



MVSKOKENEWS

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UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT B PRIMARY ELECTION

by **LIZ GRAY**
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Muscogee (Creek) voters made history during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2021 Primary Election.

Unofficial results came in the evening of Sept. 18 for the MCN National Council Seat B and ballot question for an amendment in the constitution guaranteeing freedom of press.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens voted in favor of amending the MCN Constitution to include press protections and guarantee funding for Mvskoke Media. The ballot required two-thirds approval and was passed with 76.25% voting yes.

“I sincerely hope the work done in our community catches on in every one of the Indigenous nations in this country and that we grab hold of roots by writing our own stories,” Mvskoke Media Director Angel Ellis stated on the passage of the amendment.

Free press was first introduced at MCN by the National Council in 2015, becoming only one of few tribal nations with press protections on the books.

However, on Nov. 8, 2018 National Council introduced legislation during an emergency session and voted 7-6 to repeal the free press law. The repeal placed Mvskoke Media under the direction of the Secretary of the Nation, a cabinet member of the executive branch.

Press freedoms were restored in July 2020 with a 15-0 vote by the National Council, further action by the Council was taken when Wagoner District Representative Mark Randolph sponsored legislation turning over free press to a vote

of the people, the legislation passed with a vote of 13-2.

The amendment prevents action to be taken by any branch of the tribal government to repeal freedom of press, the decision would once again be placed into the hands of the citizenry.

“The people have spoken, and so overwhelmingly,” Principal Chief David Hill stated. “A truly free and independent press is the only way we can function as a transparent government. We must have the press operating without any editorial influence or control of what’s published.”

“I’m thankful that Muscogee citizens agree that the free speech of our official publication must be constitutionally protected.”

Three incumbents in the MCN National Council Seat B won their districts.

Thomasene Yahola-Osborn won the Tukvptce District with the majority vote of 71.04% over Edwin Marshall.

Representative Mark Randolph cemented his spot with 66.10% of the vote for the Wagoner District.

Muskogee District Representative Joyce Deere won over challenger Sandra Parish obtaining 1,296 votes over Parish’s 1,139.

Adam Jones III was not given a fifth term by voters, losing to Galen Cloud in the McIntosh District. Cloud received 1,377 votes; Jones received 1,089.

There will be three runoffs in the General Election scheduled for November.

76.25% VOTED YES

Okmulgee District will see incumbent James Jennings facing off with Nelson Harjo Sr. Jennings received 32.90% of the vote, while 33.19% went to Harjo.

In Okfuskee District, incumbent Travis Scott was able to make it through the primary with 30.12% and challenger Sandra Golden received 24.75%. Scott and Golden will take part in the runoff.

The seven-candidate Tulsa District seat was whittled down to incumbent Lucian Tiger III (819 votes, 32.98%) and challenger Leonard Gouge (644 votes, 25.9 percent).

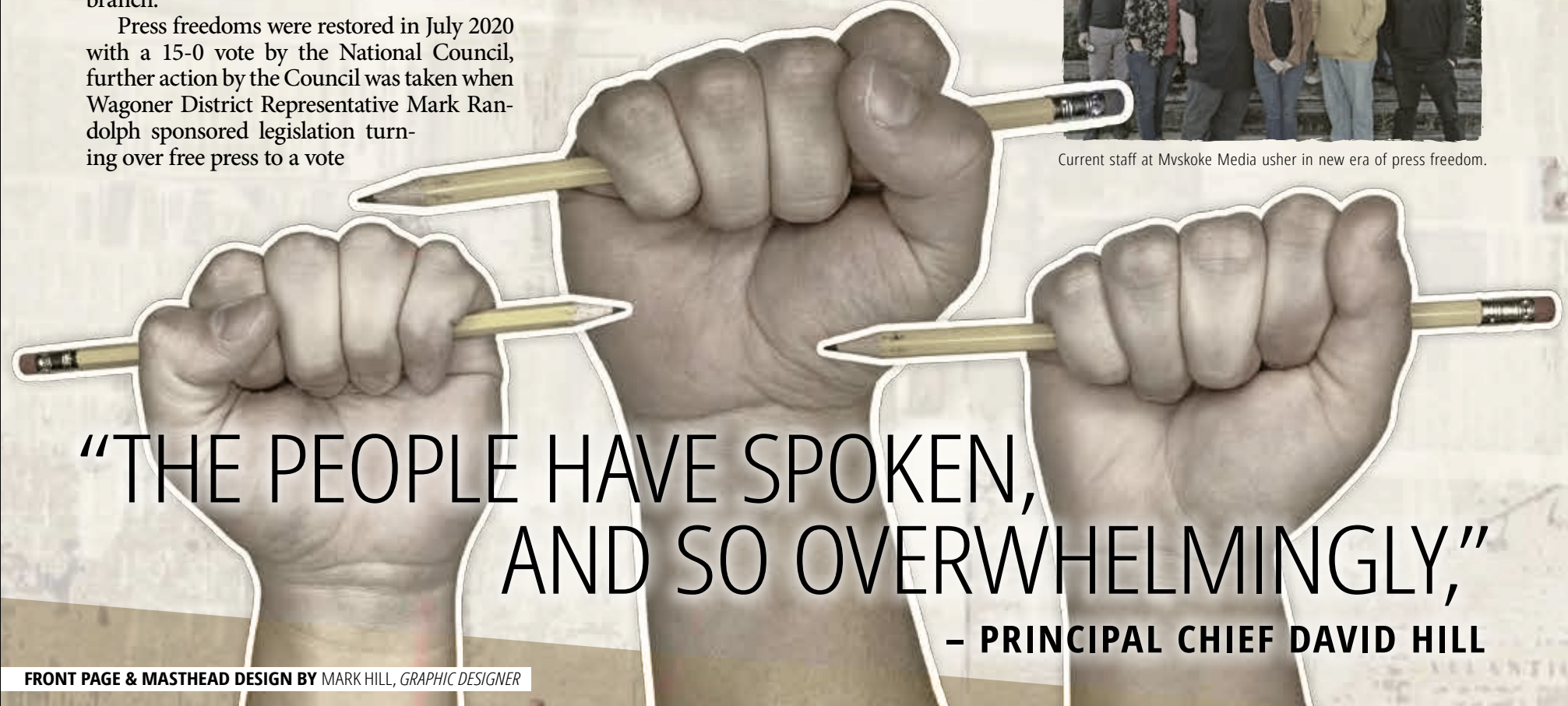
All results will remain unofficial until Friday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m.

Early voting for General Election will be Nov. 3-4. General Election Day is set for Nov. 6.

Unofficial primary election results in its entirety can be found at: <https://www.muscogeenation.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-PRIMARY-UNOFFICIAL-RESULTS.pdf>.



Current staff at Mvskoke Media usher in new era of press freedom.



FRONT PAGE & MASTHEAD DESIGN BY MARK HILL, GRAPHIC DESIGNER



Managing Editor Liz Gray

THANK YOU

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by LIZ GRAY
MANAGING EDITOR

I believe in giving credit where credit is due. First and foremost, I want to thank the Mvskoke voters, the citizens whose devotion to self-determination inspired them to exercise their right and build a foundation within their tribal nation.

This newly passed constitutional amendment is the first and only in Indian Country and sets forth our path in the Muscogee Nation's sovereignty in its Modern Era.

The ballot question received the most votes in the election with 2,510 votes cast. It also had the highest percentage than any Seat B candidate race in the primary

(MM File)

election. As an editor, this speaks volumes about the citizens' need for information. This push to provide what is considered a service to citizens will be a continuing effort for the Mvskoke Media news team.

I discovered a new Mvskoke word the other day, vpueckv - a dream. This moment in our tribe's history has felt like a dream come true for the ones past and present with the vision for this department.

I want to thank the ones before me, this amendment would not have been possible had we not been present in the community. It started with someone who had simply wanted to make a newspaper to remember all that had been accomplished by citizens. Without the birth announcements, the obits, the congratulatory space in newsprint to celebrate the growth and accomplishments, this newspaper would not have been able to grow into what it is today.

Mvto to the people who com-

mitted to upholding standards, bringing a level of news they had not seen before and continuing to grind it out during times of uncertainty in the newsroom. People have come and gone, but they have all left an impact in this journey.

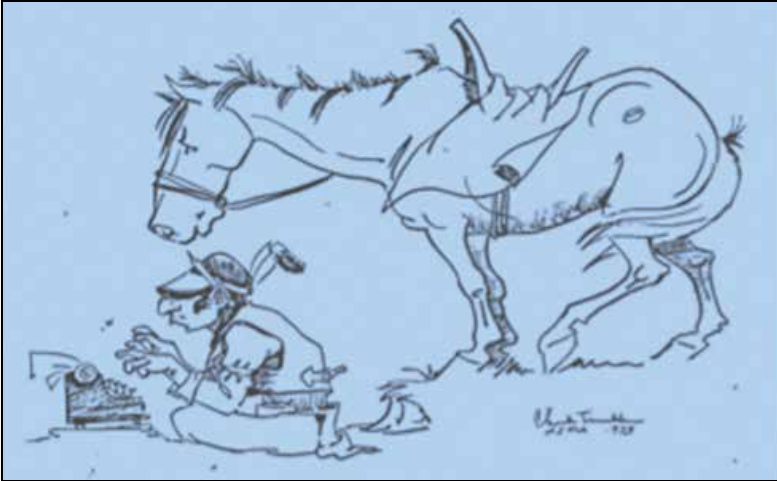
A noticeable change was made to the design of "The Mvskoke News." The top of our paper now proudly states "The first constitutionally amended free press in Indian Country," along with "Powered by the Mvskokvlke."

These two statements are powerful. Even though we are the only tribally-owned media outlet with a constitutional amendment that guarantees press protections, the decision was made to leave out "only." The status of free press in Indian Country is something to be addressed. My hope is that we can inspire and support other tribal nations to move forward into a time in Native Journalism where the tribal press is supported by its people to demand transparency and truthfulness from their tribal government.

The phrase "Powered by the Mvskokvlke," drives home how empowered this department is by the people who make up our tribal nation. We are an information service to the Mvskoke people. Now more than ever, I am devoted to bringing the level of news to a place that sets the standard in Indian Country.

The newspaper itself has a bit of an updated look. The masthead has been redesigned incorporating more of a design driven look. Shoutout to the amazing talent in Mvskoke Creative, it is displayed in the artwork produced by this department.

Mvskoke Media has big plans for the future and I cannot wait to share them. Mvto!



(MM File)

MVSKOKE MEDIA AMENDMENT, REZ DOGS RENEWED

MVSKOKE VOTERS APPROVE PRESS FREEDOM AMENDMENT; FAM OPENS

by GARY FIFE
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma—A major change has come for this department. In this last election, by an almost 3 to 1 margin, the citizens of the Mvskoke Nation voted to add a Freedom of the Press amendment to the tribal constitution. It means, 'hands off' when it comes to any interference from the tribal administration or council on coverage of our tribe. It removes the specter of censorship from over the heads of those charged with reporting accurate and fair news of our people.

This is a heavy responsibility and one that our staff does not take lightly. For those who might think there will be some retaliation on those who disagree with our decisions and directions, that won't be happening. That is Stone Age thinking (or as I call it, 'Fred Flintstone' thinking) that only holds us back.

We will be continuing to work at and the dedication to presenting the best coverage of our people.

O.K. Enough preaching.

After a quarter century, the facility that I called, "The Museum That Wouldn't Die," didn't. The First Americans Museum finally welcomed the world to view its collections and other offerings on Saturday the 18th. Probably one of the most unique and finest groups of Native art, offerings and exhibitions in the world is now available for public viewing.

This museum represents the 39 tribes located here in the state of Oklahoma and many items of contemporary life that are part of today's Native cultures. I guess I'll have to change the nickname I formerly used to something like, "The Museum That Lives On."

More changes to today's cultures involving Native people and images. The famous ski resort known as "Sq—w Valley" has changed its name.

The "Sq—w" word had been used as a vulgar reference to Native women's private parts. It has now been dropped in favor of the phrase, "Palisades Tahoe." Mid-September the resort's website announced the name change. But the website description never made any reference to the former insulting and distasteful name. The resort is trying to build its relationship with the local Washoe Tribe.

A monument honoring California tribes will be replacing the statue of the Catholic priest who led the subjugation and near-elimination of those peoples. The statue of the priest Junipero Serra (now saint) was toppled just after the riots following the killing

of George Floyd.

Native News Online reports the California State Senate approved the measure.

The U.S. Census Bureau has its count of Native Americans and says, "6.79 million, which is about 2.09% of the entire population: Alaska (20.32%) Oklahoma (13.19%) New Mexico (10.75%) South Dakota (10.09%) Montana (8.00%) North Dakota (6.51%) Arizona (5.31%) Wyoming (3.63%) Oregon (2.99%) Washington (2.82%)."

I had wanted to talk with U.S. Census officials for this region but their Public Information Office didn't get off their backsides to approve an interview so I gave it up.

An Ojibwe man, Bryan Newland, from the Bay Mills Community is now "Chief of All the Indians." No, just kidding. But, he is the new Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. According to an Interior Department press release, Newland says, "I am committed to engaging with Tribes every step of the way and ensuring they have the support and resources they need to fully thrive."

Good news continues to rain down upon the new TV series about Native people. "Reservation Dogs" has been renewed for a second season. Indian Country News got a peek at the latest information about the exciting new show.

The cast was also featured as presenters during the 73rd Emmy Awards. While in the international spotlight, writer and creator, Sterlin Harjo noted the historic occasion. "We are here on television's biggest night as creators and actors, proud to be Indigenous people working in Hollywood, representing the first people to walk upon this continent, and we are really happy to be here," Harjo said at the award show.

ICT reported, Harjo and the show's cast, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai (who plays Bear Smallhill), Devery Jacobs (Elora Danan), Paulina Alexis (Willie Jack), and Lane Factor (who portrays the character Cheese), presented the award for Outstanding Directing in a Limited Series.

Perhaps next year, the troupe will be collecting a few of those statues themselves.

I need a vacation and am going to take one!

Hvtvm cerecares—I will see you. Skoden!

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



Mvskoke Media will be accepting applications for its spring internship beginning Oct. 1.

COME LEARN WITH US!

MVSKOKE MEDIA OFFERS SPRING INTERNSHIP THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

by LANI HANSEN
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Students passionate about the media, whether it is graphic design, journalism or marketing will have an opportunity to do an internship with Mvskoke Media beginning spring 2022.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation will be giving one \$2,000 scholarship from Mvskoke Media. The scholarship is an incentive award for successful completion of an internship program with the department.

Candidates will be expected to produce real work for the department

that will be subject to critique, deadlines and Mvskoke Media standards as well as the standards of customers and the broader industry. The candidates must demonstrate a certain level of competency and experience in the media field through portfolios and references and are expected to follow department and tribal policy/law.

This scholarship is purposely financing one Muscogee (Creek) student who may not have the financial needs to further his/her education. This award can be utilized to pay for the required cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, testing or examination fees, transportation, or other incidental required cost related to the cost of the higher education, technical or vocational technical school. The

(MM File)

funding is awarded to a Muscogee (Creek) student who completes the internship.

To be eligible for the Mvskoke Media Scholarship, the applicant must be an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. They must be currently attending an institution of higher education or enrolled as a first-time entering student. Applicants must agree to authorize the Scholarship Foundation Program to publicize the scholarship award, if selected. They must also be pursuing a career path in graphic design, journalism or marketing. Participants are required to work 200 hours throughout the internship to complete the program.

All applications are reviewed and selected by a Scholarship Committee of the Scholarship Foundation Program. All applicants are notified of scholarship status by mail at the conclusion of the selection process. Applications are available Oct. 1 and deadline is Dec. 15.

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**NAJA**
Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

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The Mvskoke News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Mvskoke News in any regard. 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.



Looped Square Meat Processing Facility was built with CARES Act funding.

(Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

TOWN HAS BEEF OVER MEAT PLANT

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY HIRES LAWYER AND FILES A NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

WINCHESTER, Oklahoma – Just south of Duck Creek Casino, the town of Winchester and local residents are preparing to sue the Muscogee Nation, the Looped Square Meat Processing Company and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises, LLC in addition to Principal Chief David Hill, Second Chief Del Beaver, Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Trent Kissee and all National Council Representatives.

The plaintiffs’ attorneys David Page and Cheryl Thigpen sent each defendant a Notice of Intent to Sue and filed a Citizens Suit under Section 505(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”) for violations of Sections 404 and 301; and under Section 304(b) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) for Violations of Sections 111, 112, 502(a), and 503(a). The notice was dated on Aug. 25.

According to the Notice, the town of Winchester was incorporated and platted under Oklahoma Law in 1974, which the plaintiffs claim the meat plant facilities are located in those boundaries.

Mayor of Winchester Debbie Atkinson claimed the residential town of around 220 households rely on well water as the main source of water and the facilities could affect the quality of the natural resource.

Atkinson also stated the residents near the facility are all on artesian wells, meaning the water table is high in the area.

This is apparently water the residents use domestically and in caring for animals.

The Notice also states the facilities reside in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) designated flood plain. The Notice goes on to say the sanitary wastewater, industrial wastewater and the industrial storm water discharged from the facilities flow to an earthen walled

and floored wastewater lagoon system releasing into Eagle Creek, which runs through the middle of the facilities and the underlying groundwater.

“There’s not a lot of communities that are totally on water wells like ours, so that our biggest concern,” Atkinson said. “Along with the pathogens, the bacteria and the nuisances of the whole disposal of animals.”

The plaintiffs are claiming since construction of the facilities began, Eagle Creek has flooded several times as well as the bank area eroding due to the widening and building of a bridge over the creek with new culverts.

Atkinson said the town and its residents feel as though the Muscogee Nation is not following environmental federal law on water treatment.

According to Atkinson, another issue of the community’s concern is the quality of air due to pathogens being released.

Before the construction started, Atkinson claimed there was a single meeting that took place in February 2020 over Zoom between the town and the Nation.

The meeting also included the lawyer for the town David Page, along with an environmentalist and geologist who had done

research on behalf of Winchester.

“We showed them what we were concerned with, with the flood zone and our water issues and the environmental issues and that was it,” Atkinson said. “They showed us what they were doing, we showed what our concerns were, and when we reached back out a second time to find out how they were going to address our concerns, they told our lawyer not to contact them again.”

Page has alleged the Nation has not filed for state or federal permits required for this type of facility.

“By building and operating the Facilities, the Defendants have willfully and intentionally taken a course of action that uniformly violates the environmental and human health principles and policies of the Muscogee Nation, the United States and the state of Oklahoma intended to protect the very Muscogee Citizens they purportedly represent,” Page stated in the Notice.

According to Atkinson, the intent of the lawsuit is to shut down the Looped Square Meat Processing Facility.

The Notice concludes in stating the defendants have 60 days to “cure and correct” violations or the plaintiffs will pursue litigation

in federal court.

A statement released by the Muscogee Nation claimed the entity strives to be good neighbors and has listened to the concerns of Winchester while taking them into consideration.

“During the meeting, our experts provided information and illustrated features and decisions that were made in coordination with the Nation’s Environmental Services Office to meet all compliance and regulatory conditions. Despite our efforts, it seems as though we were unable to assuage their concerns,” Muscogee Nation said.

The statement also said the Nation has always been good stewards for the environment.

“We have the utmost respect for our environment and the future of all Oklahomans. This project’s design reflects that, and we stand behind its quality.”

Muscogee Nation Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Trent Kissee claimed no short cuts were made in the process and development of the facilities.

Over the next couple of weeks Kissee said he will be fully staffed and start training employees with plans to open doors to the public on Nov. 1.

The Oklahoma Standard should mean smokefree air for all.

When it comes to achieving the Oklahoma Standard, we’ve come a long way. All state property is 100% smokefree, and the age to purchase tobacco is now 21.

However, there’s still work to do...

- Smoking is still allowed in Oklahoma bars and some restaurants.
- Hotels in Oklahoma are NOT 100% smokefree.
- Exposing children to secondhand smoke in cars is still legal.
- Smoking at in-home daycares after hours is still legal.

It's time to step up to the Oklahoma Standard. Join the fight at

TOBACCO STOPS WITH ME.com

A Program of

Each year AARP Oklahoma honors 50 Native American elders who positively impact their community and Indian Country.

(AARP Oklahoma website)

AARP OK SELECTS 2021 INDIAN ELDER HONOREES

NINE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS TO BE INDUCTED IN NOVEMBER

by LIZ GRAY
MANAGING EDITOR

AARP Oklahoma has made the selection of its 2021 Indian Elder Honors. This recognition is one of AARP Oklahoma’s most prestigious and visible awards, given to honor outstanding Native American Elders who have positively impacted the country, state, communities and Indian Country.

Each year, the organization selects 50 inductees; this year nine Muscogee (Creek) citizens were selected.

The following honorees are: Former Principal Chief Bill Fife, Margaret Floyd, Sandra ‘Sandi’ Golden, Glenda Graham-Byrd, Eugene Herrod, Nancy John, Mona ‘Koko’ Lowe, Edward F.

Mouss, and Benjamin Yahola

Due to COVID-19, AARP OK will not be hosting an in-person event to celebrate this year’s honorees.

Honorees will receive a special celebration package including a medallion and gifts as well as a program that spotlights each recipient with a photo and biography in November coinciding with Native American Heritage month. These programs will be shared with tribal leaders, tribal publications and the Oklahoma First Americans Museum.

The AARP OK Indian Elders Honors was first inceptioned in 2009 and since then has recognized nearly 600 elders from Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. Past honorees include teachers, veterans, artists, tribal leaders and culture preservationists.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court issued a decision on the civil case filed by National Council Representative Travis Scott. (MM File)

SCOTT REINSTATED BY MCN DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE STACY LEEDS ORDERS WRITS OF MANDAMUS

by LIZ GRAY
MANAGING EDITOR

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court issued a decision and order dated Sept. 2 in the civil lawsuit filed by Okfuskee District Representative Travis Scott against the MCN National Council.

Scott filed in MCN District Court after the National Council took the following actions against Scott as a result of an investigation by the Internal Affairs Committee: issued a letter of reprimand by the Speaker; imposed public censure by National Council Resolution, imposed a \$50,000 fine, caused Scott’s National Council salary and benefits to be ceased, and expelled Scott from all future National Council meetings and duties.

Judge Stacy Leeds granted Scott be reinstated to all duties as an elect-

ed representative of the Council, including salary and benefits.

In addition, Leeds ruled the \$50,000 fine is unenforceable and is ordered to be set aside.

However, Leeds did not grant Scott’s request to prohibit the Council from interfering with his duties as an elected official, citing separation of powers as the justification for the denial.

In the ruling, the court pointed out the internal rules of the Council state only certain offenses can be cause to discipline members.

“The enumerated offenses that are subject to discipline include excessive unexcused absences, harassment of employees, threatening jobs, refusing drug tests, failure to submit required travel paperwork, disorderly behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, inappropriate social media posts, inappropriate workplace relationships, misuse of tribal property, and ac-

ceptance of impermissible gifts,” the court stated.

“None of the enumerated offenses relate to engaging in business with the Nation or other types of financial impropriety or conflicts of interest.”

The decision also stated that the fine issued by the Council is more punitive than a fine that could be levied in a federal criminal court.

“That amount is greater than the annual salary for National Council members. The fine also exceeds any fine that could be imposed as a result of a criminal conviction in the Nation’s courts,” the court stated. “Federal law imposes a sentencing limitation of three years and \$15,000 upon conviction of certain crimes. In those instances, defendants are entitled to significant due process protections under federal and Muscogee (Creek) Nation laws, including the right to a jury trial and assistance of counsel.”

Mvskoke Media reached out to MCN National Council for a statement on whether they were going to accept the MCN District Court ruling and if the Council would be proceeding with the impeachment of Rep. Scott, but did not receive a response as of press time.

MM reached out to Scott and received a response in which he stated he received a letter Sept. 10 from Speaker Randall Hicks regarding his reinstatement and informed Scott that the majority of the National Council accepted the MCN District Court decision.

“I have yet to be compensated for my time being absent due to the National Council relinquishment process,” Scott stated. “I have yet to receive any correspondence in this matter for future reference.”

Scott attended the Business, Finance and Justice committee and the joint BFJ/Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee held Sept. 16 via teleconference. However, he was expelled from the Sept. 21 Planning Session due to a motion made by Rep. Adam Jones due to discussion on the pending impeachment process.

This is a developing story and will have ongoing coverage as it becomes available.



(l to r): Dathan Leaf, Earnest Morgan, Nathan Quinton, Montel Fox, Ricky Harjo, Bryan Alexander, Damon Stanfield, Joseph Brown and Sage Bennet. (Submission)

NINE MUSCOGEE CITIZENS GRADUATE FIBER OPTIC TECH PROGRAM

PROGRAM IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE MN RIP AND OSUIT

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

HENRYETTA, Oklahoma – The Muscogee Nation Reintegration Program graduated nine participants in their first Fiber Optic Technician program on Sept. 10.

The program was a product of the partnership between the MN RIP and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee.

According to OSUIT Fiber Lineman Instructor Tim Caudle, this technician program was tailored specifically for RIP. Caudle teaches the class at the RIP facilities in Henryetta.

RIP Outreach Specialist Mark Harjo said the course had a completion rate of about 90 percent.

“It’s great to see these guys succeed,” Harjo said. “Some of them had initially left the program (RIP) but then once we told them about this and what they could do and how successful they could be, they came back to our facility to take this program (Fiber Optic).”

Caudle claimed the industry standard rate of graduation is low.

“If you start off with 15 students, you usually only graduate about 3-5,” Caudle said.

According to Caudle, the first portion of the course is climbing which is a determining factor in completion of the course. Other coursework includes learning how to drill holes in the pole, putting up support line and lashing fiber. The work is very demanding Caudle claimed and the participants need to be in good physical shape for this line of work.

“There were doing this non-stop for 6-8 hours a day,” he said. “It’s as bad as boot camp and its tough work. There is nothing in the gym can prepare you for this type of work.”

Caudle claimed his 45 years of experience in the industry has helped him develop a network of companies seeking this type of field of laborers with this certification.

Even before graduating, six of the nine students had the opportunity to head to Louisiana to assist the power crews restoring power for Hurricane Ida support and relief. They will be doing Fiber Optic work with Celtic Cable Construction as part of their internship.

Caudle said he tells his students the only limitations are the ones put on themselves or that they allow others to put on them.

“It’s great to see those guys follow through and keep their word to us and going out and

making something of themselves,” Harjo said.

Dathan Leaf and Joseph Brown are Muscogee (Creek) citizens, RIP participants and graduates of the Fiber Tech Program. Leaf and Brown were part of the six who went to assist power companies in Louisiana.

Leaf had served six years in prison before coming to RIP. After participating in the program for a little over a year, he completed the welding course and exited the program.

“I was doing good you know, I had a good job and my own place,” Leaf said. “But then they started this new school, and it was supposed to be better than the last one.”

After speaking with the program, Leaf was able to rejoin the reintegration program for the purpose of completing this new training.

“Now I’m doing better than I was last time,” Leaf said.

Leaf claimed he was skeptical about taking the new program because he had an issue with job placement after completing the welding course, but with Caudle’s help, he was employed two weeks before graduating.

“It’s life-changing,” Leaf said.

After spending 28 consecutive months incarcerated, Brown joined RIP in early March. Since then, he has completed the construction technology course before completing the fiber optic tech course.

“I know how to frame now, I can do basic framing, I can read blueprints, all of that,” Brown said.

Brown claimed he did not believe he could get a job with his criminal record containing prior violent charges but the instructors from OSUIT, Tim Caudle and former instructor Brad Smith promised Brown job placement upon completion of the fiber optic training.

“That always kept me from getting a job,” Brown said. “They told me they saw how I did the construction technology really easy, and they told me that if I could do this, they could promise me job placement and I was all in.”

Brown claimed it’s a dream come true for himself and his three kids. Both men said they never expected to have an opportunity like this.

Brown said his advice for someone whose been in his shoes, is to “just do it.”

Leaf said he now believes he has a bright future and is ready to eventually “give back.”

For more information regarding the Fiber Optic Technician Program, please call the RIP at: 918-652-2676. The course is not limited to RIP participants; however, RIP clients are given preference.

HELP US SALUTE OUR MUSCOGEE VETERANS

Please email the following to info@mvskokemedia.com

- Name
- Branch
- Years Served
- 150 word bio
- 1 High Resolution Photo

All of the information is due on **OCTOBER 22ND NO LATER THAN 5 P.M.**

to be placed in our Special Veterans Edition on November 1.



FAM: The First Americans Museum opened its doors Sept. 18 in Oklahoma City.

(Gary Fife/Radio Communications)

FAM HOSTS GRAND OPENING

STATE NATIVES SHOWCASED IN NEW MUSEUM

by GARY FIFE
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKLAHOMA CITY — It's been over a quarter century in the making. It's had its ups and downs in the process. State legislators and some others had even called for the project's termination.

But, on September 18, 2021, the dream finally came to fruition; The First Americans Museum opened its doors and welcomed a crowd. It was formerly named "The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum," but staff and directors decided to shorten it to the "First Americans Museum," to make it more visitor friendly.

Ceremonies began with prayer and participants passing under a stainless steel arch that welcomes visitors. Representatives of the state's 39 tribes, in traditional dress, proceeded through a great open hall to the assembly area. Singers from the Black Leggings Society drum group sang a song especially composed for the occasion. Native musicians and artists also livened the day with a full entertainment schedule.

Executive Director James Pepper Henry (Kaw-Mvskoke), emphasized that the museum is a chance for sharing.

"We are thrilled to share with the public, a premier venue dedicated to the history, art and cultural lifeways of First Americans in Oklahoma," Pepper said in his remarks that the relationships between Natives and museum had not always been positive.

"Historically, museums have not been friendly or welcoming places for First Americans," he continued. "Many museums were, and still are, extensions of colonization, serving as repositories for the spoils of war and conquest by European na-

tions over Indigenous peoples throughout the world. For many Native peoples, museums are reminders of what has been taken, and what has been lost."

For Deputy Director Shoshanna Wassermann (Thlopthlocco Mvskoke), it was the completion of years of hard work and repair of the land.

"We had to cap oil wells... it took a full year to do the site remediation," Wassermann said.

Wassermann was credited with assembling the bulk of the museum's collection and, as Henry said, being a driving force for the whole project.

The Chickasaw Tribe and the municipality of Oklahoma City played major roles in assisting the project in becoming a reality.

Many of the attendees felt the FAM would serve as a repository of past Oklahoma Native history, but also to remind visitors that Native people and sovereignty is still very much a part of



(l-r:) National Council Speaker Randall Hicks, former Speaker Thomas Yahola, Miss Muscogee Nation Claudia McHenry and Principal Chief David Hill representing Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the FAM grand opening. (Gary Fife/Radio Communications)

this state's make-up and history today.

The FAM is located at the intersection of several federal interstate highways and is highly visible to passing traffic. It occupies a section of land that was formerly the location of several oil wells. Henry noted that the project actually healed and repaired the site. The 40-acre physical layout has the eastern gate faces the rising sun and contains an alignment with the Four Directions.

Probably its most noticeable feature is the giant glass and steel half-dome covering the Hall of the People. Inside are various galleries showcasing the art and cultures of the 39 tribes, exhibitions of people and places, both positive and negative. To be more visitor friendly, a restaurant, video screens, stages, a gift shop and conveniences are readily available.

Exhibits included historical presentations about Native history in this state, notable Native personalities, artwork, as well as a carefully curated arrangement of negative images of Native peoples. Interactive presentations highlighted the hallways.

Staff has strongly maintained there will be no human remains in their collections.

The museum will hold a special celebration on Oct. 11 to honor Indigenous Peoples Day.

Lisa Johnson Billy, a former Oklahoma legislator, governor's Native American assistant and Chickasaw tribal executive served as the Master of Ceremonies. She worked on the early legislative efforts to initiate the project in the Oklahoma State Legislature. For Billy, the FAM opening was a great emotional experience.

"My heart is bursting. I'm so excited because this is a joyous celebration. It's ours," Billy said.

Admission tickets are for sale. The museum will be open most days except for Tuesday. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



(Left) Hannah Phillips and her bulls while they eat. (Right) Blain Phillips made his appearance at the Youth Bull Riders World Finals.

(Submission)

PHILLIPS SIBLINGS TAKE INTEREST IN BULLS

TWO MUSCOGEE (CREEK) YOUTH HANNAH AND BLAIN PHILLIPS KEEP LOVE OF BULL RIDING IN FAMILY

by LANI HANSEN
SENIOR REPORTER

MORRIS, Oklahoma— Two Muscogee (Creek) youth have found themselves passionate over bucking bulls.

Hannah and Blain Phillips are the children of MCN Lighthorse Police Chief Richard Phillips and Vanessa Phillips. Hannah is a senior at Morris High School and Blain is in fifth grade at Morris Elementary.

Hannah is raising three bucking bulls of her own; she bought them in May 2021. By being the daughter of a former bull rider and watching the Professional Bull Riding (PBR) on television, she noticed and always thought the bulls were cute.

She said her dad would talk about the bulls doing their job and how they got there.

"When I was 14 I really got into the PBR bulls learning the pedigree, who the owners are, where they are from, how old the bulls are and their scores," Hannah said. "That's when I decided what I wanted to do. So I'm starting off with small bulls and hopefully later on get bigger bulls."

She hopes that one day, the bulls she raises will be used in the PBR.

Hannah learned that the stock contractors and bull riders are interviewed, and starting out as a young stock contractor she hopes to reach that level.

Her bulls have been to one rodeo, but are mostly used in the practice pen for use of her little brother and his friends. Her bull's names are Snot Rag, Patches and Tiny. Hannah takes care of her

bulls by feeding and watering them. When it is time for a rodeo she loads them up onto the trailer and takes them to wherever the event is being held.

"They are looking pretty good," Hannah said about her bulls. "When I first got them, two of them were not nice or gentle. My biggest one has turned into a puppy dog, and my littlest one is still hot. He does not let me near him."

Younger brother Blain has been riding bulls since he was four years old. His dad also inspired him into riding and he started on sheep. As Blain got older, he moved up to smaller bucking bulls.

"My dad kept watching the PBR, and I love watching it," Blain said.

J.B. Mauney is Blain's favorite PBR bull rider.

As a Jr. bull rider, Blain has won several trophies, prize money and two belt buckles. His first belt buckle he won when he first started riding in mutton busting at the All-Indian Region Eight Tour Rodeo. He won his second belt buckle after winning two rodeos' back-to-back this last season. In 2020 he won cash at the Warren Memorial Rodeo in Kellyville.

Blain has gone to Terry Don's bull riding school and Ryan Dirteater's bull riding school. He has entered in at least eight rodeos.

In August, Blain competed in the Wrangler Youth Bull Riders World Finals in Abilene, TX finishing 53 out of 84. He has qualified to compete in the national finals in Mesquite, Texas in October. Hannah's bulls will also be going to Mesquite.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens can recieve a full traditional funeral service with no extra cost to families.

This package includes:

- Complete services including viewing/visitation, wake service & funeral service
- Casket
- Outside Container
- Stationary Package
- Temporary Marker
- Death Certificate
- Cemetery Set Up (tent, chairs, etc.)

(This package is valued at \$4,500)

Funeral Home Amenities:

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- Viewing Rooms
- Family Lounges with Live Audio/Video feeds
- Help with completing all burial applications
- Lighthorse Escorts
- Grave Opening

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MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION 2021 NA

PRIMARY ELEC


TULSA



LEONARD GOUGE

25.94%

644




LUCIAN TIGER

32.98%

819

Anthony Beaver	412	16.59%
Elizabeth Thompson	223	8.98%
Julian Watson	161	6.48%
Robert Hawkins	149	6.00%
John Killingsworth	75	3.02%


OKFUSKEE



TRAVIS SCOTT

30.12%

740




SANDRA GOLDEN

24.75%

608

Samuel Deere	561	22.83%
Russell Wind	548	22.30%

TUKVPVTCE



THOMASENE
YAHOLA-OSBORN

71.04%

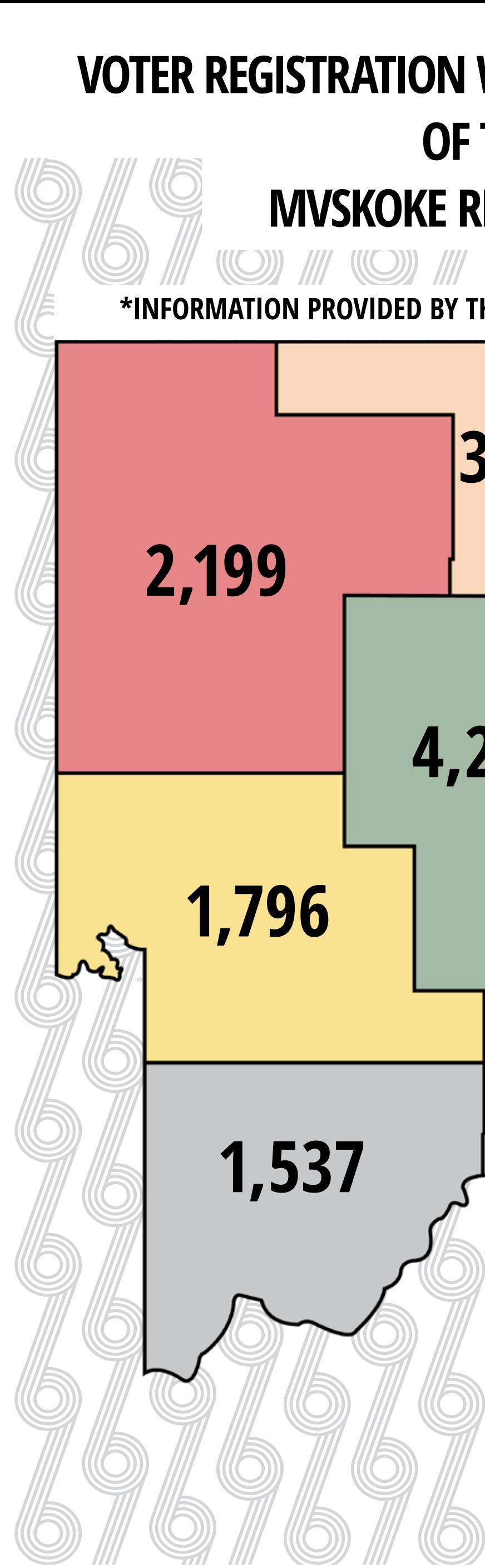
1,734

Edwin Marshall	707	28.96%
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NATIONAL COUNCIL REFERENDUM NO. NCA 21-053

YES, For the Amendment	1,914	76.25%
NO, Against the Amendment	596	23.75%

*ALL RESULTS ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH AT 5 PM CST.



GENERAL ELECTION DATES FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT B

ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION
OCT. 13 AT 5 PM CST

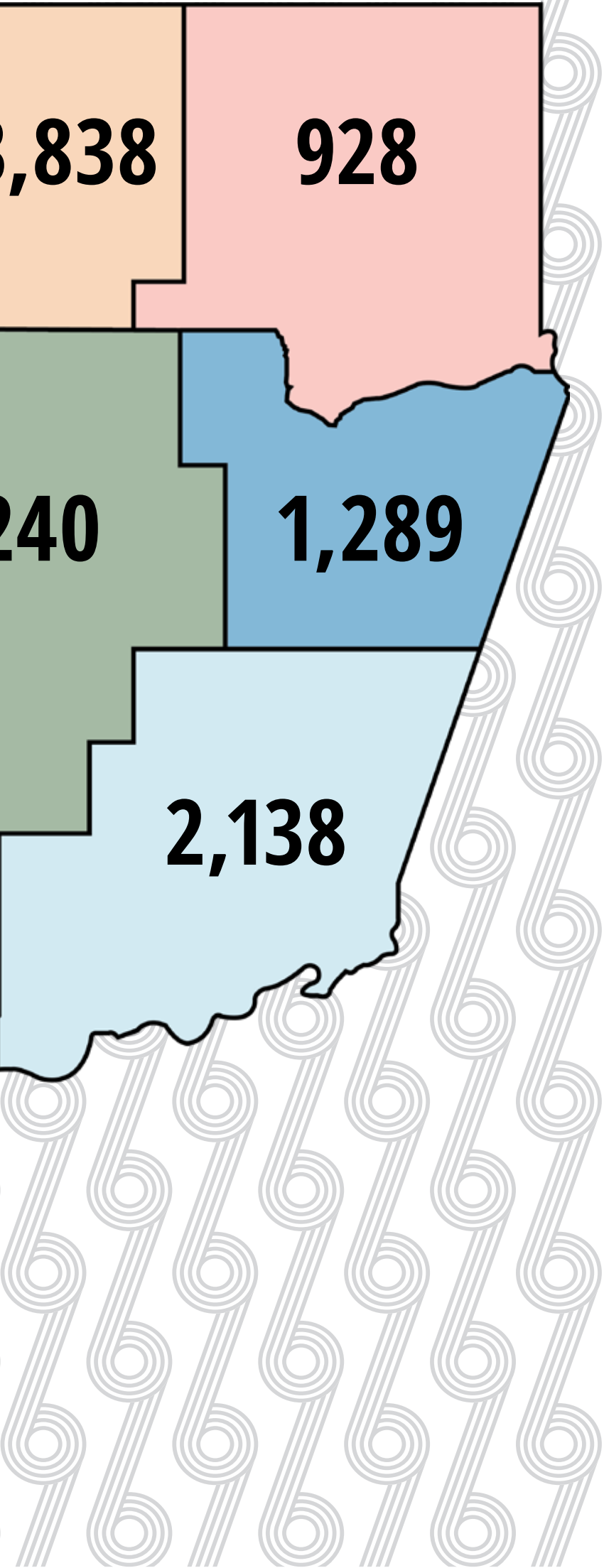
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTING
OCT. 13 AT 5 PM CST

IN PERSON VOTING REGISTRATION
DEADLINE - OCT. 26 AT 5 PM CST

NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT B UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

WITHIN EACH DISTRICT
THE
RESERVATION

THE ELECTION BOARD’S WEBSITE.



GENERAL ELECTION DATES FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL SEAT B

GENERAL ELECTION: EARLY IN
PERSON VOTING
NOV. 3 & 4 AT 7 AM - 7PM EACH DAY

GENERAL ELECTION DAY
NOV. 6 AT 7 AM - 7PM

WAGONER



MARK RANDOLPH
66.10%
1,624

Dierdra Thompson

833

33.90%

MUSKOGEE



JOYCE DEERE
53.22%
1,296

Sandra Parish

1,139

46.78%

MCINTOSH



GALEN CLOUD
55.84%
1,377

Adam Jones

1,089

44.16%

OKMULGEE



JAMES JENNINGS
32.90%
815



NELSON HARJO SR.
33.19%
822

Terra Beaver
Lanissa Jack-Melton

520
320

20.99%
12.92%



PROGRAMS RECEIVE FUNDS FOR CITIZENS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

CMN BOARD NOMINEE PASSED THROUGH COMMITTEE

by LANI HANSEN
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Sept. 15 by teleconference.

All passed legislation will go before the full council during Regular Session Sept. 25.

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

TR 21-126

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement with Smith & Nephew, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative Mary Crawford sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The MCNDH desires to enter into an Agreement with Smith and Nephew, Inc. to allow MCNDH purchase certain medical equipment.

Pursuant to MCN Code Annotated Title 27 substitute 1-103, the NC hereby authorizes the application of the laws of the state of Tennessee, if applicable, with respect to the agreement.

TR 21-127

Confirming the nomination of Sharon Mouss to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The Muscogee Nation Board of Regents shall be compromised to five tribal citizens who shall serve staggered terms.

The Principal Chief nominated Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sharon Mouss, to serve on the CMN Board of Regents Seat #2. The term will begin upon con-



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Sept. 15 by teleconference. (MM File)

firmation of full council and will expire on Sept. 30, 2026.

NCA 21-101

Authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation TANF Program. Rep. Lucian Tiger III sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The PEAf grant funds would allow the Nation's TANF Program to provide non-recurrent, short-term (NRST) benefits to assist needy families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NCA 21-102

Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, ANA American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Native Language funds for the benefit of the Mvskoke Language Department. Rep. Tiger sponsored the

resolution, which passed 4-0.

The funds awarded are to increase the number of citizens listening and becoming familiar with the language by listening to elders tell stories in the Mvskoke language as well as documenting fluent elders in regards to the pandemic and their predictions of what is to come in the future.

NCA 21-103

Authorizing expenditure of CARES Act funds to supplement the Tribal Burial and Food for Funeral programs – Social Services department's FY 2021 budget. Rep. Tiger sponsored the resolution and Rep. Mark Randolph co-sponsored, which passed 4-0.

The Tribal Burial Assistance and Food for Funeral programs are in need of additional funds to provide assistance due to an influx of applications. The funds will be used to supplement the client services line item.

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

MCN ESTABLISHES MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

LIGHTHORSE POLICE COMMISSION NOMINEE PASSED THROUGH COMMITTEE

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee held a meeting Sept. 16 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to full council approval during the Regular Session Sept. 25.

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

NCR 21-009

Confirming Shane Berry to serve on the Lighthorse Police Commission. Representative Mark Randolph sponsored the legislation, no action was taken due to the lack of a motion for do pass.

MCN Code Annotated Title 50 requires one member of the Lighthorse Police Commission to be selected by the National Council.

The National Council has selected Berry to serve as a member upon confirmation of full council until Sept. 25, 2024.

NCR 21-010

Confirming Denise Henry to serve on the Lighthorse Police Commission. Rep. Adam Jones III sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

MCN Code Annotated Title 50 requires one member of the Lighthorse Police Commission to be selected by the National Council.

The National Council has selected Henry to serve as a member of the commission upon confirmation by full council until Sept. 25, 2024.



Amendments for laws seek approval by committee. (MM File)

TR 21-128

Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Rep. William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

MCN meets criteria to be eligible for membership in the NCAI. Tribal membership dues of \$30,000 will be due for the 2021-2022 year. Based on enrollment of 92,116 persons, in accordance with NCAI by-laws Article III entitled Members under Section B allows MCN shall have 180 votes.

NCA 21-099

Amending MCNCA Title 36 Chapter 3 Entitled "Motor vehicle tax and license code." Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Amendments have been for the definitions and registration taxes for "utility-terrain vehicle" and "street legal utility vehicle" along with amending registration tax for personal trailers, farm trailers, and com-

mercial trailers.

NCA 21-100

Amending MCNCA Title 48 2-102 entitled, "Tribal Workers' Benefit Advisory council membership." Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The legislation amends Section E of section 2-102, striking International and changing the language to Muscogee National Businesses, LLC.

NCA 21-104

Approving a Continuing Budget Ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2022. Rep. Lucian Tiger III sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

A Continuing Budget Ordinance is needed to provide funding to all three branches of government until the FY 2022 Comprehensive Annual Budget is approved by separate legislation.

Full agendas and meetings can be viewed at: www.mcnn.com.



A joint committee meeting for Health, Education and Welfare, and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation was held Sept. 21 via teleconference. (MM File)

AGREEMENTS FOR CITIZENSHIP OFFICE PASSED THROUGH JOINT COMMITTEE

LEASE AGREEMENT WOULD HELP OFFSET INCURRED EXPENSES

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKz A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint Committee meeting was held Sept. 21 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to the full council approval during Regular Session.

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

TR 21-130

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a 105(I) Lease Agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of the Citizenship Office. Representative James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-0.

The purpose of the agree-

ment is to offset tribal expenses incurred in the delivery of the Aid to Tribal Government, specifically "member services".

TR 21-131

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an amendment to the 2019-2021 funding agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rep. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-0.

The purpose of the amendment is to incorporate a 105(I) lease agreement to cover expenses incurred as a result of the Jenks Citizenship Office under the Aid to Tribal Government Program within the Funding Agreement and the lease agreement must be incorporated in the funding agreement in order to facilitate the transfer of funds.

Video of the meetings and full agendas can be viewed at: www.mcnn.com.



A joint with the Business, Finance and Justice committee and the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation committee was held Sept. 16 via teleconference. (MM File)

POSTPONED LEGISLATION REGARDING PROPERTY SALE ADDRESSED

MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY TO RENDER SERVICES WITH VALLEY PROTEIN

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a joint Business, Finance and Justice and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint committee meeting Sept. 16 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to Full Council approval during the following Regular Session.

BFJ/LNC addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 21-116

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the sale of property in Jenks, OK. Representative Joseph Hicks sponsored the resolution, which failed 1-7 with Reps. Travis Scott, Charles McHenry, Thomasene Yahola Osborn, Mark Randolph, Darrel Proctor, Robert Hufft, Patrick Freeman voting no. Rep. Adam

Jones was counted as a blank vote.

The MCN purchased the Riverwalk in Jenks in 2012 and entered into an agreement with Flying Tee to build and lease a golf entertainment facility. In 2019, Flying Tee sold their business to Golf Suites Tulsa, LLC who has offered to purchase the property for \$6,500,000. Golf Suites, LLC has obtained a mortgage of \$5,567,500 and is asking the Nation finance to the remaining \$1,350,000. The original agreement needed to be amended to reflect the financing and add a promissory note, an amendment was brought to the floor with no action taken.

TR 21-117

Authorizing the execution of a Promissory Note between the MCN and Golf Suites, INC F/K/A KGEM Golf, INC for the sale of the property in Jenks, OK. Rep. Hicks sponsored the resolution, which failed 0-8 with Reps. Hicks, Scott, Yahola Osborn, Randolph, Proctor, Hufft, Freeman and McHenry

BFJ/LNC - 9

BFJ/LNC

Continued from Page 8

voting no. OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a joint Business, Finance and Justice and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Joint committee meeting Sept. 16 via teleconference.

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Yahola Osborn, Randolph, Proctor, Hufft, Freeman and McHenry voting no. Rep. Jones was counted as a blank vote.

The Nation is willing to provide financing to the parent company. The Promissory note would allow for the purchase and require the company to pay interest for five years.

TR 21-118
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement for easements, covenants, and restrictions for Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, OK. Rep. Joseph Hick sponsored the resolution, which failed 0-8 with Reps. Hicks, Scott, Yahola Osborn, Randolph, Proctor, Hufft, Freeman and McHenry voting no. Rep. Jones was counted as a blank vote.

The terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Nation and Golf Suites Tulsa, LLC, adopted by TR 20-146 and entered into by the parties on Nov. 1, 2020, provides that the parties agree to enter into an agreement to provide certain access and parking easements over land across the Nation's property for the benefit of Golf Suites property and to set forth the terms and conditions upon which Riverwalk Crossing will be owned and operated and upon which certain common areas within Riverwalk Crossing will be used and maintained.

TR 21-129
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a supplier certification of compliance with USDA QSA program for segregation of cattle material prohibited from animal feed with Valley Protein, Inc. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the legislation, which passed 8-0.

The agreement would render services allowing Valley Protein to pick up animal byproducts and haul them off for their own use. The company will charge \$80 dollars weekly to pick up this waste to the facility twice a week.

Full agendas and legislation can be viewed at: www.mcnn.com.

PETITIONS FILED QUESTIONING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ICWA

CHEROKEE NATION ONE OF FOUR TRIBES SEEKING SUPREME COURT DATE

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

WASHINGTON – The state of Texas, four tribes along with several parents, including non-Native, have filed petitions asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Those seeking the Supreme Court review include the state of Texas, three adoptive families who are individual plaintiffs in the case, and the Cherokee Nation, Oneida Nation, Quinault Indian Nation and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Also seeking review is President Joe Biden's Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, who became the named lead defendant in the case upon being confirmed to her position.

The petitions are a response to the U.S. 5th Court of Appeals decision last April in the Brackeen v. Halaand, formerly Brackeen v. Bernhardt, that alleged ICWA is unconstitutional for discriminating against non-Native families in the placement of Native children.

The U.S. 5th Court of Appeals ruled that Congress has the authority to enact the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) which gives preference to Indigenous families in the adoption of Native American children.

Texas argues that the Indian Child Welfare Act makes it more difficult to remove Native American children from their families in foster care and adoption cases. The parties claim the law is

racist and gives tribes too much power over states.

At trial, the adoptive parents and the state of Texas argued that the federal law contradicted the state's law that requires adoptions to be made in the best interest of the child. They said the Indian Child Welfare Act hurts children by keeping them in the child welfare system for longer than necessary, given that they had loving and willing adoptive parents.

Tribes and other defenders of the law stated the best interest of Indian children is served when they are able to maintain strong connections to their cultural roots, whether it be reuniting with their birth parents or moving in with other tribal families.

ICWA was passed by Congress in 1978 in response to Native American children being placed with non-Native families after being removed from their homes. Research by the National Indian Child Welfare Association found 25%-35% of all Native children were forcibly removed from their home by state child welfare and private adoption agencies and of those, 85% were placed with non-Native families, even when fit and willing relatives were available.

The National Congress of American Indians released the following statement:

"On September 3, 2021, the United States, tribal defendants, and state and private plaintiffs filed petitions asking the United States Supreme Court to review the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals's deci-

sion in Brackeen v. Haaland, a case challenging the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The Protect ICWA Campaign stands with the United States and tribal defendants who have defended ICWA and its critical protections for Indian children and families who are in state court child custody proceedings."

"ICWA represents the gold standard in child welfare practice and has helped tens of thousands of Indian children and families find fairness and healing in state child welfare systems for over 40 years."

NCAI is one of the national American Indian organizations consisting of the Protect ICWA Campaign. The others are the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Association on American Indian Affairs and the Native American Rights Fund.

"There will be some additional briefing over the next 30 days, and then/eventually the Court will decide whether to hear the case or not," according to a post on Turtle Talk, a leading blog reporting on issues in Indian Country.

The U.S. Supreme Court does not have to take the case. If four of the nine judges agree, Brackeen v. Haaland will be granted certiorari and scheduled for arguments.

Adoptive parents v. Baby Girl was the last Indian Child Welfare case the U.S. Supreme Court heard in 2013. The court ruled in the favor of the non-Native parents over a non-custodial Native parent.

Mvskoke Media will follow the case and report important updates on this story.

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TULSA BALLET TO HOLD FREE PERFORMANCE AT GUTHRIE GREEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TULSA, OK – Tulsa Ballet is excited to reutn to the Guthrie Green stage as part of their 65th anniversary season with the annual Ballet on the Green event.

This will be Tulsa Ballet’s fourth annual Ballet on the Green performance, a free performance as a gift to the Tulsa community held the same day as First Friday Art Crawl. Thousands of people come to Ballet on the Green every year and pack the Guthrie Green lawn to watch the artists of Tulsa Ballet perform, and experience ballet under the stars.

“Dancing ‘on the Green’ is one of the highlights of our season,” says Artistic Director

Marcello Anglini. “It’s an emotional journey as well as a physical experience, the feeling of dancing without the confines of physical theater mixed with the sensation of the breeze dancing with you and around you.”

“We missed dancing at the Guthrie Green last season, obviously due to the pandemic and now both the dancers and I are thrilled to return to our favorite outside venue to share our love for dance, and three wonderful World Premieres, with our community.”

Normally built up of excerpts from various ballets, this years audience can expect to see the full performance of Creations in Studio K, which is happening September 9-19 at Tulsa Ballet’s Brookside theater and received

glowing reviews from the Tulsa World. Those attending will also get a special discount the night of the event for the upcoming ballet about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, Breakin’Bricks.

Ballet on the Green, featuring:

El Mudo
Yury Yanowsky
Something to Remember You

By
Stephanie Martinez
Ode
Katarzyna Kozielska

WHEN AND WHERE:
Friday October 1, 7:30 pm:
Guthrie Green | 111 Reconciliation Way, Tulsa, OK 74103

TICKETS: FREE
FOR MORE INFORMATION: tulsaballet.org or 918.749.6006

THE MUSCOGEE NATION ANNOUNCES OPENING OF COVID-19 INFUSION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Okmulgee, Okla. | September 21, 2021 - The Muscogee Nation announced today the opening of a 65 suite, monoclonal antibody infusion center. The infusion center, located inside the Nation’s newest Tulsa-based hospital, Council Oak, will assist local health systems and providers in the fight against COVID-19. This public health initiative is a collaborative partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and will treat both Native and non-Native patients.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that are designed to target a specific virus or bacteria. In the case of COVID-19, the antibodies attach to the virus and block it from entering human cells. The monoclonal antibody treatment is done through an intravenous infusion and should be administered within 10 days of developing COVID-19 symptoms.

“Research is showing monoclonal antibody infusions are extremely effective in preventing COVID-19 symptoms from worsening,” said Shawn Terry, Secretary of Health for the Muscogee Nation. “It is our hope this regional infusion center will help alleviate the current strain on our hospitals by preventing additional severe cases of COVID-19,” Terry said. “From the onset of this pandemic, the Muscogee Nation has been focused on protecting our people and all Oklahomans. This partnership is one more way we can offer our assistance in the fight against COVID.”

“We appreciate the Muscogee

Nation and their commitment to finding solutions that will help protect the health and safety of all Oklahomans,” said Dr. Lance Frye, State Commissioner of Health. “While this treatment has been deployed in some of our public health entities across the state, we look forward to expanding its availability through this partnership.”

Infusions are by appointment only. Current hours of operation for the infusion center are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Total infusion time takes approximately two hours, including one hour of observation following the treatment.

Patients 12 and older are eligible to receive the infusion, but certain criteria must be met if under the age of 65. Individuals 65 and older are identified as high risk and should qualify for the treatment. Physicians or hospitals making referrals can find additional information at www.creekhealth.org/council-oak-infusion-center.


About Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health

Headquartered in Okmulgee Okla., the Muscogee Nation is the fourth largest federally recognized tribe in the United States with more than 90,000 citizens. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health operates community hospitals, a long-term acute care facility and physical rehabilitation center serving both tribal citizens and the general public. To ensure healthy generations of Native people, the Nation also operates Indian health clinics and provides dedicated services for citizens of federally recognized tribes.

HAVE YOU BEEN CHARGED WITH A CRIME IN TRIBAL COURT?

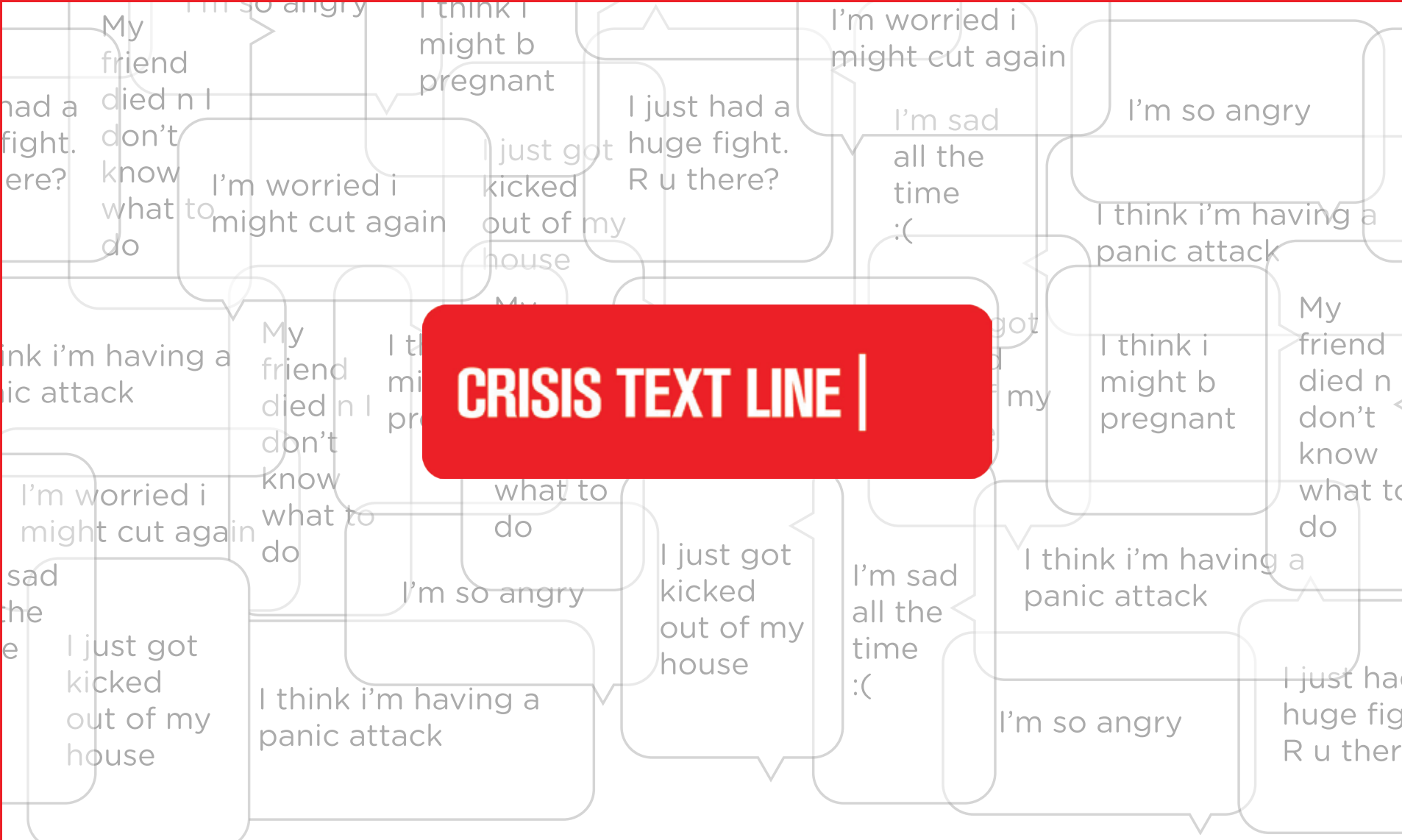
As a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizen with 20 years of Criminal Defense Experience, I can help.

Call Stinnett Law at 918.227.1177




STINNETT LAW
404 East Dewey Avenue, Suite No. 100
Sapulpa, OK 74066
carla@stinnettlaw.com

CARLA R. STINNETT, ESQ.




CRISIS TEXT LINE |



MUSCOGEE NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ESTABLISHED 1970

Text CREEK to 741-741

A free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis.



GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION, LLC

U.S. v SUMKA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA – The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced that Jeffrey Denton Sumka, 27, entered a guilty plea to one count of Sexual Abuse of a Minor in Indian Country, in violation of 18 United States Code Sections 2243(a) (1), 2246(2)(A), 1151, and 1153, punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 15 years, a fine of \$250,000.00, a term of supervised release of not more than 5 years, and a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00.

The Indictment alleged that on or about May of 2017 a twelve-year-old female met the defendant, who supplied the female with illegal drugs, and she then had sex with the

defendant at least ten times. The relationship continued until the female was fifteen years old, and in 2020, at the age of 15, the female became pregnant and had the defendant’s child, which was confirmed with DNA testing.

The charges arose from an investigation by the Muskogee Creek Nation Light-horse Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Honorable Kimberley West, U.S. Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee, accepted the plea and ordered the completion of a presentence investigation report.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Morgan Muzljakovich represented the United States.

U.S. v MCCLAIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA – The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced that Dillion McClain, 32, entered a guilty plea to Arson of a Dwelling in Indian Country in violation of 18 United States Code Sections 81, 1151 and 1153, punishable by imprisonment for any term of years or for life and/or a fine of \$250,000.00, a term of supervised release not more than 5 years, and a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00.

The Indictment alleged that on or about January 27, 2021, the Pontotoc County Sheriff’s Office was dispatched to a private residence in Ada, Oklahoma for a house fire, and four separate smoldering fires were extinguished and there was a haze of smoke inside the home. The defendant is the son of the

owner/renter of the home, and the defendant posted a video with audio on Facebook of him burning property inside the home. A review of the audio of the Facebook posting revealed that the defendant states on the audio that the “whole house is fixing to go up into flames in about 30 minutes.”

The charges arose from an investigation by the Pontotoc County Sheriff’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The Honorable Kimberley West, U.S. Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee, accepted the plea and ordered the completion of a presentence investigation report.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Gross represented the United States.

U.S. v YOUNG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA – The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced that Shylow Shane Young, 37, entered a guilty plea to one count of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon with Intent to do Bodily Harm in Indian Country, in violation of 18 United States Code Sections 113(a)(3), 1151 and 1153, punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of \$250,000.00, a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years, and a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00, and to one count of Use, Carry, Brandish, and Discharge of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, in violation of 18 United States Code Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i)(ii)(iii), punishable by a term imprisonment of not less than 10 years in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence, a fine of \$250,000.00, a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years, and a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00.

The Indictment alleged that on or about September 5, 2020,

officers of the Sallisaw Police Department responded to a trespass call at a horse barn in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, where they discovered the defendant and repeatedly instructed him to leave. The defendant refused to do so, and the police informed him that he was under arrest. During the arrest the defendant began physically resisting arrest and engaged in an extended physical confrontation, during which, the defendant grabbed one of the officer’s firearms and discharged a round which travelled through the officer’s holster and caused bodily injury to an assisting officer after ricocheting off the ground.

The charges arose from an investigation by the Sallisaw Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Honorable Kimberley West, U.S. Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee, accepted the plea and ordered the completion of a presentence investigation report.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Bucca represented the United States.

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

M.B.S.; DOB: 03/24/2005
D.S.; DOB: 08/02/2007
L.S.; DOB: 03/28/2011

Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

Case No.: JV-2021-13

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSKOGEE NATION to: UNKNOWN FATHER

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said children, M.B.S., D.S. and L.S., 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 or Virtually** as directed by the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 9th day of December **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 15th day of September, 2021.

[Seal]

Deputy Court Clerk
Muskogee (Creek) Nation District Court

MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.
Witness this 15th day of Sept 2021
Court Clerk

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

M.B.S.; DOB: 03/24/2005
D.S.; DOB: 08/02/2007
L.S.; DOB: 03/28/2011

Alleged Deprived Child(ren).

Case No.: JV-2021-13

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSKOGEE NATION to: Richard McDowell

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named children are deprived children and that, as the parent of said child, L.S., 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 or Virtually** as directed by the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 9th day of December **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.

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Issued this 15th day of September, 2021.

[Seal]

Deputy Court Clerk
Muskogee (Creek) Nation District Court

MUSKOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court Records.
Witness this 15th day of Sept 2021
Court Clerk



MVSKOKERADIO

WEDNESDAYS @ 10AM CST

FM 106.3 // AM 1240 // 1240THEBREW.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 Mvskoke Media documenting all expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

Total received/earned \$312,684,752.61

Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20 and FY21 as of this report date equals, **\$307,796,396.04**

The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **OCTOBER 1ST**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
50100	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				
51100	Salary & Wages-PT/Other	86,000.00	86,000.00	-	-
56010	Fringe-PT/Other	10,449.00	10,449.00	-	-
	Donations/Contributions	49,187.20	10,000.00	-	39,187.20
	SECRETARY OF NATION				
53000	Supplies	2,700.00	2,504.00	-	196.00
54000	Contractual	9,245,034.70	8,861,922.14	-	383,112.56
58010	Construction	1,400.00	1,400.00	-	-
59220	Grants	302,610.85	300,114.32	-	2,496.53
53000	MARKETING & TOURISM				
59050	Supplies	1,537.38	1,537.38	-	-
59440	Food Purchases	681,025.44	670,043.79	-	10,981.65
	Incidentals	4,048.79	4,048.79	-	-
53000	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT				
55210	Supplies	1,700.00	1,691.75	-	8.25
59220	Communications - Other	3,000.00	80.40	-	2,919.60
	Grants	6,825,910.80	5,051,053.89	-	1,774,856.91
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
53000	Supplies	771,070.56	755,567.51	6,366.80	9,136.25
53010	Software/Licenses	1,261,597.96	1,169,722.96	0.00	91,875.00
54000	Contractual	54,626.40	54,626.40	-	0.00
55210	Communications- Other	250,620.89	199,079.40	-	51,541.49
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	164,818.95	110,864.79	41,758.34	12,195.82
85500	Equipment	3,535,033.48	3,522,699.81	-	12,333.67
	FLEET MANAGEMENT				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	5,000.00	1,907.71	-	3,092.29
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	25,000.00	18,893.61	-	6,106.39
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	23,291.20	20,688.20	-	2,603.00
51000	Fringe - FT	20,199.00	11,690.84	-	8,508.16
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	2,890.96	2,506.38	-	384.58
53000	Supplies	2,975,827.83	1,674,843.45	80,975.00	1,220,009.38
53290	Postage/Shipping	50,000.00	35,374.69	-	14,625.31
54000	Contractual	12,825.00	1,449.08	3,250.92	8,125.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	315.00	-	-	315.00
85400	Indirect Costs	-	434.58	-	-434.58
55300	Vehicles	151,476.00	146,021.00	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	308,000.00	180,930.00	14,515.44	112,554.56
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	94,073.60	93,187.71	-	885.89
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	14,175.00	9,404.41	-	4,770.59
51000	Fringe - FT	61,228.22	65,179.10	-	-3,950.88
53000	Supplies	5,502.79	5,466.79	-	36.00
54000	Contractual	465,411.29	456,117.05	9,294.24	-
57000	Indirect Costs	-	15,249.11	-	-15,249.11
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	56,333,581.41	56,110,500.00	-	223,081.41
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	35,934,588.07	35,752,400.00	-	182,188.07
53000	SENIOR SERVICES				
	Supplies	200,000.00	185,364.01	-	14,635.99
	FOOD DISTRIBUTION				
53000	Supplies	79,999.64	75,214.69	-	4,784.95
59050	Food Purchases	146,239.79	146,239.79	-	-
85050	Renovations	130,000.00	112,433.28	14,854.20	2,712.52
85170	Construction	493,871.53	310,524.48	181,107.56	2,239.49
85400	Vehicles	63,417.60	63,417.60	-	-
85500	Equipment	525,000.00	262,500.00	262,500.00	-
	ELDERLY NUTRITION				
53000	Supplies	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
55100	Utilities	1,500.00	37.00	-	1,463.00
85170	Construction	536,500.00	454,822.08	37,347.85	44,330.07
	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	3,018.44	2,610.77	-	407.67
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	73,329.31	39,638.80	-	33,690.51
51000	Fringe - FT	42,925.42	66,214.09	-	-23,288.67
53000	Supplies	779,513.00	545,116.77	-	234,396.23
56030	Stipends/Honorariums	25,000.00	10,000.00	-	15,000.00
57000	Indirect Costs	-	10,770.61	-	-10,770.61
59073	Direct Assistance - Ed Support	2,180,488.29	2,175,981.53	-	4,506.76
	MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT				
53000	Supplies	60,000.00	9,407.45	50,411.79	180.76
85010	Architect & Engineering	1,165,012.00	1,118,619.92	46,392.08	0
85170	Construction	14,800,000.00	11,525,878.19	3,272,889.81	1,232.00
85500	Equipment	1,474,988.00	1,100,262.18	316,969.13	57,756.69
54000	REAL ESTATE SERVICES				
	Contractual	12,374.00	11,470.83	-	903.17
59220	CULTURAL PRESERVATION				
	Grants	2,189,999.00	2,189,998.95	-	0.05
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
50100	Salary & Wages - PT/Other	19,234.80	19,234.80	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT/Other	2,337.03	2,337.03	-	-
53000	Supplies	45,683.00	45,683.00	-	-
85010	Architect & Engineering	145,244.88	129,162.23	-	16,082.65
85170	Construction	14,588,142.53	14,463,379.53	4,001.00	120,762.00
85500	Equipment	130,110.00	130,110.00	-	-
58010	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS				
	Construction	313,297.00	297,631.64	3,460.36	12,205.00
	OFFICE OF JUSTICE				
53000	Supplies	26,799.29	26,799.29	-	-
54000	Contractual	24,738.00	24,738.00	-	-
	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION				
54000	Contractual	36,300.00	25,503.00	-	10,797.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	340.80	-1,159.20	1,159.20	340.80
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	CITIZENSHIP BOARD				
53000	Supplies	177,704.50	145,220.80	26,670.00	5,813.70
54000	Contractual	231,500.00	142,900.00	-	88,600.00
85500	LIGHTHORSE ADMINISTRATION				
	Equipment	56,790.00	56,790.00	-	-
	NATIONAL COUNCIL				
53000	Supplies	623.34	623.34	-	-
	DISTRICT COURT				
53310	Equipment Maint/Repair	10,512.00	10,512.00	-	-
85500	Equipment	176,011.68	159,761.68	16,250.00	-
90110	SECRETARY OF HEALTH				
	Transfer Out	-	17,958,502.74	-	-17,958,502.74
	TOTAL	160,706,303.67	169,469,902.94	4,390,173.72	-13,153,772.99