked hard for, this is what I've been preparing myself for, and so with the people that supported me: my mom, my dad, Janaya, my Tribe, and my community. I felt so honored that I was able to be up there for them, I was up there representing all of them," Beaver said. "I just thought about how I can honor them in a respectful way. I wasn't only representing Creek people, but my Cherokee side and my Seminole side at that point."

McIntosh is very proud of Beaver for winning her title.

McIntosh was originally the Miss Indian Oklahoma runner-up and received a phone call from the pageant that she would be the new Miss Indian Oklahoma. She was shocked.

"I was very surprised and very grateful. I was still planning to be involved in things like that, but it was very surprising. But again, grateful for the Lord allowing this to happen. It also reminded me to just always be ready. I felt supported when I got that call. I

was really nervous and because I'm starting my career soon, I was like I don't know how I'm going to do all that, but immediately I felt support because once the news broke out, people are reaching out to me, and even the Federation (Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women) was very supporting, so I'm glad to hear that," McIntosh said.

Current priorities

Beaver said that her platform is cultural expression. She explained that people express themselves in many ways, such as cooking, baking, beading, and making art.

"Doing anything like that, but before we can really express ourselves, we have to retain the culture. We have to know the meaning behind it. So I find it's important that as our young generation, it starts with us. It starts with us being able to learn our history. Learn our language because without that, who are we as our people?" Beaver said.

"Because we need to carry that on and keep it going so that we know what we're going to be able to do in the future. Cultural expression, I believe anyone can express themselves as a Native person. They just have to learn the past," Beaver said.

McIntosh's platform aims to empower Native voices and implement culturally competent care in Western systems. She explained that she had recently graduated from Northeastern State University with a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and will continue her career as an SLP.

"Being in this field that I am, according to the American Speech Hearing Association, only 0.3% of all SLPs nationally are Native American. As I was studying in school, I saw a big gap and lack in research on Native American people. Even as Miss Muscogee, what it taught me was how our languages, our traditions, and our culture can be used in education and healthcare systems," McIntosh explained.

She wants to spread awareness of culturally competent care and empowering everyone with a voice to others- it's one of the main pillars of her career and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

"That's why I wanted to make families aware that you can ask therapists, you can ask teachers, even though they may not be Native, you can still ask them like, 'Hey can we use this part of our language in our therapy, in our schools, in our classrooms' or even not just our language but our traditions, our cultures, just educating them like can we use this to help my family. I think that was the big driving force behind my platform. I'm grateful for the title now, because it's setting me up to do bigger plans for advocacy for Native people," McIntosh said.

McIntosh wants to help not just the Mvskoke people but all Native voices. She feels that Native American people are the heartbeat of the State of Oklahoma.

"We're vital, we're essential to the state, we're part of Oklahoma history. I'm very fortunate to be graduating as an SLP and to be in this state to continue to advance and empower Native American voices because they do matter. Again, not just in the health care or education field, but that's in art, that's in government as well. I feel like using our cultures, our traditions, and our language is essential to modern leadership today," McIntosh explained.

Representation

Beaver felt like in everything she did, she was always representing her Tribe. "This just puts it on a bigger platform to realize that I'm representing my Tribe, but also all 39 Tribes as well. It's important that we equal ourselves out and, like we go to stomp dance, but now it's our jobs as in this platform to go to powwows, and to just learn about their cultures," Beaver said.

McIntosh also added during their conversation

that it involves a lot of understanding and learning about other Tribes and what they've done. She believes that it is an honor.

Beaver included that they both want to do right by everyone.

"We're both in leadership roles, she's in Mvskoke Youth Council, and I was in Mvskoke Youth Council too, and I do plan to be in Tribal government one day. When we help our Nation, we don't just help our own people. We want to help all Native people because not only is it a win for our Tribe, but for all Indian Country. That's our main goal is to help and serve. Like I said, Indigenous people are so vital and essential to Oklahoma's heartbeat as a state. That's what we love about it, it's so unique, it's so diverse and that's what makes us stand out from everyone else as a state," McIntosh said.

"The representation that they're allowing us to represent all these people, and so we're here to let them know that Native American people are still here and we are still strong, that we are thriving here in Oklahoma. So it's just a great honor to do this," Beaver said.

One piece of advice

One piece of advice Beaver would like to give young girls who want to run for pageants is to just do it. "This is an honor itself, just being able to go up there and have the confidence to speak in front of so many people and just willing to represent your community," Beaver said.

"This crown doesn't define who you are, it doesn't make or break you. You're going to have people that are going to support you no matter what, win or lose. As you're going through this, you're going to meet so many different people and you're going to learn so many different things. I don't want to sound like the Nike logo but just do it. It's already a great accomplishment that you're willing to try and put yourself out there and get out of your comfort zone," Beaver said.

For McIntosh, you will always gain something from experience. "You never walk away empty-handed when you do things. Again, don't be afraid to try things. I was very nervous when I got into pageantry because I was an athlete the majority of my life. I also encourage girls, your ideas or willingness to learn about your people and your culture is always good. You're always going to gain something from this experience," McIntosh said.

Beaver would like to thank the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women for their support. She acknowledged that this organization has done a lot for them. Beaver said it's amazing that the sisterhood they've already had is seeing its legacy continue to grow.

"All these girls, they come together, and they're here for your needs because I know I've had a wardrobe malfunction before, and I've had 5 girls text me later that night saying, 'here I can help you, I can help you out with this', and it's just an amazing thing to see and what they have going on in that organization. It's a real bond that they have, and they really do care a lot about their princesses," Beaver said.

Beaver would also like to thank her Tribe and her family; she believes that they're the biggest support system here. "It's just an incredible honor, and the Lord's timing with all of this it's an amazing thing. He works in amazing ways, that's for sure," Beaver said.

"Again, giving all the honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for allowing this to happen, not just now but for the bond that we had before, it's very rare," McIntosh said.

"We don't want to take it for granted, and our mission as Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma and Miss Indian Oklahoma is to do our best to work with each other and with the organization."

COUNCIL OVERRIDES VETO ON COUNCIL RAISES

SUMMER EBT PROGRAM RECEIVES \$12.6M, HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECIEVES ALMOST \$2M FOR BEHAVORIAL HEALTH



by **BRADEN HARPER**

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a Regular Session in person on Saturday, June 20, at the Mound Building.

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

VETO MESSAGE:

NCA 26-071 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 30, Chapter 4. Entitled “Compensation of National Council” and authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the National Council FY 26 Budget. The veto was overridden 11-5. Representatives Dode Barnett, Galen Cloud, Charles McHenry, Thomasene Osborn, and Robyn Whitecloud opposed the bill.

According to the law, the annual salary of each council representative will now be \$80,000. The Speaker’s annual salary will now be \$99,000. *See page 1 for in-depth coverage.*

Order of Business:

NCR 26-003 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council selecting Patrick Freeman Jr. to the board of directors of One-Fire Holding Company, LLC. Representative William Lowe sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Representative Lucian Tiger. It was adopted into law 13-2. Representative James Factor and Rep. Whitecloud opposed the bill.

According to the legislation, Freeman’s term will last until Friday, June 29, 2029. There was no discussion.

NCR 26-004 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council selecting Nancy Harjo Serna to the board of directors of Fountainhead Creek Golf Course, LLC. Rep. Lowe sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Rep. Tiger. It was adopted into law 14-0-1. Rep. Whitecloud abstained from voting.

According to the legislation, Serna’s term will last until Saturday, June 30, 2029. There was no discussion.

NCR 26-005 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council selecting Jeremy Larney to serve on the Muscogee Nation Businesses, LLC (MNB, LLC) Board of Directors. Rep. Tiger sponsored the bill, which was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, Larney’s term will last until Wednesday, June 29, 2029. There was no discussion.

TR 26-029 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of William R. Norman to serve on the Public Gaming Commission. Rep. Tiger sponsored the bill, which was adopted into law 15-0.

Norman will serve on the Public Gaming Commission upon confirmation and will continue to serve until Thursday, May 16, 2030. There was no discussion.

TR 26-031 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Gregory Bigler to serve as a Supreme Court Jus-

tice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Tiger sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Representative Robert Hufft. It was adopted into law 13-0-2. Rep. Barnett and Rep. Whitecloud abstained from voting.

Under the law, Bigler’s term will expire six years from the date of confirmation. There was no discussion.

TR 26-032 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to submit a 2026 Housing Trust Fund Grant Application to the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency for the benefit of the Department of Housing. Representative Cody Phillips sponsored the bill, it was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, the three aforementioned Tribes agreed that it was best to use their own enrollment to receive their proportional share of the grant. There was no discussion.

TR 26-033 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to submit a 2026 Housing Trust Fund Grant Application to the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency for the benefit of the Department of Housing. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Rep. Barnett. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, the grant proposal will request \$4,030,692 to construct rental housing for eligible low-income individuals in Wewoka. There was no discussion.

TR 26-034 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation confirming the nomination of Ronald Rogers to serve as the Secretary of Housing of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Phillips sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 11-4. Rep. Barnett, Representative Anna Marshall, Rep. Charles McHenry, and Rep. Whitecloud opposed the bill.

According to the legislation, Rogers’ term will expire at the same time as the current principal chief’s term. There was no discussion.

TR 26-035 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with the Academies of Oklahoma for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on Tribal trust land. Rep. Lowe sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 10-5. Rep. Barnett, Representative Lora Harjo-King, Representative Robert Hufft, Representative Osborn, and Rep. Whitecloud opposed the bill.

According to the legislation, 30 Mvskoke students attend the academy. The facility will be located at 2800 N. Wood Drive. Rep. Barnett remarked that this permit had not previously been reviewed by the MCN Office of the Attorney General nor MCN Realty.

TR 26-036 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation opposing placement and operation of immigration and customs enforcement detention facilities upon the historic reservation lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Representative Sandra Golden sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, the Nation will not allow detention centers to be

built on the Mvskoke Reservation due to health concerns and human rights violations. There was no discussion.

TR 26-038 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and several public schools on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Conservation District. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, the MCN Conservation District will use the River Network Grant to promote sustainable land management and environmental education to public schools within the MCN. There was no discussion.

TR 26-039 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, the Nation intends to utilize the property for new construction. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-077 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food and Nutrition Service for the benefit of women, infants, and children (WIC) Program. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, the \$70,791 grant will be used to continue to administer the program. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-078 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Caregiver Support Program Revolving Account. Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, the account will properly receive, administer, and expend donations made to the Caregiver Support Program. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-079 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 21-048 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Oklahoma State University Office of Rural Health for the Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) Grant). Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$34,729 will be awarded from the grant. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-080 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 25-003 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration Center for Mental Health Services, Native Connections Project for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health). Rep. Osborn sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$1,250,000 will be used to promote the use of culturally appropriate prevention, intervention, and treatment methods through cross-system collaboration. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-081 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 22-054 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health). Rep. Osborn sponsored the bill, which was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$1,988,860 will be used to improve the physical and mental health of people with behavioral health issues by developing an integrated, coordinated system of care. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-082 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 23-103 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services (IHS), Produce Prescription Pilot Program Grant). Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$2,500,000 will be used to help reduce food insecurity and improve healthcare outcomes among American Indians and Alaska Native people by increasing access to fresh produce and other traditional foods within Native Communities. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-083 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 22-068 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Services for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health). Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$2,400,000 will be used to reduce the prevalence of suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-085 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2026 Summer EBT Program. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$12,600,000 will be used to operate and implement the 2026 Summer EBT Program. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-086 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing NCA 06-009 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a special appropriation for the Spring Celebration sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Partnership Board). Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$10,000 will be used by Mvskoke Nation Youth Services to fund the Spring Celebration event. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-087 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repealing NCA 19-016 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation to fund the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Coalition Fund Estuce Fest). Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$5,000 will be used as a recurring line item to its annual budget. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-088 A law of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 24-091 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Treasury, Coronavirus Capital Project Grant for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health). Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$89,324.36 will be used to purchase digital connectivity technologies owned by the MCN Health Department. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-089 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office for installation of signage and interactive kiosks. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill. It was adopted into law 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$47,694.70 will be used to install signage and interactive kiosks at the VASO Museum. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-090 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing. Rep. Phillips sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Rep. Harjo-King and Rep. Marshall. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$86,507 will be used to provide repairs and rehabilitation to the homes of 10-15 low-income homeowners who are 62 or older. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-091 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the FY 2027 Indian Housing Plan. Rep. Barnett sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) Indian Housing Block Grant will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development 75 days prior to the end of the Nation’s fiscal year. This is required to stay compliant for grant approval. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-092 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 5 §§ 2-108, entitled “Church Passenger Van Assistance Grant” and 2-115 entitled “Funding” Rep. Barnett sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Rep. Cloud, Rep. Hufft, and Rep. Phillips. It was adopted into law by a vote of 13-2. Rep. Golden and Rep. Marshall opposed the bill.

According to the legislation, the amendment will provide the Euchee Language Program with a spare passenger van.

NCA 26-093 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, FY 25 Grants to improve the Criminal Justice Response Program for the benefit of the Office of the Attorney General. Rep. Golden sponsored the bill. It was adopted by a vote of 15-0.

According to the legislation, \$500,000 will be used to update laws, prosecute cases, and develop policies for law enforcement. There was no discussion.

NCA 26-094 A law of the

COUNCIL
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As of Saturday, June 20 the amendment became law.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Layla Williams

We are part of the Deer Clan, I'm honored to introduce our newest family member, born on May 31, 2026. Her name is Layla Williams. Her Creek name Little Light. Born to Ti'yona Watts and Jeff Williams.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Indigenous Independence: America at 250
Gilcrease Museum
Helmerich Center for American Research
Items from the collection that highlight the Indigenous influences leading up to and during the American Revolution
Now- August 7
M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
guided tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mvskoke Matriarchy Exhibit
Mvskoke Waters Gallery
Curated by Carly Treece and Shelley Patrick
Tuesday, April 7 thru Saturday, Aug. 1
500 Riverwalk Terrace, Suite 115, Jenks

Coffee & Conversation
MCN Department of Health Mother/Baby Program
Thursday, July 2, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare
Stop by for free coffee and fill out a community survey on safe sleep methods.

Take Out Tuesday
Fife Indian United Methodist Church
Tuesday, July 7 & July 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Home-cooked meals start at \$7, all are invited.
For questions, call 918-478-9227.

Elder's Meeting
Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center
Wednesday, July 1, 9:30 a.m.
1021 N Seminole Ave, Okmulgee

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

Hands-on Growing Season Burn Training for Prescribed Burns Associations
OSU Extension
Okmulgee Co. Fairgrounds
July 1, 10 a.m., lunch provided.
For questions, information contact Shelby Lofton, 918-756-1956
shelby.lofton@okstate.edu

Nene Letkv 5k Run
MCN Scholarship Foundation Program
Saturday, July 11, 7:30 a.m.
River Spirit Casino
8330 Riverside Pkwy
For more information, call 918-732-7754

Southern California Outreach Beyond the Reservation
Saturday, Aug. 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Hilton Orange County/ Costa Mesa Hotel Ballroom
3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA
For more information, call 918-732-7613

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

IN MEMORIAM



John Leslie Moore, Jr

John Leslie Moore Jr was born on March 22, 1975, in Garberville, California, to father John Moore Sr of Garberville, CA, mother Claudette Robertson of Bethany, OK, and older brother Dr. James H. Moore of Eureka, CA.
From an early age, Johnny loved to draw, and in 1998, he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After college, John worked in the hospitality, construction,

and transportation industries. In 2010, he relocated to Oklahoma City and settled in as an Uber driver. Johnny was an artist, so driving fit his need for a flexible schedule and gave him more time for his art. His most recent painting, "Plains Warrior," was not quite finished. John also worked as an extra in a barroom scene in one of the first episodes of "Tulsa King."
In late March, John started feeling bad without knowing why. On April 7, 2026, he began to experience severe pain. After driving himself to Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, John fell in the parking lot, unable to walk. With the help of strangers, he was lifted into a wheelchair and checked into the emergency room. A few days later, John was transferred by ambulance to the Oncology Ward at OU Medical Center, where he was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Three weeks later, the doctors removed the cancerous kidney

and told us John could go home in about a week. But one week later, in the morning of May 7, 2026, John's heart stopped, and he could not be revived.
John was raised in the church and was born again at age nine. Although in later years, John went in a different direction, we know that God is merciful and He spared John the continued pain and suffering he would have felt with failing kidneys. Johnny was a Creek citizen and a direct descendant of Colonel William Robison and grandson of the late Zelma Mae Robison of Weleetka and Claude J. Robertson, Chickasaw. Johnny will be missed by loving family members from Alaska, Oregon, California, Georgia, Florida, and Oklahoma. The family wishes to thank the Muscogee Nation for their assistance with the burial program and memorial service.



William Everett Freeman

William Everett Freeman, known to many simply as William, passed from this life on May 31, 2026, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, at the age of 81, from natural causes. He was born on February 10, 1945, in Claremore, Oklahoma, and lived a life marked by faith, service, wisdom, and devotion to family and community.
William was a Christian man whose life reflected the values he cherished most. He was loving, selfless, and wise, and those qualities shaped the way he treated his family, his friends, his students, his colleagues, and all who were blessed to know him. He was a lifelong member of the

United Methodist Church and a founding member of the Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study Group. His faith was not only spoken, but lived, and it guided him through every season of his life with humility and grace.
He shared more than 58 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sueann, and together they built a strong and faithful family. They raised two children, Scott Freeman (wife Julie) and Heather Foster (husband Buddy). William was a proud and loving grandfather to Timothy Young (wife Katie), Taylor Backofen (husband Jason), Trisha Guess (husband Joshua), and Margaret Friz (husband Seth). He also delighted in his twelve great-grandchildren: Drake, Chloe, and Noah (Young, mother Maggie); Sam, Benjamin, and Penelope (Backofen); and Jaden, Madeline, Charlotte, Everly, Aurora, and Hendrix (Guess). He is also survived by his brothers, Jesse Freeman Jr. and John Freeman. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jess and Margaret Freeman, and by his brothers Richard, Pat, and Ted, and his sisters Mary Elizabeth and Donna Faye.
William's educational journey reflected his deep commitment to learning and to helping others grow. He grad-

uated from Tulsa Central High School in Tulsa in 1963. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in 1973, followed by a Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from the same university in 1977. He continued his studies at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where in 1980 he completed all but dissertation toward a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Sociology of Education. His pursuit of knowledge was matched by his desire to use that knowledge in service to others.
Throughout his career, William devoted himself to education, leadership, and the betterment of his community. He served as a Teacher, Coach, and Administrator at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. He also served as Multi-Media Center Coordinator and Physical Education Instructor at Sequoyah Elementary in Tahlequah. At Bacone College in Muskogee, he held positions as Academic Dean, Acting Academic Administrator, Registrar, and Outreach Specialist. He also served as a Graduate Assistant Instructor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Later, he served with distinction as Executive Direc-

tor and Deputy Director of Human Development for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Okmulgee. In every role, he carried himself with integrity, diligence, and a sincere concern for others' well-being.
William was also active in professional organizations and educational associations, including the National Education Association, the Oklahoma Education Association, the Tahlequah Education Association, the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Coaches Association, the Oklahoma Secondary School Official Association, and the National Indian Education Association. He also served as a representative of the North Central Accreditation Association National Convention. His work and leadership left a lasting impact on the institutions and people he served.
Beyond his professional life, William found joy in sports, especially golf, which he enjoyed every day. He loved playing and coaching all sports, and his enthusiasm for athletics was matched by his encouragement of others. He was also a volunteer and supporter of Feed My Sheep, D D Etchieson United Methodist Church, and Wesley Foundation. His life was one of steady service, faithful witness, and generous spirit.

Those who knew William will remember his calm strength, his thoughtful counsel, and his steadfast devotion to those he loved. His life was a testimony to the truth of Philippians 3: 13-14, which says, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead – PRESS ON." He lived as a friend, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a mentor, and a servant of God.
William Everett Freeman leaves behind a legacy of faith, learning, leadership, and love. Though he will be deeply missed, his memory will remain a blessing to all who were touched by his life. May he rest in the peace of Christ, and may those who mourn him be comforted by the hope of eternal life.
In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to the First United Methodist Church of Tahlequah, Feed My Sheep, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
Mvskoke Media 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@mvsokoke media.com, subject: obit

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