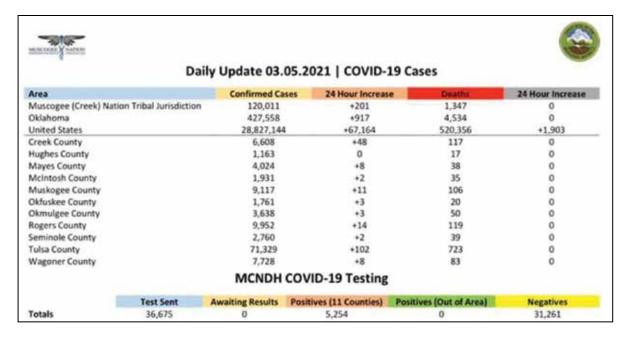
ZERO NEW CASES REPORTED BY MCNDOH

MCNDOH REPORTS NO NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 TESTS AS CDC RELEASES **NEW GUIDANCE FOR VACCINATED POPULATIONS**



The graphic above was released by MCNDOH and shows the cumulative cases of COVID-19 and 24 hour increases for March 5. (Submission) **Angel Ellis** DIRECTOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill announced on March 2 that the tribal health systems experienced it's first day with zero new positive COVID-19 tests.

Chief Hill said on social media "I have waited a long time to make this announcement, but I received my daily update this morning from the Department of Health and for the first time in nearly a year we had zero positive COVID tests at our facilities yesterday."

Chief Hill also said it is still too early to celebrate.

PRODUCED BY **MVSKOKE**MEDIA

"This is no time to spike the football and celebrate however, our diligence must continue," Chief Hill said. "Continue to schedule your vaccinations if you haven't received them, and encourage friends and loved ones to do the same."

"Wear your mask, wash your hands and keep watching your distance."

This news came as new CDC guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals was released.

According to the CDC the new guidance for fully

COVID - 2

MISSING 13-YEAR-OLD FOUND ALIVE AND WELL

MCN LIGHTHORSE POLICE DEPARTMENT COORDINATE SUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR A MCINTOSH COUNTY TEEN

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-On a Feb. 22 around 5:45 p.m. when a 13-year-old Native American boy went missing. He was later found alive and well on Tuesday afternoon Feb. 23.

Reports say he was in the Stidham area, where he was operating an orange Kubota

According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Chief Richard Phillips, they were contacted by the McIntosh County Sheriff's Department to help coordinate and map out the search for this boy.

"We rallied at the



Lighthorse, OHP and McIntosh County Sheriff's Department all gather before going out to search for the missing teen from McIntosh County. (Submission)

Stidham school, since it was close to the last location of the boy," Phillips stated.

Phillips said they covered

about 80 squared miles, and before the boy was found he

SEARCH- 2

CREEK WOMAN LENDS A HAND TO HOMELESS

A TULSA MVSKOKE WOMAN PROVIDES SOME SUPPORT TO NATIVES LIVING ON THE STREET

Gary Fife

RADIO SPECIALIST

Okmulgee, Oklahoma-With the recent blast of Arctic-type weather many Natives have been struggling to stay warm and find enough to eat. While there are several agencies that have been handing out these necessities, one Creek woman is trying to help bridge the gap between needs and resources to those Native people living on the streets of Tulsa.

Lana Harjochee has taken on the task of getting these supplies to people who exist on the streets. Her campaign "Raising Native Hope" has been around since 2017, getting food and clothing to those Native who might have been missed by the big, well-known organizations and importantly, assisting them in obtaining the paperwork necessary for federal, state and tribal pro-

In an interview with

SUPPORT- 2

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON SAFE SPACE

MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FUNDED BY CARES ACT NEARING COMPLETION

Jerrad Moore

MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-On March 5, Principal Chief David Hill cut the ribbon on the newly constructed Safe Space Facility that will be put to use as the tribe begins to resume in person work across tribal programs.

Funded by the CARES Act passed by the United States Congress in March of 2020, this 20,000 square foot facility located behind the Myskoke Dome on the Claude Cox Omniplex will be a place for Tribal citizens and government agencies to do business while maintaining social distancing and CDC Covid pro-

This is achieved by the use of portable barrier walls in the lobby, isolation cubical desks for workers and moveable divider walls in the buildings construc-

The facility also has a commercial kitchen, as well as a tornado shelter and back up generator in case of power loss.

New Fire Native Design Group completed the design of the project, and ground breaking for the project occurred in August of 2020. The construction was completed in six months.

According to head of MCN

SAFE - 2



Pictured is the completed Safe Space facility that will allow for safe social distancing in person consultations between program staff and Mvskoke citizens. (Staff Photo)

COVID

Continued from Page 1

vaccinated individuals, those who had their second shot more than two weeks prior can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without a mask or physical distancing. They can also visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distanc-

ing. The CDC guidelines also say that a fully vaccinated person can refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

While that might be encouraging for some, the CDC still advises that even people fully vaccinated should continue to take precautions in public like wearing a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. The CDC also still recommends that fully vaccinated people wear masks,

practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

Large and medium social gatherings are still discouraged by the CDC, and anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are still encouraged to be tested even if they have been vaccinated.

The MCNDOH data reflects that while the tribal health systems may not have had new positive tests, other health systems are not experiencing the same trend.

For instance on the same day that the MCNDOH recorded no new positive tests, the State of Oklahoma still confirmed about 146 new cases. Within the tribal boundaries there have been a cumulative total of 120,011 confirmed cases within the MCN jurisdiction as of March 5.

New cases are still being recorded on the reservation and that means there are still risks to Mvskoke citizens especially those who have not been vaccinated.

according MCNDOH, "The COVID-19 vaccine will help prevent COVID-19, and the currently available vaccines are highly effective in the prevention of the virus."

Those wishing to receive the vaccine are encouraged to call the vaccine line and sign up at 918-758-3601.

SEARCH

Continued from Page 1

was missing for about 30 to 31 hours. About 80 plus people were involved in the search including Oklahoma Highway Patrol who provided a helicopter, Oklahoma Bureau Narcotics they provided a drone, Lighthorse provided 20 to 30 officers and McIntosh Sheriff's Department.

The boy was found in the afternoon by searchers. One of the volunteers had been walking the same area as Lighthorse K-9 unit Captain Patrick Williams and his dog Nitro.

"There was a couple of times his dog had alerted on a different trail they were searching," Phillips said. "He gave his dog some lead, and then they followed his dog. As they got close to where the boy was found, one of the volunteers was coming toward them and pointed out the boy."

When the boy was found he was asleep, wet from the waist down and tired. He had walked about 20 miles from where he was last seen.

MCN Lighthorse Chief Phillips thanks all those who helped.

He said from bringing donuts, water and snacks, Stidham Schools principal and coach for providing hospitality, the church in Stidham and just the community volunteers.

SAFE

Continued from Page 1

Tribal Construction Steve Emerson the project was complete in record time.

"This project normally would take about two years, from conception to design to final completion, this is really a two year project that got completed in 8 months," Emerson said. "We started working on the design eight months ago and so this is a testament to the whole group of what they did."

The Safe Space facility is not the only construction project funded by the CARES Act that MCN Tribal Construction is working on.

Located on the MCN Industrial park on Highway 75, the Personal Protective Equipment

Warehouse is on schedule for a projected opening of mid-March.

This 36,000 square foot facility was constructed to house PPE supplies acquired by Tribe that is currently being stored in different temporary locations on the MCN Capitol Complex. The warehouse will be a new home for MCN GSA and also host a new data center with concrete walls and roof.

Just south of the Duck Creek Casino on Highway 75, construction continues on the MCN Meat Processing Facility.

This 24,000 square foot project will consist of a slaughterhouse and meat market. This Cares Act funded project required more design time, due to the added complexity necessary for a slaughterhouse, which has pushed back the opening date to July 2021.

SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1

Mvskoke Radio February 24, Harjochee describes her

"I help our Native brothers and sisters who are on the streets here in Tulsa, getting their CDIBs (Certificate of Indian Blood) or the State IDs' or if they need some kind of paperwork for the tribe or find connections with relatives. Maybe they need some clothes or boots for work that will enable them to get a job. That's basically what I do now."

Exact counts of Natives living on the streets is not available, But Harjochee says she's worked with dozens, many of them Creeks, but she does not have a specific number, "Since I started this, I've worked with 72 people, maybe 30, 35 are Mvskoke. I can't really give you a 'ballpark' (number) because there's so may different tribes that need so

Media images of homeless people usually include tent camps, tarps, cars and old grocery carts stacked alongside, stuffed with personal belongings. Many line along road rights-of-way or underneath concrete overpass bridges.

"We do see a lot of that. We do see a lot of people living in their cars that no longer work. We do have people who are living in abandoned housing."

But even with some available type of shelter, some of may have ended up in their

those on the streets, Harjochee says, prefer to stay on those streets. They would rather face the hazards of street life to those found from residents inside the

"The majority of them that you see like that," Harjochee said. "I see that you've got two types of homeless. You've got some that are living with friends but, the situation that they find; they're out of jurisdiction and they can't get the help."
"Yes, there are a lot of

our Natives that live under bridges," Harjochee said. "There are a lot of them that live in the park."

"The majority of them that do live like that don't want to go to the shelters."

Sometimes there is a reason they prefer to avoid the shelters.

"There's too much roughhousing, too much drugs," Harjochee said. "There's a lot of alcoholism."

"They don't want to go to these places. Or they've been kicked out, no longer able to come back."

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had its effects on Tulsa's homeless Native population Harjochee adds. Some, she said, felt the combined effects of the health crisis. "Some of them have lost jobs because of the Covid that happened over the last year."

"With that, they lost their work and their housing."

There are still even more reasons one of the clients unfortunate situation. The challenge of navigating the mazes of federal, state and tribal paperwork has had the effect of halting or keeping the homeless from receiving

Raising Native Hope isn't just a charity organization, providing clothes or other necessities Harjochee says. They try to lift spirits.

"We're not just giving out things, we're trying to lift them up to better area," Harjochee said. "Some of them have fines that they have to pay off."

"Some of them are just coming out of prison or jail and they have just been left out there with no direction to go."

The work of Raising Native Hope is almost a one-person job and from Harjochees pocketbook. The little group does not receive any governmental or foundation grants. Harjochee is searching for a person or organization that could write proposals or applications for them.

Their donations are from individuals and they get support from the Tulsa Creek Indian Center. The center maintains a box that collects the clothing, cash and canned goods to be donated. Sites on the PayPal app and Facebook help with online donations.

Raising Native Hope could use all the donations it can get, according to Harjochee. Those willing to donate can do so at Paypal. need.nativehomeless or by calling 918-527-3834.

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



RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY HIV HAS MADE AN INCREASE BY 39% AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS SINCE 2010

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

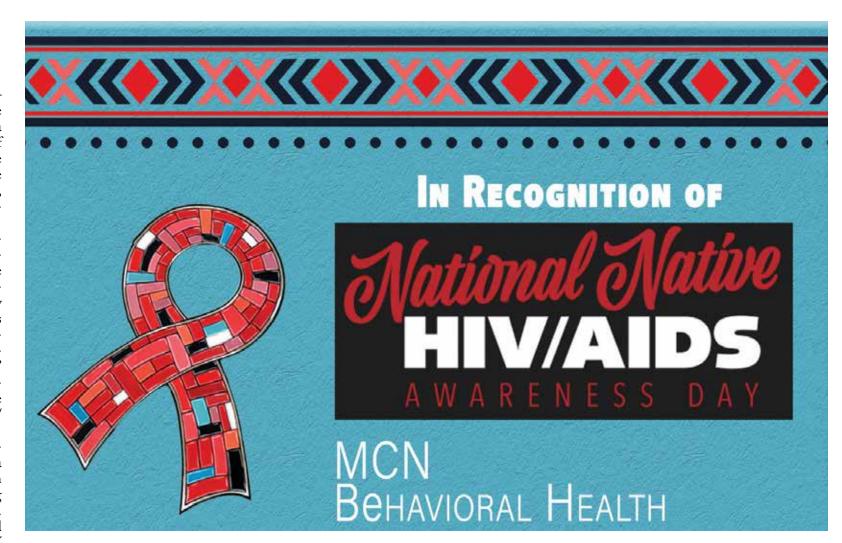
OKEMAH, Oklahoma-March is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a day to address the impact of HIV on Native People. The annual observance is set aside to promote HIV education, testing, prevention and treatment in Native communities.

"March 20 is the beginning of spring. Spring represents a time of change and new beginnings - a celebration of life. It is only appropriate that spring was selected as a time to acknowledge the need for HIV education, testing and prevention," said Merideth Rasor, Project Director for Muscogee Health's Substance Abuse/ HIV Grant.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that is spread through sexual contact and sharing drug injection equipment. If untreated HIV can lead to AIDS. Since 2010, HIV diagnoses have increased 39% among American Indian/ Alaska Native individuals. The CDC recommends every individual be tested at least once in their lifetime for HIV, but as often as annually depending on risk factors.

'There are medications available to help prevent HIV," said Rasor. "These medications are called PrEP and it stands for Pre-exposure prophylaxis; when taken regularly, they can significantly reduce the risk of acquiring

There are also many treatment options for persons



March 20 is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a day to address the impact of HIV on Native People. The annual observance is set aside to promote HIV education, testing, prevention and treatment in Native communities. (Submission)

living with HIV. "At Muscogee Health, we can tailor a treatment plan that is specific to the patient," said Dr. Amanda Reed, MCNDH physician and HIV Champion. "We want to treat the individual from a holistic standpoint - mind and body."

A common phrase in HİV treatment is $\dot{U} = U$, which means undetectable equals un-transmittable. If a person living with HIV is receiving treatment, the amount of the virus in their body can reach

a level that is undetectable. When that person living with HIV has an undetectable viral load, they cannot transmit HIV to another person. This is why early detection and treatment are so tremendously important.

"Often people who believe they may have been exposed or who are HIV or Hep C positive do not seek out testing or treatment because of the fear of bias and discrimination," said Dr. Reed. "We want our patients to know

we are their ally; we are here to support them and provide optimum care."

If you or someone you know is living with HIV, or is interested in more information regarding PrEP, HIV, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing or addiction, contact Dr. Amanda Reed at the Koweta Indian Health Facility. Telehealth appointments are available.

In honor of National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services is hosting a free HIV and Hepatitis C testing event. This event will take place on March 19, 2021 at the Koweta Indian Health Facility from 10am-3pm. There will be a van set up in the parking lot to provide free and confidential testing. Tee shirts are available to all par-

Together we can end the HIV epidemic. Know your status. Get tested.

MVSKOKE TIES AT THE FAM

GOUGE NAMED GUEST SERVICES SPECIALIST FOR THE FIRST **AMERICANS MUSEUM**



Pictured is Tresa Gouge, Guest Services Specialist for the First Americans Museum. (Submission)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY-OKLAHOMA First Americans Museum (FAM) welcomes Tresa Gouge as its Guest Services Specialist effective March 1, 2021. Gouge, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and of Seminole descent will greet visitors when they enter the Oklahoma City-based museum. FAM is scheduled to open September 18, 2021.

Gouge will join the ranks of other fellow Mvskoke citizen, FAM deputy director, Shoshana Wasserman, who is also Myskoke and of the Thlopthlocco tribal town.

"Tresa is dedicated to the mission of FAM and has graciously offered her time and cultural knowledge as a volunteer for the past couple of years," Wasserman said. "She and her family have helped traditional aspects

MUSEUM - 4



E-mail all information to info@mvskokemedia.com

you do not get a response, please call to verify that your

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your submission has been received will be sent to you, however if

information was received.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 3

important to the museum since the 2005 Ground blessing Ceremony and the dedication of the FAM Mound."

Gouge's job duties include assisting with guest admissions, museum membership, visitor services, coordinating volunteers and assisting with special events.

Gouge has a passion for working with youth and elders in rural and urban settings with cultural workshops, retreats and events.

Prior to the Museum she worked as Paralegal and a grant writer. She has an Associate Degree in Paralegal

Studies and Public Administration through Rose State College. Her greatest research interests are American Indian history, culture, and art. She is a descendant of Opethleyahola, who is among the major chiefs within the history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The 175,000-square-foot museum, located at 659 First Americans Boulevard in Oklahoma City, will showcase state-of-the-art exhibitions in First Americans history, culture and art.; There will also be a variety of public and educational programs, a full-service restaurant, and a museum store featuring authentic, oneof-a-kind handmade items by premier First Americans art-

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES THREE HOUSE BILLS

IDA'S LAW IS NOW RECOGNIZED WITHIN MCN

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council meeting was held Feb. 27.

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

TR 21-026 To execute a utility easement, donation certificate and temporary construction easement across tribal land for the construction, use and maintenance of the Elm Creek Trunk Sewer Line replacement in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Sponsored by Rep. Charles McHenry.

In Project # S. 1606 the city of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma is seeking a Utility Easement and Temporary Construction Easement in Lot 8, Block 7 which is the Nation's property. The Temporary Construction Easement is limited to a period of no more than 12 months from the start of construction. Adopted 15-0.

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



REGULAR SESSION

A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council meeting was held Feb. 27 via teleconference. (MN File Photo)

Marshall.

The agreement is for MCNDH to accept the grant funds from HRSA to provide services to members of the MCN. Adopted

TR 21-029 Supporting the passage of Oklahoma House Bill 1790, House Bill 2733 and Senate Bill 172. Sponsored by Rep. Mark Randolph. Co-Sponsored by Rep. Anna Marshall, Mary Crawford, James Jennings, William Lowe, Robert Hufft, Darrell Proctor, Charles McHenry, Thomasene Yahola Osborn.

Three House Bills have been filed and could impact Oklahoma tribal citizens. HB 1790 proposes the creation of a Kasey Alert system, notifying the public of a critically missing adult. SB 172 and HB 2733 creates the Ida's Law, addressing the missing and murdered indigenous persons in the State of Oklahoma and establish a statewide missing persons coordinator within the OSBI. Adopted

TR 21-030 Authorizing the construction of the Fleet Services building expansion project. Sponsored by Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn.

MCN Fleet Services building is in need of an expansion for office space and a wash rack in order to properly serve customers. Funding for the expansion will be paid from the Tribal Transportation Program. Adopted 15-0.

TR 21-031 Authorizing the construction of the Equipment Storage Building Construction Project. Sponsored by Rep. Darrell Proctor.

MCN Tribal Construction Department is in need of a facility to properly store and secure their construction equipment. Funding for the project will be paid from Tribal Transportation Program. Adopted 15-0.

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. Adopted 11-4.

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. Failed 6-9.

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. Adopted 15-0.

TR 21-040 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board ("GOAB") to execute the AIA Document A133-2009 construction manager agreement and the AIA Document A201-2017 general conditions of the agreement for its administration building project. Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr.

The agreements are for construction of a new administrative building with parking and other associated infrastructure as required to support the facilities. Adopted 15-0.

NCA 21-009 Creating a new Chapter 11, entitled "Floodplains" in MCNCA Title 28 "Land and Minerals." Sponsored by Rep. Charles McHenry.

The Floodplain Ordinance for the MCN is to address issues created by flood hazards and properly ensure the public health, safety and general welfare of the Nation. Flood hazard areas include Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Adopted 15-0.

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

The grant funds from HRSA to MCNDH for better services is in the amount of \$126,605.00. Adopted 15-0.

For audio of committee meetings visit: www. mcnnc.com



2021 **ELECTION**



National Council Seat B

CANDIDATE FILING JULY 19-21 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM **EACH DAY**

ABSENTEE BALLOT & REGISTRATION REQUESTING DEADLINE **AUGUST 25 @ 5:00 PM**

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING SEPT 15 & 16, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM EACH DAY

2021 PRIMARY ELECTION SEPTEMBER 18, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Absentee ballot request forms can be found on the election board website

Fax, mail, scan/email completed absentee ballot request form to the election office by august 25, 2021

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T: 918-732-7631 election@mcn-election.com

INDIAN RELAY COMES TO OKLAHOMA

TRIBES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE COMING TO OKLAHOMA TO PROMOTE THREE-HORSE RELAY RACE

Lani Hansen

SENIOR REPORTER

PAWHUSKA, Oklahoma-On Memorial Day weekend, Osage County Fairgrounds will be hosting the Indian Relay races bringing approximately 70 teams from different tribes.

According to Linwood Hisbadhorse, Sr. (Northern Cheyenne) leader of Hisbadhorse relay team, this event started many years ago before he was born. He stated the race is a big event, teams coming from the Northern, Western and Central parts of the United States.

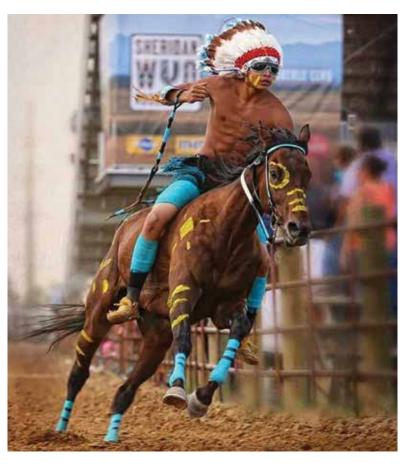
"Indian Relay is a threehorse relay around a mile track," Hisbadhorse said. "This is promoting Indian relay in the southern country."

Hisbadhorse said, the reason for bringing Indian relay to Oklahoma is back in the 1800's Native people were placed in what was then Indian Territory. Many of the Native's lost their horse culture. Back then, to hunt buffalo, transport or even to survive Native people depended on horses. He feels that southern tribes have lost this vital link to the past.

"We've had two previous events in the past in 2017 and 2018 in Perkins, Oklahoma," Hisbadhorse said. "That was with the Indian relay itself with the Iowa Tribe of Indians. It was an invitational where 12 teams were selected from Montana."

The Indian relay event is expected to be huge with about 70 teams coming. Each team has to allow five horses for use in the event. The purse money is what is attracting all the teams. Hisbadhorse said there is \$140,000 in prize money.

"This is kind of history in the making, as I was talking to a guy and he said this will be the largest gathering of warriors since the Little Bighorn battle in Montana," Hisbadhorse stated.



Hisbadhorse Relay team will be one of many coming to Oklahoma on Memorial Day Weekend. (Submission)

The three-horse around the track consists of four team members, the rider and the mugger. He said the mugger holds the horse still for the rider during an exchange. The rider will make two exchanges with three separate horses, each horse runs one lap around the track.

Hisbadhorse has been a part of the Indian relay races for many years, under the Hisbadhorse Company. His son who just got out of the marines is one of their riders. He says the relays are a family tradition. Their team represents the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

Other events going on include sheeps race, women's Indian relay, warrior's race and 45 and over relay teams. Winners will receive jackets and buckles like any other rodeo event.

The Indian relay races will be running from May 27 through May 31. The event will include a traditional grand entry with dancers and color guard.

COUNCIL APPROVES OCEVPOFV FUNDING

MCNNC VOTES DOWN LEGISLATION TO REPAY \$25K IN MISAPPROPRIATED **HOUSING FUNDS**

Angel Ellis

DIRECTOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma— A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Extraordinary meeting was held Feb. 25.

The National Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of

which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCA 21-012 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee Sacred Site of Hickory Ground Near Wetumpka, Alabama and Authorizing a Special Appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related thereto.

Sponsored by Rep. Travis Scott, Co-Sponsored by Rep. William Lowe, Patrick Freeman Jr., and Rep. Darrell Proctor. (\$300,000).

According to the legislation the site of the "pre-historic" Ocevpofv (Hickory Ground), located in present-day Alabama is currently under ownership of the Poarch Band of

Creek Indians, who purchased the site with a grant from the Alabama historical commission. The U.S. Department of the Interior for the purpose of preservation funded the commission. Legislation states that it was always the intent and expectation that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Ocevpofv people of the Muscogee

Nation that Hickory Ground would be preserved and protected in accordance with the wishes of the tribe and the Ocevpofv people in a manner befitting its historical and cultural significance.

Despite assurances by the Poarch Band the site was dis-

EXTRAORDINARY - 6



Be S.M.A.R.T



Johnny, like many of us after our teens and early 20's, has gained weight. He has been aware of this for several years, but something about loosening his belt yet another notch motivated him to finally do something about it. He threw out all his unhealthy food, sodas, and high carb snacks and bought a cart full of fresh veggies and low carb food. He also found his weights in the back of the garage, dusted them off, and set his alarm for 5AM workouts. He just knew with this amount of effort he would lose at least a pound a day.

After four determined days of exercise and healthy eating, he stepped on the scale expecting to see four or more pounds lost and he had gained a pound. He was sure the scales were wrong but after several attempts, it read the same. Distraught, he wondered if all of this effort was truly worth it. The more he thought about it the more frustrated he became. As his frustration grew the craving for pizza and a coke grew more intense. Eventually, he gave into his craving.

Many of us can relate to Johnny's story. We are fired up and set goals for ourselves but something happens along the way. This can be discouraging not only in the midst of working on a goal but also when setting future goals. We may see it as futile.

Most of the goals we set are attainable but the expectations are not. Helpful tips to successfully achieve a goal is to be S.M.A.R.T. S.M.A.R.T. is an acronym that helps categorize goals in way that increases the likelihood of success. Below is an example of how someone can use S.M.A.R.T goals to lose some weight.

S- Specific: Is your goal specific to what you want to achieve? Example, "I will lose 25 pounds"

M- Measurable: How will you measure progress? Example, "I will weigh myself once a week to see if I'm losing weight" **A-Attainable:** is your journey to reaching your goal realistic? Example, "I will try to lose 1 pound per week" is a lot more attainable than "I will try to lose one pound per day." Talk to others who have achieved similar goals to make sure your expectation is realistic/attainable.

R-Relevant: Is your goal rewarding? What do you hope to get out of your goal? Example, "After losing the weight, I hope to have more energy, more confidence, and feel healthier overall."

T- Timely: What is the timeline for your goal? "I will lose 25 pounds in 7-8 months" is more realistic time line than "I will

lose 25-30 pounds in a month." Once you have set your SMART goals here are some additional strategies to help improve success. • Write them down-There's a lot of power when you write something down. It becomes the first step from brainstorming to

Understand your 'why'- When we understand the why we have certain goals, we will be more likely to stick to our goal

when challenges arise. Break your goals down into smaller ones-Tackling a large goal can seem overwhelming. Breaking down goals into smaller

achievable pieces helps build confidence and success.

Create a plan-This where your 'SMART' goals come into play. Write your plan down so you can go back and review it daily. Track your habits- Know your habits, even the ones that you are trying to break. Remind yourself that you have control

over your habits not they control you. Evaluate your progress- Do a weekly "check in" with your plan to see where you are in the change process. If you are not making your goal for the week try to use it as a teachable moment to learn. Setbacks and mistakes are opportunities to learn rather than reason to give up.

Keep it up- If you're making progress, that's fantastic! Keep putting in the hard work!

Be kind to yourself- Celebrate your successes and your setbacks. Change is a process which is not perfect. You can make it if you just keep moving forward.

A goal without a plan is simply a wish.

If you or someone you know is struggling with anger, anxiety, worry, fear, stress or depression and need to talk to someone, pléase 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



NEW STIMULUS ACT INCLUDES TRIBAL FUNDING INDIAN COUNTRY WATCHES KEY FEDERAL JUSTICE APPOINTMENTS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT

Jerrad Moore

MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has passed the United States Senate and is expected to the U.S. House of Representatives along a party line vote on March 9.

The bill outlines another round of stimulus to Native American tribes. If the Act were to pass the Bureau of Indian Education will receive \$850,000,000 dollars to be allocated by the Secretary of the Interior within 30 days of the bills passing.

These funds would be made available to Bureau funded schools, as well as Tribal College or Universities.

The bill also adds \$10,000,000 to the Native American Programs Act of 1974, and adds language to the act to provide emergency grants for Native American language preservation and maintenance.

Health fund-Indian ing is appropriated in the \$6,094,000,000 which is broken down into \$2,000,000,000 for lost reimbursements, \$500,000,000 for the provision of additional health care services provided through the Purchased/ Referred Care program, \$140,000,000 for information technology, Telehealth infrastructure and Indian Health electronic records systems, \$84,000,000 for maintaining operations of the Urban Indian Health program, \$600,000,000 for vaccine planning, administration and tracking, \$1,500,000,000 to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections, \$240,000,000 to establish, expand and sustain a public health workforce, \$420,000,000 for expenses related to mental and behavioral health preven-



The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has passed the United States Senate and is expected to the U.S. House of Representatives along a party line vote on March 9. The bill includes more tribal funding and individual stimulus (Shutterstock) payments.

tion and treatment services, \$600,000,000 for lease, purchase, construction, alteration, renovation or equipping of health facilities, \$10,000,000 for potable water delivery.

The bill also includes funding for Native American HUD programs such as \$455,000,000 for Native American Housing Block Grants, \$280,000,000 for Indian Community Development Block Grants.

In addition funding in the bill available to tribal governments in the amounts of \$100,000,000 for Tribal housing improvement, \$772,500,000 for Tribal government services, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, and other related expenses, and \$20,000,000 to provide and deliver potable water.

The bill also includes stimulus for individuals and families. Depending on the timing of the bill's passage, citizens can expect that the IRS will go with the most updated salary/dependent information, so filing 2020 taxes before a third round of stimulus checks could impact the amounts received.

Anyone who made \$75,000 or less could expect the full amount and couples earning \$150,000 or less will get \$2,800 in relief payments. As income level increases, stimulus payments decrease. The current plan calls for the phase-out of direct payments for single people to be \$100,000 and \$200,000 for couples.

Heads of household tax filers, such as single parents, are proposed to have higher income cutoffs than single filer categories. In addition to the \$1,400 payments, the bill would extend emergency unemployment benefits through August and increase tax credits for children and federal subsidies for health

The proposed bill It also provides billions for schools and colleges, state and local governments, COVID-19 vaccines and testing, renters, food producers and struggling industries like airlines, restaurants, bars and concert venues.

The House originally approved the bill, but in the senate many amendments were introduced. Now the bill will go back to the House for review of the amendments.

Oklahoma's Sen. James Lankford and Sen. Jim Inhofe took to social media and issued statements condemning the relief bill.

In a statement published to Sen. Lankford's website stated he was opposed to spending money for "COVID" relief.

"The chaotic process that took place over the last week is further proof that this bill was not ready and not right," said Lankford. "Congress came together five times over the past year in a bipartisan way to address the needs of Americans who have been affected by this health pandemic. There was no reason we couldn't do that again except that Democrats wanted to load up this bill with non-COVID items.

"This \$1.9 trillion bill funds several progressive projects that are not related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides funding in many areas that won't even be used this year.

Ú.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) voted today against Democrats' \$1.9 trillion bill that claims to bring immediate COVID relief to Americans, but fails to address the needs of rural Oklahomans and recklessly funds liberal priorities that are unrelated to the pandemic—much of it designated to be spent years from now.

"Under the Trump administration, Congress enacted \$4 trillion in coronavirus relief," Inhofe said. "Unfortunately, with Democrats now in control, a partisan bill was written that claims to be for pandemic relief, but very little of it would actually go to address the pandemic and much of the money designated wouldn't be spent for years.

"We need to come together to prioritize relief for small businesses, reopening schools and addressing public health needs. I am sad to see that is not the case with this legislation. Instead of focusing on bringing relief to Oklahomans and responsibly reopening the economy, the Democrats have been playing partisan politics to get their liberal wish list done, including the bailout of blue states' unbalanced budgets with our hard-earned tax dollars."

Oklahoma's House delegation is expected vote against

Rep. Tom Cole has publicly denounced the measure as well as Markwayne Mulling who called the relief a "socialist agenda."

EXTRAODINARY

Continued from Page 5

turbed and remains of Ocevpofv people were desecrated in order to develop a casino.

The purpose of the legislation is to reaffirm the support of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and to authorize a special appropriation to fund the cost of necessary expenses required to secure and protect the site and cause commercial and gaming activity to cease. The measure was adopted with a 15-0 vote.

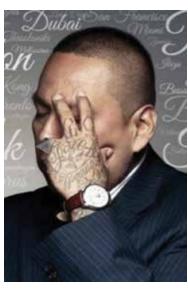
NCA 21-013 A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing an appropriation of funds to repay the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) line of credit control system (LOCCS) Account. Sponsored by Thomasene Yahola Osborn (\$25,000)

According to the legislation, the Department of Housing did not properly determine eligibility prior to assistance in the Mortgage Assistance Program of an applicant-and the Southern Plains Office of Native American Program is now requesting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation repay to the Nation's Indian Housing Block Grant line of credit control systems the amount of Mortgage Assistance Program funds provided regarding the incident totaling \$25,000.

The measure failed with a 6-9 vote.



OBITUARIES



Walter S. Brown "Boog Star" May 13, 1972 – February 16, 2021

Enrolled citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Walter "Boog" Brown, leaves behind a legacy to his family and friends around the world. After losing his greatest battle of all to cancer on February 16, 2021. Boog fought the fight with courage, faith and determination to live for the love he had for his children.

Boog touched the hearts of many people and left a mark around the world with his artistic talents and the love of the tattoo game. Boog knew the struggle at an early age. He grew up in large arena of family. Consisting of sisters, a brother, cousins, aunts and uncles, with an undetermined means of financial situation.

Boog was raised by his maternal grandmother, Rose Fields, in Morris, Oklahoma. This is where he attended school until graduation. Boog had a gift of art and was a selftaught artist. He had little art classes in school but it was a challenge because he had his own style and vision of art. This made it difficult for him to follow directions, causing conflict with his art teacher. After graduation, Boog moved to Dallas, TX with his mother, Jessina Brown and siblings, this is where he started pursuing his

Boog was always fascinated with tattoos. His fascination with tattoos started at a young age, seeing his grandfather with sailor tattoos and his uncles with prison tattoos. Boog started out in the urban streets of the Chicano area in Oakcliff, a suburb of Dallas. He made a homemade tattoo gun out of his mother's hair dryer motor and guitar strings. His friends were his human canvas'. He created his own personal urban tattoo style of Chicano real life stories formed from prisons to the

After many closed doors being shut in his face, he never gave up on his dream. This made him push harder with thousands of hours of drawing to improve and document his style of lettering in black and white tattoo art. Boog finally got his big break in 1997, at the Skin Art Gallery, in Addison,

Boog had a passion and the love for lettering. Boog stated, in order for lettering, your mind has to be flawless and its very challenging to stay focused. Lettering is the most beautiful aspect of all tattooing. This made Boog number on in the tattoo industry with his famous lettering around the world. Making him a Legend-

ary International Tattoo Artist. Boog had a passion. He said "for a man to have a passion you have to commit to that passion. It is powerful and you can bend the universe." With his passion he had for art and tattooing he had his monumental achievements. He traveled the world from Japan to France made his dream come true. "The World is Mine" quoted from BoogStar.



Jeffery Yahola December 27, 1967 -January 23, 2021

Jeffery Yahola was born December 27, 1967. To the late Thomas Yahola and Elizabeth Roberta Yahola. He passed away Tuesday, February 23, 2021. He is preceded in death by Thomas Yahola of Bristow OK, his brother Maurice Yahola of Wetumka, OK. Dennis Baker of Wetumka OK., and Sylvia Faye Baker of Wetumka, Oklahoma.

Jeffery is survived by his two daughters, Destiny and Feather Yahola. His mother, Elizabeth Yahola, by Jerry Baker, by his siblings Julia Teboe, Thomas Yahola Jr., Blanche Bear, Dean Baker, Anson Yahola, Thomasena Hurst, Rachel Little, and Ronnie Whitetree. He also has many nephews, nieces, grand nephews, grand nieces, cousins, and many, many friends.

graduated Wetumka High School. He joined the National Guard his junior year and later joined the Navy. He went to various Tech Schools learning everything from industrial work to culinary school. He used his skills to travel and work all over the United States. Along the way

he met many lifelong friends. Jeff loved the Dallas Cow-

YAHOLA - 7

YAHOLA

Continued from Page 6

boys, Detroit Pistons, the Thunder, and above all, the Oklahoma Sooners. His love for music included bands like Pantera, Ozzy, and Black Sab-

Jeff was very passionate about politics, religion, his community, and most importantly his family and friends.

His selflessness, kindness, humor, passion, the impact he had on each of our lives, and everything that made him who he was will be deeply missed and remembered always.

Funeral services for Jeffery Yahola were held on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 11:00am at Grace Baptist Church in Wetumka, Õklahoma under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka and Weleetka.



Linda Lou Dover August 27, 1954 -January 18, 2021

Linda Lou Dover, a Muscogee (Creek) Citizen went to be with the Lord January 18, 2021, at the Specialty Hospital, Ft. Smith, Arkansas. She was born on August 27, 1954 at her home in Mellette, Oklahoma the sixth child of Mary Eugenia Redman and Virgil Lloyd Dover Sr. She attended school at Mellette Community and Eufaula Public School. She was a member of the Burns Chapel Church of God where she played piano.

From a young age growing up on the farm, Linda nurtured and cared for the calves and horses, Baby and Shadow. She liked to cook,

collect dolls and teddy bears and became a caretaker for her elderly cousin. Her life's pleasure was giving to others in need. Later in life, Linda lived near Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and enjoyed going on outings with groups of friends to Eureka Springs, Springdale and Fayetteville. She was a beloved sister and a kind generous loving person.

Linda is lovingly survived by her siblings: Virgil Lloyd Dover Jr. of Lafavette, LA; Marion Dover and wife, Diane, of Jackson, MI; Marilyn Tolbert, of Mellette, OK; William Dover, of Lawton, OK; and Bobby Dover and wife, Lisa, of Mellette, OK; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceding her in death are her parents, brother, Larry Dover, nephews, Joseph Michael Dover and Stephen Dover, sisters in law, Jackie Dover and Jeanette Dover and brother in law Herald Tolbert. Services were held on Jan. 26 at Kelley Memorial Chapel in Eufaula.

Her favorite verse of the bible is John 3:16, first memorized to her by her mother. "For God so Loved the World that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

Accepting Applications for 2021-2022 Miss and Jr. Miss

DEADLINE: MARCH 26TH AT 5:00 PM

Eligibility

- + HAVE A 2.5 GPA OR HIGHER
- + ENROLLED CITIZEN OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
- + Jr. Miss: Ages 14-17/Miss: Ages 17-24 by January 1, 2021
- + Must be enrolled in an Oklahoma high school or INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- + Must reside in the state of Oklahoma
- + OWN OR HAVE ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL MVSKOKE CLOTHING
- + NEVER HAVE BEEN MARRIED, CONCEIVED A CHILD, NOT CURRENTLY COHABITATING, AND NOT CURRENTLY ENGAGED
- + Winning contestant must sign an official contract
- + Must attend Royalty Retreat on May 1st + Must have reliable transportation

Prizes

- Miss \$2500 Cash Prize and + \$2500 Scholarship
- Jr. Miss: \$1500 cash prize +
 - BEADED CROWN +
 - CEDAR CROWN BOX +
 - Woven basket purse +
- Trophy & flower bouquet +
 - PENDLETON BLANKET +
 - - Two sashes +
 - Personalized luggage +
 - TRADITIONAL CLOTHING +

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

ONLINE: HTTPS://WWW.MVSKOKEROYALTY.COM/PAGEANT BY EMAIL: MCNPAGEANT@MCN-NSN.GOV







P.O. BOX 1249 MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA 74402 918.683.1825 • CREEKNATIONCASINOMUSCOGEE.COM

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 Myskoke 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, \$289,023,733.51

The following report has been submitted for the publication date of Mar. 15th.					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT Budgeted	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
50000 50020 50100 51000 51100 53000 56010	PRINCIPAL CHIEF Salary & Wages-FT Salary & Wages-O/T over 1.5 Salary & Wages-PT/Other Fringe-FT Fringe-PT/Other Supplies Donations/Contributions	5,667.00 19,900.00 37,500.00 25,488.00 4,556.75 2,500.00 50,000.00	51,500.00 6,257.25 10,000.00	-	5,667.00 19,900.00 -14,000.00 25,488.00 -1,700.50 2,500.00 40,000.00
54000 58010 59220	SECRETARY OF NATION Contractual Construction Grants	9,245,034.70 1,400.00 305,310.85	7,394,884.91 1,400.00 120,767.32	1,848,721.23	1,428.56 184,543.53
53000 59050 59440	TOURISM & RECREATION Supplies Food Purchases Incidentals CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT	1,537.38 681,025.44 4,048.79	1,537.38 670,043.79 4048.79	10,981.65	- - -
53000 55210 59220	Supplies Communications - Other Grants INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,700.00 3,000.00 6,825,910.80	1,355.00 80.40 4,240,048.45	336.75	8.25 2,919.60 2,585,862.35
53000 53010 54000 55210 55300 85500	Supplies Software/Licenses Contractual Communications- Other Bldg Maint/Repairs Equipment	816,070.56 1,047,630.11 463,594.25 42,033.74 99,818.95 3,560,033.48	337,625.35 726,536.90 39,723.75 37,494.57 26,238.82 1,493,967.75	135,394.02 226,367.94 113,172.50 39,379.98 1,903,927.84	343,051.19 94,725.27 310,698.00 4,539.17 34,200.15 162,137.89
50000 50010 50100 21000 51100 53000 53290 55300 85400 85500	FLEET MANAGEMENT Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - Overtime Salary & Wages - PT/Other Fringe - FT Fringe - PT/Other Supplies Postage/Shipping Bldg Maint/Repairs Vehicles Equipment	20,000.00 15,876.00 -3,374.80 20,199.00 -394.66 3,242,728.45 50,000.00 315.00 151,476.00 78,000.00	826.41 10,197.20 462.34 1,210.88 1,449,691.44 31,621.52 146,021.00 77,716.00	36,540.00 - - -	19,173.59 15,876.00 -13,572.00 19,736.66 -1,605.54 1,756,497.01 18,378.48 315.00 5,455.00 284.00
50000 50020 51000 53000 53010 54000 57000 59071	SOCIAL SERVICES Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5 Fringe - FT Supplies Contractual Indirect Costs Direct Assist - Income Support Direct Assist - Hardship SENIOR SERVICES	48,519.09 0.67 38,960.72 5,522.08 420,955.91 - 53,883,581.41 34,432,825.50	72,582.02 8,473.51 44,541.00 5,430.79 205,451.99 4,410.23 53,664,500.00 34,152,400.00	36.00 10,970.89	-24,062.93 -8,472.84 -5,580.28 55.29 204,533.03 -4,410.23 219,081.41 280,425.50
53000	Supplies FOOD DISTRIBUTION	200,000.00	185,364.01	0	14,635.99
53000 59050 85050 85170 85400 85500	Supplies Food Purchases Renovations Construction Vehicles Equipment	75,214.69 146,239.79 130,000.00 313,656.48 63,417.60 525,000.00	75,214.69 146,239.79 5,870.00 64,506.00 31,708.80 262,500.00	119,932.80 67,506.00 31,708.80 262,500.00	4,197.20 181,644.48 -
85170	ELDERLY NUTRITION Construction SECRETARY OF EDUCATION	540,000.00	95,568.50	394,888.50	49,543.00
50000 50020 51000 53000 56030 57000 59073	Salary& Wages- FT Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5 Fringe - FT Supplies Stipends/Honorariums Indirect Costs Direct Assistance - Ed Support	2,980.44 37,688.31 16,043.42 859,513.00 25,000.00	2,681.62 41,356.59 24,348.82 379,133.22 2,000.00 1,909.90 2,188,138.27	153,520.68	298.82 -3,668.28 -8,305.40 326,859.10 23,000.00 -1,909.90 1,105.02
53000 85010 85170 85500	MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT Supplies Architect & Engineering Construction Equipment	$100,000.00 \\ 1,000,000.00 \\ 14,800,000.00 \\ 1,400,000.00$	748,454.08 1,576,137.91 1,070,272.18	111,128.92 9,942,515.09 118,919.13	100,000.00 140,417.00 3,281,347.00 210,808.69
54000	REAL ESTATE SERVICES Contractual	9,808.00	9,519.94	2,854.06	-2,566.00
53000 59220	CULTURAL PRESERVATION Supplies Grants TRUBAL CONSTRUCTION	2,000.00 2,725,000.00	2,189,998.95	-	2,000.00 535,001.05
50100 51100 53000 85010 85170 85500	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION Salary & Wages - PT/Other Fringe - PT/Other Supplies Architect & Engineering Construction Equipment SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS	83,206.80 10,438.07 38,975.00 132,241.18 14,289,758.71 195,110.00	19,234.80 2,325.36 32,490.00 93,961.34 8,534,545.54 127,985.00	4,270.00 -13,003.70 4,542,684.20 2,125.00	63,972.00 8,112.71 2,215.00 51,283.54 1,212,528.97 65,000.00
58010	Construction OFFICE OF JUSTICE	313,297.00	297,631.64	3,460.36	12,205.00
53000 54000	Supplies Contractual OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION	26,800.00 26,738.00	26,799.29 24,738.00	-	0.71 2,000.00
54000 55300 85500	Contractual Bldg Maint/Repairs Equipment	36,300.00 340.80 1.03	19,000.00	-	17,300.00 340.80 1.03
53000 53010 54000 85500	CITIZENSHIP BOARD Supplies Software/Licenses Contractual Equipment LIGHTHORSE ADMINISTRATION	316,797.50 5,649.00 50,500.00 36,258.00	124,730.80	26,670.00 - - -	165,396.70 5,649.00 40,500.00 36,258.00
85500	Equipment NATIONAL COUNCIL	60,000.00	56,790.00	-	3,210.00
53000	Supplies DISTRICT COURT	625.00	623.34	-	1.66
53000 53310 85500	Supplies Equipment Maint/Repair Equipment SUPREME COURT	918.23 10,512.00 176,011.68	10,512.00 159,761.68	16,250.00	918.23
50100 51100	Salary & Wares - PT/Other Fringe - PT/Other	4,500.00 547.00			4,500.00 547.00
90110	SECRETARY OF HEALTH Transfer Out TOTAL	156,625,281.19	11,279,552.97 134,960,651.79	20,113,758.64	-11,279,552.97 1,550,870.76