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MVSKOKENEWS

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LOOPED SQUARE MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY NOW OPEN

RETAIL SPACE OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY
10 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
REPORTER

BEGGS, Oklahoma - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Looped Square Meat Processing Facility hosted its ribbon cutting ceremony on December 3.

Community and tribal dignitaries along with a long list of special guests gathered for the official celebration of the opening of the meat plant.

The retail space opened to the public officially on Dec. 6. Winter hours will be Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The retail space was stocked with beef that was "Raised on the Rez" and prepared by the staff of the facility. Other items included pork, chicken, condiments and other frozen goods that were supplied by various vendors.

MCN Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Trent Kissee and Plant Manager Grant Norem have hired and trained eight employees who will work in the plant with hopes to create more jobs by the beginning of the year.

"There's a lot that we still have learn about the demand in the area," Kissee said. "We want to keep our prices competitive."

The 25,000 sq. ft. facility contains the capacity to run up to 125 head of cattle or other animals, including an area for deer, a test kitchen and more.

The space will not be able to be fully utilized until the plant is fully staffed with about 25 employees, according to Kissee.

USDA General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Janie Hipp commended the Nation on the quick progress of the facility.



The Looped Square Meat Co. is located at 3300 Highway 75, in Beggs just south of Duck Creek casino on the east side of the highway.
(Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

According to Kendall Carter with Thompson Construction, LLC, the contract builders for the plant, the project made record timing completion in such a short window.

The initial groundbreaking took place in early October and

finished just passing the one-year mark for the project.

Carter claimed weather and COVID-19 were extreme difficulties during the construction.

Kissee said everyone involved in the project has been dedicated to making this day happen.

"The facility embodies sovereignty and security," Kissee said.

The Looped Square Meat Co. can be found on Facebook and contacted at: loopedsquaremeatco@muscogeenation.com or by phone at: 918-549-2922.

CMN INVITES REBECCA NAGLE TO CAMPUS

AWARD-WINNING ADVOCATE SPEAKS TO COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION STUDENTS

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Award-winning journalist, advocate and writer Rebecca Nagle was invited to the College of Muscogee Nation to speak to the students on November 30.

Nagle hosts and writes a popular podcast show called "This Land" where she discusses issues in Indian Country. Her first series focuses on the U.S. Supreme Court case originally known as *Murphy v. Oklahoma*, which would eventually lead up to *McGirt v. Oklahoma*.

The podcast's second series,

which released in August, takes on *Brackeen v. Haaland*, a case that originated in Texas questioning the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Tribal Leadership Circle Faculty Advisor Colton Wood had reached out to Nagle about presenting to the students.

Nagle spoke to the students about issues of misrepresentation in mainstream media. She claimed to speak to students on the topic often.

A prime example of misrepresentation, according to Nagle, is when CNN's live election coverage included a graphic table of voter percentages that listed Native

Americans as "something else."

As a Two-Spirit Cherokee woman Nagle began her advocacy for Native rights and Native representation after surviving domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Nagle said as simplistic as it may sound, she is very passionate about the truth of information.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there about the laws and about what's happening on the ground," she said. "Here in Oklahoma, we have a state that is, whether its in legal documents or the press, citing numbers of how many cases that are going to be overturned and things like that, that aren't based in data or fact."



Rebecca Nagle speaks to students at CMN.
(Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

She believes it is the right of every Oklahoman and tribal citizen to know what is happening with the transfer of criminal jurisdiction.

Some of Nagle's writings regarding the *Murphy* case have been featured in *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Guardian*,

Teen Vogue, *The Huffington Post* and more.

Nagle can found on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. "This Land" can be listened to on Spotify, Apple, Stitcher, Tune in, Google Podcast, and at: <https://crooked.com/podcast-series/this-land/>.



Afvcke Tvcaako Rakko
(Merry Christmas)



THE SHADOW TRIAL OF OKFUSKEE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPEACHMENT OF TRAVIS SCOTT

by **LIZ GRAY**
MANAGING EDITOR

MODERN ERA HISTORY LESSON:

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Trying to follow the Impeachment of Okfuskee District Representative Travis Scott gets murky, with suspended rules and executive sessions it becomes difficult to know what exactly is going on with the removal process, but over the past few months Mvskoke Media has been able to grab bits of information through the MCN judicial system’s court filings and various correspondence with the other two branches of the Muscogee (Creek) tribal government.

Earlier this year, public knowledge of accusations against Scott came to light through a press release by the Council as well as an impending impeachment.

In the press release, it was stated the following actions were to be taken against the Okfuskee Representative based on findings by the MCN National Council’s Fact-Finding and Investigations Committee and recommendations from the Internal Affairs Committee:

Letter of Reprimand from the Speaker, Public Censure by National Council Resolution, monetary fine of \$50,000, cessation of compensation and expulsion from all National Council meetings and duties including committee assignments, ex-officio appointments and all meetings/sessions of the National Council.

The release also stated the Council would then commence the process and actions required by the Constitution in Article VIII regarding removal of a National Council member.

This was going to be a first for the Nation, the ousting of a sitting National Council Representative activated by the Council itself through investigation. It must be noted here that as of publication, Scott has never formally been charged with a crime in the MCN courts.

The very first removal of an elected official under the 1979 MCN Constitution happened right after the very first election was held. A petition introduced by voters would remove three Council Representatives by the end of 1980. A Muscogee Nation News article covering the removals stated, “For the first time since the ratification of the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution, Creek people are exercising their privilege as Creek citizens to express their opinion on tribal government.”

Claude Cox was Principal Chief during this time as well as the year 1989 when he vetoed legislation short titled “Officer Removal Act of 1989.”

The Act provided more power to the National Council by establishing an ordinance outlining procedures and causes for removal, but concern was raised in terms of Constitutional rights of the Muscogee (Creek) voters.

In the decision and order presented by the MCN District Court, Cox’s veto message of NCA 89-075 states his objections on the constitutionality of the legislation were based on the powers being taken away from the Muscogee (Creek) registered voters and creation of new powers in the Council that deny voters their rights in the removal process.

The National Council during the time would override the veto and the Act would become Title 31 “Removal of Officers” in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code and remains on the books as of today and this title of MCN Code is what was used as the vehicle to drive Scott out of his elected position. The entirety was not publicly available but has now been made available through the Court’s appendix in the decision.

INVESTIGATION AND ACTIONS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCOTT’S IMPEACHMENT:

A series of events commenced the not-so-public prosecution of Rep. Travis Scott.

During the coverage of this impeachment, the information has either been unclear or the requests entered into a black hole of unanswered emails, FOIA requests and phone calls.

District Court filings along with National Council meetings and legislation have made some information clear and the timeline of the actions against Scott.

Evidence was placed under a protective order, which made testimonies against Scott unable to be acquired.

According to an Oct. 13, 2021 petition filed by Scott, in August 2020 the Fact Finding & Investigation Committee was tasked with investigating Scott’s ownership interest in a business located within his District. The committee specifically investigated whether he violated MCNCA Title 37 subsection 4-101. Scott did not participate in any part of the investigation.

The petition states on May 5, 2021, the National Council was provided a report on the investigation with no evidence included. Scott also claimed he received communication from Speaker Hicks requesting Scott submit his resignation or the removal process would be initiated.

On May 22, an Emergency Session was held which immediately went into executive session. The previously mentioned May 24 press release provided the Council’s decision in addressing the investigation of Scott.

A video posted by the National Council on May 27 shows motions made by Rep. Adam Jones III to suspend National Council rules and procedures, specifically Rule 114 H and begin the removal process,

which was initially said to be the directive required by law. The Council then voted to expel Scott from the meeting as well as voted on the actions listed in their later press release.

On June 14, Mvskoke Media filed a FOIA requested any and all documents related to the censure, expulsion and fining of Rep. Scott which was denied.

On June 26, NCR 21-006 was introduced by sponsors Patrick Freeman Jr., James Jennings, Adam Jones, Joyce Deere and Anna Marshall. The censure legislation for Scott was voted on to implement the Public Censure addressed in the May 22 Emergency Session.

By July 27, engagement of Special Prosecutor Jeff Davis was approved.

Details of the accusations against Scott were presented in the National Council Directive during an August 12 Impeachment Session.

The Directive stated the cause of removal allegations to be Scott’s engagement in business transactions with numerous MCN business entities from January 2018 until approximately September 2020 with a total amount of \$107,584.33. The National Council identified high crimes and misdemeanors as defined in MCNCA Title 31 and Title 37.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF NCA 89-075 TALK:

The Court found that out of all of the Five Tribes in Oklahoma, only MCN provides for any involvement by registered voters in the removal process.

Not only do Muscogee (Creek) voters have the right to remove officers, they also play a role in the recall of elected officials. The power is with the people in the Muscogee Nation.

Title 31 has been deemed unconstitutional by the tribe’s District Court.

Cox’s concern manifested in the way the Impeachment has been handled. The critical move

from the National Council in its pursuit to remove Scott was during the process, they forgot to ask the ones with the power; the people. Not just a certain few, but a measurable amount necessary to initiate a costly ordeal.

REQUIRED PETITION:

There has been discontent throughout MCN’s history of democracy. But the key component is in numbers.

Article VIII of the Constitution states that a removal petition signed by 20% of the registered voters in a district.

Scott lost his bid for Representative to Sandra Golden in the runoff election, finishing with 41.47% of the total votes cast. There were 1,796 registered voters in the Okfuskee District as of Sept. 9, 2021. Within the Okfuskee District, 216 total votes were cast during the primary election including early voting in Okemah. This number does not include the number of absentee ballots whose home district is Okfuskee. A proper dataset might give a better idea to whether or not the numbers were there to get the required petition to start the impeachment process, but the fact is that a petition was never made by any registered voter in the Okfuskee District.

As of publication, the MCN National Council has appealed the case in MCN Supreme Court.

According to the MCN Constitution, Golden’s term begins at the first meeting of the National Council following the first day of January where she will be sworn into office. That same day, Scott’s term would end.

Reminiscent of national coverage during Donald Trump’s second impeachment, the question raised becomes “how do you impeach an elected official who is no longer in office?”

This is a developing story and Mvskoke Media will provide updates as they become available.

MOTHER CHURCH CONTINUES RUNNING THE TRADITIONAL WAYS

TAKING A LOOK BACK ON HOW GREEN LEAF CHURCH BEGAN

by **LANI HANSEN**
SENIOR REPORTER

OKEMAH, Oklahoma– Mvskoke Media’s series of tribal churches continues, with Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church.

According to Green Leaf’s Acting Chaplain John Fish, there was a small community and Green Leaf Ceremonial Grounds was nearby. Hutulke Fixico built up the church, and he was the one who brought the gospel to the area in 1866. The community would gather at the location of where the church stands today.

In an interview from the Indian Pioneer, James Gray described the church sitting on the side of a hill that sloped north and east. He said the hillside was covered with post oaks and blackjack trees. On the east, at the foot of the hill, ran a small creek. This creek

ran into another one on the north side of the hill.

“Each time they would have service, they would ring a bell,” Fish said. “People all over the land around here, because it was at the time of horses and buggies, they would hear the bell and knew church was starting. They would come and hear the gospel.”

Green Leaf is the mother church of Buckeye and High Springs, according to Fish. From the beginning it has always been Green Leaf Missionary Baptist Church. The Green Leaf community was divided when the Civil War broke out, but at the end of the war everyone had come back together to make peace at the spot of the church, Fish said.

Green Leaf owns the land it sits on. According to Muscogee Nation Cultural Coordinator Odette Freeman, Green Leaf church has moved around from its original land. The plat of Lucy Colbert is where the church is

located now.

“We’re still running the traditional ways,” Fish said. “We have five camp houses left, at one time there was about 16 camp houses on the church grounds before they all started being torn down. The five houses we have now are being preserved, we don’t want to lose that part of our church history and traditions.”

Two of those camp houses are being remodeled.

When the camp houses were first built, each family had their own next to the church. The camp houses on the grounds circled around the church building to reflect how they would at ceremonial grounds. After church service the deacon would send whoever lived on the grounds of the church back to their camp house and have food ready.

Although COVID has slowed things down and affected so many people, the church still has their doors open every Sunday and Wednesday. They have not done much outreach in the past, but in receiving a new church van from Muscogee Nation in 2020 Fish had brought up utilizing this van and doing outreach ministry.

They recently served dinner to



Top: Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church original church built in 1866. Bottom: The church how it stands today in 2021. (Submission)

the community on Labor Day, and are planning to continue feeding the community on holidays.

Green Leaf Missionary Baptist Church meets on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m., Sunday mornings beginning

at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday school and worship starts at 11 a.m. Following every Sunday service, they have lunch.

The church is located 3 miles West of Okemah on Hwy 56 then 1 mile South.

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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.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA KEEPS INDIGENOUS REMAINS IN PAPER BAGS

FEDERAL NAGPRA COMMITTEE SAYS REMAINS ARE ANCESTORS OF TRIBES & CAN BE RETURNED

by JENNA KUNZE
COURTESY OF NATIVE NEWS ONLINE

This story was originally published by Native News Online. Used with permission.

The University of Alabama Museums have skeletons in their closets—literally.

For the past decade, the seven Muskogean language-speaking tribes who originally resided in what is now Alabama have sought the return of an estimated 5,892 human remains—their ancestors—and the artifacts buried with them from the University of Alabama. The university owns an archaeological park, called Moundville, where the remains were excavated from.

“Basically what it boils down to is that the University of Alabama has in its possession thousands of our ancestors that were from the Southeastern original homeland Muscogee Creek People, and other tribes as well,” Muscogee Nation spokesperson Jason Salsman told Native News Online. The six other tribes are the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, settlers pushed these tribes out of their homelands to Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana.

“This repatriation fight has been going on, in our minds, long enough,” Salsman said.

For years, the University of Alabama has said it is willing to consult with the tribes, but it questioned the cultural affiliation or the links between the human remains it possesses and present-day tribes. It also said it would not return the funerary objects, which are currently on display at its museum, according to testimony from the tribes.

In 1990, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). It re-

quires federal agencies and museums receiving federal funds to take an inventory of Native American human remains and funerary objects they hold; consult with the tribes about what to do with them; and generally give the lineal descendants or culturally affiliated tribes the right to make the final determination about what to do with them, such as reburial or long-term curation.

But a loophole in the law allowed the majority of the remains catalogued—those without documented tribal affiliation, deemed “culturally unidentifiable”—to fall through the cracks. Though museums and agencies still had to report those remains, there was no timeline or requirement for a museum to identify their cultural affiliation. In the 1990s, the University of Alabama listed the remains from Moundville as culturally unidentifiable.

On November 24, a federal committee that oversees NAGPRA made clear the cultural connection for the descendants of Moundville.

In response to a petition filed jointly by the seven tribes, the NAGPRA Review Committee found a “preponderance of the evidence for cultural affiliation” between the seven Muskogean language-speaking tribes and the human remains and cultural objects found at the Moundville Archaeological Park. Members of the review committee called the 117-page document provided by the tribes “a strong case” with “overwhelming evidence.”

The tribes spent a year preparing its claim for the committee, including linguistic evidence, geographical evidence, oral traditions, kinship, biological, historical, and anthropological evidence.

“Going far beyond preponderance, the evidence presented in this claim establishes beyond any reasonable doubt that the Muskogean-speaking Tribes are culturally affiliated with the Moundville archaeological site,” the claim reads. “Moundville is



Mound B, the tallest mound in Alabama Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama. (Photo Courtesy RaeLynn Butler)

at least as closely affiliated with the Muskogean-speaking Tribes as Plymouth Colony is to the United States. Moundville is at least as important to our identities and contemporary communities as Plymouth Colony is to the United States.”

The Muscogee Nation’s tribal historic preservation officer, RaeLynn Butler, said she’s happy with the outcome, but overwhelmed when she thinks about the ancestors whose remains are still in museum closets, such as at the University of Alabama’s other location holding collections, the Office of Archaeological Research.

“I don’t think the university was ever upfront with how many skeletons that were in their closet,” Butler told Native News Online.

According to documents from tribal visits to the museum — specifically one in 2016, in a consultation where, according to the claim, the university wanted to demonstrate how well it was caring for the Tennessee Valley Authority’s collection — human remains were kept in plastic bags in five-gallon buckets on the floor, brown paper bags “with burial fill spilling out,” and cardboard boxes “with gaping holes in the sides.”

“For people to know that it’s almost 6,000 [remains] I think that that’s overwhelming,” Butler said.

“And that they’ve had them for almost 80 years? I think anyone who is new to this would be shocked, and should be shocked. Because what’s the need to keep them? And what have [they] been doing with them?”

According to Butler, the university has used the Moundville ancestors and their funerary objects for over 200 publications and studies, although last year, it instituted a moratorium on research studying the ancestors.

In the 2016 visit to examine the TVA collection, tribal observers noted that images of funerary objects were being displayed on desktop computers’ screensavers.

“It’s a night-and-day difference on how they curate the human remains, versus how they curate the funerary objects, which have their own shelf and have a very secure facility that only four people have access to,” Butler said. “They have certain styrofoam and different things around them to make sure they don’t wobble or fall, versus having 200 people on one shelf in brown paper sacks.”

The tribes are waiting for the university’s response.

In a letter sent to the tribes on Nov. 19 obtained by Native News Online, university executive vice president James Dalton wrote that “The University of Alabama seeks to consult

and acknowledge the joint claim for human remains and funerary objects from the Muskogean-speaking tribes to the Moundville site and associated sites in Tuscaloosa and Hale Counties, Alabama. The University will provide a more detailed response to you in the coming days outlining our thoughts on the most productive and efficient manner to address the pending joint request through the consultation process.”

University spokesperson Monica Watts told Native News Online that the university had sent the letter to the seven tribes “requesting consultation begin,” but had “received no acknowledgement from the tribes.” She was referring to the letter where Dalton told the tribes to wait for a more detailed response “in the coming days.”

Watts also noted that the university was not “invited to participate” in the NAGPRA oversight committee meeting, and that “any decision was made solely on information presented by the requesting tribes.”

But the committee’s procedural rules do not state that all affected parties must be present.

According to federal policy for the NAGPRA review committee’s finding-of-fact procedure, the seven tribes’ request was in line with the law, “where the requesting Indian tribe... can show cultural affiliation by a preponderance of the evidence based upon geographical, kinship, biological, archaeological, anthropological, linguistic, folkloric, oral traditional, historical, or other relevant information or expert opinion.”

“The ball is in their court now,” Butler said. “Their letter just saying that they’re going to consult isn’t enough for us after six years of hearing that, because when is it going to happen? We feel our patience has been taken advantage of and where we now want action only.”

Link to web story: <https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/university-of-alabama-keeps-indigenous-remains-in-paper-bags-boxes-federal-nagpra-committee-says-remains-are-ancestors-of-tribes-can-be-returned>



Emergency Session was called to order for COVID assistance. (MM File)

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES SECOND DIRECT ASSISTANCE DISBURSEMENT LEGISLATION

GRANT EXPENDITURE FOR MVSKOKE LANGUAGE APPROVED DURING SESSION

by MORGAN TAYLOR
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Emergency Session meeting was held Nov. 30 via teleconference.

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

NCA 21-145

Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, ANA Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Program Funds for the benefit of the Mvskoke Language Department. Representative James Jennings sponsored the legislation, which passed 15-0.

The Mvskoke Language Department was awarded \$128,118.00. The grant was awarded based on a twenty percent match of \$32,030.00 from the currently appropriated budget.

The funds will be used to increase the number of Mvskoke K-12 students and other Native American K-12 students who speak

the Mvskoke language.

NCA 21-150

Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the United States Department of the Treasury to provide a second disbursement of COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance. Rep. Lucian Tiger III sponsored the legislation, which passed 13-2.

Representative Robert Hufft made a motion to postpone to Dec. 18. The motion failed in a 6-9 vote. Reps. James Jennings, Adam Jones III, William Lowe, Anna Marshall, Darrel Proctor, Lucian Tiger III, Mary Crawford, Joyce Deere and Joseph Hicks voted against the motion.

NCA 21-150 passed with a 13-2 vote, with Reps. Travis Scott and Thomasene Yahola Osborn voting no.

The Executive Branch shall start a second disbursement of CIRIA Program Funds within 30 days of the enactment of this law. ARPA funds of \$196,092,309 will be expended for the program.

The full agenda and meeting can be viewed at: www.mcnnc.com.



I’m Tobacco Free for my Dog, Dexter.

Unleash the new you with FREE support from the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline.

Veramae knows that smoking would hurt her dog's lungs — and she's right. Secondhand smoke harms our four-legged friends — including their hearts, lungs and brains. Quitting tobacco with the Helpline means you can walk, play and fetch with your furry friend for years to come.

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U.S. DOJ SEEKS TO WORK WITH MCN

U.S. ATTORNEYS TO ENHANCE CAPACITY OF MCN IN CASES ASSOCIATED WITH MCGIRT

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Regular Session was held Nov. 20 via teleconference.

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

TR 21-149

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Waste Management of Oklahoma, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

MCNDH desires to enter into an agreement with Waste Management of Oklahoma, Inc. to allow the MCNDH to access waste management services.

The agreement requires NC approval as it waives the Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit, imposes an indemnification obligation upon the Nation and requires application of the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

TR 21-150

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain data use and reciprocal support agreement by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Mary Crawford sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

MCNDH desires to enter into Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement to allow the MCNDH to access electronic health exchange services.

The agreement requires NC approval as it waives the Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit and requires application of the laws of the State of Virginia.

TR 21-151

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and California Mediterranean, LLC on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0. Rep.

MCNDH desires to enter into an agreement with California Mediterranean, LLC to allow the MCNDH to certain eHealth services as needed for the full implementation of the EPIC Electronic Health Record System.

The agreement requires NC approval as it waives the Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit, imposes an indemnification obligation upon the Nation, and requires application of the laws of the State of California, and requires venue and jurisdiction for any disputes to be in the state and federal courts located in San Diego, California.

TR 21-152

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Healthwise, Inc. on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

MCNDH desires to enter into an agreement with Healthwise, INC. to allow the MCNDH to access patient education services needed for the full implementation of the EPIC Health Record System.

The agreement requires NC approval as it waives the

Nation’s sovereign immunity from lawsuit and requires application of the laws of the State of Delaware.

TR 21-153

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the United States Attorney’s office for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Representative Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

The United States Department of Justice seeks to work with MCN by providing an Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute crimes occurring within the MCN Reservation in federal or tribal court.

The MCN Department of Justice will allow the Assistant United States Attorney use of the Office of the Attorney General offices, conference rooms and library facilities and equipment.

TR 21-154

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Harder for the purpose of supporting the Department of Justice efforts to keep tribal communities safe. Rep. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

U.S. DOJ seeks to work with MCN by providing an Assistant United States Attorney to prosecute crimes occurring within the MCN Reservation in federal or tribal court.

The MCN Department of Justice will allow the Assistant United States Attorney use of the Office of the Attorney General offices, conference rooms and library facilities and equipment.

TR 21-155

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a grant agreement with the Native American Agriculture Fund for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Natural Resource Conservation District. Representative Charles McHenry sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

MCN Natural Resource Conservation District was awarded the 2021 Native American Agricultural Fund grant in the amount of \$197,060.73.

The grant was awarded to provide educational and economic development resources aimed at improving the wealth skills of Native farmers and ranchers through the use of aquaponics by providing training and resources to help procure and operate their own aquaponics system.

TR 21-156

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a service agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Morris Police Department for the purpose of providing Geosafe Mobile Services to the Morris Police Department. Rep. William Lowe sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

MCN is entering into a service agreement with Geosafe for the purpose of allowing users to view 911 call information.

Morris PD and the Nation have agreed in principle to an amount of reimbursement for providing the services up to fifteen units of Geosafe to the Morris PD.

TR 21-159

Confirming the nomination of Lisa Otipoby-Herbert to



The Regular Session was held early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. (MM File)

serve as the Chief Judge of the District Trial Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which failed 10-5. Reps. James Jennings, Adam Jones III, Lucian Tiger III, Joyce Deere, Joseph Hicks voted against legislation.

The laws of the MCN require the appointment of a Chief Judge by the Principal Chief with confirmation by a 2/3 vote from the NC.

Upon confirmation of the full Council, Lisa Otipoby-Herbert will serve as the Chief Judge for the MCN Trial Court until December 31, 2027.

TR 21-160

Execute a Multiyear Funding Agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the United States of America. Rep. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 15-0.

The purpose of the Agreement is to set forth the programs, services, functions and activities and their associated resources, to be transferred to the MCN for the funding period of Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2024 and to identify any terms and conditions for implementation and of those in the Compact of 2002, pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

NCA 21-113

Amending MCNCA Title 31 Chapter 3, Subchapter 10 entitled “Sexual Harassment Prohibited.” Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

This amendment shall be codified in Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 10 of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

“Prohibition. Sexual Harassment is unlawful. The MCN does not tolerate Sexual Harassment in any form. Anyone found to have sexually harassed another person would be subject to a written apology and disciplinary action up to and/or including termination.

Sexual Harassment may include but is not restricted to using of one’s position of power/authority in the form of quid pro quo and other forms.”

NCA 21-117

Authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded from the Revenue received from the filming of the FX Series Reservation Dogs to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The Nation’s Scholarship Foundation plans to establish the Sterlin Harjo Scholarship to work to enhance and expand the Nation’s ability to meet the educational needs of our citizens.

The scholarship of \$10,000.00 pledged by Senior Vice President – Media Relations, FX Networks LLC, John Solberg will be initially funded through the revenue received

from the filming of the FX Series, “Reservation Dogs.”

NCA 21-118

Authorizing the expenditure of the Department of Health and human services Administration for children and families American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 low-income household water assistance program funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Program. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The Low-income Household Water Assistance Program of \$5,503.00 will be used to provide operation funds for the program.

NCA 21-119

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the Health Resources and Services Administration to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Crawford sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

The MCNDH is in receipt of grant funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the amount of \$126,605.00.

NCA 21-120

Amending MCNCA Title 11, subsection 3-204 entitled “Compliance for Distribution of CMD Funds.” Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

All items shall be submitted by email, certified mail or hand delivered to the MCN, Community Finance Officer and received by 5 p.m. on January 7, April 7, July 7 and October 7 of the fiscal year of the grant awarded.

NCA 21-121

Authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds from the United States Department of the Treasury to provide subaward funding to Raising Native Hope. Rep. Lucian Tiger III sponsored the legislation, which failed 7-8. Reps. Deere, Hufft, Lowe, McHenry, Yahola Osborn, Proctor, Randolph and Scott voted against the legislation.

The MCN has received federal funds in the amount of \$424,351,068.50 from the American Rescue Plan Act and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to assist with the myriad of issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and support immediate stabilization for households and businesses.

Raising Native Hope is requesting financial assistance to establish a temporary live-in facility for homeless Muscogee (Creek) citizens and other Native Americans and transitioning them back into society as self-supportive individuals.

NCA 21-123

Amending MCNCA Title 36, Chapter 3, entitled “Motor Vehicle Tax and License Code.” Rep. Travis Scott sponsored the resolution, which failed 1-14. Rep. Scott voted for the legislation.

Rep. Tiger made a motion to go in to Executive Session before voting, motion passed 15-0. No action was taken during session.

Updating by adding handicapped placard, black tags and junk vehicles. Insurance and liabilities amounts have changed. Tax Commission wanted to add clan tags and designer tags.

The amendment would also allow Muscogee (Creek) citizens who reside outside the territorial jurisdiction of the MCN to be eligible to apply for registration of an eligible vehicle under this Chapter as a nonresident and by signing an acknowledgement form to be promulgated by the MCN Tax Commission affirming the status of the citizen as a non-resident.

NCA 21-124

Authorizing the expenditure of the 2021 Native American Agriculture Fund Grant for the benefit of the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Rep. Jones sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0. Rep. Lowe was absent during vote.

The Mvskoke Loan Fund was awarded the 2021 Native American Agriculture Fund Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00.

The funds will be used to provide the capital necessary for MLF to continue to provide services and resources necessary for Native farmers and ranchers to improve access to credit and successfully grow their agriculture and/or agribusiness.

NCA 21-125

Amending NCA 21-104 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2022) as amended by NCA 21-108. Rep. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0. Rep. Lowe was absent during vote.

The Nation is requesting funds for Murrow Indian Children’s Home, Lighthouse Contractual line item, Tax Commission and debt services are needing 100% of funding that was approved in FY 2021.

Section 3-102 under Tribal Funds changes made from 50% to 100% of the FY 2022, Murrow Indian Children’s Home shall be funded at 100% and the Debt Service shall be funded at 100%.

Lighthouse Police Department contractual line item, Tax Commission and the National Council shall be funded at 100% of the FY 2021 approved Comprehensive Annual Budget.

NCA 21-126

Authorizing an appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department for jail fees. Rep. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0. Rep.

REGULAR
Continued from Page 4

Lowe was absent during vote.

The Lighthorse Police Department is requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$627,000.00 for the remaining August and September jail invoices.

NCA 21-127

Authorizing the expenditure of funds from the United States Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FY 2022 Special Assistance United States Attorney Program fund grant to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Justice. Rep. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was adopted 14-0. Rep. Lowe was absent during vote.

The MCN Department of Justice has applied for funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$500,000.00.

The grant funds will be used to hire a prosecutor that will be cross designated as a tribal Special Assistance United States Attorney to enhance the capacity of the MCN in cases associated with the McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

NCA 21-128

Authorizing the expenditure of the 2021 Native American Agricultural Fund grant for the benefit of the MCN Natural Resource Conservation District. Rep. McHenry sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

MCN Natural Resource Conservation District was awarded the 2021 Native American Agricultural Fund grant in the amount of \$199,305.57. The grant funds will be used to improve access to capital by providing grants to beginning farmers and ranchers.

NCA 21-129

Authorizing the expenditure of the 2021 Native Amer-

ican Agricultural Fund grant for the benefit of the MCN Natural Resource Conservation District. Representative Charles McHenry sponsors this legislation, which was adopted 15-0 vote.

MCN Natural Resource Conservation District was awarded the 2021 Native American Agricultural Fund grant in the amount of \$197,060.73.

The grant was awarded to provide educational and economic development resources aimed at improving the wealth skills of Native farmers and ranchers through the use of aquaponics by providing training and resources to help procure and operate their own aquaponics system.

NCA 21-134

Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 8, subsection 8-102 entitled "Policy." Rep. Jennings sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

There is a need to increase the grant amount of the Tribal Energy Assistance Program due to the increase of propane, gas, and electricity costs over the years. Applicants may participate twice yearly and grants shall be \$600.00 to be applied to applicants heating or cooling costs.

NCA 21-138

Authorizing the expenditure of Fiscal Relief Funding for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program to retain a pediatric nurse. Rep. Jennings sponsored the legislation, which was adopted 15-0.

A school nurse is needed for the Tulsa Head Start Center to ensure proper health care will be provided to a high-risk child attending in-person. Funds of \$63,600.00 are being requested and funded by American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funding.

To watch the full meeting and view full agenda visit: www.mcnn.com.



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THE MUSCOGEE NATION

Southern Plains TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD

MCNHealth
STROKE PREVENTION PROGRAM

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam



Rev. Joseph Lowe Jr.

Rev. Joseph “Sonny” Lowe Jr., 88, departed from this life to be with the Lord on Friday, September 24, 2021. Joe was born on December 1, 1932, in Yeager, OK to Rev. Joseph Lowe Sr. and Hepsey (Harjo) Lowe.

Joseph was Valedictorian when he graduated at Pecan Grove School. He went on to graduate high school at Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kansas.

Joe was a lifetime member of Wewoka Indian U.M.C where he served with a servant’s heart in different capacities.

Joe worked in Chicago, Illinois until he joined the Army and served from 1954-1956.

Joe married the love of his life, Louise Boydston, on May 3, 1960. To this union three daughters were born: Tracey, Anita, and Anna.

Joe worked in the pipeline field and was grounds keeper of the Holdenville Cemetery for 12 years until he became a minister with the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. He would serve 22 years in the Ministry before retiring in 1998.

Joe would pastor Jay Tsalagi, Pickett Chapel, Mary Lee Clark and Newtown United Methodist Churches. He also served as District Superintendent for 4 years for the Northeast District Region.

After Retirement he continued ministering at Wewoka, Arbeka and Concharty. He continued to speak at other churches, preached funerals, performed weddings, baptisms and consecrated the sacraments for other churches when called upon.

Joe enjoyed playing fast-pitch softball as a pitcher for many years until he was called into the ministry. He also enjoyed watching OU football and softball, OKC Thunder and working crossword puzzles. Joe loved the Lord, his family and friends, reading his bible and going to church.

Today, Joe would be encouraging each and every one to continue their walk with the Lord, have faith and always keep God first in their life.

Prior to each of his sermons Joe was known for quoting the following saying: “Yesterday I asked God for many things so I could enjoy life. Today, he gave me life, now I can enjoy many good things.”

Joe is preceded in death by his parents, 2 infant siblings Johnny Ray and Angeline May, 2 sisters Margaret Marshall and Elsiephine Elliott, 1 brother Eugene “Hardy” Lowe and daughter Tracey Lowe.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, 2 daughters Anita Watashe and husband Mark of Okmulgee, OK and Anna Lowe of Okmulgee, OK. 1 sister Matilda King of Holdenville, OK and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Night Service will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. at Wewoka Indian U.M.C, in Yeager, Oklahoma.

A funeral Service will be held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at Wewoka Indian U.M.C. with Reverend Eli McHenry officiating. Interment will follow across the street at Wewoka Indian U.M.C. Cemetery.



Michael Douglas McHenry

Michael Douglas ‘Doug’ McHenry of Tulsa, OK stepped into heaven the evening of December 4, 2021, at his home in Tulsa, OK.

Doug was born March 18, 1957, in Claremore, OK to James David McHenry and Christine Estelle Hood McHenry. He was an Optical Technician by trade. Doug was a natural gifted wrestler and graduated from East Central High School where he excelled at wrestling and was awarded a scholarship for wrestling from Oklahoma State University. He also attended college at Oklahoma Central University in Edmond, OK. Doug was on the Olympic Wrestling team in 1980 when President Jimmy Carter boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics.

Doug had a passion for animals and especially dogs and cats. His love for his Pug dog named Zeus was incomparable and unconditional. He was always helping, by caring and feeding of other people’s dogs and cats. Doug was a kind compassionate person and while he also could be pretty onery, he was a loving person and would make homemade Mother’s Day and Christmas cards for his aunts. Doug was very proud of his Muscogee Creek ancestry and heritage. He once took a Muscogee Language class each week for a period of six weeks and was a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community.

He is survived by his children Michael Edwards and Nicole Edwards, brothers James D. McHenry and wife Patti from Bartlesville OK, Patrick O. McHenry of the home and sister Cindy Stone and husband Mike of Bixby, OK. His Aunt Vickie of Tulsa, OK who was his bonus Mom and a score of relatives and friends. He had a special relationship with his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his Mother Christine Hood McHenry, Maternal grandparents Irving and Velma Hood, and paternal grandparents Lewis and Gladys McHenry.



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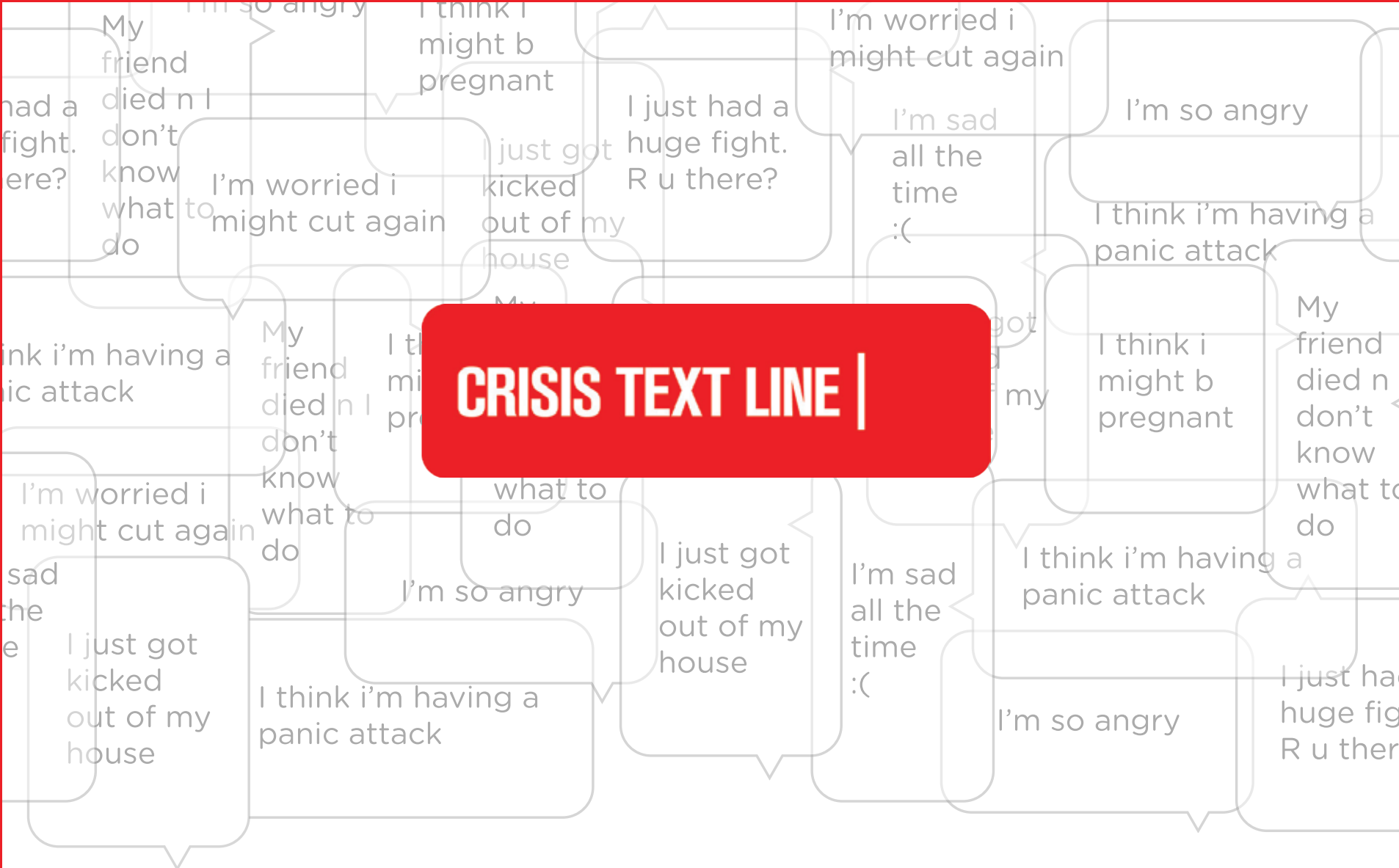
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GREAT SEAL OF THE
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Fiscal Year 2022

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 **\$312,692,414.48**
Total expenditures and encumbrances for FY20, FY21, and FY22 as of this report date equals, **\$306,681,345.53**
The following report has been submitted for the publication date of **DECEMBER 15TH**.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				
56010	Donations	39,187.20	-	-	39,187.20
	SECRETARY OF NATION				
53000	Supplies	196.00	-	-	196.00
54000	Contractual <5K	383,112.56	-	-	383,112.56
59220	Grants	2,496.53	-	-	2,496.53
	MARKETING & TOURISM				
59050	Food Purchases	10,981.65	-	-	10,981.65
	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT				
53000	Supplies	8.25	-	-	8.25
55210	Communications - Other	2,919.60	-	-	2,919.60
59220	Grants	1,824,856.91	-	-	1,824,856.91
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
53000	Supplies	102,193.91	574.39	(556.20)	102,175.72
53010	Software/Licenses	804,417.40	-	135,596.38	668,821.02
55210	Communications - Other	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	41,759.16	-	-	41,759.16
85500	Equipment	100,000.67	-	-	100,000.67
	FLEET MANAGEMENT				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	2,906.94	200.81	-	2,706.13
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	3,293.77	3,137.25	-	156.52
50100	Salary & Wages - PT	1,888.00	-	-	1,888.00
51000	Fringe - FT	6,800.00	1,731.23	-	5,068.77
51100	Fringe - PT	290.47	-	-	290.47
53000	Supplies	1,151,076.45	-	180,285.68	970,790.77
53290	Postage/Shipping	13,775.14	5,668.66	-	8,106.48
54000	Contractual <5K	16,229.80	2,904.86	4,946.16	8,378.78
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,315.00	-	800.00	515.00
57000	Indirect Costs	(101.52)	346.00	-	(447.52)
85400	Vehicles	5,455.00	-	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	112,954.56	-	-	112,954.56
	SOCIAL SERVICES				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	885.89	-	-	885.89
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	4,770.59	-	-	4,770.59
51000	Fringe - FT	(3,950.88)	-	-	(3,950.88)
53000	Supplies	36.00	-	-	36.00
54000	Contractual <5K	9,294.24	-	-	9,294.24
59040	Burial	265,500.00	245,144.84	-	20,355.16
59050	Food Purchases	(706.07)	1,423.29	-	(2,129.36)
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	223,181.41	4,425.00	-	218,756.41
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	183,188.07	3,500.00	-	179,688.07
	SENIOR SERVICES				
53000	Supplies	14,635.99	-	-	14,635.99
	FOOD DISTRIBUTION				
53000	Supplies	4,784.95	-	-	4,784.95
85050	Renovations	2,712.52	-	-	2,712.52
85170	Construction	282,262.30	-	180,698.50	101,563.80
85500	Equipment	131,250.00	-	131,250.00	-
	ELDERLY NUTRITION				
53000	Supplies	1,048.00	339.96	-	708.04
55100	Utilities	1,463.00	-	-	1,463.00
85170	Construction	81,677.92	-	-	81,677.92
	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION				
50000	Salary& Wages- FT	407.67	-	-	407.67
50020	Salary& Wages - O/T over 1.5	33,638.14	-	-	33,638.14
51000	Fringe - FT	19,109.43	-	-	19,109.43
53000	Supplies	234,396.23	-	-	234,396.23
56030	Stipends/Honorariums	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00
59073	Direct Assistance - Education Support	4,506.76	-	-	4,506.76
	MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT				
53000	Supplies	25,998.11	-	-	25,998.11
85010	Architect & Engineering	30,237.18	7,975.53	(7,975.53)	30,237.18
85170	Construction	1,339,411.71	-	-	1,339,411.71
85500	Equipment	150,511.47	-	-	150,511.47
	REAL ESTATE SERVICES				
54000	Contractual <5K	903.17	-	-	903.17
	CULTURAL PRESERVATION				
59220	Grants	0.05	-	-	0.05
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
85010	Architect & Engineering	16,082.65	-	-	16,082.65
85170	Construction	124,763.00	-	-	124,763.00
	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS				
58010	Construction	15,665.36	-	-	15,665.36
	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION				
54000	Contractual <5K	10,797.00	-	-	10,797.00
55300	Bldg Maintenance	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	CITIZENSHIP BOARD				
53000	Supplies	5,813.70	-	-	5,813.70
54000	Contractual <5K	88,600.00	-	-	88,600.00
	DISTRICT COURT				
85500	Equipment	16,250.00	-	-	16,250.00
	TOTAL	8,063,640.04	277,371.82	625,044.99	7,161,223.23
	CONTRACT HEALTH				
59070	Direct Assistance	106,052.94	(52,363.39)	-	158,416.33
99980	CHS Accrual	-	(922.03)	-	922.03
	SECRETARY OF HEALTH				
85500	Equipment	6,134.68	-	-	6,134.68
	FACILITIES MANAGEMENT				
85010	Architect & Engineering	2,700.88	-	-	2,700.88
85500	Equipment	124,291.21	-	-	124,291.21
	HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	-	126,658.53	-	(126,658.53)
51000	Fringe - FT	-	65,756.65	-	(65,756.65)
53000	Supplies	0.75	475.71	(475.71)	0.75
53060	Software Maint Contract	108.99	-	-	108.99
53320	Supply - Computer Maint Contract	264,492.00	-	-	264,492.00
57000	Indirect Costs	-	12,609.38	-	(12,609.38)
	TOTAL	503,781.45	152,214.85	(475.71)	352,042.31