



THE

MAR 1, 2021 | “TASAHCUCE” LITTLE SPRING MONTH | VOL. 51, ISSUE 5

MVSKOKE NEWS

PRODUCED BY  MVSKOKEMEDIA

# MCNDOH ADMINISTERS THOUSANDS OF COVID-19 VACCINES TO ELDERS AND STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH YIELDS HIGH PERCENTAGES OF VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED



Tribal health workers and citizens brave the weather to administer and receive COVID-19 Vaccines. (Submission)

Angel Ellis  
DIRECTOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—Through multiple site vaccination events and the use of phased implementation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has administered over 14,000 doses of vaccines. According to MCN Principal Chief David Hill, vaccination efforts are continuing throughout the reservation. ‘We’re at over 14,000 vaccinations distributed and still going strong in many counties in our reservation and among some of

the highest percentage vaccinated in the state,’ Chief Hill said in a social media post. Citizens even took advantage of the latest COVID-19 vaccination event held at the Claude Cox Ominiplex in Okmulgee. Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt stopped in at the event for an impromptu visit on Feb. 19 and met with tribal officials. As of Feb. 22, the tribe has administered a cumulative total of 16,276 COVID-19 Vaccines. Those doses were distributed to health-care workers and tribal citizens.

COVID – 2

# NATIONAL FFA NEWS MAGAZINE COVERS MVSKOKE CITIZEN

CITIZEN RIDGE HOWELL PLANS TO GIVE BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

CHECOTAH, Oklahoma—The National FFA highlights Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ridge Howell on his works to protect Native Sovereignty. Howell, grew up on a cattle farm in Checotah with his family. He graduated from Checotah High School, continuing his education at Oklahoma State University. There he received his bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in History. After completing his undergrad at OSU, he then went to the University of Oklahoma-College of Law graduating in May 2020. Howell then accepted a position at a law firm in Tulsa that focuses on protecting and enhancing Native American sovereignty. Howell credits his foundation in the FFA and the opportunities that helped him shape his future. In his senior year of high school, Howell was connected to a grant program through the USDA. This grant allowed him and his Ag teacher Jason McPeak to start a community garden. “Along with that and some other things at the time I got a little attention from the National FFA,” Howell said. “They published a story about me and Jason on the community garden we started and other stuff we have been doing.” The State and National FFA covered him in their FFA news relations magazine during the summer of 2013. They covered him on the community garden and for receiving the White House Champion of Change in 2012. This award goes out



Ridge Howell a Mvskoke citizen is currently working with a law firm to protect Native Sovereignty. (Submission)

to community service change makers in 4-H and FFA. “I was one of six highlighted in that,” Howell added about the award. The recent article from FFA is following up on what he has been working on since they last spoke with him. Howell’s passionate towards FFA are leads from Jason McPeak his Ag teach in high school, and Janie Hipp who was CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund and USDA National Program Leader. “They’ve been mentors for me, even in law school I was a policy fellow for her (Hipp) of the Indigenous Food and Ag Initiative at the University of Arkansas-College of Law,” Howell said. Howell ended up leaving the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative after a few months and began working at the law firm he is at now. He works for a Native American law firm that focuses on all aspects of tribal

sovereignty and protecting it. “That’s important to me as a tribal member but also, being educated throughout high school and undergrad on tribal related issues even in law school,” Howell stated on learning about tribal sovereignty. While working in this field, Howell hopes to litigate cases in the courtroom. The article stated, ‘Howell believes FFA prepared him for the rigors of law school, a demanding legal career and a future arguing cases in front of juries.’ Outside of work, Howell maintains a herd of cattle in his hometown and is planning to be an active member of the local FFA alumni and supporters chapter. He hopes to share his passion and help upcoming FFA members maintain a connection to the land, according to the FFA article. Howell also stated he was thankful for all the people who helped him along the way towards his career.



Formal wear gathered from the public are available for upcoming prom season and includes dresses, suits, shoes and accessories. (Submission)

# SPRING FORMAL WEAR DRIVE HELPS MCN STUDENTS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING CONTINUES ITS FORMAL WEAR PROGRAM BY COLLECTING FORMAL WEAR FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has announced the return of the Spring Formal Wear Drive. The drive will be for the collection of gently used formal wear to donate to MCN students for the upcoming prom season including dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories. The MCN Department of Education and Training Special Projects Coordinator Savannah Chamberlin says the program first started in 2019 to support those MCN juniors and seniors attending prom. “We understand that those later years of high school things become a little more costly with student activities,” Chamberlin said. “We noticed this was a big

want and need among the students so we thought we would have the community come together and collect formal wear.” According the Chamberlin, the department currently has a collection of formal wear that amounts up to \$75,000. “We have been very fortunate while collecting donations over the last two years,” Chamberlin says. In the past, donations have been received from local citizens and even National Council Representatives. This program accepts donations year-round, however, the main time of focus is around Jan. through March for the upcoming prom season. Students will have access to this program through their schools as representatives from the Education and Training Department will make visits at schools

FORMAL– 2



COVID

Continued from Page 1

izens.

The tribe has delivered 9,417 first doses of the vaccines, with 6,859 doses given in a second-round dose.

Despite weather difficulties, the tribe has managed to hold vaccination events in

various locations. Even with the challenges of weather, vaccine events reported successful turnout. On Feb. 12, with snow rolling in, MCNDOH delivered 831 vaccines.

While the vaccines offer protection, health officials are still encouraging all measures to slow the spread of the COVID-19. Throughout the MCN Reservation, there are increasing reports of COVID-19 infection and even deaths. Citizens are encouraged to keep wearing their masks, wash hands frequently, maintain social distancing measures, and take advantage of the vaccines as soon as they are available.

FORMAL

Continued from Page 1

throughout the reservation.

“Last year we had visited at least 15 schools within the jurisdiction and helped out MCN students at each school,” Chamberlin said. “We have our local partner schools and other schools can reach out if there is a want or need there.”

For donations, Chamberlin stated that they would accept all formal wear, but would appreciate if it is dry cleaned first.

For a socially distanced donation, please contact Savannah Chamberlin at 918-732- 7743 or schamberlin@mcn-nsn to set up an appointment time to meet.

INDIAN ELDERS HONORS

NOMINATIONS OPEN

HONORING ELDERS KEEPS US GROUNDED AND MINDFUL

Angel Ellis

DIRECTOR

OKLAHOMA CITY—AARP Oklahoma is accepting nominations for the 13th annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors, which celebrates 50 Native American elders who have positively impacted our country, state, communities and Indian Country.

Since its inception in 2009, AARP Oklahoma’s Indian Elder Honors has recognized nearly 600 elders from Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. Past honorees include teachers, veterans, artists, tribal leaders, and culture preservationists.

AARP Oklahoma state president Joe Ann Vermillion thinks that one of the constants in our communities is the value of our elders.

“Regardless what we experience today, one unwavering constant is our elders’ brilliance and resilience,” Vermillion said. “For some, their service is well-known and well-documented, but others shy away from recognition as they quietly exhibit devotion to their communities.”

AARP state director Sean Voskuhl thinks that connections to our elders keeps us grounded.

“The elders connect and ground us to our past, keep us mindfully present and inspire future generations to become better curators of communities and cultures,” Voskuhl said.

The AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors will



Each fall elders from Oklahoma’s 39 tribes are honored at the Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors ceremony. Nominations are now open.

(Submission)

occur in the fall of 2021.

Anyone interested in nominating an elder can do so online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/2021AARPElderHonors>.

Nominees must be an enrolled member of one of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations, age 50 or older, and must be living.

Nominees are selected based upon their contribution to and social impact on their community, tribal



Andrea Guynes, Sherri Freeman, Matt Legrand, Tammy Thompson, Milt Denny are pictured representing Mvskoke language at a game dedicated to Native Americans.

(Submission)

NATIVE AMERICAN

APPRECIATION NIGHT

WILSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CELEBRATES NATIVE

AMERICANS AT BASKETBALL

GAME WITH MVSKOKE

LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS

Morgan Taylor

REPORTER

WILSON, Oklahoma – On Feb. 2 the Wilson Tigers played the Schulter Bulldogs in a high school basketball game. The Wilson Staff decided to dedicate the evening to celebrate Native Americans.

According to Science Teacher Milt Denny and Booster Club President Kaci El Far, the high number of Native students at Wilson influences the idea.

“Since we have a high enrollment of Native American students and are situated right in the middle of the Muscogee nation, we wanted a way to invite everyone to show and promote both school pride and Native heritage,” Denny said.

Staff members decided to design shirts using the Mvskoke language, imagery and even certain colors to display Native Pride.

“In order so show our appreciation for our Native community, Wilson basketball fans will be wearing blue shirts with the Muscogee word for Tiger (Katcv) across the front,” Denny said. “Turquoise represents harmony, friendship, and

fellowship. Native American appreciation goes deeper than school colors and turquoise unites all nations.”

“Along the left side features a Mississippian spiral motif, which represents the constant flow of eternal energy connecting our past with our present.”

El Far says the majority of Native students are enrolled Muscogee (Creek).

“We chose the Muscogee word Katcv (Tiger) because the majority of our students are Muscogee (Creek) and we teach it here in our language classes so it’s a well-known word among our community,” El far said. “We do have a diverse student body from other tribal nations, more than just Muscogee citizens.”

During the game, Native American students were recognized and given the chance to state their names, tribe and give a brief statement.

El Far claims they ordered around 100 shirts, “This is a good number for our small rural community.”

It was a good night for the Wilson Tigers, as both teams defeated the Bulldogs. The Lady Tigers final score was 66-19, and the Tigers score was 73-31.



ANONYMOUS

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Members of the Native American  
Journalists Association

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The Mvskoke News is mailed from Stigler, Oklahoma to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens’ households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media.

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



# HIGH SPRINGS CHURCH ESTABLISHED FROM A DREAM

## HIGH SPRINGS INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH STAYS TRADITIONAL

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKEMAH, Oklahoma—Mvskoke Media continues the series of Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Association churches, with series five featuring High Springs Indian Baptist Church.

According to Pastor Jesse Wind, High Springs Indian Baptist Church was organized and established in 1906. It is the sister church of Green Leaf Baptist Church. The church started as a small group of Christians living in the area when they decided to establish a church.

“I heard some of the elders fasted and prayed before building the church on the land it is on now,” a former member of the church, Lena Wind said.

Pastor Wind added that a man had a dream that showed him to build a church between two cedar trees. This man had taken a couple of the deacons out to this spot where his vision was revealed, and that is where the church stands now.

After the church was established in 1937, there were nine camp houses on the church grounds. These houses were used for families who traveled from a distance to attend services.

Alan Wind is another former member of the church who fondly recounts details about the location.

“There was also a quilt



High Springs Indian Baptist Church was established in 1906.

(Submission)

house on the grounds. It was a small storage building,” Wind said. “They had dozens of hand-made quilts for visitors and families that stayed on the church grounds from Friday until Monday. They stayed because it so far to travel, many had traveled with a horse and wagon.”

The houses were only occupied around the fourth Sunday or when the church had Lord’s Supper. Visitors would stay in the church using the quilts from the quilt house, and the families would remain in those

camp houses. When they visited, all meals were provided. The church’s last camp house was eventually demolished and became a dining hall.

Since the establishment of High Springs Indian Baptist Church, 15 pastors have led the church. Reverend Daniel Wolf, who was ordained through Alabama Baptist Church, became the first pastor. Only three of the pastors were ordained.

At High Springs, they still hold services traditionally where men sit on

one side, and the women sit on the other side. Services begin with the sounding of a horn to this day.

For now, High Springs is hosting services online due to the pandemic and safety of their church members. Before the virus hit, the church hosted a yearly women’s retreat as one of their significant events. They are also involved with outreach ministries supporting the Oklahoma Children’s Home.

Other events they host or go to include vacation bible

school, revivals, and Indian Falls Creek.

Pastor Wind has been serving at High Springs since 2004 but has been ordained since 1985.

High Springs Indian Baptist Church has services on Sunday mornings, with Sunday School starting at 9:30 a.m. and services at 11 a.m. On Wednesday they have services at 7 p.m.

The church is approximately 4 miles south of Okemah, OK, on Highway 27, and it sits on the west side of the highway.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES GRANT FROM HRSA

## HRSA GRANT FUNDS WILL HELP PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TOWARD MCNDH



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Feb. 22 by teleconference.  
(MN File Photo)

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Feb. 22.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Feb. 27.

HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**TR 21-028** Execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and the Health Resources and

Services Administration (“Agreement”) on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health.. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

The agreement is for MCNDH to accept the grant funds from HRSA to provide services to members of the MCN. 4-0 Passed.

**NCA 21-011** Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Sponsored by Rep. Marshall.

The grant funds from HRSA to MCNDH for better services is in the amount of \$126,605.00. 4-0 Passed.

For audio of committee meetings visit: [www.mcnnn.com](http://www.mcnnn.com)

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

2021 Muscogee Creek Nation high school, military, technical and college graduates for the June 1st edition.

Friday, May 14th at 5:00pm is the deadline for our special June 1st print edition.

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation.

**2021 Graduate Profile Form**  
High Resolution Digital Image Name  
High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program  
BIO **(150-word limit)**

## DEADLINE: MAY 14, 2021 AT 5PM

## LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

E-mail all information to [info@mvskokemedia.com](mailto:info@mvskokemedia.com)

For more information please call 918-732-7720. An e-mail stating your submission has been received will be sent to you, however if you do not get a response, please call to verify that your information was received.



# COLD, VIRUS SHOTS, CREEK TV SHOW, CHANGES INDIAN TO HEAD INTERIOR; TRIBAL RELIEF; OOPS; CHANGES

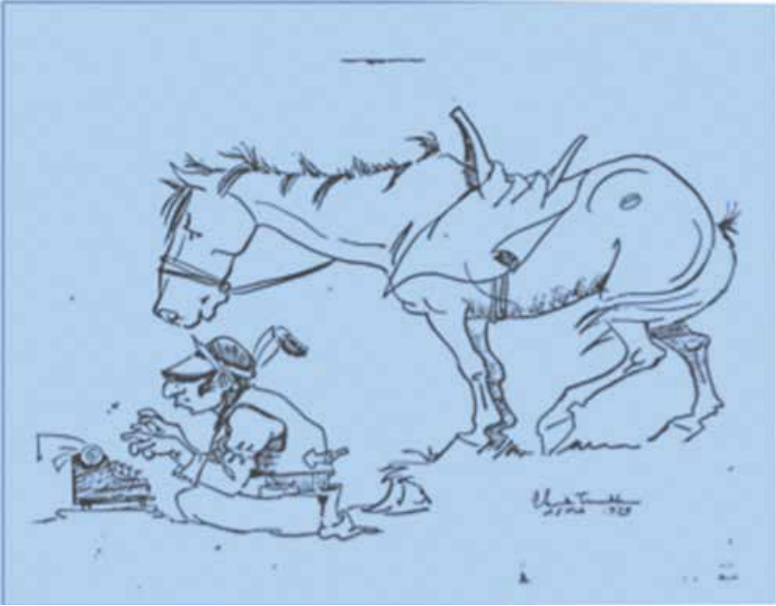
Gary Fife  
Radio Specialist

Okmulgee, Oklahoma— On the national scene, the new federal government is starting to make its plans known for its relations with tribal governments. According to Indian Country Today, topping the list is the re-establishment of the White House Tribal Nations Conference. That popular meeting was started by the Obama administration and the new President Joe Biden says he'll renew that relationship. There's a positive step for you. Alongside that, Congresswoman Deb Haaland (R. NM), Laguna/Jemez Pueblo, has been nominated for the post of Interior Secretary. Her U.S. Senate confirmation was scheduled for February 23, as of this writing. Maybe it's a done deal by now?

Have you survived the Rvfo (winter) so far? The single digit temps and snow remind me of Alaska. Makes me get out my wolf-trimmed parka. Had to cancel a couple editions of the radio show.

Another question. Have you heard the tribe's emergency phone messages? One of them has a slightly English sounding lady pronouncing the tribe's name as the MUSK- oh-gee Nation.

Here's another: a familiar sounding male voice announces that the Nation will be closed on MAY 23, 2019. Anyway, this was the



case mid-February during the snowstorm. The concern for Mvskoke people is appreciated, but maybe some quality control or at least some correction might be in order?

So much for that priority. Now, next. Have you got your Covid-19 shot, either the first or the second? I did. That made me feel better about the situation. Weeks later, nothing has happened to show any viral infection to me. But, the weather did disrupt the schedule for a lot of others. And the infection rate in Oklahoma is still counting new numbers. Thanks to our DOH and those staff members who are making it happen. 918-758-3601 for information.

Another Mvskoke tribal

agency has earned a "Pat-On-The-Back" for its efforts to assist tribal citizens. The Muscogee Nation Emergency Management has been providing water to those Creeks who have lost their water connections. The agency has been delivering water tank trailers, called "Buffalos" (YvNvSv) to four spots around the reservation. Preston, Okemah, Twin Hills, and Mounds have the trailers. Oh, there's a water station at the River Spirit Expo Center, too. Bring your own containers. YvNvsvOwv. Cool huh? Mvto!

Creek filmmaker Sterlin Harjo continues to collaborate with successful filmmaker Taika Waititi and make his mark in the TV industry. There's been talk

about Harjo's latest project "Reservation Dogs". It's about four kids who live in rural Oklahoma. Mvskoke Media reporter Lani Hansen wrote a piece about the progress of the work and it's looking pretty good.

The TV Channel FX has ordered an unspecified number of episodes. According to Hansen's article Harjo explains the program as "It's about these kids getting into trouble and getting out of trouble. It's really about the beauty of our world, the humor, lost, home and other things."

Plans were for production and filming around Okmulgee to begin around March or April. But the Covid virus and the snowy weather will probably push the March start back unless cast and crew are wearing snowshoes. They will be casting for extras, so there may be a chance for local folks to appear in this show.

More cool stuff from TV. Have you noticed that most news programs have been using the phrase, "...and tribes" in their newscasts especially when it comes to stories about governmental programs and funds? This might be a minor thing, but there was a time when local TV news didn't mention tribal governments. They delegated Native news to "minorities" and didn't take it seriously.

But since tribes have been wielding significant economic punch, things have

improved for the positive. Money still talks?

The push to eliminate Columbus Day is still making itself known. This time in Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell. The Mayor of Philadelphia, James F. Kenney, has issued Executive Order 2-21, taking care of two minority groups at once. It says: "DESIGNATING JUNETEENTH AS AN OFFICIAL CITY HOLIDAY AND RENAMING THE HOLIDAY FORMERLY KNOWN AS COLUMBUS DAY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY."

Language referring to Native peoples says: "For centuries, he has been venerated with stories of his traversing the Atlantic and "discovering" the "New World". The true history of his conduct is, in fact, infamous. Mistakenly believing he had found a new route to India, Columbus enslaved indigenous people, and punished individuals who failed to meet his expected service through violence and, in some cases, murder."

It adds, Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. have also made the move, changing the name.

O.K., remember to respect the winter weather. Drive carefully and help the elders. Lose the shorts and sneakers and wear some warm clothes, etc., etc.

Hvtvm cerecares!

## UNITED STATES ATTORNEY BRIAN J. KUESTER ANNOUNCES SUBMISSION OF RESIGNATION INDIAN COUNTRY WATCHES KEY FEDERAL JUSTICE APPOINTMENTS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT

Angel Ellis  
DIRECTOR

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma— United States Attorney Brian J. Kuester announced that he has submitted his resignation to President Biden, to be effective 11:59 PM on February 28, 2021. It is customary for newly elected presidents to ask for the resignations of United States Attorneys appointed by the previous administration. Kuester was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the United States Senate in 2017. He took office on September 25, 2017. Immediately prior to his appointment, he was serving his second term as District Attorney for Oklahoma's 27th District, which serves Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner Counties.

As the United States Attorney, Kuester served as the chief federal law enforcement officer in the Eastern District of Oklahoma and was thereby responsible for all federal criminal prosecutions and civil litigation involving the United States in the district. Twenty-six of Oklahoma's counties are within the Eastern District as well as the headquarters of each of the Five Civilized Tribes – the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

During his term, Kuester led the United States Attorney's Office through several unprecedented challenges, including the longest federal government shutdown in history, a worldwide pandemic, and the impact of the U. S.



United States Attorney Brian J. Kuester announced that he has submitted his resignation to President Biden. (Submission)

Supreme Court's landmark decision, *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. Despite these extraordinary circumstances, the office indicted more cases and defended more cases in which the United States had an interest than it had in previous administrations.

"I am proud of the quality and quantity of the work our office has accomplished. We have made the Eastern District a safer place to live, work, and raise a family, and protected the interests of the United States. But I am more proud that we accomplished this work by adherence to the enduring core values of the Department of Justice – Equal Justice Under the Law; Honesty and Integrity; Commitment to Excellence;

and Respect for the Worth and Dignity of Each Human Being – and a renewed emphasis on our working relationships with federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies," said Kuester. "Our relationships with our law enforcement partners have never been stronger. We have seen unprecedented team work by the law enforcement community serving the people of this district."

Although the *McGirt* decision was decided in July 2020, the full impact of the decision has not yet been felt. It is anticipated decisions by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals in the coming weeks may extend the rationale of the *McGirt* decision, which currently applies only to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, to the remaining four of the Five Civilized Tribes. If that occurs, the entire Eastern District will be recognized as Indian Country, greatly expanding federal criminal jurisdiction. The United States Attorney's Office has been a leader in preparing the district for that potential. The re-recognition of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has led to over a 1,500% increase in Violent Crime in Indian Country matters referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the seven months since the decision.

"We have worked closely with federal, state, and tribal agencies to prepare for the exponential increase in criminal cases over which the federal government will have primary jurisdiction. We have offered training on Indian Country Jurisdiction throughout the district; we have restructured our office – historically

one of the smallest U.S. Attorney's Office in the country – to better manage the drastic case-load increase; we have worked closely with the FBI to streamline the case intake process; we have transparently shared and received information with our law enforcement partners; and we have indicted many more defendants than ever before in such a short period of time," said Kuester. "The response by the men and women in this office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been nothing short of heroic. I am not surprised by that, it's what I have come to expect of them. I have no doubt that great service will continue."

By virtue of the Vacancies Reform Act, Christopher J. Wilson, the current First Assistant United States Attorney, will serve as the Acting United States Attorney upon Kuester's departure from the office.

"I am thankful to President Trump, Senators Inhofe and Lankford, and other members of the Senate for entrusting me with this office and the sacred mission it is responsible for," said Kuester. "As I drive away from the office for the final time I'll do so with the utmost confidence, trust, and respect for the men and women who will continue to carry out the most vital roles in government – upholding the Constitution, the administration of justice, and protecting the fiscal interests of our great Nation. Having had an opportunity to work alongside them in that very important work for nearly 3 ½ years has been the highlight of my professional career."



# BFJ COMMITTEE APPROVES AGREEMENT FOR GOAB NOMINATIONS FOR CHIEF OF LIGHTHORSE AND TAX COMMISSIONER HAVE BEEN APPROVED

**Lani Hansen**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Feb. 22.

All passed legislation went before the full Council during the regular session on Feb. 27.

BF&J addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**TR 21-032** Confirming the nomination of Richard Phillips to serve as the Chief of the Lighthorse Administration. Sponsored by Rep. Joseph

Hicks.

The Principal Chief nominates Richard Phillips to serve as the Chief of the Lighthorse Administration beginning upon confirmation and ending concurrent with the current Principal Chief. 4-0 Passed.

**TR 21-033** Confirming the nomination of Lindsey Golightly as the Tax Commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall.

Principal Chief has nominated Lindsey Golightly, a Muscogee citizen, to serve as the Tax Commissioner of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation with a term beginning upon confirmation and ending concurrent with

the term of the current Principal Chief. 4-0 Passed.

**TR 21-034** Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (“GOAB”) to execute the agreement with New Fire Native Design Group PLLC. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman.

The agreement with New Fire Native Design Group PLLC is a contract for improvement to real property or buildings. The project for a new 65,000 sq. ft. administrative building with parking and other infrastructure comes to a budget of \$9,000,000.00. 4-0 Passed.

For audio of committee meetings visit: [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com)



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Feb. 22 via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

# CHEROKEE NATION REMOVES “BY BLOOD” LANGUAGE CNCS ORDERS “BY BLOOD” REMOVED FROM THE CONSTITUTION

**Jerrad Moore**  
Multi-Media Producer

TAHLEQUAH, Oklahoma— The Cherokee Nation Supreme Court has ordered that any reference to “by blood” citizenship in the Cherokee Constitution is void and must be removed from the constitution, laws, and all accompanying rules and regulations, policies or procedure of the Cherokee Nation.

This order results from the 2017 Cherokee Nation v. Nash decision issued by the United States District Court, District of Columbia. In the Nash decision, the Court held that the



The Cherokee Nation Supreme Court has ordered that any reference to “by blood” citizenship in the Cherokee Constitution is void and must be removed from the constitution. (Submission)

1866 treaty, which included Article 9, guaranteeing former slaves in the Nation a “present right to citizenship in the Cherokee Nation that is coextensive with the rights of native Cherokees,” was binding to both the United States and Cherokee Nation.

Following this decision, the Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General filed a request for preliminary order with the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court finding that the opinion of the D.C. court was binding on the Cherokee Nation.

The Chief Justice affirmed that the opinion was binding, which resulted in three members of the Cherokee Coun-

cil, Wes Nofire, Harley Buzard and Julia Coates, filing a motion to intervene.

This motion was denied as the Court found that the Council members had no standing to file in the case and reinstated the Court’s previous order.

Three years later, CN Attorney General Sara Hill filed an amended motion with the Court requesting the Court strike “by blood” from the 1999 Cherokee Nation Constitution. It was inconsistent with the Court’s previous ruling.

The Court has agreed and ordered that any “by blood” reference be removed from the Cherokee Constitution and all accompanying laws and regu-

lations.

Chief Hoskins issued a statement heralding the strength of equality under the law.

“Cherokee Nation is stronger when we move forward as citizens together and on an equal basis under the law. Today’s decision in the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court reaffirms previous decisions by the Court on the issue of equality,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said today. “More importantly, the Court has acknowledged, in the strongest terms, our ancestors’ commitment to equality 155 years ago in the Treaty of 1866. My hope is that we all share in that same commitment going forward.”

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**SPRING-TACULAR \$750 WINNERS**  
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Guests may win one Rewards Play & cash drawing per day. Guests may qualify once for grand prize. Entries carry over each Saturday for duration of promotion. Photo may not represent actual mower. Make, model and color may vary. See Players Club for details on all promotions. Must be 21 to game.



# STUDENTS FOCUS ON STUDIES AND LIFE SKILLS

## EUFAULA DORMITORY PROUDLY SERVES MANY NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH UNDER TRIBAL MANAGEMENT SINCE 1984

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

EUFAULA, Oklahoma—History teaches Native Americans and those who are interested how boarding schools tried to ‘kill the Indian, and save the man,’ through assimilation.

According to Administrative Assistant Norma Lee, the Eufaula Dormitory has ties to the old Asbury Manual Labor School which was first established about one mile from the Chattahoochee River near Columbus, AL in 1822 by the United Methodist Church. It had opened as a boarding school and was closed when the Creek tribe were forcibly removed to Oklahoma.

The school was re-established in 1847 in the Creek territory, the new reservation west of the Mississippi River. The school burned down in 1890, and the Creeks were without a school until 1892 when the Creek government established a new school. It was then known as Eufaula Indian School. It had been co-educational until 1907 when it was made into a school for girls only, according to Lee.

“A lot of the girls attended Eufaula Dormitory and the boys joined Jones Academy,” Lee added. “Jones Academy was an all-boys school in Creek Nation.”

According to Lee, in October 1970, Eufaula Dormitory (so named when students started attending the Eufaula Public Schools in 1952) was moved to new facilities located on about 16 acres of land approximately one quarter of a mile from the old campus.

She said the facilities consist of boys and girls dormitory, cafeteria/kitchen, gymnasium, canteen and storm shelter. The campus includes a picnic area, courtyard area with basketball courts and a lighted ballfield.

“The dormitory was still under the Bureau of Indian Affairs until 1984, when the Creek Nation took it over from a grant from the bureau,” Lee said.

The facility is designed to provide nine months of residential care while students attend Eufaula Public Schools in grades 1-12. Those who stay in the dorms have a schedule such as helping in the kitchen and cleaning.

“Students still have to do



The Eufaula Dormitory has been operated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation since 1984. (Submission)

chores such as clean their rooms, sweep the floors and mop,” Lee said. “They also had to keep the bathrooms and living area clean, because before COVID we never knew who would come and visit the dorm.”

Lee said when the BIA was running the dorms they had social workers who would go out in the community and visit homes of the

Native people. The social workers did the enrollment process and a needs assessment on how the dormitory could provide for the children needs.

The dormitory now has added a few program for students such as tutoring, MCN Wellness Program, diabetes awareness program, language program, a library, vocational training and drug

and alcohol education.

“We have these programs, which we didn’t have years ago,” Lee said.

Eufaula Dormitory is located in East Central Oklahoma on the western edge of the town of Eufaula. The dormitory sits on the southeastern boundary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, 52 miles southeast of Okmulgee.

# SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY




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LEGALS



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

IN THE MATTER OF:	}	Case No. JV-2020-18
N.D.; DOB: 12/24/2004		
Alleged Deprived Child.		

**JUVENILE SUMMONS**

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Deante Carun Asberry, Jr.


YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Second Amended Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, N.D., you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 13th day of May, 2021 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for an **Adjudication Hearing** and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

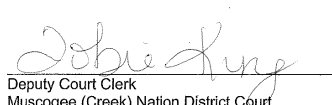
You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

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

Issued this 4th day of February, 2021.



[Seal]



Deputy Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

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

IN THE MATTER OF:	}	Case No. JV-2020-18
N.D.; DOB: 12/24/2004		
Alleged Deprived Child.		

**JUVENILE SUMMONS**

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Kimberly Ann Beal

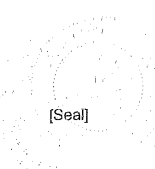
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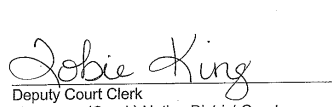
You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

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

Issued this 29th day of January, 2021.



[Seal]



Deputy Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court



# BYNG SENIOR GOES LARGE IN POINTS

## CITIZEN KENNEDY LARGE SURPASSED 1,000 POINTS FOR HER HIGH SCHOOL CAREER

Lani Hansen  
SENIOR REPORTER

BYNG, Oklahoma—Senior basketball player at Byng High School, reached 1,000 scoring points in her high school basketball career during a game against Comanche held on Jan. 21.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kennedy Large, is the daughter of Chad and Ashley Large, granddaughter of Suzanne Chaney, great-granddaughter of Jack Chaney and great-great-granddaughter of the late Dora Colbert Chaney.

Large is a senior who has played for the Lady Pirates basketball team all four years of high school as the starting forward. During off-season she plays for the softball team and is actively involved in organizations such as National Honors Society and Calculus Club.

Large was named MVP at the 2021 Charles K. Heatly

Invitational basketball tournament in Lindsay. A few days later she would reach her score of 1,000 points for her high school record.

“At the time I didn’t know that I had scored it,” Large said about reaching 1,000 scoring points. “They had told me before the game that it was a possibility and I was 18 points away.”

During the game Large was not thinking about having to score so many points to reach that goal. When they announced her name over the speaker, she was surprised and excited. Besides the big announcement made over the speaker, Large received the game ball afterwards.

According to The Ada News, the Lady Pirates did not score much in the first half of the game but led 17-9. When they came out the second half the Lady Pirates went on a 16-2 run in the third with a 40-22 lead. Comanche answered back with 14 points and at



Mvskoke citizen Kennedy Large scores her 1,000 points in a game against Comanche on Jan. 21.  
(Photo Submission by Danny Manuel)

the final minute Byng sank six free throws, with the final 48-39.

Large scored a game-high of 21 points, leading to her 1,000 points with 2:33 left



in the game. She had nine rebounds and two blocked shots in the game.

Before playoffs, Large will play her last game as a Lady Pirate on Feb. 16

against Durant. She has signed a letter of intent to play college basketball with Oklahoma Baptist University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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55 Years and Going

Fred and Wilma celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary a few weeks ago. When family and friends asked how they did it, they said “we loved each other through the good and the bad and through it all our love kept growing”.

Their statement brought up questions and comments amongst those listening. Some asked how did they stay in love that long? Others asked how did their love keep growing? The common theme of all the questions was around the word love, but when the group was asked what is love there was a quizzical silence.

Is love only a feeling? Some would say yes, but is that all it is? Feelings are powerful. Feelings of love can cause us to take risks, only want the loved one, not want to hang up the phone, make it hard to go to sleep, wake us up early, dominate our thoughts and actions, and possibly forget about reason.

Physically there are several influences that create the feeling of love. Hormones (testosterone and estrogen) create strong physical desire; a combination of neurotransmitters creates the dreamy, all I can think about, nervous responses; and endorphins create a sense of closeness or togetherness.

These influences can last for some time. Some speculate up to 18 months and others a few years. Regardless, the intensity of the emotional response will fade as the levels of hormones, neurotransmitters, and endorphins subside.

This brings us back to the original question “What is Love?” If it is only the physical response then all love will fade and eventually go away. But what about those like Fred and Wilma, who say they have loved each other through the good and the bad. The physical responses started their relationship, but what kept them together long after the physical intensity subsided?

Commitment is a word that is often used when relationships get serious, but what is commitment?

- Commitment is a decision in spite of feelings. Commitment keeps feelings like anger, hurt, or fear in check. It is a decision which keeps one from saying or doing something hurtful.
- Commitment is working even when you don’t feel like it. Relationships take work. Work means you have to do something to improve the relationship. If you are not working on it, it will struggle.
- Commitment is staying focused on the relationship and not being enticed by another/chase the next physical and emotional high.
- Commitment is staying focused on the commitment you made – to love.
- Commitment is learning how not to hold a grudge. How to be first to forgive.
- Commitment is making positive changes in yourself.
- Commitment is looking for ways to help the other person even if they don’t always notice
- Commitment is learning how not to take your bad day out on the one you love
- Commitment is being supportive
- Commitment is turning off the outside world and listening.
- Commitment is setting yearly goals for the relationship.

Commitment is a major part of love. It is vital to long lasting and ever-growing love. To learn more about love and commitment, talk to those you know who have experienced successful relationships.

If you or someone you know is struggling with anger, anxiety, worry, fear, stress or depression and need to talk to someone, please contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

If you or someone you know is in crisis call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number at 1-800-273-8255 or Text “Creek” to 741-741.

MVTO



Fiscal Year 2021

In accordance with the following legislation:

**NCA 20-050** A law of the Muscogee Creek Nation amending **NCA 20-038** (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditures of **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act** (“**CARES Act**”) funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury to establish the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Coronavirus Relief Fund Program.)

SECTION 7. REPORTING. A report shall be provided bi-weekly by the Office of the Principal Chief to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and Mvskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

Total received/earned \$312,616,371.42

Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20 and FY21 as of this report date equals, \$284,479,436.01.

The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **Mar. 1st**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
50000	<b>PRINCIPAL CHIEF</b>				
50020	Salary & Wages-FT	5,667.00	-	-	5,667.00
50100	Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5	19,900.00	-	-	19,900.00
51000	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	37,500.00	51,500.00	-	-14,000.00
51000	Fringe-FT	25,488.00	-	-	25,488.00
51100	Fringe-PT/Other	4,556.75	4,969.72	-	-412.97
53000	Supplies	2,500.00	-	-	2,500.00
56010	Donations/Contributions	50,000.00	10,000.00	-	40,000.00
	<b>SECRETARY OF NATION</b>				
54000	Contractual	9,245,034.70	7,394,884.91	1,848,721.23	1,428.56
58010	Construction	1,400.00	1,400.00	-	-
59220	Grants	305,310.85	120,767.32	-	184,543.53
	<b>TOURISM &amp; RECREATION</b>				
53000	Supplies	1,537.38	1,537.38	-	-
59050	Food Purchases	681,025.44	670,043.79	10,981.65	-
59440	Incidentals	4,048.79	4048.79	-	-
	<b>CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT</b>				
53000	Supplies	1,700.00	1,355.00	-	345.00
55210	Communications - Other	3,000.00	80.40	-	2,919.60
59220	Grants	6,825,910.80	4,079,432.45	-	2,746,478.35
	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>				
53000	Supplies	716,070.56	327,205.69	139,372.68	249,492.19
53010	Software/Licenses	1,047,630.11	726,536.90	222,617.94	98,475.27
54000	Contractual	463,594.25	39,723.75	38,172.50	385,698.00
55210	Communications- Other	42,033.74	33,860.75	-	8,172.99
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	99,818.95	26,238.82	39,379.98	34,200.15
85500	Equipment	3,660,033.48	1,493,967.75	1,880,199.84	285,865.89
	<b>FLEET MANAGEMENT</b>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	20,000.00	671.94	-	19,328.06
50010	Salary & Wages - Overtime	15,876.00	-	-	15,876.00
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	-3,374.80	8,637.20	-	-12,012.00
21000	Fringe - FT	20,199.00	363.61	-	19,835.39
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	-394.66	977.66	-	-1,372.32
53000	Supplies	3,242,728.45	1,424,516.44	61,715.00	1,756,497.01
53290	Postage/Shipping	50,000.00	31,621.52	-	18,378.48
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	315.00	-	-	315.00
85400	Vehicles	151,476.00	146,021.00	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	78,000.00	77,716.00	-	284.00
	<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	48,519.09	58,232.84	-	-9,713.75
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	0.67	7,909.54	-	-7,908.87
51000	Fringe - FT	38,960.72	34,149.97	-	4,810.75
53000	Supplies	5,522.08	5,430.79	36.00	55.29
53010	Contractual	420,955.91	205,451.99	10,970.89	204,533.03
54000	Indirect Costs	-	76.61	-	-76.61
57000	Direct Assist - Income Support	53,883,581.41	52,071,500.00	-	1,812,081.41
59071	Direct Assist - Hardship	34,432,825.50	33,087,400.00	-	1,345,425.50
	<b>SENIOR SERVICES</b>				
53000	Supplies	200,000.00	185,364.01	1,280.00	13,355.99
	<b>FOOD DISTRIBUTION</b>				
53000	Supplies	75,214.69	75,214.69	-	-
59050	Food Purchases	146,239.79	146,239.79	-	-
85050	Renovations	130,000.00	5,870.00	119,932.80	4,197.20
85170	Construction	313,656.48	64,506.00	64,506.00	184,644.48
85400	Vehicles	63,417.60	-	63,417.60	-
85500	Equipment	525,000.00	262,500.00	262,500.00	-
	<b>COMMUNITY RESEARCH &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>				
55210	Communications - Other	-	-	-	-
85170	<b>ELDERLY NUTRITION</b>				
	Construction	540,000.00	95,568.50	394,888.50	49,543.00
	<b>SECRETARY OF EDUCATION</b>				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	2,980.44	2,309.46	-	670.98
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	37,688.31	37,688.31	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	16,043.42	15,665.30	-	378.12
53000	Supplies	859,513.00	374,673.11	157,980.79	326,859.10
56030	Stipends/Honorariums	25,000.00	1,500.00	-	23,500.00
57000	Indirect Costs	-	245.91	-	-245.91
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	2,189,243.29	2,188,138.27	-	1,105.02
	<b>MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT</b>				
53000	Supplies	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	1,000,000.00	748,454.08	111,128.92	140,417.00
85170	Construction	14,800,000.00	1,576,137.91	9,942,515.09	3,281,347.00
85500	Equipment	1,400,000.00	1,070,272.18	118,919.13	210,808.69
	<b>REAL ESTATE SERVICES</b>				
54000	Contractual	9,628.00	7,899.94	2,854.06	-1,126.00
	<b>CULTURAL CENTER &amp; ARCHIVES</b>				
53000	Supplies	-	-	-	-
	<b>CULTURAL PRESERVATION</b>				
53000	Supplies	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
59220	Grants	2,725,000.00	2,189.99	-	535,001.05
	<b>TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION</b>				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	83,206.80	19,234.80	-	63,972.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	10,438.07	2,188.86	-	8,249.21
53000	Supplies	38,975.00	32,490.00	4,270.00	2,215.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	132,241.18	93,961.34	-13,003.70	51,283.54
85170	Construction	14,289,758.71	6,973,089.81	4,542,684.20	2,773,984.70
85500	Equipment	195,110.00	127,985.00	2,125.00	65,000.00
	<b>SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS</b>				
58010	Construction	313,297.00	297,631.64	3,460.36	12,205.00
	<b>OFFICE OF JUSTICE</b>				
53000	Supplies	26,800.00	26,799.29	-	0.71
54000	Contractual	26,738.00	24,738.00	-	2,000.00
	<b>OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION</b>				
54000	Contractual	36,300.00	19,000.00	-	17,300.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	340.80	-	-	340.80
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	<b>CITIZENSHIP BOARD</b>				
53000	Supplies	316,797.50	116,060.80	35,340.00	165,396.70
53010	Software/Licenses	5,649.00	-	-	5,649.00
54000	Contractual	50,500.00	10,000.00	-	40,500.00
85500	Equipment	36,258.00	-	-	36,258.00
	<b>LIGHTHORSE ADMINISTRATION</b>				
85500	Equipment	60,000.00	56,790.00	-	3,210.00
	<b>NATIONAL COUNCIL</b>				
53000	Supplies	625.00	623.34	-	1.66
	<b>DISTRICT COURT</b>				
53000	Supplies	918.23	-	-	918.23
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	10,512.00	-	-
85500	Equipment	176,011.68	159,761.68	16,250.00	-
	<b>SUPREME COURT</b>				
50100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	547.00	-	-	547.00
	<b>SECRETARY OF HEALTH</b>				
90110	Transfer Out	-	11,279,552.97	-	-11,279,552.97
	TOTAL	156,625,101.19	130,446,896.47	20,083,216.46	6,094,988.26