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MVSKOKE NEWS

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HISTORY, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY CONNECT AT THE 34TH ANNUAL OCMULGEE INDIGENOUS CELEBRATION



BY SHAYLN PROCTOR

OCMULGEE – The 34th annual Ocmulgee Indigenous Celebration took place Sept. 12-13 at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park in Macon, Ga. The event hosted a number of Indigenous artists, a hands-on collaborative mobile mural project, traditional cultural dance demonstrations, MCN department booths, Mvskoke storytelling, food, activities, and more. This event was free to the public.

The Ocmulgee Mounds Association conveyed its appreciation to all involved in the festival. “We are grateful to all of the artists, cultural educators, dancers, musicians, demonstrators, and guests who traveled to Ocmulgee to share with our community. We are especially grateful to the Muscogee Nation for your guidance, friendship, and continued partnership. It is a privilege to work with so many wonder-

HOMELANDS

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Scenes from the 34th Ocmulgee Indigenous Festival, Sept. 12 & 13, in Macon Ga. (ALL IMAGES Shayln Proctor/MM)

WHO IS STEWARDING COUNCIL OAK PARK?

GREATER TULSA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION REVEALS THE CITY IS STILL INVOLVED WITH PARK MAINTENANCE

BY BRADEN HARPER

TULSA – The Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, during which it revealed that the city is still maintaining Council Oak Park and Stick Ball Park. The parks were returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on Saturday, Nov 1, 2025. The ownership was conveyed with the conditions that the Nation take care of the park and that they remain open to the public.

During the GTIAC, Director of Tribal Policy & Partnerships Amanda Swope (Mvskoke) explained that although the park was returned to the Nation, some municipal departments were unaware that it was no longer under the city’s ownership. Since the park transferred ownership, city resources have still been used to maintain it.

“After all this time, even though the transfer took place last year, we realized that somewhere along the line, it wasn’t communicated down to city departments or city staff,” Swope said during the meeting.

“There were still some city park staff and city park vendors that mowed the site, cleaned up the site, provided horticulture care, and things like that. Right now, because those are issues that did not come up during the initial transfer, we’re in communication with Secretary Butler about when they want the city to stop doing those things and when they can take them on, so there’s no lapse in the care of the site.”

Swope said the city has not yet sat down with the Nation to discuss when the services will end. She explained that the city is still working with the Tvlse Council Oak Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit that aims to preserve the park through community clean-up events. Their latest event occurred on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Council Oak Park and Stick Ball Park were dropped from the Monarchs Over the Mountain Festival’s Mobile Migration Garden list during a Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 4. The site was dropped due to what was described as neglect and alleged herbicide use.

The memorandum of understanding between the Nation and the city refers to the Nation as the proper steward of the historically significant sites. Per the memorandum, 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.”

The MOU outlined three conditions of the conveyance. The first condition was that the City of Tulsa convey the parks and artwork installations through separate quitclaim deeds. A quitclaim deed transfers ownership of real estate from one party to another and does not guarantee the property’s condition.

The second condition is that the parks must be maintained by the Nation for the benefit of the general public. The third condition is that the Nation agrees not to sell, donate, or otherwise convey the parks to any other party.

Mvskoke Media reached out to Swope to further clarify whether the city used herbicides at the park. Swope’s office did not respond for comment.

The Tvlse Council Oak Foundation and the MCN will host a 50 Years of Recognition public event on Tuesday, September 29, at 5 p.m. The event will be held at the Brut Hotel, located at 1840 S. Boulder Ave in Tulsa. It will honor the 50th anniversary of the Council Oak Park’s recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

The full Sept. 15 GTIAC meeting can be viewed at the Tulsa Government Access Television website. To find the recording, select the Indian Affairs Commission drop-down menu under the Available Archives section.

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DANIEL MARSHALL FINDS HIS PATH IN SCIENCE, ONE TICK AT A TIME

MVSKOKE CITIZEN EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH AND OUTREACH.

BY KATY LEARD

ARCADIA, Okla. – For Daniel Marshall, a career studying ticks was not exactly part of the original plan.

Marshall, a Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen, earned his Ph.D. in entomology from Washington State University in 2025. His work focuses on the behavior and ecology of the Lone Star tick, a species common throughout much of the eastern United States.

His path into the field, however, began with mosquitoes.

Marshall earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of Central Oklahoma after becoming interested in medical entomology during the 2015-2016 Zika virus outbreak. When it came time to pursue a doctorate, he found a fully-funded program at WSU and moved to the Pacific Northwest, despite having little experience working with ticks.

“I moved there not knowing anything about ticks, and I learned a lot,” Marshall said.

For his doctoral research, Marshall studied how Lone Star ticks move through their environment. He conducted mark-recapture studies, collecting ticks in the Stillwater area, marking them, and releasing them back into the woods to track their movements.

The work aimed to address a practical problem: traditional methods for surveying ticks do not always work well for Lone Star ticks.

Marshall continues to work with his former adviser on research to determine how researchers can more accurately detect and monitor tick populations. Their work includes developing mathematical models to determine how often researchers should sample an area, how long they should sample, and how many traps they need.

That research earned Marshall the 2026 John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award from the Entomological Society of America’s Pacific Branch. The award is one of six presented annually by ESA, with one student selected from each branch of the organization.

Marshall said receiving the award was both surprising and validating.

His doctoral program required five years of work and meant moving away from his family. Having his work recognized by professionals in his field gave him a sense that his sacrifices had been worthwhile.

“It was validating,” Marshall said. “The Ph.D. was five years of my life. That was kind of full commitment.”

But his research was only part of what led to the recognition.

During his fieldwork at Lake McMurtrey near Stillwater, Marshall developed an outreach program with a summer camp. He began speaking to children about insects, ticks, and staying safe outdoors.

What started as an obligation quickly became one of the most rewarding parts of his doctoral work.

More than 300 children eventually participated in the program. Marshall used photographs and hands-on activities to teach them how to identify ticks, where they were most likely to encounter them, and how to reduce their risk of tick-borne illness.

He also measured what the children learned before and after his presentations and found roughly a 30% improvement in their scores.

“That ended up being the most rewarding part of the whole thing,” Marshall said.

His work also carries a personal connection to Oklahoma.

As a citizen, Marshall said his heritage has influenced the questions he asks as a researcher. The Mvskoke Reservation is in an area where tick-borne illnesses are prevalent, something Marshall himself has experienced.

His identity has also shaped the way he experiences the scientific community.

At conferences, Marshall said Native students and researchers often seek one another out, creating a community within the broader field of entomology.

For Marshall, that representation matters.

“Everyone brings something different to the table,” he said. “Every single person has a different perspective and a different series of events that have led them to thinking a certain way that they do.”

He said having diverse perspectives in science helps researchers think more broadly and can preserve knowledge and perspectives that might otherwise be lost.



Mvskoke citizen Daniel Marshall was nationally recognized for his research on lone star ticks. (Katy Leard/MM)

Marshall hopes his own career can provide that same encouragement to other native students considering careers in science.

His path has not always been easy, he said, and there have been plenty of starts and stops along the way.

“If somebody is wanting to go this route... I would like to encourage them to look back on what I’ve done so far and not be discouraged,” Marshall said. “You can always start over.”

Today, Marshall continues his research while also working through Marshall Biological Consulting, where he helps bridge academic, industry, and government research on arthropods affecting human and animal health.

His research on tick surveillance could eventually have applications beyond ticks. Marshall and collaborators are also working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on methods to detect and monitor screwworm flies, an emerging concern for the U.S. livestock industry.

For Marshall, however, the work continues to return to the same basic idea: asking questions, learning from the answers, and continuing when those answers lead to more questions.

And for the next generation of Native scientists, he hopes his story shows that a difficult path does not necessarily mean the wrong path.

“I hope that people are at least willing to stick things out if they do choose to follow a similar route that I did,” Marshall said.

HARD HATS ON CAMPUS

CMN LEADERSHIP REPORTS THREE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ARE COMPLETE, THREE REMAIN ONGOING

BY BRADEN HARPER



Memorial Hall will be located SW of the Administration Building. (Braden Harper/MM)

OKMULGEE – The College of the Muscogee Nation’s campus continues to grow with six construction projects this year, three of which are now complete. The three completed projects include a housing addition, a housing kitchen remodel, and a sewer line upgrade. Ongoing projects include the new Muscogee Memorial Hall, the new Clock Tower, and the new North Prairie site.

According to College of the Muscogee Nation President Dr. Monte Randall, all current projects have been and are expected to be completed on schedule. The North Prairie and Clock Tower completion estimate is the end of to October. The Muscogee Memorial Hall is on track to be completed in November. Randall said that projects have caused minimal disruptions for students and staff.

“Fortunately, we’ve only had one remodel. Everything else has been new construction. We had to relocate our food pantry and some of the recreational amenities in the housing area during the summer when our enrollment is usually down,” Randall said.

Muscogee Memorial Hall will be located to the southwest of the Administration Building. The Clock Tower will be located west of the Administration Building and

north of the Muscogee Memorial Hall- it will be used for student gatherings.

The housing addition will include four new units, adding 16 beds for campus living and bringing the total to 100. Randall said this will help reduce the number of applicants on the housing waiting list. Turtle Lodge has been remodeled into a student community kitchen.

Big plans are in store for the North Prairie site- the area will become more accessible for students. It will also offer them more on-campus activities to engage in.

“North Prairie is going to be focused on student activities,” Randall said. “In addition to construction pads for future buildings, you’ll see a stickball field, sand volleyball courts, and an archery range. We’re going to put it back in the Three Sisters Garden, that’s managed by the students. We’ll have additional outdoor seating, a fishing dock around the pond, and a pedestrian bridge going over the pond. Really, it’s going to enhance the aesthetics of that location, of that site in the north area.”

Randall said the new buildings will provide more library and resource space. This will allow the college to start exploring bachelor’s degree offerings.

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MVSKOKE WATERS, VISITING THE GALLERY

BY SHELLEY PATRICK

All manner of visitors come by the gallery on any given day we are open. Some are from the surrounding communities. Some are our own Mvskokvlke. We get visitors from other tribal nations and from nations all over the world. As the Gallery Technician, I get to greet and speak to them all. It's a very fun position to have in the community. I learn a lot from visitors, and they, in turn, learn about our art and our Nation from me. I enjoy it very much. One of the best parts of this job at the gallery is the visiting. It is a very important time to use for engagement and interaction with everyone who passes through our doors.

Everyone gets happily greeted. "Hesci! Hello! Welcome to Mvskoke Waters Gallery," visitors often hear right as they come in the door. From the timid "lookers" to the confident "comers-in", "Thank you!" is usually the smiling reply back. It's nice to be greeted and welcomed inside. It can keep people from feeling out of place. "Is this a museum or a gallery?" is a common question to be asked next. "This is our fine arts gallery, the only tribally owned and operated gallery in the greater Tulsa area. We are owned by The Muscogee Nation," I explain. If given the chance, then I go on to tell how long we have been open (since December of 2025), what exhibition is showing (currently Este Mvskoke Honvn-take: Our Stories, the men's show), and what artists they will be seeing (Muscogee enrolled and Euchee). All visitors get some or all of this information so they know where they are and the importance we place on our art and artists.

Oftentimes, I quietly allow visitors to peruse the gallery and take in the art. I hear their discussions and



thoughts they speak to each other over artworks. Sometimes people know the artists or have some of their art already. That makes everyone happy. Sometimes people know nothing of the art or artists, but find some vision, theme, idea, or opinion of the art that grants them a strong rapport (connection) to the piece they are viewing. If I know any extra information about that piece, views by the artist, or background of the artwork, I offer this knowledge at that time. "That artist whose art you are looking at has been developing that technique for this many years..." or "That artist told me the story of that piece. It is..." are examples of what I share, with prior permission from the artist or family of course.

We visit and discuss art, artists, the Nation, and life. Community members, tribal members, visiting nations, and more, we spend our time talking and listening, teaching and learning, and growing together as neighbors in a place of art. As the Gallery Technician, I find it very important visiting each other in the gallery.

DELAUNE'S CORNER: EMPTY NESTER

THE TRANSITION PHASE

BY DARREN DELAUNE

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — Stonko? Stonkis sos. Centv. (How are you?) (I am well) (And you). Mvto to all of my Mvhayvs' (Teachers) for teaching me our language. Even the simplest words and sentences do not go on deaf ears.

I asked Mvskoke Media if I could do another guest column for you all. Mvto, MM!

For this column, I will write to you about something that I have never thought of, ever, but it is playing a big part in my life now. That is, being an empty nester.

We all know what that is, it is when your children grow up and move out of the house. They are becoming their own adults. I will be honest, it is tough.

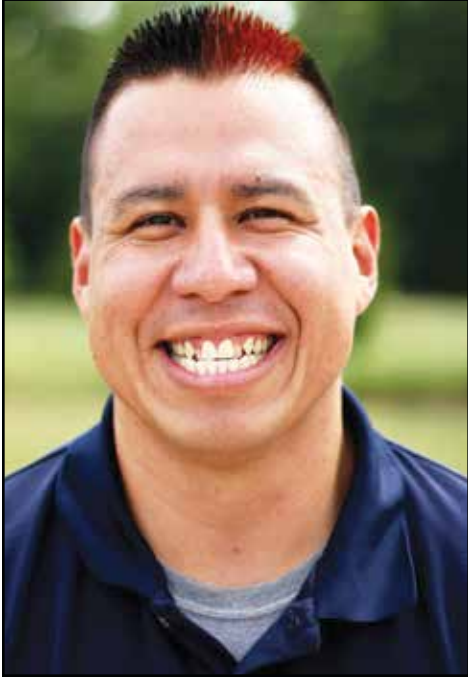
Our oldest daughter moved out when she was 19 years old, to go to college, and our youngest has work and school. Because of that we only see her in the evenings. Majority of the time we are already asleep when she comes home.

I cannot lie, people. I miss them a lot. I have to remind myself that this was going to happen. It is expected. Our job as parents is to do our best and get them ready for when they do leave. It is not easy, at all when they go.

One thing that I am afvcke (happy) about, is when I do get to see them. Even if it is just a few minutes, makes my day.

Hvtvm (again), that is not easy to only see your children a few minutes but that is not their fault either. They are making lives of their own and they have schedules too.

I believe that is the point for all of us as parents. When seeing our kiddos, no matter how long of the time, is to enjoy that moment.



Because the time apart, is already too much.

If you have read my columns from when I was with MM, you know I try new things. I have danced, was a professional boxer (don't ask for my record), and played soccer. I can keep myself busy when needed. But now I need to stay busy more than ever. So, the wife and I started something very new to us. We started a garden and are planting trees at our home.

Very different but it does keep us busy for the times when we are missing our kids. This does not fill the whole void, but it does help.

Found a quote from a Goodreads edition. "There is a second act, a future with your name on it, different from your children's but filled with hope and surprises you cannot begin to imagine."

If you are an empty nester, or recently became one, and you see me out and about, tell me what you like to do to help pass the time now that your children are out of the house. I love to hear what you all do.

Until next column. Hvtvm cehe-cares.

VETERANS EDITION

Mvskoke Media is now taking submissions for the 2026 Veterans Edition of the Newspaper set to publish on November 1st

— ★ ★ ★ —

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

Submissions will be accepted no later than Wednesday, October 21st at 5pm CST

Send submissions to info@mvskokemedia.com

RESTORING THE DEEP FORK, WELL BY WELL



Well Done Foundation contractors are hard at work plugging an orphan well in the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge. (Braden Harper/MM)

TRIBES AND NONPROFITS PARTNER TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM ABANDONED AND UNPLUGGED OIL WELLS

BY BRADEN HARPER

This story is our sixth in a series by the Mvskoke News team focusing on climate solutions on the Mvskoke Reservation. This year, Mvskoke Media has been part of the Climate Beacon Newsroom Initiative. The initiative supported our newsroom’s skills development in story production, specifically stories focused on responses to climate and environmental challenges.

MVSKOKE RESERVATION – Nestled in the heart of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation lies the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge. It is home to a diverse array of wildlife and plant life, as well as human visitors who enjoy its beauty. Established in 1993, it contains one of the last remaining bottomland hardwood forests in Oklahoma. Found within the vast landscape are orphan wells, scars from a bygone era of oil drilling. Today, organizations like the Well Done Foundation are implementing solutions to plug them.

The area was used by local Tribes including the Wichita Nation, the Caddo Nation, and the Osage Nation, from the 1500s to the 1800s. Later, after Removal from the homelands in the 1830s, Creek survivors of the Trail of Tears settled in the area and established the capital city of Okmulgee. Creeks made good use of the land by hunting and trading on it. In the early 1900s, oil was discovered, attracting many businessmen to the area. After years of drilling, the oil wells eventually came up dry.

Orphan wells are abandoned oil and gas wells that are no longer owned or managed. After two years of inactivity, the wells are deemed abandoned. They cause significant environmental harm by leaking methane and CO₂e. A dataset map published by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in 2022 estimates there are 18,316 recorded orphan wells in the state.

Today, in a drained wetland in the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge, you will find Curtis Shuck and his crew plugging orphan wells left behind. Shuck is the Chairman of the Well Done Foundation, a Montana-based nonprofit whose mission is to plug orphan wells nationwide.

Oil well plugging is a process that permanently closes an oil well by using heavy machinery to pour cement from the bottom to the top.

So far, Well Done has plugged 37 orphan wells in the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge. Shuck said there are still 69 more to go, and new orphan wells are still being discovered.

Before founding Well Done, Shuck had worked in the oil and gas industry for over 30 years. It wasn’t until 2019 that Shuck came across his first orphan well during a consultation in Montana.

“I saw these orphan wells out in the middle of this beautiful wheat field. I just couldn’t believe my eyes,” Shuck said.

“There was all of this garbage left behind. Oil field trash, pump jacks, pipe, timbers, the wells were leaking methane and hydrogen sulfide. Not only could you see the mess, you could smell it.”

Shuck described his reaction as “embarrassing” as an industry professional. During that same day, the more orphan wells Shuck discovered on the property, the more he felt a pull to do something about it. During the four-hour drive home, he began taking the first steps to acquire domain names for the Well Done Foundation. He described his experience as a calling, though his feelings change from day to day.

“It was during that day that the name came and this vision appeared,” Shuck said, “sometimes I call it a calling, other times, maybe it’s a curse, you know what I mean?”

“Kind of depends on the day. Today is more of a calling.”

Shuck believes that plugging orphan wells offers a solution to the environmental damage they cause and, by implementing it, can prevent further damage. Although the number of orphan wells in Okmulgee County can be overwhelming, each well plugged is a victory for Shuck.

“The reality is we need to do something, right? Doing nothing is not an option,” Shuck said. “Doing nothing means that you’re getting ready to have to respond to an emergency because eventually these wells will fail.”

Since its conception in 2019, the nonprofit has plugged 127 wells across the country. Shuck routinely works with corporate sponsors and state agencies to take gas measurements from thousands of wells. He describes the effort as nonpartisan; the goal is to simply plug the wells. Plugging also creates economic opportunities for local contractors in the areas where the orphan wells are found. Shuck explained that businesses owned by Tribal citizens or that employ Tribal citizens are prioritized by Well Done for work.

When it comes to consulting with Tribes on well plugging, Shuck understands that it is important to know which reservation the orphan well is on. He said some Tribes are more hands-on with the well-plugging consultation process, while others are more hands-off.

Some Tribes, like the Blackfeet Nation, require a certain number of Tribal citizens to work on the project. They also require business licenses. Regardless, Shuck ensures the proper consultation processes are followed, including Section 107 Technical Requirements and Standards and Section 106 Tribal Consultations.

In 2023, the Muscogee Nation received nearly \$1 million to access 166 wells. In 2024, the Biden Administration established the Federal Orphaned Well Program. A total of \$4.7 billion was used to fund plugging and remediation efforts.

MCN Environmental Specialist II Trent Luellen believes that modern well plugging is a solution for the issue of orphan wells. He explained that most of the wells his department inspects are plugged, but they were not properly plugged. They can leak due to tectonic plates shifting in the ground. These wells are referred to as “legacy wells.” Luellen explained they may have been previously plugged; however, over time, they simply deteriorated.

“It did plug the well and keep any fluid migration from happening. With the ground moving, with tectonic plates, with earthquakes, sometimes stuff gets shaken, shaken loose, it can begin leaking again,” Luellen said. “Some of the things we’re running into is a well that has already been previously plugged but is now leaking. So we have to go back into that well and replug it, put bridge plugs in, and concrete it back to the top.”

Luellen’s department specifically scans and documents orphan wells on Tribal trust properties. So far, they have located 198 orphan wells on Tribal trust properties.

In a press release, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Manager Todd Gallion said that orphan well plugging is important to the Deep Fork Refuge’s future. When an uncapped well pollutes the environment, it affects everything. Gallion thinks plugging is an act of environmental reclamation.

“Orphan wells have been a persistent problem for the refuge. Their presence is holding us back from cleaning up old contaminant sites and returning habitats to their natural state,” Gallion said in a release.

“Capping these wells will benefit native species and improve hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing for visitors to the refuge. Basically, addressing this problem means that we can reclaim the land for everyone’s benefit.”

Limitations

Well plugging presents its own challenges and limitations. Plugging a well can take up to two weeks, or 10 working business days. On average, it requires a crew of 10 workers. This includes a cementing crew, truck drivers, and a safety team. Because Shuck is a federal contractor, he doesn’t plug wells on weekends or federal holidays.

According to Shuck, an average orphan-well site requires at least 20 truckloads of equipment to set up before the plugging process can begin. Wooden crane mats must be placed on the ground so construction vehicles and equipment can easily reach the orphan well site.

Challenges to plugging include “burps,” when oil comes to the surface of the well. If the well is not connected to anything, oil leaks out. Wells can also leak hydrogen sulfide and methane. Sites need to be tested to determine whether they pose a danger.

Luellen explained that each site is different, especially if the well has already been plugged. Well depths can range from 1,200 ft to 5,000 ft. According to Luellen, each orphan well can cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$125,000 to plug, and the process takes time.

“Sometimes you have to streamline all the way to the bottom of a well to see if there’s a plug there. Sometimes you have to drill out the plugs in order to back it up. You have to reinstall plugs, you have to do concrete to so many feet above the aqua tables, or water tables. It’s a lengthy process,” Luellen said.

For Gallion and the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge staff, the work to clean up the environment continues. The hope is that if the wells are plugged properly, they will create a cleaner, safer future for those who pass through and enjoy the area’s beauty.

“We want to make sure that we care for and protect the watershed by removing any known and potential contaminant sources and restoring bottomland hardwood habitats, including wetlands,” Gallion said in a release. “These restored habitats can provide ecosystem service, like being water filters to the landscape, improving water quality for communities downstream. Addressing orphan wells is a vital part of that mission.”

According to Shuck, he has not yet encountered an orphan well in the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge that has become an ecological disaster. However, he said that does not make his mission in the area any less urgent.

“Every one of them has the potential for being that disastrous,” Shuck said. “Given the proximity to the Deep Fork River, this critical habitat we’re around, those become even more important beyond just air and water. It’s also the critters that call this place home.”

Orphan well plugging can be lengthy and costly to implement. It takes professionals with the knowledge to coordinate teams, raise money, and manage safety risks. Despite these limitations, Shuck, Luellen, and Gallion agree that the mission is important and is worth the results.

Well by well, areas on the Mvskoke Reservation, such as the Deep Fork Wildlife Refuge, are slowly becoming safer, healthier habitats for all species that live there.

HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY LANDS CONFERENCE BRINGS TRIBAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS TOGETHER



Courtney Natsaway, CMN Extention Educator, presents at the TAP “Healthy Soils, Healthy Lands” Fall 2026 Conference. (Katy Leard/MM)

A TWO-DAY GATHERING AT EUCHEE BUTTERFLY FARM CONNECTS SOIL HEALTH, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, AND NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION

by KATY LEARD

BIXBY – Tribal citizens, conservation professionals, and agricultural experts gathered at the Euchee Butterfly Farm Sept. 16-17 for the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators’ Fall 2026 Conference, centered on a fundamental part of healthy ecosystems: the soil beneath them.

The two-day “Healthy Soils, Healthy Lands” conference focused on land management practices that support healthy habitats and agricultural lands, including soil health, native plant restoration, prescribed fire, sustainable agriculture, and pollinator conservation.

Euchee Butterfly Farm director and Tribal Alliance for Pollinators co-founder Jane Breckinridge (Mvskoke/Yuchi) said the conference was designed to connect the way Indigenous people think about caring for the land with practical knowledge that can be put into action.

“We’re not going to have healthy lands until we have healthy soils,” Breckinridge said.

The conference brought together speakers from tribal communities, universities, and federal agencies to share traditional knowledge, technical expertise, and available resources. Presentations included prescribed fire and patch-burn grazing, seed reatriation and Native food sovereignty, traditional Mvskoke agriculture, soil management, and federal agriculture programs.

Breckinridge said native plants can play an important role in protecting soil and creating resilient ecosystems. She pointed to the deep root

systems of native grasses and plants, which can better withstand drought, anchor topsoil, and bring nutrients to the surface.

Those restoration efforts are visible at the Euchee Butterfly Farm. Breckinridge said the property contains 14 acres of original native prairie remnant, along with former hay meadows that have undergone approximately eight years of restoration. Areas she described as once supporting little biodiversity are now home to flowers, butterflies, native bees, fireflies, birds, and other wildlife.

Breckinridge emphasized that restoring habitat is not limited to Tribal governments or large landowners. Individuals can contribute by reducing pesticide and herbicide use, establishing nontoxic areas, and planting nectar sources, even in containers. Butterfly gardens should also include host plants that provide food for caterpillars, she said.

“Every single one of us can make a difference,” Breckinridge said.

Ultimately, Breckinridge said she hoped attendees left the conference with both practical knowledge and a sense of community.

She said participants should know “they’re not alone,” and that other people and Tribal communities are willing to share information, resources, and support.

“There’s technical support to help you, and there’s community to help you,” Breckinridge said. “But, yeah, it’s time to get up off the couch, stop doomscrolling, and get doing.”



Oske Lowe and his family attend Oske night during the Holdenville home game against Wewoka on Friday, Sept. 4. (Courtesy: Carrie McFarland)

OSKE LOWE'S HEALING JOURNEY REACHES 10-YEAR MILESTONE

NANCY RANDALL REFLECTS ON THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF HER SON'S RECOVERY

by BRADEN HARPER

HOLDENVILLE – Oske Lowe (Mvskoke) has now celebrated 10 years of resilience and recovery after surviving a traumatic brain injury sustained during his senior year of high school. Lowe and his family were honored at Oske Night, the Holdenville home game against Wewoka on Friday, Sept. 4. Holdenville trounced Wewoka 62-20. According to Lowe’s mother, Nancy Randall (Mvskoke), Lowe’s healing journey has been tough. However, she is thankful he is currently in good health.

“It’s just trying sometimes, especially the first five years,” Randall said. “We have been living day by day.”

During Oske Night, the Lowe family was recognized in the stands, and the story of Lowe’s injury was shared. The night was a small reunion where Lowe saw former high school teachers, coaches, and students.

Oske’s injury

Lowe sustained a traumatic brain injury during the second game of his senior year on Sept. 1, 2016. He complained of a headache during the third quarter and was taken out of the game.

Lowe was taken to the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, where he spent three weeks in the trauma intensive care unit. He transferred to Bethany Children’s Hospital and spent seven months in recovery.

He was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma, a head injury that causes bleeding. He was 17 years old at the time.

Lowe has had multiple operations. He had surgery to remove a blood clot and had a tracheostomy. He is nonverbal and can not use his legs. Lowe now has a full-time nurse available to assist him at his bedside.

Today, Randall reports that Oske is healthy and stable. He has not been hospitalized since he was discharged from the Bethany Children’s Center. While he caught Covid-19 more than once, he made a full recovery each time.

“He’s doing really well,” Randall said. “His body is healthy. He’s still

nonverbal and immobile, but he knows what’s going on. He knows his surroundings. All in all, he’s in good health.”

Holdenville’s first home game after Lowe’s injury saw a packed stadium with attendees wearing green shirts in his support- green is the color of brain injury awareness.

During the game, Holdenville beat Coalgate 34-26.

Lowe became an honorary graduate of Holdenville High School and graduated alongside his classmates in 2017.

Lowe has two younger brothers who now play football for Holdenville. Tenetke is a senior, and RJ is a junior. For Lowe’s family, Sept. 1 is a bittersweet date on the calendar. It was the day Lowe sustained his injury, and it is RJ’s birthday.

RJ and Tenetke were both under the age of 10 when their brother sustained his injury. The injury made Randall hesitant to sign up her younger boys to play football.

“We just had to overcome that fear,” Randall said. “There’s still a fear there for me, but brain injuries can happen not just in football, but also in car wrecks. I didn’t want to hold them back. I’m glad I didn’t because they do really excellent on the field.”

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, symptoms of traumatic brain injuries include headache, dizziness, confusion, and fatigue that can resolve over time. Frustration and irritability can develop as well.

Randall advises everyone to take traumatic brain injuries seriously and report any symptoms that appear, no matter how small they seem. She warns others not to delay seeking medical attention.

“Anytime that something doesn’t seem right, approach your coach or someone who’s available that is going to listen and let them know your symptoms,” Randall said.

For updates on Lowe, his journey, and his family, Randall manages a public Facebook page, Oske’s Journey, a personal blog that documents their experiences.

This November,
SHAVE IT OFF
Keep the beard. Lower your stroke risk.

Men face several risk factors that can increase the chance of stroke and heart disease. This November, focus on four you can do something about:

1. KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE
Know it by checking it. Most pharmacies have a free self-check station. Aim for <120/<80. If it's higher, talk with your provider and reduce your daily sodium intake.

2. CHECK YOUR CHOLESTEROL
Aim for more unsaturated fats, especially plant-based options. "Good" unsaturated fats can help carry off "bad" saturated fats in your diet.

3. QUIT NICOTINE
All forms of nicotine can constrict blood vessels and make blood thicker. Try taking a slow, full breath through a coffee straw to mimic smoking, or try blowing bubbles.

4. KEEP MOVING
Every move counts. Add activity wherever you can – walk the hardware store or Walmart, or march in place while sitting in a chair. Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, which are low in calories, affordable and high in fiber to help reduce overeating and support weight loss.

MCNHealth

STROKE PREVENTION



Oske Lowe at the Holdenville High School football game “Oske Night.” (Image Courtesy: Carrie McFarland)

THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL FOR INDIAN GIRLS

SUSAN (HAMPTON) TIGER

(10/12/1870 – 01/25/1962)
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

BY ABBY RUSH/TU

Editor’s note: Mvskoke News will be publishing Mvskoke student biographies from The PSIG Project, a collaborative research project between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department and the University of Tulsa. The project aims to locate, identify, and honor the students who attended the University of Tulsa’s predecessor institution, the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls (1882-1894), a residential school located in Muskogee. PSIG would later be named Kendall College, move to Tulsa, and be renamed the University of Tulsa. The project wants to shed light on the indigenous history of TU through the lives of students utilizing the archival collections at the university. To view PSIG student bios and stay up to date on the project, visit psigproject.org. Descendents of students can contact the project at ThePSIGproject@gmail.com or the MCN Oral Historian Midge Dellinger at 918-732-7618.

Susan (Hampton) Tiger is one of at least two alumnae of the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls to have been interviewed for the Indian-Pioneer History Project (abbreviated on the PSIG web site as IPP), the other one being Ann (Peterson) Shortall. The transcript of her interview, conducted in 1937 by a field worker named Grace Kelly, provides details about her childhood, her time at PSIG, schools at which she taught, and her personal life. The Indian-Pioneer Papers Oral History Collection includes transcripts of interviews conducted in the 1930s by government workers with thousands of individuals in Oklahoma. The transcripts contain first-hand accounts of life in Indian Territory and then the state of Oklahoma from 1861 to the 1930s.

Early History

Susan (Hampton) Tiger, also called “Susie” and “Sue,” was born in 1870 to Susan Sitey (Mvskoke) and John Hampton near Okmulgee, Indian Territory. Her mother died when Susan was eleven days old, and her father died in 1879. Following the death of Susan’s father, Judge Napoleon Bonaparte Moore became her guardian.¹ Judge Moore was of Irish and Mvskoke descent and played an active role in the affairs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during his lifetime, performing an array of duties including that of a Lighthorseman police officer, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Treasurer of the Nation.²

School

Shortly after Judge Moore became her guardian in 1879, Susan was sent to Tullahassee Manual Labor School (Tullahassee Mission). In her IPP interview she explained, “As he was a single man he sent me to the Tallahassee [sic] school. He had a home but as I was a girl he had no one to take care of me.” On November 20, 1882, Judge Moore married Augusta Robertson, who in the following years would become the first Superintendent of Nuyaka Mission.

The connection between Alice Robertson, who eventually became Superintendent of the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls (PSIG), and Susan (Hampton) Tiger was already forming, as Augusta and Alice Robertson were sisters and had both been connected to the Tullahassee Mission in previous years as well.³ Alice’s and Augusta’s parents were Ann Eliza (Worcester) Robertson and William Schenck Robertson, Presbyterian missionaries and educators who oversaw the Tullahassee Mission for many years and also translated songs, poems, and scriptures into Mvskoke.⁴

In her IPP interview, Susan reported that while at the Tullahassee Mission, she met a teacher named Miss Green. Having grown fond of Susan, Miss Green asked Susan to move to Iowa with her, as Miss Green thought Susan could provide companionship to Green’s parents and, as Susan put it, to “have a good home.” It was some time after the Tullahassee Mission burned down in 1880 that Susan went to live in Iowa. She would have been approximately nine years old. Susan also says in the interview that she experienced bouts of poor



Photograph of Susan Hampton Tiger. (Image Credit: Alice Robertson Papers, TU Department of Special Collections and University Archives) ID: 1931-001-4-3-2-15r

health and returned to Indian Territory after living in Iowa for four years. It was during Susan’s time in Iowa that Judge Moore married Augusta Robertson. By the time Susan returned from Iowa, Augusta’s sister Alice Robertson had been appointed Superintendent of the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls (PSIG), and Susan was sent there to continue her education (c. 1884-1885).

Susan said in her interview that Alice “really tried to be a mother to all of us.” Elaborating on Alice’s treatment of the students, Susan related:

We had prayer every night and after prayer she would kiss each of us good-night before we went up to bed. Not one was left out! She said that the Indians weren’t civilized until they learned to kiss and be loving. The Indians as a rule are not affectionate. All the girls liked the school and I guess it was because it was a Christian school and the teachers and workers were kind to them.

As warmly as Susan recalls these memories, it is important to note that



Left to Right: 1. Dewitt Talmadge Tiger, 2. Susan Hampton, Mrs. George Tiger, 3. Grace Tiger, 4. Ada Tiger, Back: 1. Ida Tiger, 2. Helen Mae (Tiger) Preuett, 3. Mary Alice Tiger, 4. Bryan Tiger. Oklahoma Historical Society. Courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society. No. 1702, Alice Robertson Collection

these details not only provide some testimonial of the “kind” approaches of the PSIG staff but also remind readers that PSIG was part of a colonizing effort to “civilize” through religious and cultural training.

This interview contains additional details about life at PSIG, including references to music lessons, her former teachers, and the expected duties of students. Noting that there were approximately twenty students during her time there, Susan explained:

[T]he girls would take turns about doing the dishes, making the beds, and the other work but they didn’t teach Home Economics as they do now. They thought, and I think, that it was right to teach children to work when they are young and then when they are older and had to work for a living that they wouldn’t mind working and would be successful. Girls had to know how to work in order to make their marriage successful. We had our study hours the same as public school has.

Susan also described what Sundays were like for students at PSIG, remarking, “we had church, Sunday school in the morning and in the afternoon there was singing and the teachers read stories to us, then church at night and it didn’t occur to us not to want to go. It was just as natural and right as breathing.” She also recalled that PSIG students did not wear uniforms, instead wearing “what we thought pretty and wanted to wear.” The sources of clothing varied, for “when the children’s parents could afford them they bought their clothes, but boxes and barrels of clothes and material were sent to the school, I imagine from New York, and that way there was always something nice for the ones who couldn’t afford them.” Susan was a member of the PSIG class of 1889, taking part in a celebratory program with others in her graduating class.

Adult Life

Once she graduated from PSIG, Susan attended Emory University in Oxford, Georgia for a year with three other PSIG alumnae, before returning to Indian Territory after her freshman year, stating, “I didn’t finish there for I quit when I was a freshman and came back and taught for three years.” The first school at which she taught was called Greenleaf School, and she recollected her time there with significant affinity. The section in which she described this school is even titled in the interview transcription, “My first and favorite school,” where she taught forty Native students in “a log house daubed with dirt, with one window and a fireplace. It had been a dwelling.” She also recalled that “the books were furnished by the school and the Trustees were so saving with them that I couldn’t let a child take a book home at night for fear they might tear or lose it. All lessons had to be prepared at school.” While working there, she stayed with a Native family. In her IPP interview she also noted that she could not speak Mvskoke and felt that if she had been able to speak the language, it would have aided in her teaching.8

After leaving Greenleaf School, Susan moved on to her second and third schools in the early 1890’s, both of which she described briefly. Her “second school was east of Okmulgee and didn’t have any name.” This school initially taught only Native students, but later admitted white students as well. “[T]he third and last school,” also unnamed, “was near the McDermott place which had one store.” While working there, Susan stayed with a white family about a mile away from the school.9

Once the academic year ended at this third school, in approximately 1894, she married George W. Tiger, the eldest son of former Muskogee (Creek) Chief Motey Tiger.10 After Susan and George were married, they moved ten miles outside of Okmulgee onto the Tiger Flats.11 The location of the allotment where Susan and George resided was in Township 12 North, Range 12 East, Section 3.12 In the IPP interview, Susan also noted that they lived in town when her husband clerked at the Captain Severs Store for about four years. She recalled, “Okmulgee was very small until the railroad came through and then it began to grow.” Susan and George also lived on a nearby farm for a time, before moving east of Okmulgee when her husband George was made the superintendent of the Orphan’s Home there.

Susan recalls how the working and studying the students did at the Orphan’s Home was similar to that of the other Mission schools she had known. There, in addition to their work and studies, about 50 students attended Sunday services each week with the sermons preached by a Methodist pastor. George was Superintendent there for four years. In her recollection of this time in her life, she observed, “I would rather have been in my own home on the farm.”13

Susan and George had six children together, including Eugene (1894-1912), DeWitt (1897- ca.1975), Helen (1901-1994), William Bryan Tiger (1904-1987), Mary Alice (1906-1995), and Grace (1908-1931). Prior to his marriage to Susan, George had been married to a woman named Rose Tiger, with whom he had had two children, Ada and Ida Tiger. Two of their children, Grace and Eugene, both died in early adulthood.14

Susan’s daughter, Helen (Tiger) Prevett, was featured in the Henryetta Daily Free-Lance in June of 1986. That article mentions that Susan “was a stern disciplinarian, demanding her children respect their elders and mind their manners. She read the Bible daily to the children. Being a former schoolteacher, Susan desired that her children receive as much formal education as possible.”15 In 1937, when Susan was approximately 67 years old, she stated in her IPP interview, “we have four living children, DeWitt, Helen, William Bryan, and Mary Alice.”16



Susan Hampton, seated with two other women. A copy of this photograph at the Oklahoma Historical Society has written on it the following names: Alva Starr (Cherokee) and Emma McDonald (Cherokee); c. 1890. Photo by J.F. Standiford, Muskogee, C.N. (Image Credit: Alice Robertson Papers, TU Department of Special Collections and University Archives) ID: 1931-001-4-3-2-17c Oklahoma Historical Society No. 1581, Alice Robertson Collection.

Death and Legacy

Susan’s husband George Tiger passed away in 1908 and was buried alongside two of their late children, Eugene and Grace Tiger on Tiger Flats.17 After the death of her husband, Susan lived between Okmulgee and Henryetta in Schuler, Oklahoma. According to a 1910 U.S. Federal Census, her residence and enumeration district was listed as Schuler Township.18 In addition to her impact as a student, educator, and family matriarch, she described herself as having “always been a retiring sort of person.”19 Susan lived a long life, dying in a local Henryetta hospital on January 1, 1962, at the age of 91. Her funeral services were held at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Henryetta, officiated by Rev. Kenneth Romines. She was buried at Wilson Cemetery in Henryetta, Oklahoma. According to Susan’s obituary, at the time of her death she was survived by two sons, four daughters, twenty-seven grandchildren, and forty-five great grandchildren.20

The Dawes Roll Number of Susan (Hampton) Tiger is c6035.21

Abby Rush, (Hidatsa/Apsáalooke), recived her MA in English from the University of Tulsa in 2025. Rush worked as a PSIG Graduate Assistant, from 2023-2025.

Endnotes

1 Susan Hampton Tiger, Interview by Grace Kelly, June 11, 1937, Henryetta, transcript, The Indian Pioneer Papers Collection, The University of Oklahoma Digital Collections, <https://digital.libraries.ou.edu/cdm/ref/collection/indianpp/id/5339>. [Hereafter cited as Tiger, IPP Interview], p. 111.

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3 Tiger, IPP Interview, p. 112.

4 Logsdon, Guy Williams. The University of Tulsa: A History, 1882-1972 (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977), 10.

5 Tiger, IPP Interview, pp. 113-114.

6 Tiger, IPP Interview, p. 114.

7 “Closing Concert” Program Document. 1931.001.3.8.1.3. Papers of the Robertson and Worcester Families, 1815-1932, Special Collections, McFarlin Library, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.

8 Tiger, IPP Interview, pp. 114-115.

9 Tiger, IPP Interview, pp. 116-117.

10 “George Washington Tiger.” myheritage.com, July 7, 2021. https://www.myheritage.com/person-1500531_794387601_794387601/george-washington-tiger https://www.myheritage.com/person-1500531_794387601_794387601/george-washington-tiger (accessed February 3, 2024).

11 Tiger, IPP Interview, p. 117.

12 Hastain, E. Hastain’s Township Plats of the Creek Nation. Muskogee, OK: Model Printing Co., 1910. <https://archive.org/details/hastainstownship00hast/page/n3/mode/2up><https://archive.org/details/hastainstownship00hast/page/n3/mode/2up> (accessed February 3, 2024).

13 Tiger, IPP Interview, pp. 117-118.

14 “George Washington Tiger.”

15 “Pioneer Resident Featured in History Book,” Henryetta Daily Free-Lance. June 20, 1986. P. 12. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/863689631/?match=1><https://www.newspapers.com/image/863689631/?match=1> (accessed February 3, 2024).

16 Tiger, IPP Interview, p. 118.

17 Find a Grave, memorial page for George Washington Tiger (20 Mar 1866–27 Nov 1908), Find a Grave Memorial ID 13813419, citing Tiger Family Cemetery, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Far Beyond Our Past (contributor 47649939). <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13813419/george-washington-tiger> (accessed 15 December 2023).

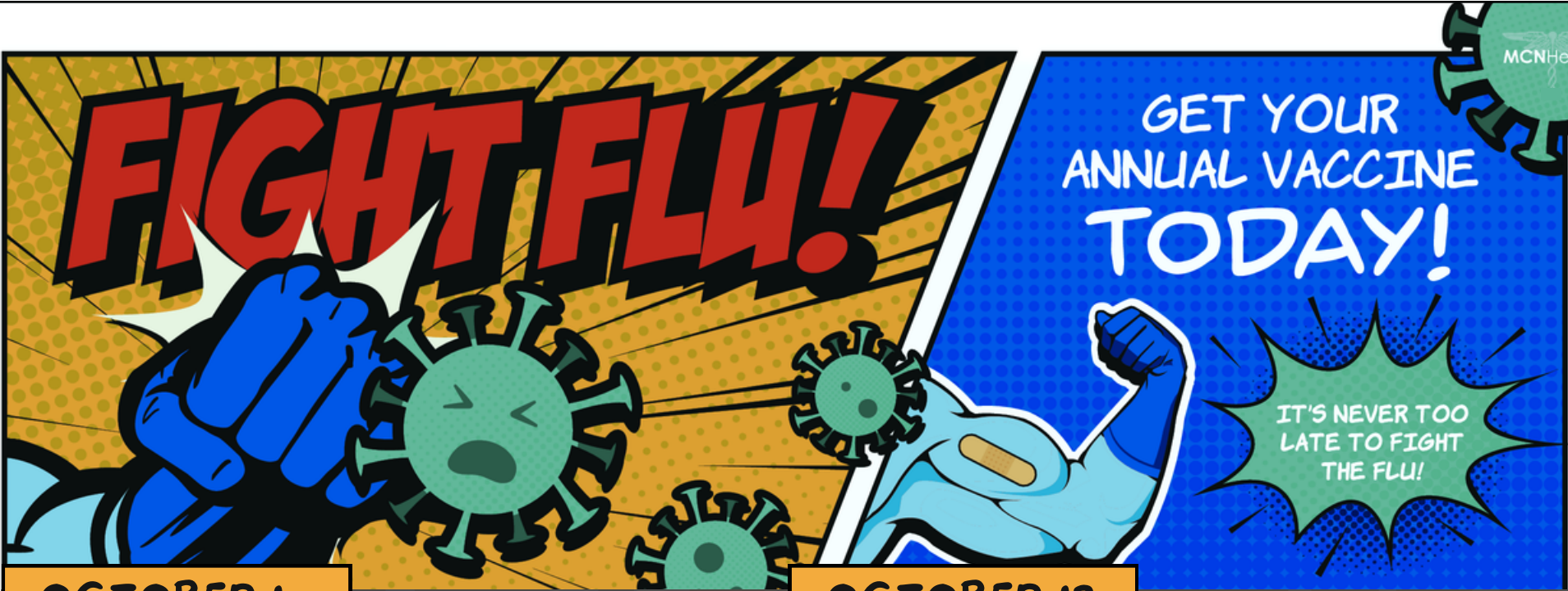
18 Susie H. Tiger, U.S. Census Bureau, 1910 United States Federal Census, Shulter, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Roll T624_1267; Page 28a; Enumeration District 0155.

19 Tiger, IPP Interview, p. 118.

20 “Mrs. Susan Hampton Tiger,” Okmulgee Daily Times, January 27, 1962, p. 2. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/okmulgee-daily-times-obituary-for-susan/130191728/> (accessed December 15, 2023).

21 Native American Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914, NARA Microfilm, Publication M1186, 93 rolls; NAID: 251747; Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; National Archives in Washington, D.C. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/251747> (accessed February 3, 2024).

For the full bibliography and source list, visit www.psigproject.org/biographies/susan-hampton-tiger



OCTOBER 1

KOWETA ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 30901 E. 141 St. S., Coweta

OCTOBER 13

COWETA CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 13185 S. State Hwy 51, Coweta

OCTOBER 5

HOLDENVILLE ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 224 E. Popular Street, Holdenville

OCTOBER 14

EUFULA CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 1045 Birkes Rd, Eufaula

HOLDENVILLE CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 221 E. Willow Street, Holdenville

OCTOBER 15

DEWAR ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 903 E. 6th Street, Dewar

MUSCOGEE CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 3420 W. Peak Boulevard, Muskogee

OCTOBER 6

WETUMKA ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 608 N. Creek Street, Wetumka

OCTOBER 21

COLLEGE OF MUSCOGEE NATION
10AM - 2PM | 2170 Raven Circle, Okmulgee

DUCK CREEK CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 10085 Ferguson Road, Beggs

OCTOBER 26

TULSA INDIAN COMMUNITY
10AM - 1PM | 8611 S. Union Avenue, Tulsa

OCTOBER 7

SAPULPA ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 1020 N. Brown Street, Sapulpa

OCTOBER 28

CHECOTAH CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 830 N. Broadway Street, Checotah

OKC RESOURCE CENTER
11AM - 2PM | 4111 N. Lincoln Boulevard, OKC

OCTOBER 8

BRISTOW ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 121 W. Lincoln, Bristow

OCTOBER 29

PINK PARTY - RIVER SPIRIT CASINO
9AM - 12PM | 8330 Riverside Parkway, Tulsa

BRISTOW CASINO
1:30PM - 4PM | 121 W. Lincoln, Bristow

EUFULA ELDERLY NUTRITION
11AM - 1PM | 800 1/2 Birkes Rd, Eufaula

ELIGIBILITY

FLU VACCINES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS 12 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.

OCTOBER 12

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY - CREEK NATION COUNCIL HOUSE
11AM - 2PM | 100 W 6th Street, Okmulgee

For questions or additional information, please email PHN@creekhealth.org or call 918-716-4818



MCNHealth

PUBLIC HEALTH

2026

SEPTEMBER MCNNC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

HEW ADVANCES "PEACEMAKER" GRANT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES, LNC POSTPONES MVSKOKE CHURCH AND CEREMONIAL GROUNDS GRANT LEGISLATION UNTIL OCTOBER, AND BFJ/HEW PASS JUUL SETTLEMENT

Land, Culture, & Natural Resources, Sept. 8

TR 26-056 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a programmatic agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Participating Tribes, and the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding the Section 106 Process for the Transportation Program in Georgia. Representative Dode Barnett sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted into law by the full council, the programmatic agreement will ensure that all parties involved comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This ensures that the Tribe is properly consulted on projects proposed for construction at culturally or historically significant sites. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-057 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Savannah Land Holdings, LLC concerning the treatment of historic properties at the Genesis Point N/K/A Waterways Residential and Recreational Development, Bryan County, Georgia. Representative Robyn Whitecloud sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted into law by the full council, the Gaule site will receive treatment after receiving damage. According to the legislation, the damage included disturbances to ancestral burials and looting of artifacts. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-058 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Forests in Alabama, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the internment of cultural objects and ancestral remains. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, the Tribe and the U.S. Forest Service will collaborate to inter ancestral remains. According to the legislation, they will be treated with respect in accordance with Mvskoke tradition. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-059 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute multiple 105(I) lease agreements with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of Realty, the Office of Self-Governance, Tribal Courts, and the Department of Public Safety. Rep. Barnett sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, the lease proposal will allow the U.S. Department of the Interior to use three office suites at the Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks and the Realty Henson building in Okmulgee.

TR 26-060 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a separate memorandum of agreement with the County of McIntosh, State of Oklahoma, for the maintenance of roadways and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted into law by the full council, Tribal Transportation Program Route 181B will receive improvements. This includes all public roadways and associated rights-of-way in the route. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-061 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation supporting and approving the deployment of broadband equity, access,

and deployment program services by CVEC Fiber, LLC at specific locations within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation. Rep. Whitecloud sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted into law by the full council, it will deploy Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program-funded broadband projects on Tribal lands. There was no discussion on this bill.

TR 26-062 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to submit a lease proposal for a lease agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the United States for the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health (OEH) Field Office. Rep. Cloud sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, it will renew the IHS lease for another 5-10 years. There was no discussion on this bill.

NCA 26-107 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation to the Real Property Escrow Revolving Fund. It was sponsored by Representative Anna Marshall. It was initially postponed during the July 14 LNC committee meeting. It was postponed indefinitely 4-0.

Rep. Marshall moved to postpone the bill indefinitely. There was no discussion on this bill. If the law is adopted by the full council, \$200,000 will be appropriated to the Real Property Escrow Revolving Fund.

NCA 26-123 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 5, Chapter 2 entitled "Financial Assistance". Rep. Barnett sponsored the legislation. It was postponed as a substitute until the October LNC committee meeting 4-0.

Discussion during the committee meeting helped clarify what the new amendments will do. The language "Muscogee (Creek) Churches" was changed to "Historical Mvskoke Churches." Proper documentation to show establishment prior to 1966 will also be required. The Church Passenger Van Assistance Grant section will be removed from the legislation. The amendment was postponed in order to allow more time for input from the executive branch, Ceremonial Grounds, and the Historical Mvskoke Churches.

Housing, Education, & Welfare, Sept. 8

NCA 26-128 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Education for the benefit of the Eufaula Dormitory in the amount of \$805,561 passed 4-0. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the bill.

Rep. Proctor clarified that the funds will be used during the 2026-2027 school year.

NCA 26-129 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for children and families for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Families Services Administration (CFSa) in the amount of \$321,196 passed 4-0. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the bill.

According to the bill, the grant funds will be used to design, validate, and implement a predictive analytics model built entirely from the MCN's case data, paired with a structured intervention pathway, referred to as Peacemaking or Circle Processing, and is grounded in holistic and culturally-relevant healing practices frequently used in child welfare systems.

During the discussion, Michelle Bender, director of MCN Children and Family Service, clarified that the grant funds would be used to restructure the data system of Children and Family Services to predict analytics on how cases should be addressed, based on history and family dynamics.

Bender also said that the second half of the grant would be used to incorporate a peacemaking program and to create the data collection system.

"How can we assist this family to move forward and heal, and then break cycles of dependency and so forth?" Bender said.

NCA 26-130 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of the State of Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management EMPG 2025 grant for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Department in the amount of \$18,780, passed 4-0. Rep. Proctor sponsored the bill.

During the discussion, Keith Underwood, director of MCN Emergency Management, clarified that the funds will be used towards first responder training.

Representative Thomasene Osborn questioned whether the HEW committee should hear this bill, as the Department of Public Safety is proposed in the rules and procedures, which have not yet been approved.

It was clarified that Emergency Management is under HEW as a standing committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

In other business, Timothy Hicks gave an update from the Department of Health on behalf of Secretary Shawn Terry. Hicks informed the committee that the Council Oak Express care experienced an all-time high in clinic visits in August. Hicks also announced that the on-demand virtual clinic is now fully staffed and available to all MCN citizens and employees of the Tribe on the Native Blue health insurance plan.

In another announcement, Hicks said for the first time in the history of the MCN Department of Health, pediatric dentistry will be available at the Okemah location.

Business, Finance, & Justice, Sept. 17

TR 26-063 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the principal chief to utilize a letter of intent template in connection with future business acquisitions and providing a limited waiver of sovereign immunity regarding governing law and venue. Representative William Lowe sponsored the bill. It was postponed until the next BFJ committee meeting, 4-0.

Rep. Lowe made a motion to go into executive session, and afterward motioned to postpone the legislation until the next BFJ committee meeting. If adopted by the full council, the letter of intent would contain a waiver of sovereign immunity regarding governing law and a waiver of sovereign immunity regarding venue.

NCA 26-131 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3 entitled "Crimes Against Person" and creating new law in MCNCA Title 14 §§ 2-350, entitled "Obscenity, Threats, or Harassment by Telephone or Other Electronic Communication", 2-351, entitled "Domestic Abuse Against a Pregnant Person", and 2-352, entitled "Domestic Abuse Resulting in Great Bodily Harm" Rep. Lowe sponsored the bill. It passed 4-0.

If adopted by the full council, it would add language to define the terms "strangulation," "stalking," and "harassment." It defines the term "strangulation" as intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeding breathing or circulation of blood flow by applying pressure to the throat or neck. The term "stalking" is defined as a crime committed by a person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person. There was no discussion on this legislation.

NCA 26-132 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 14 § 1-601, entitled "Sentence and Judgment." Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation. It passed as a substitute 4-0.

The amendment will add language

to the law. After a defendant enters a plea of guilty or is found guilty, the court will order the defendant to be remanded to Lighthorse custody. The court can then grant release on bail pending the sentence. The court must also hear convincing evidence that the defendant is not likely to flee or endanger public safety. There was no discussion on this legislation

NCA 26-133 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditure for FY 2027. Representative Lucian Tiger sponsored the legislation. It passed 4-0.

During the discussion, Rep. Tiger explained that this is a continued resolution for the FY 2027 annual budget. The legislation states that the 2027 annual budget has been delayed due to funding requests and projected revenues.

Representative Robert Hufft moved to enter executive session.

Business, Finance & Justice, Sept. 22

TR 26-063 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to utilize a letter of intent template in connection with future business acquisitions and providing a limited waiver of sovereign immunity regarding governing law and venue. Representative William Lowe sponsored the legislation. It passed as a substitute 3-1. Representative Sandra Golden opposed the legislation.

Rep. Lowe moved to go into executive session and, afterward, moved to amend his motion regarding the legislation. If adopted by the full council, the letter of intent would include waivers of sovereign immunity with respect to governing law and venue.

TR 26-066 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation establishing membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation. It passed 4-0.

If the legislation is adopted by the full council, the tribe will provide \$30,000 for 2026-2027 membership dues. There was no discussion on this legislation.

HEW/BFJ, Sept. 22

TR 26-064 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief to accept a settlement offer and execute a Tribal plaintiff release of all claims in order to settle claims against Juul Labs, Inc. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the legislation. It passed 9-0.

Rep. Proctor moved to go into executive session. There was no discussion.

According to the legislation, the Tribal plaintiffs in the case will receive \$4,000,000 as a settlement. The Nation will receive a gross amount of \$994,870.96. The Nation will receive a net amount of \$666,563.54.

LNC/BFJ, Sept. 22

TR 26-065 A tribal resolution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the Principal Chief and Secretary of Housing to execute a settlement agreement to settle a lawsuit regarding a fence encroaching on real property owned by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing in Wagoner County, Oklahoma. Representative James Factor sponsored the legislation. It passed 9-0.

According to the legislation, the suit involves a privacy fence encroaching on a property owned by the Nation in Wagoner County. The case, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing v. Bill and Thelma Johnson, is currently in the Cherokee Nation District Court. The legislation states that upon removal of the fence to the Housing Department's satisfaction, the lawsuit will be dismissed. There was no discussion on this legislation.

IN MEMORIAM



Principal Chief Andrew Dolphis Ellis

Andrew Dolphis Ellis (Known to many as A.D. and others as Andy) passed away on September 14, 2026, at the age of 90. A.D. was born of the Turtle Clan and a member of the Locv Pokv Tribal Town.

Born on December 13, 1935, in Pawnee, Oklahoma, A.D. was the tenth (10th) child born to Abner D. Ellis and Nellie (Bruner) Ellis. He was the youngest of his nine brothers and sisters.

A. D. was preceded in death by his Father, Abner D. Ellis; Mother, Nellie (Bruner) Ellis; Brothers: Willie Ellis, Jacob Ellis, Richard Ellis; Sisters: Lillian Crow, Dorothy Myer, and Pandora Parsons; and Children: Tina Ellis, Curtis Ellis, Vonda Fletcher, Andrew Dion Ellis, and David Stone

A.D. is survived by his wife, Gail Ellis of the home; Children: Valerie Thomas, first born of Auburn, WA; Melody Freudenburger of Wagoner, OK; David Fletcher and Joanna of Burleson, TX; Rex Fletcher and Barbie of Catoosa, OK; Sandra Ellis of Jackson, TN; Jed Hightower and Amy of Sapulpa, OK; and Angela Beasley and Arthur Harper of Edmond, OK.

He is also survived by Twenty (20) Grandchildren, twenty-five (25) Great-grandchildren, and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

A.D. graduated from Twin Hills High School in 1953 and immediately

John “Mike” Franklin Smith, 93, found peace on June 26, 2026, in Tulsa, OK, with family by his side after bravely fighting the complications of multiple medical conditions from his exposure to toxic chemicals during his Military service.

He entered this world on 24 February 1933 in Pierce, OK, to Opie Smith and Minnie Smith, née Howell, and later resided in Las Cruces, NM, before returning to Pierce. He also lived with his family in Ft. Wingate, NM, and Checotah, OK, throughout his life. A proud Mvskoke citizen, member of the Wind Clan, and cousin to former Chief Dode McIntosh, he taught his children to respect their ancestry and the sacrifices made by those before them.

He served his country honorably in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War as an aircraft mechanic and firefighter. He later utilized his education as an Oklahoma State University student and an alumnus of Northeastern State College to teach Industrial Arts and Driver’s Education to Native American high school students at New Mexico BIA schools. He shared his love for building and driving with numerous high school students at Ft. Wingate, taking great pride in knowing he equipped them to drive safely and accurately and to build or maintain their homes. He also served as the volunteer Fire Chief at Ft. Wingate during a horrific fire at the historic barracks once lived in by Gen. MacArthur and the Diné Code Talkers.

Before his BIA retirement, he was a cattle rancher in McIntosh County for many years. He served as a humble reminder to pause and enjoy the small things in life, especially a productive fishing break on Lake Eufaula, a Sooner Football win, or a perfectly cooked steak smoked with hickory from his ranch.

We find great comfort in knowing he is now reunited with those who preceded him in death: wife, Martha Smith; parents, Opie and Minnie; brothers, Vonnice “Pete” Smith and Merle “Pat” Smith; cousin, Cozell Lee Smith, Jr.; multiple extended family members including wife’s parents, Townsend and Amelia Fuller; and family friend, Hazel Tune. He is survived by his loving daughter, Lani-Elaine (J.J. Castruita, III); devoted son, Mark; two loving grandchildren; two adorable great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Esther Smith and Cecilia Balinbin; and multiple cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. We will live on, carrying his memories in our hearts and honoring his life’s legacy of daily learning.

We greatly appreciate his St. Simeon’s medical team and Seasons Hospice for providing palliative care in his final moments and allowing him to move to his heavenly home peacefully. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Grace Episcopal Church and its dedicated staff for their support and compassion in conducting our father’s funeral. Your kindness and the use of your beautiful facilities made a difficult time more bearable for our family. We are truly grateful for your help and comforting presence.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Mvskoke Lighthorse detail, Mvskoke Patriot Guard volunteers, and Mvskoke Honor Guard for their service. Your respect and dedication meant more than words can express. John would have been honored and touched by the compassion shown by those who assisted us during the funeral procession. Mvto.

The family also extends heartfelt thanks to Deacon Deb from St. Simeon’s for her prayers and guidance during this difficult time. We are also grateful for Grover Wind’s assistance with the Mvskoke Nation Veterans Affairs Services, Tommy Yahola’s assistance with the Mvskoke Honor Guard, and Robert Lockwood’s assistance at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. Mvto.

Family received friends and loved ones during the viewing at Garrett

joined the United States Air Force National Guard from 1953 through 1961.

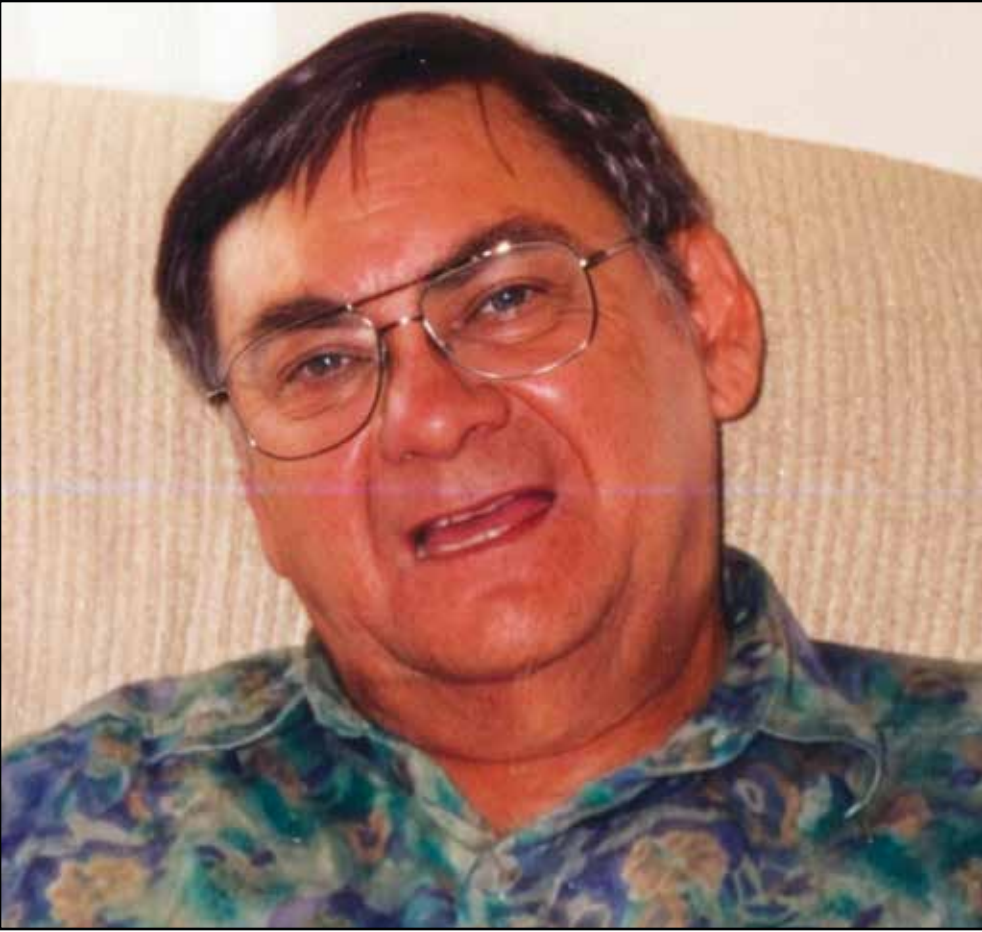
After his military service, he began his career as a semi-truck driver, traveling around the United States and seeing most of the country. He received many trophies and achievements for his driving skills and was a member of the Teamsters Union and retired from driving in 1988.

Knowing A.D. and his inability to sit still, he opened a small engine repair business on Bixby Road in Beggs, OK. Operating the business from his mother’s original Muscogee allotment allowed him to rekindle old relationships and build new friendships in the community where he grew up. This venture sparked his love for tractors, eventually growing into a collection known across Green Country and beyond.

His professional and personal dedication to his heritage began in 1992, when he started his career with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. A.D. went on to serve four consecutive terms on the National Council before being elected Second Chief in 1999, a position he held for four years. In 2003, his leadership path took a historic turn when he ran for Principal Chief, becoming the first leader in the modern era to win the office in a primary election. Compelled to finish the vital work he started, he successfully ran for a second term—a period marked by significant achievements that shaped the Nation into what it is today.

During Chief Ellis’s administration, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation experienced a period of unprecedented growth, marked by the implementation of vital programs and the construction or renovation of many tribal buildings. Some of his monumental legacy of achievements include: Cultural & Sovereignty Preservation: He successfully acquired the historic Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House, launched major language revitalization efforts through the Muscogee Language Department (including incentive pay for Mvskoke-speaking employees), and united spiritual and traditional leadership by hosting regular joint meetings with Mekkos of ceremonial grounds and church pastors. Community Infrastructure & Health: He championed the transition of the tribal health system from a board-managed system to direct tribal control under the Executive Office, establishing the Koweta Indian Health Clinic (along with an 80-acre land purchase) and the Okemah Dental Clinic. He also transitioned housing responsibilities from HUD directly to the Nation, successfully expending over \$80 million in housing funds to benefit citizens. Economic Development & Transit: He pioneered the creation of Muscogee Nation Transit—purchasing the tribe’s first charter bus—and drove the development of Arkansas River land holdings that completed the River Spirit Casino Resort. At the order of the National Indian Gaming Commission, he successfully moved four community casino operations and their assets under direct ownership of the Nation and its citizens. Innovation in Human Services: He established the historic Muscogee Nation Reintegration Program—the first of its kind in Indian Country and now a national model for other tribes—instituted the first minimum wage increases to advocate for livable wages, and significantly expanded tribal services to at-large citizens in Oklahoma City and California Education & Recreation: He oversaw the construction and advancement of the College of the Muscogee Nation, built the Veterans Building to establish dedicated veteran programs, and purchased the Fountainhead Lodge property for future growth. He also revived the All-Indian Rodeo, proudly naming the arena in honor of legendary Muscogee citizen Bob Arrington, and oversaw construction of the Muscogee Dome and its surrounding festival facilities.

Beyond his monumental political and cultural achievements, A.D. will be remembered most for his unwavering work ethic, his generous spirit, and his deep love for his family and the Muscogee people. Whether he was tinkering with a tractor in his shop or making historic decisions from the Chief’s office, he approached life with a servant’s heart and a determination to never sit still. His vision, leadership, and dedication left an indelible mark on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that will be felt for generations to come.



John “Mike” Franklin Smith

Family Funeral Home in Checotah, OK, on Thursday, 13 August, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Burial Rites were conducted by Reverend Omar Cisneros on Friday, 15 August, at Grace Episcopal Church, Muskogee, OK, at 11:30 a.m., with burial interment at Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson, OK, at 1:30 p.m. Escort detail was provided by the Mvskoke Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police. The family was honored by a Mvskoke Nation Patriot Guard Riders traffic escort, a fitting tribute to John’s military service and dedication. The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard rendered military honors. A Celebration of Life reception followed the burial in the Grace Parish Hall. Funeral services were streamed online via Grace’s Facebook page.

Pallbearers: Keli Castruita, Mark Smith, Bailey Howell, Jobey Howell, Bond Howell, Branson Howell. Honorary Pallbearers: JJ Castruita, III, David Harnden, Shiloh Dill, David Tune, Thomas Tune.

Chosen to guide him to rest, the pallbearers walked in step with our traditions, carrying him with dignity and love. Honorary Pallbearers stand in spirit with him, honoring the ties of family, community, and the Mvskoke way. May his journey be light as he joins the ancestors and walks the path of peace.

For those who wish to leave a message or share a memory, please visit the Legacy Memorial (<https://bit.ly/JFSmithObit>). Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in John’s name to their choice of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation or Grace Episcopal Church.

IN MEMORIAM



James David Henry

James David McHenry (J.D.), the son of Lewis T. McHenry & Gladys Bland McHenry, was born in Claremore, Oklahoma, on October 25, 1937, and died in Glenpool, Oklahoma, on August 6, 2026, at the age of 88.

J.D. was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Gladys, his grandparents Louis David Bland and Jeanetta Haikey Bland, Jess McHenry and Georgie Halette McHenry, and one son, Michael Douglas McHenry. Two brothers, Lewis Knotchie McHenry and Teddy Lee McHenry Sr., one sister, Carla Mae McHenry, and the mother of his four children, Christine Hood, also preceded him in death.

J.D. was survived by his wife Joyce Paine McHenry, his three children, son James David McHenry Jr and wife Patty, one Daughter Cindy McHenry Stone and husband Mike Stone, son Patrick McHenry, eight grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren, two sisters, Kay McHenry Hanna and Carol McHenry Williams, and numerous niece’s nephews, Aunts and Uncles.

J.D. served in the US Army for 31 years, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant, and was very proud of his service to our country. J.D. was a 5/8 Muscogee Creek citizen and retired from SMITHCO Engineering Company. J.D. was also a graduate of Tulsa Community College.

Celebration of Life service is pending.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Intro to Beekeeping Workshop
College of the Muscogee Nation
Oct. 2, 1- 5 p.m.
Natural Resource Building, 104
For info, Chris Azbell 918-594-2861

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

Change Management Workshop
College of the Muscogee Nation Extension
Friday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Free event will teach change management using the ADKAR model
2170 Raven’s Circle, Okmulgee
Natural Resource Building, 104
For info, call Chris Azbell 918-549-2861

Plant ID Workshop
MCN Conservation District
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Free event will provide a hands-on plant identification walk and talk. It is recommended that attendees bring sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and water
18175 Cherry Road, Henryetta

Coffee and Donuts
Veteran Affairs Services Office
Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 a.m. - noon
1006 Bear Lane, Okmulgee

Mvskoke Mounds, Grounds & Tribal Towns Art Show
Muscogee Nation Native Youth Community Project
Friday, Nov. 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
100 W. 6th St., Okmulgee
For info, call 539-286-4599

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.

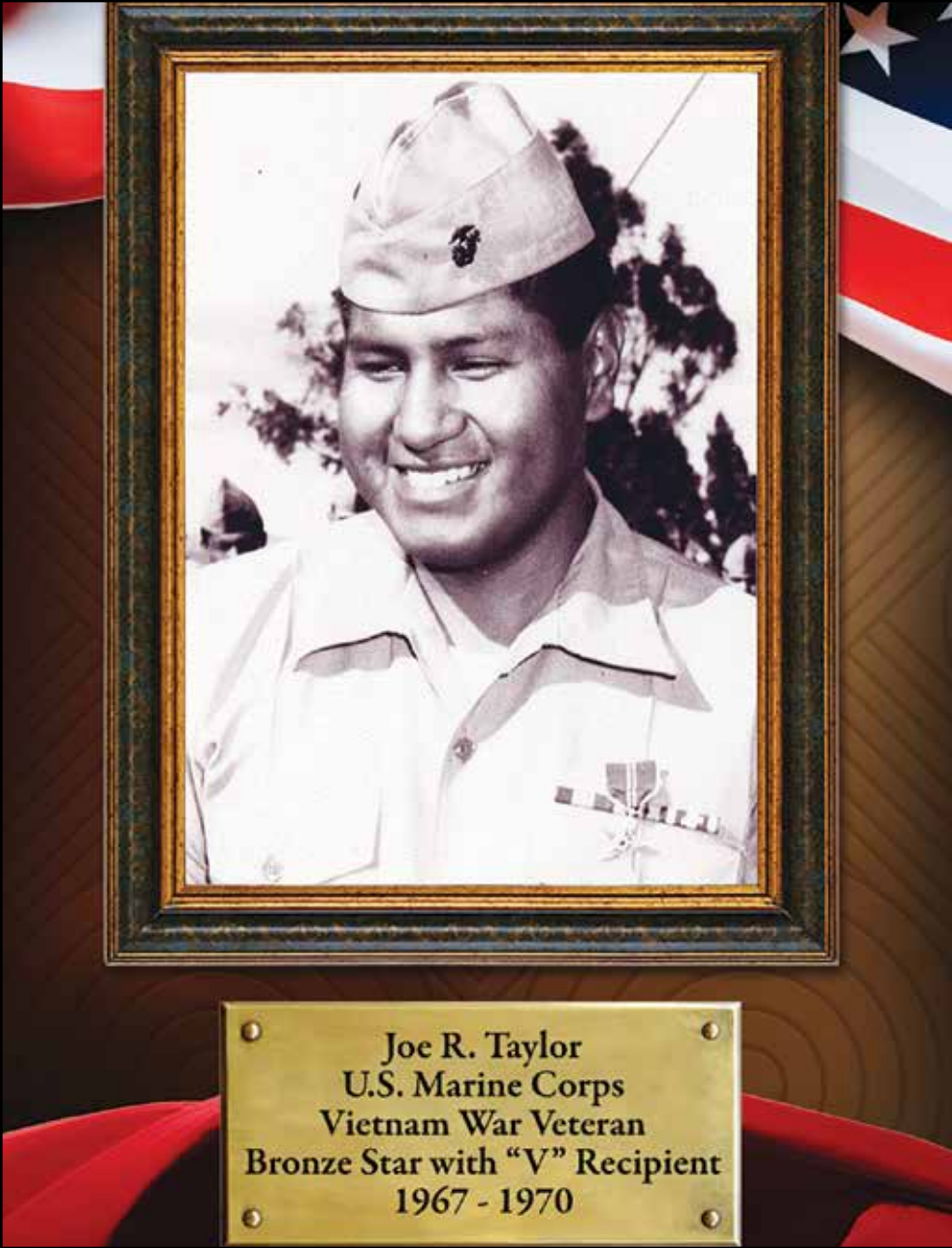
TED Grant Cap & Gown Assistance
Open to Mvskoke JOM students on the Mvskoke Reservation
Deadline: March 5, 2027
For info, 918-732-7727

Mvskoke Royalty History
Please help us preserve the history of those who have represented the Mvskoke people through the years. Every photo helps to tell the history of Mvskoke Royalty. Include: name, title, year
Deadline: Oct 31
For info, (539) 307-3388
Email, AKelough@MuscogeeNation.com

2027-2028 Mvskoke Royalty Crown Design and Beading Opportunity
The Mvskoke Royalty Program is seeking MCN citizens interested in creating the 2027–2028 Miss & Jr. Miss crowns
Deadline: Oct. 31
For info, (539) 307-3388
Email, AKelough@MuscogeeNation.com

Oklahoma Football -MCN preferred rate
Gaylord Memorial Stadium
Oklahoma vs. South Carolina
Oct. 31
For info, Dustin Fox 405-325-6283
Email, dustin.fox-1@ou.edu

VETERANS SPOTLIGHT



The Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office is proud to honor Joe R. Taylor for his dedicated service to the Muscogee Nation, U.S. Marine Corps, and the United States. Joe honorably served three years and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Cbt “V”, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm Ribbon, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

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

MVTO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Hixie”
Barnett Family Reunion
Jimboys • Hobia • Williams • West
Fixicos • Berryhills • Harjoccees • Yarhola
Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2026
Time: 10 am- 6 pm
Location: Springfield United Methodist Church 2 miles South of Okemah on HWY 27, turn east 4 miles and then south 1 mile
All Welcomed (Extended family and friends)!!
Fellowship, food, fun, and games!
Side Dishes and Desserts welcomed
An RSVP is not required; however, advance notice is appreciated
(405-97307793)/andrea.barnett@live.com
For more information, contact
Michelle Barnett Snow 405-973-7791

DID YOU KNOW?

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

MUST PROVIDE NAME, VALID MAILING ADDRESS, MCN ROLL NUMBER, BIRTHDATE & LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN

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LEGALS

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

IN RE THE NAME CHANGES OF: JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
Jayleigh Fui-Holovnce Harjo,
A minor child,
and
Roxie Noku-Efke Harjo,
A minor child.

Judge: Masters

PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO:
VINCE HARJO

YOU WILL TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued in the Muscogee Nation District Court, Cause No. CV-2024-130, for an Name Changes of the Harjo Children, and that unless you answer the Petition filed in said Court on or before 3rd day of November, 2024, said Petition may be taken as true and judgment may be entered against you and in favor of the name changes.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court this 18th day of September, 2024.

First Published: October 1, 2024 By: [Signature]
Muscogee Nation District Court Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
[Signature]
Marie Richard-Hill

Name Changes of Harjo Children
Publication Notice
Page 1 of 1

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

IN RE THE NAME CHANGES OF: JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
Jayleigh Fui-Holovnce Harjo,
A minor child,
and
Roxie Noku-Efke Harjo,
A minor child.

Judge: Masters

CASE NO. CV-2024-130

ORDER ALLOWING SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

now on this 18th day of September, 2024, this case comes on for hearing on Petitioner's Affidavit for Service by Publication. The Court, having examined the files and records in this case, having carefully reviewed the Affidavit, having fully considered the evidence, and being fully advised of the premises, **FINDS** that it appears that even with due diligence, service cannot be made upon the Natural Father by any method other than publication.

The Court conducted a judicial inquiry into the sufficiency of Petitioner's search to determine the names and whereabouts of the Natural Father who was served herein by publication, and based on the evidence adduced the Court finds that Petitioner has exercised due diligence and has conducted a meaningful search of all reasonably available sources at hand. The Court approves the publication service given herein as meeting both statutory requirements and the minimum standards of due process.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Petitioner is authorized to give notice of the above-styled and numbered case to VINCE HARJO by publication pursuant to Muscogee Nation Title 27, Appendix 1, Rules 7 and 8 (2002).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Name Changes of Harjo Children
Order Allowing Service by Publication
Page 1 of 1

THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Name Changes of Harjo Children
Order Allowing Service by Publication
Page 2 of 1

DISTRICT COURT OF MCN DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In Re: The Name of: JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
PATRICIA ALLEN BENDGE
S.D., JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
Minor Child. JMS SEP 21 - A D 26

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

TO: All interested parties.

Take notice that PATRICIA ALLEN BENDGE has petitioned to change his/her name to PATRICIA ALLEN BENDGE.

A Hearing on said petition is set for 9:00 o'clock A. m. on the 10th day of November, 2024, before Judge Masters at 7:00 o'clock in courtroom 2 at the Muscogee Creek Nation County Courthouse. Should you know of some reason why this change of name should not be allowed you must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court. Should you fail to do so, the petition for change of name may be granted as prayed.

COURT CLERK
By: [Signature]
DEPUTY

APPROVED:
Signature [Signature]
Printed PATRICIA ALLEN BENDGE
Street 1396 W. BURKHMAN AVE
City, St., Zip SAPULPA OK 74061
Phone (703) 350-0611

(Notice to Publisher, Publish once at least 10 days prior to the date set for the hearing)

This form was developed by Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma for Pro Se litigant use. | March 2023

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
S.D., JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
Minor Child. JMS SEP 21 - A D 26

CASE NO. GD-2024-64

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN

Notice is hereby given that KAYLA SHELTON 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 S.D., date of birth November 20, 2009.

And that the 10th day of October, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock, 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 25th 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 THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
B.X.R., JMS SEP 21 - A D 26
Minor Child. JMS SEP 21 - A D 26

CASE NO. GD-2024-64

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN

Notice is hereby given that BRANDI RAY 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 B.X.R., date of birth February 11, 2021.

And that the 10th day of November, 2026 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock, 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 10th day of September, 2026.

JUDGE OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

HOMELANDS

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

ful people to bring this Celebration to Ocmulgee each year,” Ocmulgee Mounds Association said.

The festival began with a presentation of the flags by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. MCN Principal Chief David Hill gave opening remarks, and MCN Secretary of Culture and Humanities Raelynn Butler (Mvskoke) shared the history of the mounds. Mvskoke Royalty and other Tribal leaders also spoke.

Music, dance, and sport demonstrations were given by the Mystic Wind Chahta Social Dancers from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw Youth Stickball, Jarrett Wildcat (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), and Mvskoke citizen William Harjo. Jake Tiger, a Seminole Nation of Oklahoma citizen, spoke about textiles. Este Cate Hoktvke Suletawv Women's Honor Guard closed out the opening remarks.

Both days hosted make-and-take art projects from cherry blossom stamping and corn husk dolls, to customized earrings and nature walk collages.

The Mvskoke Language Department presented storytelling in the Mvskoke language with instructors Carolyn McNac and Johnno Thompson in the Visitor's Center. There was also a screening of the short film "Tiger" by Kiowa filmmaker Loren Waters. The film focuses on the life of Mvskoke artist Dana Tiger

On September 11, prior to the festival, the statue "Stickball Player" by Mvsoke artist Kenneth Johnson was installed at Bicentennial Park in Macon. Per Johnson, the statue was inspired by Netché Gray, a Muscogee World War I veteran and stickball player. "He is bronze and stands tall with his sticks raised, inviting people to the game — inviting people back to the mounds, our homeland," said Johnson. "It's a picture in time and space where this stickball player is purposefully inspiring. He has elements of our Muscogee culture on his body and clothing."



Scenes from the 34th Ocmulgee Indigenous Festival, Sept. 12 & 13, in Macon Ga. Tribal leaders, artists, MCN employees, and citizens contributed to the festival, now in it's 34th year. The Macon, Ga. festival celebrates the Indigenous heritage of the site. (ALL IMAGES Shayln Proctor/MM)