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MVSKOKE NEWS

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THE PEVEHOUSES MOVE INTO KVN POLOKUCE SATKV MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CUTS THE RIBBON ON THE NEW BALD HILL HOUSING COMMUNITY

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE – A total of 10 brand new housing units were unveiled at the Kvn Polokuce Satkv Bald Hill Housing Community Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, Aug. 4. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Department and Tribal leadership gave opening remarks on how the new \$3.6 million development will serve Mvskoke families. Among those families are the Pevehouses, a family of six, who moved into a new four-bedroom unit.

The Indian Housing Block Grant funded the houses. They are part of the Lease With Option To Purchase program under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). Cornerstone Construction constructed the units. The development features eight three-bedroom and two four-bedroom units. The Office of Environmental Services conducted the clearance request for the location.

This marks the first housing development the Nation has opened this year. Additionally, the Nation has developed six single-family homes in different locations on the reservation and acquired an additional 12 homes this year.

During the opening remarks,



Gordon, Pevehouse, Destiny PeeveHouse, and their children stand outside their new four-bedroom unit at the Bald Hill Housing Community. (Braden Harper/MM)

MCN Press Secretary Jason Salsman shared that it took only 148 days from the execution of the construction contract on Monday, March 9, to the ribbon-cutting. He described the project as the “smoothest to date” during his time at the Nation.

MCN Secretary of Housing Ronald Rogers shared that the development timeline for this project was shorter than previous Tribal hous-

ing developments. He applauded Cornerstone for the quality of their units and their quick project delivery timeline. Three Ponds, another Okmulgee-based housing edition that opened in 2025, took six years to complete construction.

“Three Ponds was under construction when I came; it took too long. Berryhill, around the corner, took a little over 700 days,” Rogers said. “So

Mr. (Jeff) Fife and I had a conversation about being able to expedite our construction. I think today is proof that we have done that.”

Gordon Pevehouse (Mvskoke) works as a cultural technician for the Cultural and Preservation Department. He handles Section 106 Reviews, government consultations, and protections for culturally-significant sites. These include archaeological sites in the homelands, Tribal Town, and cemeteries. His family’s new four-bedroom unit at Bald Hill will provide them more space and privacy than their current home in Henryetta. Pevehouse shared that the new unit is only a brief distance from the office.

“It’s only like two minutes down the road, so I’ve been out here every day for lunch, just checking it out, pinching myself, making sure it’s still here,” Pevehouse said. “These quality of homes are really nice compared to what you see around. We are just really excited and anxious to get moved in.”

Pevehouse shared that he plans to put up a fence and erect a shop on the property. He plans to fill the shop with fishing poles, four-wheelers,

BALD HILL
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AI DATA CENTERS AND TRIBES EMERGING FEDERAL AND STATE POLICY

BY TANA FITZPATRICK

Editor’s note: The following is an excerpt from a Sovereign Brief published on June 16 by the Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research at The University of Oklahoma. The full brief can be found at the Native Nations Center website. Tana Fitzpatrick is the director for Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research.

Throughout 2025 and into 2026, sovereigns across the United States (U.S.) are increasingly prioritizing policy considerations involving the development of artificial intelligence (AI) data centers. While data centers are not new, recent advancements in AI have created a demand for building data centers equipped to handle AI’s computing power. Constructing and operating data centers requires a range of mineral and raw material resources, including energy, land, and environmental and natural resources, such as water and air.

Private sector entities, or industry participants, may refer to these types of data centers as “hyperscale data centers,” reflecting the size of the physical structure. Federal policymakers and agencies may describe these data centers as “large load,” or “new load,” referring to their energy demands. For the purposes of this brief, AI data centers and data centers are used interchangeably and refer to large-scale data center facilities that require extra energy capacity to handle the influx of AI’s computing power.

As AI rapidly evolves, various policy priorities are emerging as federal and state governments consider the benefits and risks of AI data centers within their jurisdictions. Policy considerations may include securing the U.S.’s global

positioning as the leader in AI, ensuring ratepayer protections due to electricity increases, and weighing impacts to the environment and natural resources, like air quality and water contamination. To achieve their priorities, sovereigns are utilizing a range of governing actions, such as issuing execu-

AI DATA CENTERS
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COUNCIL OAK PARK DROPPED AS MONARCHS OVER THE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL'S MOBILE MIGRATION GARDEN

TULSA URBAN WILDERNESS COALITION CITES POOR PARK MANAGEMENT AND HERBICIDE USAGE

BY BRADEN HARPER

TULSA – The Creek Council Oak Park will not appear as a Mobile Migration Garden in this year’s Monarchs on the Mountain Festival. The decision was voted on at a Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 4. The reasons cited for dropping the park as a Mobile Migration Garden were neglect and alleged usage of herbicides.

Council Oak Park and Stickball Park were under the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department until they were returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the annual Council Oak Tree Day in November 2025. According to the memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Tulsa, the parks are open to the public, and the Nation will “maintain and improve the Parks such that the public may visit and learn about this important chapter of Tribal, local, state, and American history.”

This year’s mobile migration will feature six garden sites: River Parks Planting, Woodward Park,



Council Oak Park sees letters peeling off from signage. (Braden Harper/MM)

Pocket Prairie, Crow Creek Meadow, the Oklahoma Aquarium, and Ray Harral Nature Park. The gardens provide a natural habitat for monarch butterflies migrating from southern Canada and the northern United States to central Mexico.

The Council Oak Park had been featured on the mobile migration list since 2020.

Tom Clark serves on the Monarchs on the Mountain Festival Education Committee. He is also a board member on the Mary K. Oxley Nature Center Association, or Friends of

Oxley. According to Clark, the gardens educate festival attendees on monarch migrations. The locations are spread out, allowing attendees to tour the city. Each location represents a different stop along the monarch’s journey.

“You don’t have to go in any particular order. We cut it out, we put out signs at each of the sites that say ‘Okay here, this site represents the northernmost where the migration south starts as the monarchs head back to Mexico,’” Clark said.

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ART ON THE RIVER

Gallery tech Shelley Patrick talks shop

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TRAINING THE FUTURE

Healthy relationships and financial literacy on the agenda at Youth Summit

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SOLAR-POWERED

CMN garden gets even more help from the sun

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REZ HAPPENINGS

Check out the Community Calendar for what’s going on!

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MOON PULL POEMS

Rebekah Warren provides a peak of her new book, “Moon Pull”

PAGE 11



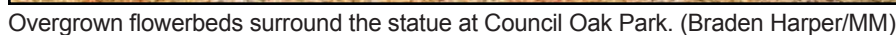
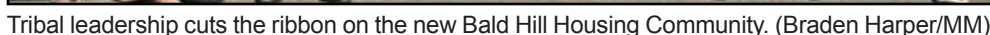
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"Everyone from the Realty Department, the Environmental Department, anyone who has had a hand in this. It takes everyone to make this happen. I want to thank the National Council for their sup-

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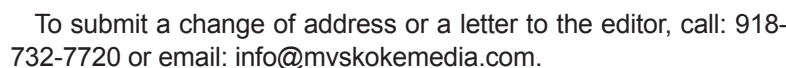
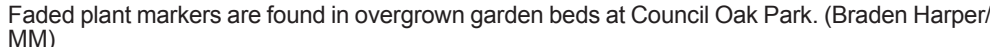
“Regarding herbicide use, the Muscogee Nation nor the Foundation has used any herbicide at the park, and we have no plans to

According to Salsman, the next housing development is currently slated for the next fiscal year and will be located in Muskogee.



Butler said she would welcome a conversation with the Tulsa Urban

According to Butler, the Culture and Humanities department is partnering with the Tvls Council Oak Foundation for the 50th anniversary of the Council Oak Tree's placement on the National Register of Historic Places on Tuesday, Sept. 29. This year's Council Oak Tree Day will be held in either late October or early November, but a date has not been announced yet.



DELAUNE'S CORNER

ONE SMALL GREETING CAN LIGHT UP A WORLD, AGAIN. MAINLY MINE

BY **DARREN DELAUNE**

OKMULGEE — Hesci everyone! I'm back! Well, not really. Mvskoke Media is allowing me to talk to you all. How is everyone? I have missed you all so much. Do you all realize it has been over...well, too many years to count since we have had a conversation?

Let me catch you up, I have remarried, and I have gained a daughter. My oldest daughter graduated from college and is working for the tribe. Our youngest is in college now. Other than that, nothing else is different. I work and go home. I still have my 'ferocious' feline, Mittens, at the house. He now has the audacity to wake me up between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., because he wants food or my spot on the bed. I gained three dogs and another cat, and unfortunately, lost a dog not too long ago. I still think he looks down and checks on us.

Since the last time we spoke, there have been so many people who have passed on from this world. It hurts to know that.

While we have lost so much, we have also gained a lot. Let's look at it that way. I have gained new friends in life; a lot I consider family now, and more family from my in-laws. I will put it to you this way: if we were all to take a family reunion group picture, we would have to get a drone to take an aerial view, and that might cover half of them.

Enough about me.

What I want to talk about was a column from long ago, I wrote about how "One small greeting can light up a world." It was about how a simple hello can change someone's day.

My mother would constantly wave at people, and whether they waved back or not, it did not deter her. I asked her why, and she told me she was 'being friendly.'

Fast forward several years later, I

still do it. I still wave. Whether in a car, outside my house, or anywhere. I still have that mindset that I need to be friendly.

While I thought how much it could change the person's life because of that greeting, I found out, it does guarantee someone's day gets better, mine. And it is because of you all. You help make my day better. Whether you respond with a wave, a hesci, or not at all, YOU made my day better.

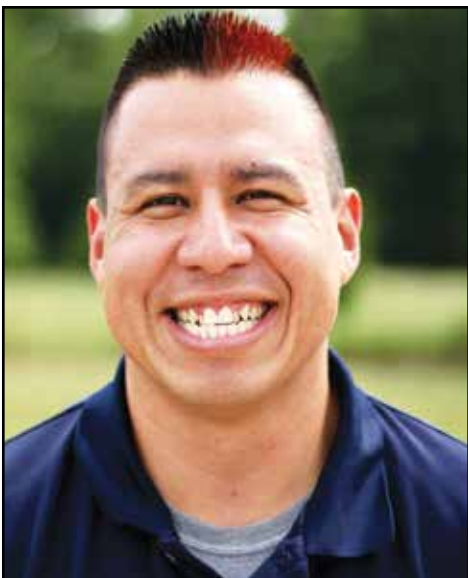
For a couple of reasons, I hope there is a smile on your face after you wave or acknowledge me. That is a success. And if there is no wave or acknowledgment, I am still happy. Because I am able to greet you.

So, while the last column from years ago was based off an experiment, this one is nothing like that. I want to greet you regardless. So, if you pass by or see me, I hope we both can greet each other. If not, I will try my best next time.

Always, like in the past, I have put quotes in my columns. This one will not be different.

Here we go, first quote.

"Always remember to be happy, you never know who is falling in love with your smile." – Anonymous



Next quote.

"Try saying hello to someone who wasn't expecting you to – today would be good." John Avery

This was great. I am so happy I get to write to you all. Even if it is only one time (I may have to ask everyone at Media if I could write another one in the future, hint hint).

If I see you all and you see me, please, share a greeting. I hope and pray I do the same for you.

Hvtvm Cehcares (I will see you again)!

MVSKOKE WATERS GALLERY COLUMN

BY **SHELLEY PATRICK**



It's Been a Long Time Coming.. Mvskoke Waters Gallery opened its doors on December 13, 2026 to its first exhibition Mvskokvlke: Road to Strength. This first showing of art was full of legacy and master artists

of the Muscogee and Euchee Nations, showcasing an exemplary collection of the artistic and culture-based perspectives of some of our tribes' most accomplished artists.

Over our histories, there have been many such artists as well. Ancestors' drew incised linework, formed effigy imagery, and made symbols and designs in clay, shell, and copper from our original tribal homelands located in what are now known as the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Painters like Fred Beaver and Jerome Tiger, sculptors like Scott Roberts and Kenneth Johnson, shell carvers like Dan Townsend and Sandy Fife Wilson, and writers like Alexander Posey and Joy Harjo, have all come along afterward to continue the legacy of our cultural arts in all forms. These unnamed and named tribal members are influential to this day for our current Muscogee and Euchee artists, and most significantly will still

be important examples and teachers for our future artists to come.

Mvskoke Waters Gallery is a space to hold the art of our tribes and to share our artistic merits with visitors from the surrounding community and beyond. Our histories are long. Our stories are still being told. Our distinctive perspectives still exist in the present-day world, and the gallery is a special space to hold it all. Known for being the first and only tribally owned and operated fine arts gallery in the greater Tvlse area, Mvskoke Waters Gallery is unique in its local designation of our specific Native American art. Whether the art is on canvas, in jewelry, or expressed in written form, we, the Muscogee and Euchee, define our fine arts in our way at our own reservation gallery.

As the Gallery Technician, I have the privilege to get to know our artists and their stories. Already many times I have gotten to converse over

the history of our art, the state of our nation, the importance of our knowledge, and the need to foster continuance of all our undertakings as Muscogee and Euchee people. What we can accomplish together within the realm of art is numerous and consequential in the goals for our Nations. Presentations, workshops, exhibitions, showcases, and more are all a means to teach, understand, impart knowledge, and learn about ourselves and each other while living in our many worlds. People find rapport with artists through art pieces. Communities share experiences through events. From the youngest beginning artist to the most renowned proficient elder, the act of learning and making art can be the line of connection linking the two in a short span of time. And our art has as long a lineage as the existence of our Nations do themselves.

It's been a long time coming to hold space specifically for our arts, and at Mvskoke Waters Gallery, it is finally here. Ahwet hecaks ce!

BEACON HILL BLACK ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HOLDING UNVEILING CEREMONY FOR MARKER RECOGNIZING REMOVAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION FROM THIS LAND

PRESS RELEASE

Decatur, GA - Members of the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Decolonize Decatur Committee will hold a marker unveiling ceremony on Friday, August 21st at 12 noon at the site of the newly installed marker on the Decatur Square near the DeKalb History Center (directly across from Squash Blossom). The marker memorializes the genocidal process of removing the Muscogee Nation from this land, and the removal of the "genocide cannon" on October 19, 2021.

DeKalb County installed the marker with text written by retired Muscogee

Emory professor Dr. Craig Womack, which says the Muscogee Creek people were "forcibly removed from their Georgia and Alabama homelands, primarily in the 1820s and 1830s." In 1906, the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) placed a cannon on the square with the message, "Relic of the Indian War of 1836." The new marker says this war was a result of "decades of mistreatment and the threat of removal from their ancestral homelands. The U.S. Army defeated the uprising and sent remaining Creek families into concentration camps and proceeded to drive them into the deadly 750-mile journey to Oklahoma."

In June 2020, the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights led a successful community effort to remove the "Lost Cause" confederate monument, which was placed by the UDC in 1908. Attention of the community then turned to the cannon, which was seen as another symbol of violent white supremacy. After a campaign led by Decatur High School students of political education, teach-ins, rallies, and pressure on city and county elected officials, what the students named the "genocide cannon" was successfully removed a year later.

The marker also notes that as a part of Beacon Hill's "Art for the People" Initiative, an art installation honoring the Muscogee Creek people, is placed in its stead permanently at Agnes Scott College." Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights and Decolonize Decatur Committee co-chair Fonta High says, "Art is education and images hold power. We decided to erect art affirming of the people these symbols of white supremacy wished to oppress."

The struggle over memory and what happened here continues with the fight to save land at 346 W. Trinity Pl., which is "sacred ground" to dis-



The new marker honors Mvskoke history, with text written by Mvskoke citizen and retired Emory professor Craig Womack. (Image: Lynn Farmer/Decolonize Decatur)

placed members of the Black Beacon Hill community, was destroyed by city policies of urban renewal. On July 24th, a letter from Dr. Savannah Waters, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Muscogee Nation, was sent to the City Schools of Decatur school board, which currently owns the land. She said, "It is important to our Nation that steps toward memory, accountability, and preservation be enacted in the Beacon Hill historic district, as there is a current lack of resources."



Bethani Thomas, now a student at Xavier University in New Orleans, was a high school student at Decatur High School when she organized to work on the cannon removal from the square. Thomas spoke at the marker unveiling. (Image: Lynn Farmer/Decolonize Decatur)



A crowd of city leaders and citizens attended the event. (Image: Lynn Farmer/Decolonize Decatur)

MCN CVS MAKES AN IMPACT AT THE YOUTH SUMMIT

THE ANNUAL SUMMIT DREW OVER 300 SUMMER YOUTH

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

GLENPOOL – The MCN Center for Victim Services held its third annual Youth Summit at the Glenpool Conference Center on July 17. Throughout the day, the summit covered topics such as consent and healthy relationships, healthy practices, financial literacy, suicide awareness, self-care, and wellness. The event also featured Mvskoke Language 101: Learning the Basics. MCN CVS partnered with the MCN Department of Health, which provided lunch and bags for the youth. This year, they had 315 summer youth, 25 resource booths, and over 30 volunteers.

MCN CVS Youth Prevention Specialist Jamie Rolland-Hill (Mvskoke/Euchee) said their program is split into different groups during sessions, but beforehand, they had someone give a presentation to all youth.

“All these breakout sessions we had at the youth summit, we thought could be good for the youth’s future and mental health. Every breakout session is carefully thought about and also has a lot to do with the survey the youth did last year on what breakout sessions they would be interested in attending and which ones they did not like,” Rolland-Hill said.

“Our biggest goal for hosting the youth summit is to educate the youth, but also have some fun for the day. We really want our mvsokke youth to know that we do care and want what is best for them.”

Kirby Williams (Cherokee) was the featured presenter during the summit. Rolland-Hill said her presentation was important because Williams showed what healthy and unhealthy love look like.

Rolland-Hill knows that most of the youth who attended have heard her presentation or attended one of the CVS events, but she wanted to offer a different perspective from someone else’s, such as Williams herself. She hopes that Williams’ presentation sticks with the youth.

“We also wanted them to know what abuse and consent meant. Abusive behavior isn’t always physical, and we wanted to stress that to them,” Rolland-Hill said.

Teen Suicide Awareness was pre-

sented by MCN Behavioral Health Therapist Crystal Brill. Rolland-Hill said that this is important because Native American youth have the highest rates of teen suicide.

“We wanted them to know the signs of a friend who is struggling and know what steps to take if they think or know someone who is struggling. This is Crystal’s third year to present and does an amazing job every year,” Rolland-Hill said.

They held a session on Women’s Empowerment, which was also led by Williams. Rolland-Hill said that Williams works hard to address violence against tribes in Nebraska and Oklahoma, and this was Williams’s first year as a main presenter and in a breakout session. During the breakout session, MCN CVS wanted to encourage women about the importance of their role in the world, how special their bodies are, and how to properly care for themselves.

Another session covered Financial Literacy, and Tinker Federal Credit Union spoke about managing money in the real world.

“Once they leave mom and dad’s house. We want them to see how important it is to budget and be able to financially take care of yourself and future family/children. This is TFCU’s third year presenting,” Rolland-Hill said.

The founder of Mvskoke Dad’s Dr. Monte Randall (Mvskoke), President of the College of the Muscogee Nation, spoke about Mvskoke men’s roles and responsibilities. This was chosen because MCN CVS wanted to show not only the importance of young women but also that of young men. They wanted to let them know how important their role is in the community, too.

Coleman Lisan Tiger Blair taught claymaking, and MCN CVS said that this was popular by demand.

“The youth love his class and give him high ratings all the time. We chose this breakout session for our youth to decompress after a hard session, like teen suicide. This is a session to not think, just go in and have fun. Coleman has taught them how to make different things through his three years in presenting, like dragons and bison, but this year, he taught them how to make dinosaurs,” Rolland-Hill said.



The 2026 Youth Summit. (Photo Courtesy: MCN Communications)

Detective/Task Force Officer Damon Brandt from the Mayes County Sheriff’s Office presented a Project iGuardian. MCN CVS wanted teens to understand the importance of protecting their information and what they post on social media, because predators can find them so easily.

“It was a session on being safe on the internet and being smart on social media. Things that predators look for and how they choose their victims. Using your brain when it comes to the internet and phone safety,” Rolland-Hill said. “This was the second year that Homeland Security has come to present on internet safety, and every time they come, they bring new and valuable information.”

For the third year, the MCN Language Department presented breakout sessions about the Mvskoke Language.

“This session is very important. A lot of the youth at our youth summit do not know much past having their card. We want them to at least know how to say hello, thank you, see you again. Without our language, what are we? Who are we as Mvskoke people? The hope of this break out session was they pick up on something and use it, keep it, say it over and over!” Rolland-Hill said.

MCN CVS hopes that youth can use what they learn in their daily life and carry it with them. They hope that, after the summit, the youth will feel good about learning something new.

“The day of the youth summit is always crazy, but at the end of the day, when we are handing out prizes,

I like to pick random youth and ask them to tell me three things they learned that day. To hear all the different answers and see their faces light up from all the free stuff they have received makes it all worth it,” Rolland-Hill said.

“They let me know that they had at least three things stuck with them that day, and I know they will carry that out the door.”

MCN CVS provides advocacy, support, and services to those impacted by violent crime. Rolland-Hill said their team includes advocates, attorneys, licensed counselors, and outreach and awareness staff who work every day to improve safety on the MCN reservation.

MCN CVS services include court advocacy (tribal, state, and federal), legal advocacy, assistance in locating emergency shelter, filing protective orders, safety planning, crisis intervention, and counseling.

“Each service is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We also have a team of SANE nurses who are specially trained to assess injuries resulting from domestic and sexual assault. These exams are voluntary, completely free, and confidential. An advocate is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to speak with you and provide support,” Rolland-Hill said.

MCN CVS points out that you do not have to be a member of a federally recognized Tribe to receive their services. If you or someone you know is in need of services, contact MCN CVS at 918-732-7979

For updated events, follow them on the Facebook page at Muscogee Nation Center for Victim Services.

STUDENT-LED SOLAR PROJECT POWERS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AT CMN

A \$40,000 NEXUS GRANT IS HELPING COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION STUDENTS EXPAND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY



(Katy Leard/MM)

BY KATY LEARD

OKMULGEE – What began as a grant opportunity shared among students at the College of the Muscogee Nation has grown into a student-led renewable energy project designed to strengthen food sovereignty while creating lasting educational opportunities for generations.

The college received a \$40,000 NEXUS grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to install a solar-powered irrigation system at the CMN garden. The project, developed and led by students with guidance from CMN Extension Educator Courtney Natseway (Mvskoke), will use solar energy to automate irrigation, allowing the garden to expand food production while reducing the time and labor required to maintain it.

“It’s just going to allow us to produce more food and medicine for the community,” Natseway said.

The CMN garden serves as the heart of the college’s extension program, supplying fresh produce to the campus café, students, employees, Muscogee Nation Elderly Nutrition,

and the Nation’s Food Distribution Program. It also functions as an outdoor classroom where students and community members learn gardening, nutrition, traditional agriculture, and land stewardship.

“We teach people, this is what you can do in your own backyard,” Natseway said. “It also just serves as a teaching tool.”

The idea for the project came after student Steven Thomas (Mvskoke) discovered the NEXUS grant opportunity and brought it to Natseway and fellow students Arvcuken (Arthur) Noquisi (Mvskoke) and Daniel Sanders (Seminole). Together, the four developed a proposal centered on renewable energy and food sovereignty.

Thomas led much of the research, exploring renewable energy options before the team determined that solar power best fit the garden’s needs.

“The solar option became important because it allowed us the possibility of irrigating where there wasn’t already electrical infrastructure laid out for us,” Thomas said. “Once we have a working prototype, we can show communities this is something that could be set up and potentially help with their efforts.”

For Thomas, the project represents more than installing solar panels.

“I’ve recently come to the opinion that sovereignty begins in our backyards,” he said. “Our nation is only as strong as our communities, and our communities are only as strong as our families and our individuals.”

Noquisi, a recent CMN graduate with degrees in Natural Resources

and Muscogee language, served as the project’s documentation manager, producing the one-minute video required for the grant application. Since receiving the award, he has continued helping install the solar-powered drip irrigation system while gaining practical experience in renewable energy and agriculture.

“You’re learning as you go along,” Noquisi said. “You’re learning by doing.”

He said the experience taught the team how to transform a large idea into achievable steps while learning new technical skills, from grant writing to designing irrigation systems.

Sanders, who has worked in the garden since 2023, helped lead the construction of the solar panel rack that now supports the first six panels installed there. With a background in construction but little experience in agriculture, Sanders said the project challenged him to learn new skills while strengthening his connection to Muscogee culture.

“The Muscogee people were an agrarian society, and we grew large communal fields,” Sanders said. “Being able to incorporate modern elements such as renewable energy and automatic irrigation - it would be our ancestors’ wildest dreams.”

Although the NEXUS program was originally structured as a multi-phase grant, funding was later canceled following federal funding changes. Rather than abandon the project, the students chose to move forward using the initial award.

“We’ve already made this plan,” Thomas said. “Let’s see what we can do with it.”

Natseway said the solar array will initially power automated irrigation for the garden’s 25 raised beds, greenhouse, terrace garden, and future Three Sisters garden. Watering the garden currently requires up to two hours of labor each morning. Automating that work will allow students to spend more time growing food, expanding the garden, and developing future projects. The remaining solar capacity may eventually support greenhouse automation, improved lighting, and other infrastructure improvements.

Beyond the physical improvements, Natseway said the project gave students valuable experience writing grants, developing budgets, and managing a large-scale project - skills that will benefit them throughout their careers.

“They got real-world experience,” she said. “When they go to bigger schools or apply for jobs, they can say they led this project and installed solar panels at the garden on campus. That’s a big deal.”

The team hopes the project will continue inspiring future students to pursue agriculture, renewable energy, and food sovereignty while demonstrating that meaningful change can begin on a small scale.

“I hope they feel inspired to maybe do the same thing,” Natseway said. “Our garden is probably the size of someone’s large backyard, so this is totally possible for the regular person. The fact that students who hadn’t even graduated yet wrote the grant themselves and received the funding shows that a regular person can do the same thing.”

REZ TOUR ENDS ON A BIG SPLASH

THE PROGRAM COVERED NINE AREAS ACROSS THE MVSKOKE RESERVATION

BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – Ending the summer after their Rez Tour, MCN Youth Wellness hosted a pool party for youth between the ages of 9 and 14. The party was held at the Holdenville pool on Sunday, Aug. 2, and at the Okmulgee YMCA Pool on Sunday, Aug. 9. The free event featured a live DJ, resource booths, and pizza.

Rez Tour was a new, free summer camp this year, featuring activities such as cultural and life-skills learning, arts and crafts, guest speakers, games, outdoor activities, and a field-trip incentive. It also provided information about mental health, physical health, life skills, and outdoor education.

The program served the surrounding areas of Morris, Coweta, Muskogee, Taylor Drive, Okemah, Wetumka, Okmulgee, Holdenville, and Murrow Home.

MCN Youth Wellness Prevention Specialist Kayla Broncho said that as the camp came to a close, the kids did not want the fun to end.

Broncho shared that MCN Youth Wellness Program Project Director James “Major” McHenry (Mvskoke) had the idea to host a pool party for participants as a wrap-up to the summer program, and also invite kids who didn’t attend as an outreach.

For the pool party, they wanted to make sure to include the Southern Region, where Broncho is located. They also knew they needed to include different parts of the Mvskoke Reservation.

The pool party featured Mental Health 988, Native Connections,

Suicide Prevention, Tobacco Prevention, and Youth Services.

Broncho feels rewarded to be part of this program and to host an event like this for the MCN youth.

“We see lots of our youth throughout the reservation and sometimes they don’t get these kinds of experiences. Being able to provide opportunities is one of the most rewarding parts of what we do. Seeing them smile, watching them try new things, and simply hearing them say “thank you/mvto” is what makes it all worth it,” Broncho said.

McHenry said it’s a way for their program to give back, have fun, and provide opportunities for Mvskoke youth.

“I feel that it’s an event that can bring everyone together for a good time and let them have a good time before they go back to school,” McHenry said.

Rez Tour

Rez Tour is a three-day camp. The first day was filled with cultural education- the MCN Mvskoke Language Program spoke, along with guest speakers from MCN Cultural Preservation. Then they took a field trip to the Euchee Butterfly Farm in Bixby.

The second day featured outdoor activities, including hiking and nature education. The program taught the kids what to pack, how to pack, the importance of drinking water, and coping mechanisms for the outdoors.

For the third day, they went to a waterpark and places outside their town.



Above: One of the youth at the pool party. (Photo Courtesy: Kayla Broncho)
Below: Some of the youth at the Rez Tour Pool Party. (Photo Courtesy: Kayla Broncho)



McHenry said that the Mvskoke Reservation is a big area to cover, and they try to go North, South, East, and West. This year, they targeted the southern area, but next, they might target a different area.

“We don’t really have a way to pick, but we try to spread it out each year. There are just two of us right now in our department, and fixing to have a third one that starts. But we try to cover somewhere different

every year,” McHenry said.
McHenry said that all events are free, including food and admission- they don’t want any child to miss out on any of the fun that they host.
“Everything is provided and free to the students. We encourage everyone when we’re in their schools to sign up,” McHenry said.
“Come to our after-school programs, and we encourage them to come to our camps.”

OPPOSITION TO OKMULGEE DATA CENTER GAINS MOMENTUM

OKMULGEE COUNTY UNITED AGAINST DATA CENTERS AND ACEE'S MORATORIUM/CITY ORDNANCE PETITION KICK OFF AT CMN COLLECTS SIGNATURES AND SUPPORT

BY BRADEN HARPER

OKMULGEE - The atmosphere at the Okmulgee County United Against Data Centers’ Moratorium/ City Ordinance Petition Kick Off held on Monday, Aug. 10, at the College of the Muscogee Nation STEM Building was deferential. Activists from the Alliance for Communities, Environments and Ecosystems (ACEE) and Honor the Earth shared information about data centers and their efforts to stop their development. The meeting’s main topic of discussion was the Fluidstack data center, currently planned for development near the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge.

Fluidstack is a data center developer headquartered in New York. Its proposed data center will be located outside the city limits of Okmulgee. According to Fluidstack’s website, the first phase of their planned data center will be operational by September 2027.

Alliance for Communities, Environments and Ecosystems (ACEE) activist Tamra Day is one of the key opponents of data center development in Okmulgee County. Day filed the Okmulgee County petition for a data center development moratorium. Her primary concern about development is its effect on the water supply and on endangered species that live along waterways.

The goal for the petition is to acquire 2,300 signatures from Okmulgee County residents. Day has discussed the data center with fellow Okmulgee County residents.

“I think the majority are just upset and frustrated because they weren’t given the information before. People weren’t being transparent. We are now finding out this could have gone back to 2021 and 2022 as far as city officials knowing,” Day said.

Mvskoke citizens speak out

Mackenzie Roberts (Mvskoke) is a Yardeka resident who works in Okmulgee. Roberts is an activist for Stop Data Colonialism, a national Indigenous coalition with Honor the Earth. Like Day, her concerns about the data center focus on the potential effects on local wildlife and agricultural producers.

Another concern Roberts has with the Fluidstack data center is the lack of transparency by the City of Okmulgee and Okmulgee County during the development process. She said some Okmulgee County residents were not aware of the data center’s development until a few months ago. Roberts said the conversations she has had with community members have gotten emotional, with some involving yelling and others crying.

According to an article published on Friday, July 10, by the Yale School of the Environment, data centers create heat pollution. Heat generated by data centers can contribute to the urban heat island effect, a phenomenon in which urban areas experience higher temperatures than rural areas. Heat pollution is also on Roberts’ mind.

“I’m a Muscogee citizen. There’s a lot of things that we do during the summer. There’s a lot of agricultural producers that are Muscogee citizens. There’s revivals, sometimes funerals at these churches,” Roberts said. “The reason I am saying all of these things is that there is a six mile radius of heat pollution (from data centers) that raises the local environment up of about 10 degrees or so.”

Gano Perez (Mvskoke) attended the meeting and signed the petition. Perez has been following this issue since the first Okmulgee data center meeting was organized. He remarked that there is always something to learn from these meetings, and they are useful for keeping residents informed about Freedom of Information Act requests and peti-

tion filings. Perez believes the plans for the data center are moving at an alarmingly fast pace.

“It’s like the wild west. There’s no rules on this right now because it’s happening so fast,” Perez said. “All the parts are moving real quick and nobody knows the outcomes of the bad stuff that could happen from this environmentally.”

Some Oklahoma Tribes have taken action against data center development. The Cherokee Nation issued a ban on data centers on Wednesday, Aug. 5. The ban states that data centers are not permitted to be developed on Tribally-owned and trust lands within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. According to the statement issued by Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, the Cherokee Nation is concerned with the effects data centers could have on natural resources.

“The Cherokee Nation will not consider supporting any hyper-scale data center development on non-tribally owned lands within the Cherokee Nation Reservation unless robust consultation is conducted with the tribe. Such consultation must address cultural and nat-

ural resource concerns and include meaningful community engagement throughout the project lifecycle,” Chief Hoskin said.

The Seminole Nation unanimously voted to pass a moratorium on data center development at a Quarterly Council Meeting on Saturday, March 7.

MCN is currently reviewing the future of data center infrastructure on the reservation. During the July 25 Quarterly Session, the National Council adopted TR 26-045, a resolution that established the Tribal Digital Infrastructure and Data Sovereignty Task Force. According to the legislation, its mandate is to “study, evaluate, coordinate, and provide recommendations concerning tribal digital infrastructure planning and standards, and to promote data sovereignty.”

Perez noted that he hopes everyone will come into this issue informed.

“I hope everybody can come into this with an open mind and not jump to conclusions,” Perez said. “Take the concrete data that both sides have and decide for yourself what’s the best for the Nation.”



Shavonne Stevens, seen here at home, says learning from Indigenous birth workers was transformative and made her feel empowered. (Image: Malik Rainey/The Imprint)

AI DATA CENTERS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive orders to set policy directives or creating task forces to learn more about data center impacts, and enacting legislation that requires oversight and regulation, or offers fiscal benefits, like tax incentives.

Tribes may be increasingly asked to consider governance decisions involving AI data centers. Identifying approaches by federal and state actors could inform potential tribal strategies addressing energy costs, land and water use, consultation, and treaty rights, among other considerations. In addition, how other sovereigns are governing in this space may inform potential impacts to tribal rights and interests. This Sovereign Brief provides an overview of the emerging federal and state policy trends regarding AI data centers and concludes with governing options for tribes considering potential policy approaches.

Note: This brief focuses on policy actions involving the physical structure of AI data centers, meaning the construction of the building and once built, its operation. It does not examine or extensively discuss workforce, manufacturing, cyber-security, power grid development, national security, ethical considerations, or Indigenous data sovereignty. These issues may be relevant to decision-making involving AI data centers; however, they are beyond the scope of this brief. As this is an emerging topic, this brief is meant to provide a high-level overview and analysis and should not be considered comprehensive.

Executive Branch Activities on AI Data Centers

Presidential initiatives seek to position the U.S. as the global leader in AI. Such initiatives require AI data centers to support advancements in technology. This section provides a high-level summary of presidential actions followed by an overview of agency initiatives affecting AI data center development.

Presidential Actions involving AI Data Centers

In 2025 and 2026, the President issued several directives involving AI and AI data centers. The President’s directives prioritize data center development to ensure the physical infrastructure can support AI growth. Thus, presidential initiatives primarily aim to fast-track the building of data centers to meet the demand. **Appendix 1** lists and describes in greater detail five of President Trump’s orders and initiatives involving the construction of data centers. The **Appendix** notes federal agencies and laws involved in each order.

Presidential efforts promote interagency coordination in alignment with these policy positions but also call on Congress and industry (e.g., data center companies and large load customers) to act. These presidential initiatives fall into six categories:

1. Support streamlining or expediting federal permitting, including leveraging Superfund and Brownfield sites.
2. Establish categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act;
3. Utilize available federal lands for data center construction.
4. Incentivize financial support for data center projects that meet specific parameters.
5. Promote a national framework, including congressional action, in response to state government actions addressing data centers.
6. Facilitate ratepayer protections through initiatives asking companies to “bring, build, or buy” their own energy and to pledge to protect ratepayers.

Taken together, these presidential initiatives implicate 12 federal laws (noted in **Appendix 1**; including numerous environmental statutes), actions by five federal agencies (see **Table 1**), and one White House council, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). On April 9, 2026, CEQ released new guidance to agencies on categorical exclusions under NEPA. Other federal laws or agency actions may also be implicated.

Federal Agency Actions Involving the Physical Infrastructure of AI Data Centers

As directed by the President’s policy agenda, several agencies are acting under their authorities to address data centers. Agency directives include exempting data centers from agency rules, supporting innovations in AI with grid operators’ consideration of consumers, and reviewing the chemicals used in data centers. Others have held listening sessions or participated in roundtables. While most agency efforts do not mention tribes, DOE’s Office of Indian Energy released webinars and fact sheets exploring the potential economic benefit of data centers for tribes. See **Table 1** for a summary of selected federal agency actions. Overall, executive branch activities show the breadth of the Administration’s approach to building data centers, which involve coordination across several federal agencies. These activities also show that this is an evolving topic as seen in recent efforts that consider citizen impacts and an increasing emphasis on federal preemption of state law approaches.

A Note on Federal Lands

While the presidential actions do not define what constitutes federal lands, Executive Order

Table 1. List of Select Agency Actions Involving Data Centers (April 2025-April 2026)	
Federal Department, Agency, or Council (in alphabetical order)	Date, Agency (if applicable), Agency Actions
Department of Commerce	June 16, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration held a listening session on Bolstering Data Center Growth, Resilience and Security .
Department of Energy (DOE)	- April 3, 2025, DOE issued an article titled, DOE Identifies 16 Federal Sites Across the Country for Data Center and AI Infrastructure Development; the 16 sites are listed here. - January 20, 2026, DOE's Office of Indian Energy (OIE) released an article titled, Data Centers: Exploring the Opportunity for Tribes. - March 2026, DOE's OIE announced a fact sheet titled, Beyond Land Leases: Harnessing Data Centers for Tribal Economic Development.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	- December 2025, EPA launched the Clean Air Act Resources for Data Centers webpage that provides a central location for Clean Air Act resources, including news releases, upcoming regulatory actions, and contact information for EPA's data centers team. - September 15, 2025, pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA announced it will review new chemicals to be used in data centers following a roundtable discussion at the White House. - January 2026, EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Program launched the Reuse Considerations for Data Centers on Superfund Sites webpage that provides resources to determine the viability of Superfund sites as possible locations for data centers.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC; independent agency within DOE for administrative purposes)	- October 23, 2025, the Secretary of Energy directed FERC to initiate an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR), RM26-4-000, requesting public input on reforms regarding large loads and their interconnection to the interstate transmission system; April 16, 2026, FERC announced it will take action on the ANOPR by June 2026. - December 18, 2025, FERC issued order E-1, EL25-49-000, directing the Nation's largest grid operator to address AI data centers and other large loads to promote grid reliability and to keep electricity costs manageable for customers.
Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council; independent agency)	April 2, 2025 , the Permitting Council announced the approval of one data center for coverage by the FAST-41 program , which assists with streamlining federal agency environmental review of infrastructure decisions and coordinating among agencies. The Administration expanded the FAST-41 program to cover data center projects .

Note: The Administration’s artificial intelligence policy priorities are government-wide and cross sector and may include other agency actions not listed here. (Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research)

14318, titled, Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure, addresses federal public and military lands. It requires the Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Energy (DOE) to offer land site authorizations under existing federal law (e.g., DOE authorities—42 U.S.C. 2201 and 42 U.S.C. 7256; DOI authority—43 U.S.C. 1701). It also supports military installations to consider opening their lands for qualifying projects (10 U.S.C. 2667). While tribal lands are considered federal lands if held in trust or restricted fee by the federal government, the federal government’s exercise of federal land management systems often treat these tribal land statuses separately from other federal lands due to the federal government’s unique legal obligations to tribes. Pursuant to the Administration’s policies, DOE identified 16 federal land sites for data centers. While no identified federal land site includes tribal lands, tribes could consider reviewing emerging federal initiatives for implications to tribal lands.

Proposed Congressional Legislation on Data Centers

Congress has seen an increasing number of proposed bills on data centers in the 119th Congress. Between February 2025 and February 2026, Congress introduced 10 bills that focus on AI data centers or discuss data centers in broader AI priorities. This count does not include companion bills or duplicative legislative text introduced in multiple bills. Congress introduced six bills in 2025 and four bills in 2026 (up to February 2026). This section focuses its analysis only on these bills, however, at least three bills have been introduced after this timeframe, including two bills that mention tribes (S.4214; S.4213; H.R.7858). As shown in **Figure 1**, seven of the proposed bills target or discuss energy considerations, primarily through concern of supporting ratepayers. Other introduced bills discuss a range of priorities, to include: 1) environmental considerations, such as water quality (one bill) and air quality, specifically greenhouse gas emissions (two bills); 2) national security (two bills), and 3) technology (one bill). As of the date of this report, Congress has not enacted this legislation.

Within these bills, Congress primarily proposes to exercise its oversight function in addressing data center growth. For instance, some bills require federal agencies to submit reports to Congress on

matters such as water usage and greenhouse gas emission tracking and proposed rate structures that protect residential ratepayers. Other proposed bills require federal agencies to assess or conduct studies on specific topics, like the impacts of AI data centers on energy supplies, technology assessments on liquid cooling, and vulnerabilities of AI data centers in cybersecurity or the value of data centers in relation to national security strategies. In some bills, Congress proposes to regulate industry, such as requiring data centers to co-locate with public utilities, derive their energy from a power plant rather than the electrical grid, or to generate their own electricity from a clean energy source.

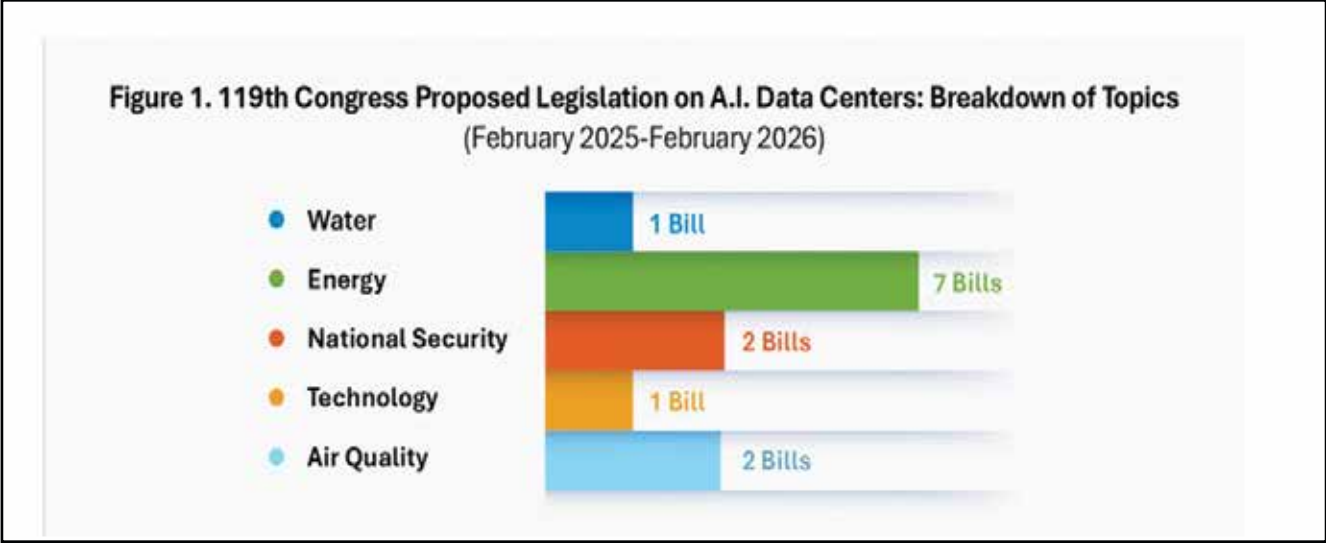
One bill, H.R. 6179, mentions tribes. Here, Congress proposes to amend the Clean Air Act to address the energy consumption and emissions of data centers and crypto mining facilities. It requires the EPA Administrator to collect and report data on greenhouse gas emissions and electricity consumed from any source. The bill proposes to charge a fee for greenhouse gas emissions above a certain threshold. The collected fees would be used as grants for certain entities, including tribes, to support programs that lower residential consumer energy costs.

State Governing Activities on AI Data Centers

A growing number of states are considering measures to address the growth of data center construction. At least four state governors, to include Washington, Oregon, North Carolina, and Montana, established task forces or working groups to gather information on data center growth and potential impacts for their state.

As an example, Washington State’s governor issued Executive Order 25-05 creating a data center working group to address impacts to their economy, tax revenue, energy use, and the environment. On December 1, 2025, the working group submitted its preliminary report, pending tribal consultation, which discusses the economic benefits experienced by communities with data centers, along with the risks to energy, environment, wildlife, cultural resources, and treaty rights.

In 2026, approximately 36 state legislatures have introduced 157 bills addressing data centers (as of April 29, 2026). State legislatures are considering a wide range of oversight, regulatory, and fiscal



Categories reflect NNCTPR classification of bill provisions. Bills may be counted in multiple categories; companion bills are not included. Bills analyzed in the 119th Congress: H.R.5227, H.R.6984, H.R.6529, H.R.3919, S.3269, S.3852, S.3682, H.R.6179, H.R.1737. (Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research)

approaches. For instance, some states are proposing to exercise oversight, like requiring the development of a model zoning ordinance.

While a comprehensive state analysis is beyond the scope of this report, a notable, common consideration across many states is to regulate industry. For example, with respect to ratepayer protections, states have adopted or proposed requirements such as 1) providing notice to property owners when land is purchased to build a data center, 2) encouraging colocation with electric suppliers, and 3) agreeing to reduce electrical use during emergencies, among other various state approaches. Others are considering regulating industry by prohibiting non-disclosure agreements, enacting moratoriums on building data centers, and addressing environmental considerations, such as requiring the submission of reports detailing water usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

Several states have also considered fiscal legislation to influence development. For example, some states are utilizing or considering a range of tax incentives, such as sales or use tax exemptions or tax abatements on property; incentivizing energy efficiency and environmental requirements; or mandating a minimum number of jobs. While some states are actively considering such incentives, others are considering repealing previously enacted data center tax incentives primarily due to cost, such as lost local revenue.

Federal policy approaches may conflict with state approaches, particularly where presidential initiatives seek to establish a federal framework preempting some state actions. In addition to cost concerns, states may be reconsidering prior initiatives to attract investment due to factors such as public concern and emerging research related to energy and water consumption. Taken together, these developments suggest that sovereigns continue to employ a wide variety of governance strategies, often in response to rapidly evolving technology, political, and societal developments.

Tribal Governance Options for Consideration

As with federal and state governments, tribes may be pressured to act in response to AI data center construction. Tribes considering the potential implications of AI data centers on their communities have a range of available executive and legislative governance options. This section offers internal governance approaches, as well as external engagement strategies related to activities occurring outside their jurisdiction but impacting their rights and interests.

Tribal Executive and Legislative Governing Options

In response to AI data center construction within their jurisdictions, a limited, but growing, number of tribes are considering strategies akin to federal and state approaches. For example, the Cherokee Nation created a data center task force by executive order to review and report on potential economic and natural resource impacts of data centers within their nation. Tribes considering task forces may include a mix of experts from a variety of backgrounds: tribal environmental, economic development, or tax department representatives; legislators; academia; attorneys; industry; or cultural advisors.

Tribes could use their oversight, regulatory, and fiscal functions to prioritize matters of importance to their rights and interests. For example, on March 7, 2026, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma’s Tribal Council enacted a moratorium on data center development on their lands. The ban includes “any inquiries, discussions and/or developments” during the moratorium period. The moratorium is in response to a start- up company’s request for a non-disclosure agreement. As of May 1, 2026, no other tribes appear to have enacted laws addressing AI data centers. However, in Fall 2025, the Muscogee Creek Nation’s National Council considered a legislative proposal that included the development of a data center on their lands. After citizen engagement, the bill ultimately did not pass.

Like emerging federal and state frameworks, tribes considering legislation about AI data centers could review their existing laws and consider: 1) the adequacy of ratepayer protections for their citizens, 2) solutions for electrical grid stability, or 3) updating environmental standards, like water and air quality. Tribes considering building AI data centers within their jurisdiction could regulate industry through actions like zoning or by requiring transparency, such as in nondisclosure agreements. Fiscal incentives could be used to influence development, like requiring data center companies to “bring, build, or buy” their own energy, or to secure investment into their communities, like permanent jobs. Notably, many communities across the country considering AI data center development are experiencing significant public engagement. In considering legislative options, tribes may consider citizenry impacts and involvement.

Because AI data centers require substantial land and energy resources, tribes may wish to gain a detailed understanding of the potential impacts connected to the land, such as cultural resources and tribal treaty rights. For some tribes with limited land bases or connections to the electrical grid, AI data centers on their land may not be optimal or viable. In addition, because a primary emerging priority across both the federal and state

governments involves energy usage and protecting ratepayers, tribes could determine whether these external policy decisions impact energy viability to their communities depending on how the tribe receives energy. Last, tribes considering building data centers may also consider language in contracts or permits addressing data sovereignty.

Tribal External Engagement Strategies with Federal, State, and Tribal Governments

Tribes have several options for external engagement strategies where federal and state actions may impact their tribal rights, interests, and resources. For example, given the Administration’s focus on identifying federal lands for data centers, tribes who have tribal co-management agreements of federal lands could consider if those agreements are implicated. Tribes may also consider cultural resource impacts on federal and state lands and explore existing relevant authorities, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, to assert their rights.

Similarly, engagement strategies could consider the formal federal-tribal consultation process when tribal rights or interests are implicated by federal actions. Utilizing the federal consultation process helps both the tribe and the federal government better understand each side’s position and how to uphold the federal trust responsibility. Likewise, tribes could enact or update laws requiring consultation for matters impacting their rights, interests, and resources regarding data centers. Tribes may consider that, just as federal and state regulatory frameworks may implicate tribal rights and interests, tribal regulatory frameworks may implicate federal and state jurisdictions. Engagement may assist with addressing potential policy and legal conflicts, area of overlap, or jurisdictional constraints between sovereigns.

Tribes also can develop targeted engagement

strategies, either individually or collectively. Apart from consultation, tribes may advocate for agencies to consider tribal interests. Tribes advocating individually may find it easier to describe the interests specific to their nation but may experience challenges with coordination due to the number of agencies involved. Conversely, tribes may find it easier to coordinate and advocate in their collective voice—such as through a forum like a federal roundtable discussion with the agencies acting under the Administration’s policy priorities—however, it may require tribes to agree on shared priorities to maximize federal responsiveness.

Tribes also may consider advocacy before key members of Congress to discuss their rights and interests involving AI data centers. This may inform Congress as it considers bills addressing AI data centers, including discussion on federal preemption of state approaches and whether that may have tribal implications.

Disclaimer: This work has been created on behalf of the Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research (NNCTPR) which seeks to create high quality, non-partisan, neutral research related to Tribal Nations and their citizens. The NNCTPR endeavors to ensure the information presented is authoritative and accurate, but make no claims, promises, or guarantees about the completeness or adequacy of the content contained within this document. All claims expressed in this article do not necessarily represent those of the NNCTPR affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers.

Appendix 1. Summary of U.S. Presidential and White House Actions Regarding Artificial Intelligence Data Centers (July 2025-March 2026)		
Date	Title of Action	Data Center Provisions
July 2025	The White House <i>America’s A.I. Action Plan</i> —Describes three pillars for addressing artificial intelligence (AI): Pillar I: Innovation, Pillar II: Infrastructure, Pillar III: International Diplomacy and Security	Pillar II emphasizes the expedited building of data centers. Policy actions include: - Streamlining federal environmental requirements under the law, such as establishing categorical exclusions under the <i>National Environmental Policy Act</i> to cover activities related to data centers; - Determining if data centers require a nationwide <i>Clean Water Act Section 404 permit</i>; - Expediting environmental permitting review under the <i>Clean Air Act</i>, <i>Clean Water Act</i>, and the <i>Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act</i>, among other relevant laws; - Expanding the <i>FAST-41 program</i> to cover data center projects. The FAST-41 program is a federal program created by the <i>Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act of 2015</i> to assist with streamlining federal agency environmental review of infrastructure decisions and agency coordination; - Making available federal lands for data center construction. Note: The Action Plan does not describe what constitutes Federal lands; - Using AI to assist with <i>federal agency review</i> of environmental law requirements.
July 23, 2025	<i>Executive Order 14318, Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure</i> , implements the A.I. Action Plan by requiring various federal agencies and councils to work together in achieving the A.I. Action Plan goals in building data centers; data centers must meet the definition of “ <i>Qualified Projects</i> ”	E.O. 14318 provides the following: <i>Sec. 5(a)</i>: Requires agencies to report to the Council of Environmental Quality established categorical exclusions under NEPA that data centers could utilize; <i>Sec. 5(b)</i>: Requires CEQ to coordinate with agencies to establish new categorical exclusions for certain projects that “normally do not have a significant effect on the human environment;” <i>Sec. 5(c)</i>: Incentivizes certain qualifying projects by offering financial support including, “loans and loan guarantees, grants, tax incentives, and offtake agreements,” and states federal financial assistance that represents less than 50% of a project’s total costs is presumed to not constitute substantial Federal control and responsibility; <i>Sec. 6</i>: Promotes efficiency and expedition of qualifying data center projects under the FAST-41 program; <i>Sec. 7</i>: Requires the EPA Administrator to develop or modify CAA, CWA, CERCLA, and <i>Toxic Substances Control Act</i>, among other laws, to assist in expediting permitting and leverages Superfund and Brownfield locations;
		<i>Sec. 8(a)</i>: In identifying available federal lands, the Departments of Energy and Interior are required to consult with the EPA for the purposes of <i>section 7 of the Endangered Species Act</i> regarding “common construction activities...that will occur over the next 10 years;” <i>Sec. 8(b)</i>: Requires Assistant Secretary for Army for Civil Works to review nationwide permits under CWA 404 and <i>Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act</i> to determine if a nationwide permit is needed to facilitate streamlining permitting; <i>Sec. 9</i>: Requires the Departments of Energy and the Interior to offer land site authorizations under DOE specific authorities (42 U.S.C. 2201; 42 U.S.C. 7256) and federal public lands administered by Interior (43 U.S.C. 1701); and supports military installation lands for qualifying projects(10 U.S.C. 2667).
December 11, 2025	<i>Executive Order 14365, Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence</i> , addressing state actions considered inconsistent with national priorities	E.O. 14365 requires the preparation of a legislative recommendation that establishes a framework to submit to Congress (see the White House action dated March 2026 below). The framework would not pre-empt state law in specific circumstances, including “AI compute and data center infrastructure, other than generally applicable permitting reforms.”
March 4, 2026	The White House <i>Ratepayer Protection Pledge</i> , lists five pledges where companies agree to ensure consumers do not experience increased energy bills	The Pledge asks companies building data centers to agree to the following: “build, bring, or buy” their own energy to safeguard American consumers from paying for the increase in energy; - pay for power delivery infrastructure upgrades; - voluntarily negotiate their rate structures with utilities and state governments and to pay these rates whether or not they use the negotiated electricity; - invest in the local communities where the data centers will be built; and - contribute to a more reliable grid and to make available their back up generation when needed to prevent power shortages and blackouts to the communities they are in.
March 2026	The White House <i>A National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence: Legislative Recommendations</i> , provides several presidential AI priorities for Congress’s consideration, including data center development	The Framework identifies the following priorities for the Administration regarding data center infrastructure: - ensure protections for ratepayers from energy costs associated with data center construction and operation; - streamline permitting for infrastructure construction; - respect state zoning laws for placement of AI infrastructure.

Data Center provisions are comprehensively summarized and listed to provide a complete summary of data center provisions. The level of detail varies across actions and should not be interpreted as indicating degree of importance. (Native Nations Center for Tribal Policy Research)

AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LNC PASSES MCN CONSERVATION DISTRICT BUDGET INCREASE, HEW PASSES AUTHORIZATION FOR OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND EXPENDITURE FOR VETERANS PROGRAM, BFJ

LNC, Aug 11

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Church & Ceremonial Ground Grant:
Polecat Ceremonial Ground, Tracy Littlehead \$19,100.00 approved
Montesoma Baptist Church, Sandy Denney \$74,800.00 approved
Little Cussetah United Methodist Church, Karen King \$73,029.67 approved

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Church & Ceremonial Ground Emergency Grant:
Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground, Delores Watson \$7,339.45 approved/amended \$5,519.95
Arbeka Indian Baptist Church, Marvin Lowe \$17,500.00 postponed until next month.
Wetumka Indian Baptist Church, Betty Scott \$3,625.12 approved
Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Cory Miller \$7,200.00 approved
Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church, Scott Moore \$856.55 approved

TR 26-048 A tribal resolution of the MCN amending TR 25-033, a tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a real estate contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Cody Phillips sponsored this legislation.

The legislation amends a prior resolution in which the land's legal description, used in the first resolution, conflicted with the official survey. The official survey results were added to the bill.

TR 26-049 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to execute a grant of easement for right-of-way agreement and a grant easement for temporary right-of-way, on behalf of the Nation, with Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, a division of One Gas, Inc., associated with tribal trust property known as Taylor Drive Low Rent Housing, passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Robyn Whitecloud sponsored this legislation.

The Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, a division of One Gas, Inc. (ONG) requires a right-of-way to rebuild a pipeline to help maintain public safety. ONG needs a temporary right-of-way grant for a storage area for their equipment and supplies for 6 to 8 months during the construction.

TR 26-050 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a standard engagement agreement contract with the University of West Georgia passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored this legislation.

The Historic and Cultural Preservation Department gave a consultation on April 29, 2026 for the University of West Georgia for a public humanities event named "Muscogee Ancestral Lands in West Georgia." After the consultation, the MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department agreed to be paid \$2,750.

TR 26-051 A tribal resolution of the MCN authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NAGPRA collections temporary custody agreement for the temporary housing of human remains and cultural items at the USACE Archaeological Repository in Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed with a vote of 4-0. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored this legislation.

Throughout this meeting, the MCN Department of Cultural and Humanities' duties include the protection, preservation, and related matters of items connected to the MCN and its citizens under NAGPRA. For this purpose, the agreement for the temporary custody of certain human remains and cultural items is at the USACE Archaeological Repository located in Tulsa.

NCA 26-120 A law of the MCN authorizing a budget modification in excess of ten percent (10%) for the MCN Realty/Trust Department for the FY 2026 budget was passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Phillips sponsored this legislation.

MCN Realty/Trust Department requested a budget modification within its total for FY 2026. Any modification exceeding 10% requires authorization from the National Council. This budget will reallocate certain funds to other expenses outlined in the attached budget modification request, as stated in the bill.

NCA 26-121 A law of the MCN authorizing the expenditure of FY 24 section 5311(c)(1) Tribal Formula Grant operating funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration for the benefit of the MCN Tribal Transportation Program passed with a vote of 4-0. Rep. Phillips sponsored this legislation.

The MCN Tribal Transportation Program was awarded \$910,086 in grant funds. This will be used to provide public transit across all counties within MCN tribal jurisdiction and to maintain a transit office in each county, as stated in the bill.

NCA 26-122 A law of the MCN amending MCNCA title 28, chapter 9, entitled "Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District," passed 4-0. Rep. Barnett sponsored this legislation with Co-Sponsor Rep. Whitecloud.

There is a need to update the code to ensure the program aligns with present-day practices, and this amendment is necessary so that the MCN Natural Resource Conservation District can budget tribal funds for future growth. The legislation for FY 2027 increases the budget from \$300,000 to \$700,000 for operations and other costs. Additionally, carry-over funds may be expended in the following year without the council's approval.

NCA 26-123 A law of the MCN amending MCNCA Title 5, chapter 2 entitled "Financial Assistance," postponed til next month. Rep. Barnett sponsored this legislation.

HEW, Aug 11

NCA 26-110 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$920,969 for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veteran Affairs Service Office for a veteran wellness program passed 3-0. Representative Lora Harjo-King sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the opioid settlement funds will be used to create a Veteran Wellness Program to assist in supporting veterans and their family members. "I believe we need a native-led program to create safe spaces where their grief is heard," Grover Wind, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, said during the discussion. "They're not afraid to speak out, and they find hope is held there for them."

NCA 26-111 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

authorizing the expenditure of the Marathon Petroleum Community Investment Programs grant of \$45,000 for the benefit of the emergency management department passed 3-0. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the grant funds will be used for the purchase of HazMat response equipment to protect public health and the environment, and ensure responder safety. Heath Underwood, Emergency Management Director, clarified during discussion that the grant would be used for the purchase of gas masks, gas detectors, and a decontamination tent.

NCA 26-112 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the Youth Service America grant of \$1,000 for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Services passed 3-0. Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the grant funds will be used to lead a youth-driven 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance project focused on addressing food insecurity.

NCA 26-113 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the Tulsa Community Foundation Grant of \$10,000 for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Administration passed 3-0. Rep. Harjo-King sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the grant funds will be used to encourage participation in Career Readiness by removing employment barriers and rewarding participants.

NCA 26-114 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation of \$1.7 million for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program, FY 2026 budget passed 3-0. Mary Crawford sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the School Clothing Program anticipates a potential shortfall during the 2026 school clothing season based on last year's expenditures. The supplemental appropriation of funds was requested to offset the potential shortfall.

Rep. Crawford asked how many students were still pending. An employee from the Department of Social Services clarified that there are 2,379 applications pending, not students, adding that there might be more than one student in a household.

Representative Dode Barnett asked whether the number of applications had increased since last year, whether the need was unanticipated, or whether the number of applications was on target for its usual level. The department representative clarified that the number of applications was on target for their usual level. However, the increased speed of approvals has created a shortfall before the next school year.

Rep. Barnett also asked, in recent years, how many times the Department of Social Services requested a special appropriation. The employee from the Department of Social Services said this was the first time for school clothing.

The bill was forwarded to BFJ for funding.

NCA 26-115 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 awarded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the benefit of the College of the Muscogee Nation passed 3-0. Rep. Har-

jo-King sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the grant funds will be used to support attendance at the American Library Association Conference. Dr. Monte Randall, President of the College of Muscogee Nation, clarified that the grant funds would be used to purchase four laptops and eighteen laptop bags, and to allocate roughly \$2,000 for new books and supplies and roughly \$3,000 for the travel of the CMN librarian.

NCA 26-116 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending NCA 26-001 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$23,340 awarded from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for children and families for the benefit of the Head Start preschool program and appropriating a tribal match) Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the bill. It passed 3-0.

Cora Camren, Head Start manager, explained that the Head Start program had received a federal Cost of Living Adjustment of 0.635% and, to meet the 20% federal match, needed an increase to the match budget.

NCA 26-117 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA title 18, §2-104, entitled "Vocational Training; Tribal Grants." Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the bill. It passed 3-0.

The amendment addresses changes to the bill's language. The award will be sent to the student's enrolled institution rather than the student's home address.

NCA 26-118 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA title 35, chapter 8, entitled "Tribal Energy," Rep. Barnett sponsored the bill. It was postponed indefinitely 3-0.

The amendment addresses changes to the bill's language. If adopted, the utility bill would be in the name of the eligible citizen, the spouse of the eligible citizen, or the legal guardian of the eligible citizen, unless the utility must remain in the landlord's name. Applicants of the "Tribal Energy Assistance Program" may participate twice yearly and the grants will be decreased from \$600 to \$400 per household.

During the discussion, Rep. Barnett invited Carmin Tecumseh-Williams, Secretary of Community and Human Services, to speak. Tecumseh-Williams clarified that this decision was made to continue providing the benefits available within budget, outside the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant.

"We knew that we did not want to, one, cut anybody off; exclude anyone," Tecumseh-Williams said. "The monies or the budget that we know that we had were the monies that we had decided this is how we're going to do it in order to continue to provide some level of benefits to our citizens without completely cutting it off."

NCA 26-119 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA title 35, chapter 13, entitled "Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funeral Assistance Program". Rep. Barnett sponsored the bill. It was postponed indefinitely, 3-0.

According to the amendment, the assistance provided to alleviate funeral costs and/or the cost of vaults or burial plots will be reduced from \$7,000 to \$5,000. The Food for Funeral provided to the deceased's family will change from \$750 to \$450.

In other business, Secretary of Health Shawn Terry invited guest speaker Dr. Gerson Koshi, newly appointed Clinical Director of the Muscogee Creek Nation Health Limb Salvage Program, to present the Limb Salvage Program initiative to the MCNNC.

BFJ, Aug. 20

NCR 26-007 A resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council adopting the Rules of Procedures of the National Council. Representative Lucian Tiger sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Representatives Mary Crawford, James Factor, Sandra Golden, William Lowe, Anna Marshall, Cody Phillips, and Darrell Proctor. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, amendments to the Rules of Procedure will take effect. There was no discussion on this bill. The legislation does not specify the changes the amendment makes.

TR 26-052 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a fourth amendment and limited waiver to a revolving loan and security agreement with BOKF, NA dba Bank of Oklahoma. Rep. Tiger sponsored the bill. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, it will release and remove four certain Investment Accounts and amend the Securities Account Control Agreement between the Nation and the Bank of Oklahoma. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-053 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an engagement agreement for legal services with the law firm of Foster Garvey PC on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Golden sponsored the bill. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If the bill is adopted by the full council, the legal services of R. Daniel Carter of Conner & Winters LLP will continue to be utilized. There was no discussion on this bill.

NCA 26-124 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice, FY 2026 Special Attorneys Program Round 2 for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of the Attorney General. Rep. Lowe sponsored the bill. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If the \$1,126,157 bill is enacted into law, the grant will fund the hiring of two prosecutors who will be cross-designated to prosecute cases involving non-citizen offenders. There was no discussion on this bill.

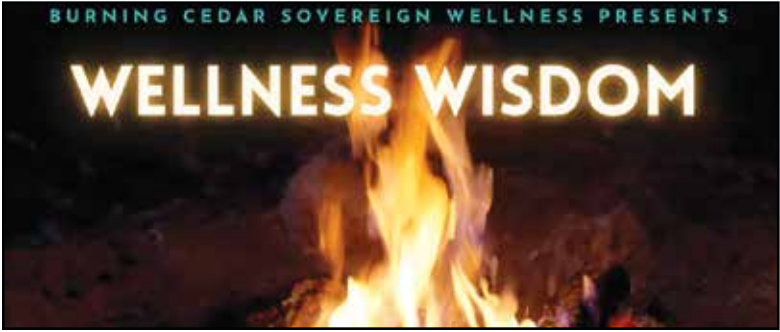
NCA 26-125 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title § 3-1307 entitled "Person Involved In Personal Injury Accident While Under The Influence of Alcohol Or Other Intoxicating Substance - Causing Great Bodily Injury." Rep. Golden sponsored the bill. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If the bill is adopted into law, it will add language to the existing law on DUI offenses. It defines a second DUI offense as a felony. Offenders who cause great bodily harm can face up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. There was no discussion on this bill.

NCA 26-126 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
CONTINUES ON PAGE 9

'WELLNESS WISDOM' DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES AT CIRCLE CINEMA



The official "Wellness Wisdom" poster. (Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness)

BY **BRADEN HARPER**

TULSA – A new documentary, “Wellness Wisdom”, produced by Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness, premiered at the Circle Cinema on Saturday, Aug. 15. The project features 16 Indigenous elders over the age of 70 who represent 12 different Tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Euchee Tribe.

The guiding questions the project asked elders were what wellness means to them, and what their memories of taking care of one another were like.

Nico Williams (Cherokee) is the executive director of Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness, a nonprofit Inter-tribal community center. She serves as a producer on the project. Explaining its purpose, Williams said the idea came from simply talking to elders about their life stories.

“Culture is prevention. Our culture is our way of improving our lifestyles,” Williams said. “We had the opportunity to do this project that we called ‘Wellness Wisdom’, which was to talk to our elders and get their input on how they got to be elders. How did they grow up? What are things they would share with younger generations?”

Okate Smith McCommas (Mvskoke) is the creative project manager for Summerhead Creative, an Indigenous-owned media company. She serves as the project leader on “Wellness Wisdom.” For McCommas, the subject of elders is one she is very close to. Both of her parents are now elders.

“My dad is 78. My mom will be 84 on September 1. In the past few years I have been caregiving more and getting to the point in my life where I’m very grateful that I still have my parents with me,” McCommas said.

“I am very aware of the

fact that a lot of my friends don’t have their parents. I don’t have my grandparents anymore. I am just very aware of the fact that if we want to continue taking their knowledge forward, we have to talk with them, visit with them, and preserve it in some way.”

McCommas said she hopes the project will be shared with the subjects’ descendants in the documentary. Even if they never have the opportunity to meet their grandparents or great-grandparents, they can at least see who they come from.

Both Williams and McCommas noted that as they interviewed more subjects for the project, they found similar elements across the stories. McCommas shared that she even made connections to the elders she interviewed with stories shared by elders in her own life.

“As my husband and I were leaving a shoot we would start to chat and say ‘Wow that elder said something that other elder said.’ That just kept happening. We realized there were commonalities. Even if they may not have known each other beforehand, this generation, this age group has had an interestingly common story,” McCommas said.

The “Wellness Wisdom” screening is open only to Indigenous community members due to the cultural knowledge it shares. Williams explained that none of the interviews will be shared online, and no trailers will be released without the express consent of each elder. This is to ensure their stories are protected.

Williams said there will be more opportunities to see the project in the future at screenings held at Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness. The filmmakers are also looking to host screenings at local Tribal commu-

authorizing the transfer of funds from the fund account formally known as the Health Services Fund to other fund accounts and to the Tribal Energy, School Clothing, Tribal Burial Assistance, and Food for Funeral Assistance Programs’ budgets. Rep. Hufft sponsored the bill. It was cosponsored by Reps. Tiger, Phillips, Factor, and Speaker Randall Hicks. It passed by a vote of 4-0.

If the bill is adopted by the full council, a \$13,179,452 surplus will be transferred from the Health Services Fund Account.

Referred Legislation:

NCA 26-114 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program FY 2026 Budget. Rep. Crawford sponsored the bill. The funding source was approved 4-0.

The funding source was identified as the Motor Fuel Tax.

To view the full committee agendas, visit: mcnn.com.

'MOON PULL' SHINES AT BOOK SIGNING

CHEROKEE AUTHOR REBEKAH WARREN READS EXCERPTS FROM HER FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK, A COLLECTION OF POEMS ON THEMES OF LONGING AND DEVOTION

BY **BRADEN HARPER**

TULSA – Cherokee author Rebekah Warren signed copies of her first published book, Moon Pull, at Palomino Books and Music, an Indigenous and Latine-owned business in the Kendall-Whittier neighborhood on Saturday, August 15. Moon Pull is a collection of poems on themes of longing and devotion. It was published on Wednesday, July 29, by Arcana Poetry Press.

Warren is an English and humanities professor at Rogers State University and has been involved with the Native American Student Association (NASA) on campus. According to Warren, the poems in Moon Pull come from a collection she submitted for a contest held by Arcana Poetry. The contest’s theme was yearning. When Warren learned the contest’s theme, she already had original works in mind to submit.

“I had a couple of columns that fit the bill, and I just expanded on those,” Warren said. “I just dove into that feeling and figured out how to shape a narrative around it.”

The short collection received an honorable mention. The poems were kept on file for potential publication in an anthology. A few months later, Warren reached back out to Arcana Poetry and learned they wanted to publish her collection as a standalone chapbook or a short book of poetry. From there, Warren and her publisher worked hard to craft a uniform narrative.

Warren described the feeling of publishing her first book as “surreal.” She shared that she does not have formal training as a poet, but has written nonfiction works. According to Warren, writing poetry is a much different creative process than writing a novel.

“When I transitioned into poetry, I thought it just felt like a way to quickly access an emotion or a feeling, or a moment, and really slice into it rather than taking 200 pages to tell a story, you know? I really fell in love with that process,” Warren said.

Warren hopes her work might help readers discover who they are and understand they are worthy of self-love. Her advice to other authors is to keep listening



Rebekah Warren signs a copy of her new book, Moon Pull. (Braden Harper/MM)

THE AWAKENING
feet in the creek bed,
eyes toward the leaves
of an oak tree who has seen
a rabbit’s foot in the mouth
of every yearning thing—
I spin and drop and let
the current catch me.

why will no one hold me this way?

cradled between earth and sky,
sunbeams dappling my skin,
stardust illuminating the confines
of my heart—there is too much
for me to hold. I am bursting
with luminosity. a mirror ball
begging for someone to see.

From “Moon Pull”
Rebekah Warren

to their inner voice.

“If I’m talking to a younger, Indigenous creator, I would say you have a voice, what you have to say is important, you want to keep your voice,” Warren said. “When you’re starting out, it’s really tempting to emulate other artists. You might do that a little bit to learn from them, but your individual voice can not be replicated.”

For those who want to immerse themselves more deeply in the atmosphere of Moon Pull, Warren has curated a public Spotify playlist. The playlist is intended to be listened to while reading the book or on the go.

Moon Pull is available

for purchase on the Arcana Poetry Press website, arcanapoetrypress.com. It is also available at major book retailers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Warren’s next book signing for Moon Pull will be at The Same Page in Claremore on Thursday, Aug. 27, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Palomino Books and Music is located at 2411 E. Admiral Blvd. They are open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Warren’s poetry can also be found on Substack and Instagram under the handle, [rebekahwarrenwrites](https://www.instagram.com/rebekahwarrenwrites).



Rebekah Warren reads excerpts from her new book, Moon Pull. (Braden Harper/MM)

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IN MEMORIAM

Funeral services for Gladys Deanne Sweezy were held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Springfield Methodist Church of Okemah. Interment followed at the Palmer-Barnett Cemetery. Wake services were on Tuesday at the Springfield Methodist Church.

Gladys “Buttons” Deanne Barnett-Sweezy, she, was born on April 19, 1961, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and passed away on August 5, 2026, in the same city she called home throughout her life.

Gladys lived a life marked by love, resilience, and devotion to her family. She was a woman whose presence could be felt in every room, and she was known for her warm spirit, her steady strength, and the care she showed to those around her. She carried herself with grace and a quiet determination that touched the lives of many, and she will be remembered with deep affection by all who knew her.

She graduated from high school and went on to serve others as a Certified Nurse’s Assistant, a role that reflected her compassionate heart and her willingness to help those in need. Through her work, she demonstrated patience, kindness, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. Her life of service was a meaningful part of who she was, and it left a lasting impression on the people she cared for and worked alongside.

Gladys found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved visiting thrift stores, browsing bookstores, and spending time at yard sales, always enjoying the excitement of finding something special. She especially cherished visiting with her sisters, and she loved her grandchildren dearly. These moments brought her happiness and reflected the deep family bonds that were so important to her.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Marcianna Renee (Littleman) Jacobs; her step-father, Eddie Jacobs her sisters, Tsiannina Barnett and Natasha Santana; her nephews, Terry Hoang and Charles Jason Smith; her grandmother, Pauline Flyingman; her grandpa, Robert Boone and grandfather, Robert Littleman; and her grandma, Florence Barnett. Their memories remained close to her heart, and she carried their love with her throughout her life.

Gladys is survived by her husband, Robert Sweezy; her father, Sampson Barnett; her sons, Christopher Hawk of McAlester, George Hawk, Jr. of Oklahoma City, Matthew Sweezy of Guthrie, and Robert Sweezy, Jr. of Oklahoma City; her daughters, Tsiannina Barnett of Oklahoma City, and Dylan Sweezy of Oklahoma City; her brothers, Damin Jacobs of Oklahoma City, and Anthony Walkingbear of Oklahoma City; and her sisters, Vanessa Smith of Oklahoma City, Denise Meshaya of Oklahoma City, Shauna Barnett of Oklahoma City, Michelle Snow and husband William of Oklahoma City, Cassandra Fixico of Oklahoma City, Karen Barnett of Oklahoma City, and Cindy Barnett of Oklahoma City. She also leaves behind many grandchildren, extended family members, and friends who will forever treasure her memory.

Those serving as pallbearers were Christopher Hawk, Jr., Ricky Burns, Matthew Sweezy, Andrew Barnett, Tsiannina Barnett, and Robert Sweezy, Jr.

Those serving as honorary pallbearers were Elin Hawk, Charles Proctor III, Lucas Nystrom, Jaden Snow, Jarrod Snow, Ray Smith, and Tyler Smith.

Gladys “Buttons” Deanne Barnett-Sweezy is remembered for her loving heart, her devotion to family, and the many ways she brought comfort and joy to those around her. Her life was a gift, and her memory will continue to live on in the hearts of her loved ones.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home, Okemah, Oklahoma, and officiated by Rev. Clarence Yaholar.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I apologize for any perception that Mrs. Virginia Thomas had embezzled money or committed any fraud. My only hope is for an investigation into community funds. It was never my intent to harm Ms.Virgina Thomas or her reputation; Ms.Thomas is and has been an awesome advocate for the elders and holds my highest respect for her work in the community.

Theressa Golden July 14, 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

THE MVSKOKE NEWS IS FREE! FOR ALL ENROLLED MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Grandparents’ Day Elders’ Talent Show Elder Services

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m

All performances must be preregistered by Wednesday, Aug. 19 must be an MCN age 55 years or older 2950 Warrior Rd, Okmulgee

For info, 918-732-7765

Elder’s Meeting

Okmulgee Elder Nutrition Center

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 9:30 a.m.

1021 N. Seminole Ave., Okmulgee

Native Owned Business Expo Contracting and Employment Support Office

Thursday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

8330 Riverside Parkway, Tulsa

Resume Workshop Employment & Training Administration

Friday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2951 N. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

Still Sovereign: Land, Law, Memory University of Tulsa

Friday, Sept. 4 - Saturday, Nov. 21, Noon - 5 p.m.

Open Wednesdays - Fridays, admission is free. Exhibition curated by Carly Treece

101 E. Archer St., Tulsa

Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 5, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided, family members are encouraged to bring drinks and deserts. There will be a waterslide for children, please bring towels. Bring an auction or door prize gift

Kialegee Life Center

7805 E. 122, Wetumka

For info, 918-623-7998.

Coffee and Donuts

Veteran Affairs Services Office

Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1006 Bear Lane, Okmulgee

Program Fair

Holdenville Regional Office

Friday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

801 Kingsberry Road, Holdenville

For info, 405-452-1100

Board Election

Checotah Indian Community

Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

500 West Owens Avenue, Checotah

Career Resource Fair MCN Employment & Training

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Event will include resume building assistance, over 30 vendors and drawings

Mvskoke Dome

2950 Warrior Road, Okmulgee

For info, 918-732-7824

Operation Reconnect Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs

Thursday, Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The one day event for veterans will offer Tribal, VA and Community Resources

200 Preston Road, Okmulgee

Hotvle En Pefatkvilke 5k Mvskoke Nation Youth Services

Saturday, Sept. 26, 7:30 a.m.

Registration requires the donation of one new toy valued at \$25 or more. The first 100 participants will receive a T-shirt

To sign up, contact sarneecher@muscogeenation.com

Fairgrounds Rd, Okmulgee

Bible Study

Weleetka United Methodist Fellowship

Wednesday Nights at 6 p.m.

Bible study will bring good fellowship and lively discussion with light refreshments

543 7th St., corner of Hwy 75 and 7th, Weleetka

Health Shelf Donation Drive

College of Muscogee Nation Health & Wellness is seeking hygiene products, laundry detergent, and gently used blankets and pillows for students in need. Every five items donated will enter donors into a drawing

Donations can be dropped off at 2170 Raven Circle, Okmulgee

For info, 918-549-2800.

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT



John F. Smith
U.S. Air Force
Cold War Era
1953 - 1957

The Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office is proud to honor John F. Smith for his dedicated service to the Muscogee Nation, U.S. Air Force and the United States. John honorably served four years and is a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Mvto John for your selfless service to your country and your community.

MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

LEGALS

DISTRICT COURT
JUL 2016 - 5 A 430

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:) Case No. CD-2024-55
)
J.G. and,)
A.G.)
Minor Children.)

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN**

Notice is hereby given that MARSHA SCOTT has filed in the District Court of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a petition requesting the appointment of a guardian of the person and property of J.G., date of birth June 27, 2011 and A.G., date of birth October 29, 2016.

And that the 10 day of September, 2026 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock, 9 a.m., in courtroom of the Muscogee Creek Nation District Court has been appointed as the time and place for hearing the petition, when and where any persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why such appointment should not be made.

DATED this 5 day of August, 2026.


JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

A.P.; DOB: 12/30/2024,
Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

DISTRICT COURT
FILED
JUN 16 2025
Case No. JV-2025-14
JANISCH
WINTERS / JALKMAN
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

ANTHONY PRADO, Natural Father to A.P.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the October 01, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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


JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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

IN THE MATTER OF: }

E.M.; DOB: 07-09-2026, }
T.P.; DOB: 01-27-2012, } JV-2026-14
}

Alleged Deprived Children. }

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: **UNKNOWN FATHER**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the alleged father of said child, E.M., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 1st day of **OCTOBER, 2026**, at the hour of **9:00 a.m.**, for an **Adjudication/Disposition Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE DETAINED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 10th day of AUGUST, 2025.



Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

[Seal]



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