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MUSCOGEE NATION ANNOUNCES SECOND DISBURSEMENT OF ARPA FUNDS

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

by MORGAN TAYLOR *REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -The Muscogee Nation Facebook page has made an official announcement regarding the 2022 Direct Assistance program.

The application for the second disbursement of ARPA funds became available on the Camphouse Portal Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.

This application is different from the first and requires each citizen to apply.

Applications will be processed by roll number and not by order of the application.

According to information provided by the Muscogee Nation, citizens will be required to verify their address and household members again for this application.

It also states there will be options to receive payment directly to either NetSpend card, direct deposit or check.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 21-150 which authorized the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide a second disbursement of COVID-19 Impact Relief Individual Assistance during a Nov. 30 Emergency Session.

The law expended \$192,092,309 providing another \$2,000 payment to each citizen.

Tulsa District Representative Lucian Tiger III sponsored the legislation.

"My reasoning for introducing this legislation was we have increase cost in groceries and rent," Tiger said. He claimed rent has increased

by 16.4% from January to October this year and fuel has doubled over the course of the year.

According to Tiger, the majority of the MCN citizens, an estimated 84%, are considered low-to-moderate income.

He referenced a Washington

Post article and claimed those who have not experienced a 6.2% increase in salary this year are being affected by inflation.

"We may never have an opportunity like this to give our citizens financial assistance," Tiger said.

Reps. Travis Scott and Thomasene Yahola-Osborn voted against the legislation.

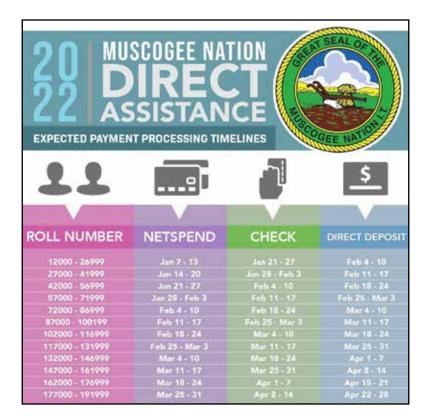
Rep. Yahola-Osborn claimed she is not against helping the citizens but it was not the original legislation that the two branches of government had been working on together since Nov. 19.

According to Yahola-Osborn it was just five days before the Emergency Session that the sponsor proposed NCA 21-150.

"I knew without a doubt it would pass," Yahola-Osborn said.

She does claim it gave her feelings of uneasiness to vote "yes" when the two branches had already been working together on an original legislation.

Yahola-Osborn said she was thinking ahead for the tribe with concerns of a future audit that



Projected payment processing timeline of 2022 Direct Assistance. (The Muscogee Nation)

could potentially result in paying back the funds.

Secretary of the Nation and Commerce Terra Branson-Thomas stated in the session that there is a process to be done before determining if funds could be allocated again.

According to Branson-Thomas, if funds are distributed without following U.S. Treasury guidelines it could result in what Yahola-Osborn fears.

Rep. Scott has not yet made a comment regarding his vote as of publication.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

PRESLEY SIBLING CARRIES ON **FAMILY TRADITION**

BRAYLIN PRESLEY SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT TO

OKLAHOMA STATE

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

BIXBY, Oklahoma - Muscogee (Creek) citizen Braylin Presley signed his Letter of Intent to play football at Oklahoma State University in front of family, friends, teammates and coaches on Dec. 15 at the Lee Snider Field where he started his football career as a Bixby Spartan.

Presley will join his older brother Brennan as a Cowboy and play alongside him again on the gridiron.

While the pair of brothers played together at Bixby, they won two state championships.

After Brennan went on to play for OSU, Braylin won two more championships as a Spartan making him a fourpeat gold baller.

Presley is the 2021 Max-Preps Oklahoma High School Football Player of the Year and will have the opportunity to play in the All-State game.

247Sports listed Presley as Oklahoma's number eight prospect for 2022.

This season Presley ran the football for 1,105 yards and 17 touchdowns on 109 carries for the year and caught 56 passes for 665 yards and an additional seven scores. Presley ran for 4,978 yards and 75 touchdowns over his four-year career at Bixby and reeled in 145 catches for 1,684 yards and 23 more scores, according to MaxPreps.

The Presley's have a family history of attending OSU starting with eldest sister Brandee, who also attended Ole Miss and now University of Georgia.

The running back stated he is very grateful for the opportunity and support.

"It wasn't set in stone in first," Presley said. "I didn't know if I would get the Oklahoma State offer or any Division 1 offers at that."

It was after the class 6A state championship between Bixby and Deer Creek aired on ESPN that OSU football



Braylin Presley signed his Letter of Intent in front of his team and classmates on Dec. 15. (Morgan Taylor)

coaches gave him a call.

"It has always been in the back of mind but as the offers started to roll in I started to keep my options open," he said. "I listened to every coach and every option and Coach Dunn and Coach Gundy pitched it just right."

He will continue as a running back but also will be learning more about other positions.

Being a Muscogee athlete is something Presley takes pride in.

"I am very blessed and fortunate to be a part of the Nation," Presley said.

Presley is wanting to major in architecture or exercise science.

Playing in the NFL is one of Presley's long-term goals but he claimed he would like start an architecture firm or business one day.

Bixby Football Head Coach Loren Montgomery said coaching Presley has been great.

"What he has you can't coach," Montgomery said. "He is an electric player."

He stated seeing his students reach this level is rewarding.

The last of the Presley siblings will be starting high school next fall with big shoes



K9 Diesel assisted OHP in Marijuana Seizure estimated at 100 pounds. (Submission)

LIGHTHORSE K9 UNIT SNIFFS OUT CRIME

MAJOR DRUG BUSTS LEAD TO ONGOING INVESTIGATION

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma -The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse K9 Unit spent the last quarter of 2021 getting pounds of drugs and illegal substances out of communities.

This includes two stops in early November which included methamphetamine and marijuana where K9 Diesel assisted other agencies in the findings.

The K9 Unit posted on their Facebook page, "All the legalities to carry, grow and distribute marijuana and if you try to do it illegally you still go to jail."

Another post stated that the canines located 20 pounds of methamphetamine from a traffic stop.

These findings have led the MCN Lighthorse Police, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and FBI in an ongoing investigation. This is a developing story.

For privacy purposes no names have been released at this time.

Citizens can follow the Lighthorse K9 Unit Facebook page to stay updated and follow the canines themselves.

Canines include Diesel, Zero, Nitro and Mack.



Braleigh King signs her letter of intent with parents Clint and Lisa King along with Assistant Softball Coach Anthony Wisenhunt. (Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

MOSS SENIOR SIGNS LETTER **OF INTENT**

FIRST BASEMAN BRALEIGH KING SIGNS TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

HOLDENVILLE, Oklahoma -Moss High School Senior and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Braleigh King spent the morning of her birthday signing her Letter of Intent to play softball at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

King is a first baseman and talented batter. She is going to major in Early childhood Education.

The Oklahoma Fast Pitch Coaches Association for the All-State games which takes place in June 2022, announced King as a player on Nov. 2.

It has been a dream of King's to play at the next level.

Over the course of her softball career, King has acquired several trophies, medals, awards and recognition. She is four-time medalist from the Top Gun Invitation.

For the last three years, King has played on Force 03 and previously played with Angels and Oklahoma Athletics.

Parents Lisa and Clint King said Braleigh has spent her childhood playing softball, starting with little league and even playing on several traveling competitive teams.

King's father Clint remembers her first over-the-fence homerun when she was just eight

King said it was a good day to sign her letter, which happened to be her birthday.

"I am just thankful for all the support and for everyone who has been there," she said.

King stated she is nervous to be moving away from home but excited for her journey.

CITIZEN FIGHTS FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

KASECA OPPOSES HAVING A MEDICAL MARIJUANA SITE BUILT IN MUSKOGEE NEIGHBORHOOD

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma -Muscogee (Creek) citizen Patricia Kaseca has been protesting the City Council of Muskogee's decision to re-zone 5028 W. Okmulgee in order to operate a marijuana dispensary or a grow farm at this

Kaseca will attend a meeting that will decide to proceed with the rezone or to quit on Jan. 10.

It was sometime in August when Kaseca receive a notice from the City of Muskogee stating the property would be rezoned.

After attending a City Council meeting in September, Kaseca discovered the intentions of the city was to put in a dispensary at the site.

"I signed up to talk and told the council I was opposed to them putting a dispensary so close to my house," Kaseca said. "Because of the odor and toxic chemicals that come out of these places."

Kaseca went to City meetings regularly upholding her opposition along with others who live in the same neighborhood.

A local neighbor partnered with Kaseca to learn the city's ordinances to see what they could find.

Kaseca claims the City of Muskogee is in violation of its own ordinances, specifically Article 16 - Medical Marijuana, Section 22-675 and Section 22-676.

In her interpretation of ordinance 675, Kaseca said that it specifies dispensaries and grow farms are "public nuisances."

"A "Public Nuisance" is one that interferes with the health, safety, and welfare of Muskogee citizens and there are 39 of them



The property to be rezoned for the new development 5028 W. Okmulgee St. Muskogee, OK. (Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

(dispensaries/grow houses) all over the city," Kaseca said.

Article 16, Medical Marijuana - Section 22-676 cites, "Buildings where medical marijuana is stored or dispensed must be equipped with ventilation and air filtration systems so that no odors are detectable off premises."

Kaseca claimed according to this ordinance, every marijuana dispensary and grow farm in Muskogee is in violation of this ordinance because the city has an odor problem.

"The City Council must take action to correct this infraction," she said.

When Kaseca asked the City Council why they are violating their own ordinances, she said she did not receive an answer.

"This site is within 300 feet of my home," Kaseca said. "The re-zoning order will greatly impact the quality of life for me by jeopardizing my health, safety and welfare. There are several reasons why this entire project is out of order."

It is Kaseca's belief this was the plan all along even before notifying the residents.

"The reason I believe this is because at the October 12, 2021, meeting, the City Attorney stated several ways that he would establish the marijuana dispensary at 5028 W. Okmulgee," she claimed. "His plan involves modifying the ordinance pertaining to marijuana shops and grow farms that define "public nuisances," so that they are no longer nuisances."

Kaseca said her own district representative is in favor of marijuana businesses in Muskogee.

"...Which means my neighborhood," Kaseca said. "Council Representatives usually try to help the residents in a community when it comes to their health, safety, and welfare."

After a meeting on Nov. 22, Kaseca gave an oral statement in front of the council stating her opposition.

The council then decided to table the discussion until the Jan. 10 meeting. This is a developing story.

OLD FIGHTS, NEW ONE, CHANGES

BATTLES WITH THE GOVERNOR, PEOPLE NEWS, NAME CHANGES

by GARY FIFE

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma-With the start of a new year, new challenges and changes face the Nation. But we still have to deal with some old ones and some that never seem to go away.

First of all, there's the growing split with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. Although there are many who will still say that's not the case. There are major issues that have been raised in the last year.

The State has called for and received another review of the McGirt case by the U.S. Supreme Court, questioning the legal existence of Mvskoke reservation jurisdiction. Lately, it's been new arguments over hunting and fishing licenses, oil and gas regulations, and mining authority.

All this Stitt said, would be good for "all Oklahomans." But it seems like for that 'benefit' to happen, tribes must give up the right to determine what happens on the lands that the U.S Supreme Court has reaffirmed fall under tribal control.

Hey Man, we've been playing by your rules, why can't you abide by them?

On to some more stuff.

Native peoples have lost some of our treasured cultural icons. Famed ballerina Marjorie Tallchief has passed on, according to the Tulsa World. Once part of the group known as the "Five Moons", the Osage dancer had a career that graced stages around the world. She died at her home in Delray Beach, Florida at the age of 95.

Also passing from us, singer and musician Joanne Shenandoah died at the end of November. She was recognized as one of the leaders in the growth of Native music and philosophy. An Oneida, according to a report from Native News Online, Shenandoah had a string of honors including 14 Native American Music Awards and a Grammy.

On the brighter side...The new Native produced TV series, "Reservation Dogs" has been nominated for Golden Globe Award for 2022. It is in the Best Television Series-Musical or Comedy.



The award is given out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. It is unusual for a TV series to receive such a nomination in its first year of production. Winners are announced January 9th.

Speaking of awards, Executive Producer Sterlin Harjo has been named as one of the Tulsans Of The Year by the Tulsa World Magazine. And, to add to that, Myskoke Principal Chief David Hill is among the local chiefs also named as Tulsans of the Year. Also named were Chuck Hoskin Jr. of the Cherokee Nation and Geoffrey Standing Bear of the Osage.

Canada has conferred an honor on Cree singer and activist singer. Buffy Sainte-Marie's image has been added to a commemorative postage stamp. The image

used is from her album 'Coincidence and Likely Stories.'

U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has issued a directive and formed a committee to eliminate the names for federal lands that use names offensive to Native Americans. An Interior news release said, "Racist terms have no place in our vernacular or on our federal lands. Our nation's lands and waters should be places to celebrate the outdoors and our shared cultural heritage - not to perpetuate the legacies of oppression." Her action will include 660 federal sites.

Well done, Ms. Haaland. The National Congress of American Indians added its voice to the call. NCAI stated: "The use of hateful and derogatory rhetoric prevents our fellow Americans from valuing the rich histories and vibrant cultures of the many thriving, contemporary sovereign nations that still exist today."

More old derogatory names for our peoples are being tossed out. A ski lodge in Maine is discarding its old name: "Big S...w" Mountain Resort. A replacement has not been announced, according to Native News Online.

But, not everybody is happy on this issue. In Connecticut, a school board member got knocked down by a community member in an argument over a tomahawk. Imagine, two stehvtke fighting over an 'Indian' symbol for a school logo. My, my...

New National Council members are being sworn in right about now. Three incumbents were unseated in the last election. This should produce some new dynamics and possibly, direction for our tribe.

I hope so. There are a lot of big and tough challenges on the agenda facing them.

Have a good 2022.

Hvtvm cerecares—I will see you. Disclaimer: The expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

THE MVSKOKE NEWS

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AG ROGER WILEY NOMINATED TO SERVE AS CHIEF JUDGE

LIGHTHORSE RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FROM DOI

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held Dec. 13 at the Mound Building.

All passed legislation is subject to the full council approval during the regular session.

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

NCR 21-013

Approving the Consulting Agreement between the MCN National Council and Jeff Fife. Representative Adam Jones III sponsored the legislation, which failed 1-3. Reps. Patrick Freeman, Robert Hufft and Travis Scott voted no.

Rep. Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session with no action taken. Rep. Jones claimed that he proposed this legislation because he believes Fife has experience in working with McGirt.

Rep. Hufft said that he believes Fife would be a good asset but would like to present this to the new council in a few weeks.

TR 21-158

Upholding and enforcing the official name and seal of the MCN. Rep. Jones sponsored the legislation, which was postponed to be addressed until Dec. 18 with a vote of 4-0.

According to Kyle Haskins, he claimed since the official name is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that any legal binding documents, contracts, etc. using any other name would not be legal.

Kyle Lee claimed the new name Muscogee Nation is for branding purposes only not legal purposes.

Rep. Adam Jones made a motion to postpone until Dec. 18, which passed with a vote

TR 21-165

Approving extension of the Management Agreement between Ruth's Hospitality Group, INC and the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Rep. Patrick Freemen Jr. sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The GOAB desires to renew the Management Agreement for an additional five-year term.

TR 21-170

Confirming the nomination of Roger Wiley to serve as the Chief Judge of the District Trial Court for the MCN. Rep. Jones sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The National Council will interview Wiley during the Dec. 18 Pre-Agenda.

NCA 21-153

Authorizing the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$288,413 for the benefit of the MCN Lighthorse Police Department for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services 2021 Cops Office Tribal Resources Grant Program - Equipment and Training. Rep. William Lowe sponsored the legislation, which

Funds will be used to pay for trainings, vehicles, uniform and equipment for two officers.

NCA 21-154

Authorizing the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$600,359 for the benefit of the MCN Lighthorse Police Department for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services 2021 Cops Office Tribal Resources Grant Program - Equipment and Training. Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

Funds will be used to hire two officers for a period of

NCA 21-155

Repealing MCNCA Title 17, Chapter 8, entitled "Gaming Operation Authority Board." Rep.Patrick Freeman Jr. sponsored the legislation and co-sponsored by Reps. Jones and Robert Hufft, which passed 4-0.

Replacing the GOAB with a Tribal Limited Liability Company to administer and manage the Nation's gaming facilities and operations.

NCA 21-156

Authorizing the Execution and File Articles of Organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce to form "Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC" under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for "Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held December 13 by teleconference. (MM File)

LLC." Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. sponsored the legislation and co-sponsored by Reps. Jones and Robert Hufft, which passed 4-0.

Creation of Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC would contribute to the social, physical well-being and economic advancement of the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by providing funds for governmental services, programs, health centers and general welfare activities.

NCA 21-157

Amending MCNCA Title 37, 2-203 to alter the distribution of funds. Rep. Lowe sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The amendment adds FY

2022 gaming revenue so that no funds shall be deposited into the Permanent Fund but instead shall be deposited into the Gaming Fund.

NCA 21-158

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

Continuing Budget Ordnance is needed to provide funding to all three branches of government until such time that the FY 2022 Comprehensive Annual Budget is approved.

Meetings and agendas can be viewed at www. mcnnc.com.

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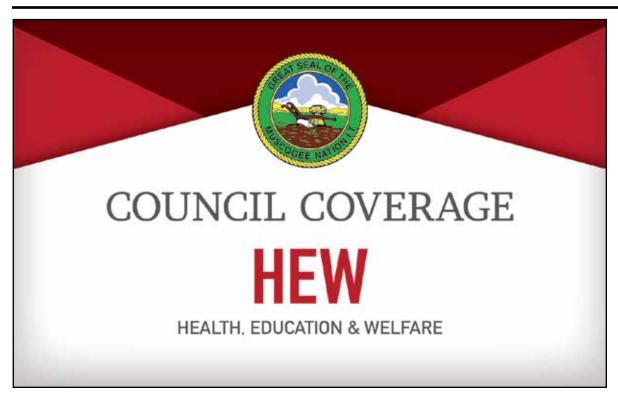
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A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held December 8 by teleconference. (MM File)

AGE REQUIREMENT CHANGES FOR ARPA VACCINE INCENTIVE

GRANTS RECEIVED FOR ASSISTANCE OR BETTER SERVICES

by LANI HANSEN

SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held Dec. 8 by teleconference.

All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session Dec. 18.

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

TR 21-161

Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a certain agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and Tierpoint, LLC on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Representative James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

MCNDH desires to enter into an agreement with Tierpoint, LLC to allow MCNDH access to a certain software for disaster recover services for networks and systems.

Tierpoint imposes an indemnification obligation upon the Nation, limits some claims and remedies, requires application of the laws of the State of Texas.

TR 21-162

Confirming of Lucinda Myers to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board. Rep. Anna Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

MCN Election Board Position 3 is vacant. Principal Chief has nominated Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lucinda Myers to serve on the MCN Election Board Position 3.

NCA 21-139

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the District Attorneys Council for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded will be used to expand current program services to better meet the needs of victims/survivors of violent crime within the MCN reservation boundaries.

NCA 21-140

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded will be used to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services and related assistance for adult, youth and child victims of sexual assault, non-offending family and household members of victims and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault.

NCA 21-141

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded will

be used to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and stalking to decrease the incidence of violent crime against women.

NCA 21-142

Authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal assistance solicitation purpose area 6: Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities grant funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children & Family Service Administration. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded to the Children and Family Services Administration will utilize it to improve child abuse or neglect investigations, decrease caseloads, increase public community outreach and update policies and tribal code.

NCA 21-143

Authorizing the expenditure of the American Indian College Fund, Native Pathways to College, 2021-2022 Higher Pathways grant for the benefit of the Youth Services. Rep. Jennings sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded will be used to provide educational support and mentoring to Native American students at the Eufaula Dormitory, as well as other students within the MCN reservation.

NCA 21-144

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from a project ECHO grant for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. Rep. Jennings sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The Project Echo Grant in the amount of \$6,000 is a nursing home funding for the facilities in Oklahoma City.

NCA 21-146

Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration. Rep. Mary Crawford sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded to the MCN Children & Family Services Administration will be utilized to promoting Safe and Stable families program.

NCA 21-147

Amending NCA 21-097 (A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation authorizing the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds received from the United States Department of the Treasury for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen vaccine incentive). Rep. William Lowe sponsored the legislation and Rep. Charles McHenry co-sponsored, which passed 4-0.

The age requirement to receive the ARPA vaccine incentive for MCN changes from twelve years to five years of age or older.

NCA 21-148

Authorizing the expenditure of funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Youth Services Program for the 2021 U.S. Department of Justice coordinated Tribal Assistance Purpose Area 9 grant. Rep. Lucian Tiger III sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds awarded to the MCN Youth Services will be used to develop a new Tribal Youth Program to decrease juvenile court involvement for Native American youth within the MCN Reservation by 25 percent.

NCA 21-149

Authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Justice 2021 OJJDP FY 2021 Delinquency Prevention Grants Program funds for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Juvenile Justice program. Rep. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0.

The grant funds will be used to develop a strategic plan to establish best practices for implementing services internally and hire a juvenile justice advocate to provide assistance in responding to youthful offender calls.

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



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Tatianna Duncan presents to the council on behalf of Lucinda Hickory Research Institute. (MM File)

TRIBAL MASTER PLAN POSTPONED DURING LNC COMMITTEE

LUCINDA HICKORY INSTITUTE PRESENTS TO COMMITTEE

by MORGAN TAYLOR

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held Dec. 7 via teleconference.

All passed legislation is subject to the full council approval during the regular session.

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

TR 21-164

Authorizing the construction of the Tribal Master Site Plan Capitol Complex Project for the MCN. Representative Darrell Proctor sponsored the legislation, which was postponed indefinitely with a 3-0 vote.

The MCN engaged New Fire Design Group PLLC to complete the Tribal Master Suite Plan in 2018, which included conceptual plans for all tribal properties with the approximate five- to seven-mile radius surrounding the existing Tribal Complex.

The project consists of five new buildings and other associated site elements and infrastructure as required to support the facilities and connected existing building with central plazas, sidewalks, outdoor gathering space, etc. in order to implement a connected, walk able and safer campus as described in the MCN Master Plan Site.

The project will include a four-story Tribal Services/ Member Services building, a single-story Court House, a three-story Education and Training/Cultural Archives and Preservation Building, a two-story Lighthorse Administration Building, and a Central Utility Plan with size to be determined.

MCN Secretary of Interior Affairs Jesse Allen made request to indefinitely post-pone and revisit legislation at the beginning of the year. According to Allen, a separate piece of legislation is in the development stages that will go along with this resolution.

In other business, Tatianna Duncan presented to the Council on behalf of Lucinda Hickory Research Institute. Duncan is the Founder and Executive Director for the Institute. She is requesting office space from the National Council for research purposes.

MCN Cultural Preservation Manager RaeLynn Butler and Archaeological Technician Turner Hunt request to update the committee on property in Georgia, which went into executive session.

Yeager Mission Baptist Church sent an email to the committee members, an email that Chairman Mark Randolph requested that they read and reply.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Myskoke Media,

The following dates are of transactions, applications, portals used to receive the Direct Assistance Recovery Money from Muscogee Nation.

September 10, 2021

Completed the direct assistance application on the Camphouse Portal.

October 1, 2021

Completed the vaccination incentive application on the Camphouse Portal.

November 19. 2021

Many citizens have been trying to reach the Camphouse Hot line for over a month. Calling ARPA Direct Assistance — 918-549-2885 many times. November 19, 2021, my call was answered after a 2 hour 10 minute wait. Other wait times were 3, 4 5 hours without success. I verified myself and asked the employee to speak with my wife about the card issue. We were told the NetSpend card was mailed out September 30, 2021. We were told we must call NetSpend at 877-562-2235. After the application is sent to NetSpend Muscogee Nation is no longer involved.

We asked about the \$500 vaccination incentive. At first were told no vaccine application was received. Then told no vaccine verification card had been submitted. After research the employee found both. We asked if the \$500 would be placed on the NetSpend Card and when. The employee said the vaccination application now went to the Vaccination Verification Department and did not know anything else.

We then called NetSpend, They asked for social security number which we did not give. We did give them the last four of the social security number. We were told the card was mailed September 30, 2021 and had not been activated. They asked if we wanted a 2 to 3 day mail out for a fee of \$25, or free for an 8 to 10 day mail out. We opted for the free mail out. The agent then said she would waive the \$5 fee to replace the lost card and if a new card was not received within 8 to 10 days we should call NetSpend again for yet another replacement card.

November 26. 2021

Finally, November 26, 2021 the card was received. I called the number to activate the card, was asked for the last four of my social security number.

Then was asked to ACCEPT NetSpends terms and conditions and that the funds would not be released if they were not accepted.

A threat of not receiving funds from a company that no citizen chose to do business with is alarming. No citizen of Muscogee Nation has applied for a card with NetSpend for the Tribal Recovery money. I activated the card.

November 29, 2021

Received an e-mail from SmartOne Disbursement<cardfieinai1. netsnend.coin asking: How was your Activation? E-mail address, birthdate, social security numbers, addresses and tribal enrollment number all in the hands of NetSpend without authorizeation?

November 29, 2021

I went to my financial institution for assistance. They do not do business with Netspend. They directed me to Arvest Bank. Went to Arvest Bank and was charged \$3 to get the funds.

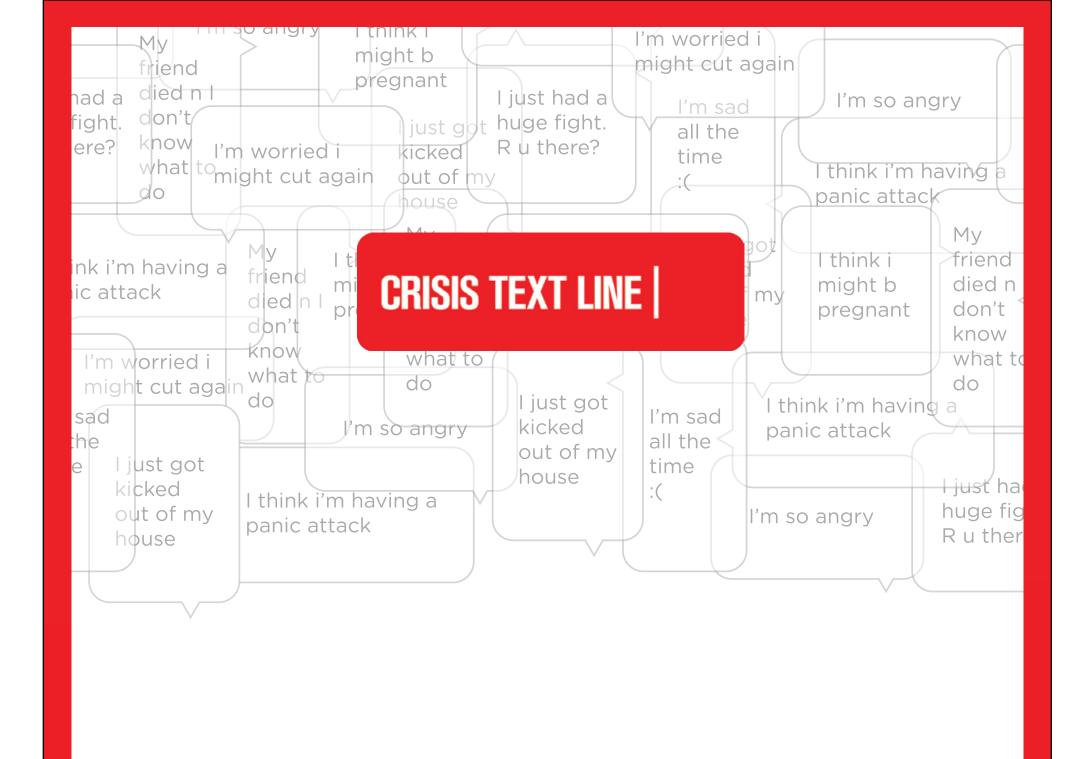
Questions:

- 1. Who authorized citizens personal information to be given to NetSpend? 2. Was there a contract with NetSpend?
- Who signed the contract?
- 4. Did the National Council approve the contract?
- 5. How much was paid to Netspend?
- 6. Are the millions and millions of dollars in NetSpends control?
- 7. Who gets the fees charged when using NetSpends card? 8. Has the \$2,000 been sitting

in NetSpends account for the two

- months the card was lost? 9. If cards are not activated, where
- does the \$2,000 go? 10. Is there any information from NetSpend on total dollars distributed to our people?
- 11. Who has control of the citizens funds since after the application provess MCN is out of the loop?

Former Pincipal Chief A.D. Ellis





Text **CREEK** to 741-741

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





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have read articles after articles about the McGirt case ruling of the United States Supreme Court ruling on July 9th of 2020 that the State of Oklahoma does not have jurisdiction in Indian Country. Governor Stitt and now John O'Connor have been challenging the landmark ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. There two top leaders seem not to understand that this is Indian Territory before statehood (Oklahoma) and it will always be Indian Country, 1907 when Oklahoma became statehood, state of Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, and Nebraska overstepped its authority to take over federal and tribal government into their justice system and exercise the state jurisdiction over Native American reservation and prosecute Native American and non-natives for crimes that were committed in and on native reservations for over 113 years. Throughout

most of the 1800s courts recognized that states had no jurisdiction over crimes committed within Indian Country, in 1953, Congress enacted Public Law 83-280, what is commonly referred to as the Termination Era, under PL 280 Note: Oklahoma does not have PL 83-280. In 1968, Congress enacted the Indian Civil Rights Act ((ICRA); the act extended certain federal rights to Indians in Indian Country, Tribal Government are not subject to the Bill of Rights. In addition to extending certain rights to Indian Country, the ICRA restricted the sentencing power of tribal courts, when originally passed, the act limited tribal courts sentence to six months in jail and 5,000 for any offense. In 1986, Congress increased the sentencing authority under (ICRA) Congress, reinstated felony-sentencing authority, in 2010 by passing the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA). TLOA allows tribal courts to sentence defendants to jail or prison for offenses that are committed on Indian land or reservations. In 1990, the Supreme Court held in Duro v. Reina that tribal criminal jurisdiction only extended to Indians who were members of that tribe. In response, Congress quickly enacted legislation clarifying that tribes have the inherent sovereign authority to prosecute any Indian, regardless of tribal affiliation.

The Duro legislation fix was upheld in United States v. Lata in which a majority of the court held that the implicit divestiture doctrine is a pronouncement of federal common law not constitutional law. 19th of June 2021, Elizabeth Prelogat, in which she agreed with Bosse, that Oklahoma lacks power to try him for offenses against Native Americans, there is no basis, Prelogat wrote to reverse the long held understanding of the division of federal, state and tribal jurisdiction in Indian Country to the contrary she concluded this court has reaffirmed the established rule that a state does not have jurisdiction over offenses by non-Indian against Indian in Indian Country, the courts would deny Oklahoma request.

There is not basis for state of Oklahoma in Eastern Oklahoma and the surrounding area for 113 years. This is Indian Territory, Governor Stitt and Attorney General John O'Connor needs to understand Precedent. 1. A judicial decision that should followed by a judge. When deciding a later or similar case, 2. Dictum - to serve as for a pending case, 3. state decises [to stand by things that have been settled] (as to prevent the perpetuation of injustice) of Notice; bar Attorney General John O'Connor under frivolous, no basis of merits in either law or facts. A court is authorized to impose sanction for violation of the Rule 11 - federal. Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor has filed over 30 petitions challenging the landmark ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court. Inmates in correctional centers only can file one appeal to the court of appeals, if denied, can't file anymore on same basis. So what gives the Attorney General the right to file 30 challenges t the Supreme Court of the same basis? Oct 21, 2021, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals made a ruling ina case involving Jeremy Lawhorn, a Cherokee Nation citizen. The appellate court agreed with Lawhorn's assertion that the state did not have jurisdiction to try him because he was a member of a federally-recognized tribe charged with committing a felony within Quapaw Nation Reservation. The ruling in McGirt governs this case and requires us to find the State of Oklahoma is without jurisdiction to prosecute Lawhorn.

Governor Stitt needs to stand aside and let the tribes of handle their business with their own tribal members and their justice system. Tribal Nations can handle the caseloads of Oklahoma of their wrong doings over 113 years. Respectfully, let the tribal nation run their reservation as the always did.

Anonymous Writer



MUSCOGEE NATION PEN HOUSING

JANUARY 11, 2022 10A.M. - 2P.M.

Come and meet the staff from the Muscogee Nation Dept. of Housing and learn the process of contracting for Housing.

This meeting will allow interested contractors to learn the process of bidding, contracting, and closing out projects.

Staff will be able to answer any questions regarding the process of becoming a contractor for the Muscogee Nation Department of Housing.

Other departments will include Contracting and Employment Support Office (CESO) & the Mvskoke Loan Fund.

For more information call 918.549.2548

THE MEETING ROOM - BALLROOM LEVEL RIVER SPIRIT®

SUBMISSION

Muscogee Nation Department of Housing

Open House January 11, 2022 10A.M.-2P.M.

Interested in becoming a contractor for the Muscogee Nation Department of Housing? Come and meet the staff from the Muscogee Nation Dept. of Housing and learn the process of contracting for Housing. The meeting room-Ballroom Level RIVERSPIRIT Casino Resort

Request for Volunteers:

The MCN Challenge Bowl is in need of volunteers in all areas of competition.

Volunteer Training will take place at the College of the Muscogee Nation Jan. 28 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and Feb. 4 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Attendance School with take place Feb. 11, Middle School Feb. 18 and Elementary Feb. 25. Competition times will be 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To volunteer or for questions, contact Volunteer Coordinator Melinda Deeringwater at: 918-549-2522 or email at: mdeeringwater@muscogeenation.com.





LEGALS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT IN THE ADOPTION OF: S. R. B., DOB: 07/03/2020 A Minor Child.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER

DETERMINING CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION

WITHOUT CONSENT OF UNKNOWN FATHER

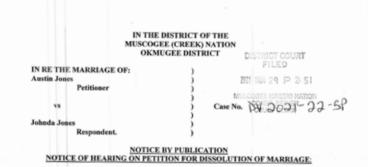
On 9 day of November 2021, an Application was filed in this Court for a deterr that and S. R. B., a minor child born out of wedlock in Tahlequah. Oklahoma on July 3, 2020, be declared eligible for adoption without the consent of the Unknown Father, so that the adoption of said child may occur. Said Application is set for hearing on the 8 day of Jelman 2022 the hour of 9:00 a.m. in Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

the unknown father's consent to this adoption should be deemed unnecessary and your parental terminated because the unknown father failed to pay child support for the child in accordance months immediately preceding the filing of the Petition for Adoption; and that you have abandoned the child.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT THE

PRESENT, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE, AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT

YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL COMMUNICATE YOUR DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE THE APPLICATION TO DETERMINE THE CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT AND SHALL COMMUNICATE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL SHALL RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT WITHOUT CONSENT AND IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION. YOU ARE ALSO NOTIFIED THAT YOUR DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILD STILL CONTINUES AFTER YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED UNTIL ADOPTION HAS BEEN FINALIZED. Signed and dated this 10th day of Wecenther 2021



To the above-named Respondent: Johnda Jones, whereabouts unknown and all interested s take notice that Austin Jones has petitioned to dissolve his marriage to Johnda Jones Hearing on said petition is set for 9:00 a.m. on the 18 day of January 2022, before Judge Shannon Prescott in her courtroom located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building, Okmulgee, OK. Should you know of some reason why this dissolution of marriage should not be allowed, you must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court. Should you fail to do so, the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage will be granted as prayed. Witness my hand and seal this 27 day of

November , 2021.

ATTORNEY OF RECORD: Brenda S. Golden, MCN #792 P. O. Box 741 Okmulgee, OK 74447

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT Name Change, Adult Case No. #W-2021-112SL MU NOV 2 P 3 58 Mark Maxey, Petitioner NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Hearing on said petition is set for 9:00 a.m. on the 18 day of January 2022, before Judge Shannon Prescott in her courtroom located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building, Okmulgee, OK. Should you know of some reason why this Name Change should not be allowed, you must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court. Should you fail to do so, the Petition for Name Change will be granted as prayed. Witness my hand and seal this 29 day of Morenther , 2021. ATTORNEY OF RECORD: Brenda S. Golden, MCN #792 Okmulgee, OK 74447

STROKE PREVENTION **PROGRAM**

Our program, with the support of Southern Plains Tribal Health **Board and Muscogee** Nation, want to make it easier for Native Americans in our community to lower their risk of stroke and heart disease.



We offer education on specific health risk factors and tailor them to each individual's need.

If you have hypertension, we are available to guide you on how to perform home blood pressure checks with accuracy. We also can review your blood pressure to help identify trends.

We are able to accommodate patients in Okemah, Okmulgee, Eufaula, Coweta and Sapulpa clinics. Virtual visits can be arranged if needed.

If you believe you are at risk or would like help lowering your risk factors, please contact us for more information.

> STROKE PREVENTION PROGRAM 539.299.1530







Whether You Smoke, Vape or Chew,

the Road to Quitting Starts with the Helpline.

The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline offers the following FREE services:







FREE **NRT**

Web & Text Support

FREE **Quit Coaching**

Sign up for the Helpline and get at least a two-week supply of patches, gum or lozenges. Plus, get access to quit coaching, web and text support, along with endless resources and tips to help you beat tobacco.

Join the 470,000 Oklahomans who have used the Helpline to quit.

Call **1-800-QUIT NOW** or visit **OKhelpline.com** to get started.



TSET

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 Myskoke 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, \$305,507,768.16 The following report has been submitted for the publication date of JANUARY 1ST.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT Budgeted	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCI
56010	PRINCIPAL CHIEF Donations	39,187.20	-		39,187.
53000 54000 59220	SECRETARY OF NATION Supplies Contractual <5K Grants	196.00 383,112.56 2,496.53	- - -	-	196. 383,112. 2,496.
59050	MARKETING & TOURISM Food Purchases	10,981.65	-	-	10,981.
53000 55210 59220	CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT Supplies Communications - Other Grants	8.25 2,919.60 1,824,856.91	- - -	- -	8. 2,919. 1,824,856.
53000 53010	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Supplies Software/Licenses	102,193.91 804,417.40	574.39 85,036.38	(556.20) 179,834.75	102,175 539,546
55210 55300 85500	Communications - Other Bldg Maint/Repairs Equipment	100,000.00 34,291.23 100,000.67	12,801.60	34,221.32	87,198. 69. 100,000.
50000 50020 50100	FLEET MANAGEMENT Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5 Salary & Wages - PT	2,906.94 3,293.77 1,888.00	355.29 4,693.19	-	2,551 (1,399. 1,888
51000 51100	Fringe - FT Fringe - PT	6,800.00 290.47	2,604.96	- -	4,195 290
53000 53290 54000	Supplies Postage/Shipping Contractual <5K	1,143,903.95 13,775.14	23,815.68 5,781.38 4,474.24	206,570.00 - 3,376.78	913,518 7,993 8,378
55300 57000	Bldg Maint/Repairs Indirect Costs	16,229.80 1,315.00 (101.52)	4,474.24	3,376.78 800.00	515 (532.
85400 85500	Vehicles Equipment	5,455.00 125,792.06	-	1	5,455 125,792
50000	SOCIAL SERVICES Salary & Wages - FT	885.89		-	885
50020 51000	Salary & Wages - Ö/T Over 1.5 Fringe - FT	4,770.59 (3,950.88)	- -		4,770 (3,950.
53000 54000	Supplies Contractual <5K	36.00 9,294.24	- 	-	36 9,294
59040 59050	Burial Food Purchases	263,370.64 1,423.29	262,797.97 1,423.29	- -	577
59071 59072	Direct Assist - Income Support Direct Assist - Hardship	223,181.41 183,188.07	4,425.00 3,500.00		218,756 179,688
53000	SENIOR SERVICES Supplies	14,635.99	-	-	14,635
53000	FOOD DISTRIBUTION Supplies	4,784.95	_	_	4,78
85050 85170 85500	Renovations Construction Equipment	2,712.52 282,262.30 131,250.00	1	180,698.50 131,250.00	2,712 101,563
	ELDERLY NUTRITION	·	339.96	131,230.00	70
53000 55100 85170	Supplies Utilities Construction	1,048.00 1,431.00 25,028.07		1 - 1	1,43 25,02
50000	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION Salary& Wages- FT	407.67	-	-	40'
50020 51000	Salary& Wages - Ö/T over 1.5 Fringe - FT	33,638.14 19,109.43	-	1	33,636 19,109
53000 56030 50073	Supplies Stipends/Honorariums	234,396.23 15,000.00	- -	-	234,39 15,00
59073	Direct Assistance - Education Support MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT	4,506.76	-		4,50
53000 85010	Supplies Architect & Engineering	21,360.43 30,237.18	3,322.86 7,975.53	(1,722.86) (7,975.53)	19,760 30,23
85170 85500	Construction Equipment	1,339,411.71 150,511.47	- -	- -	1,339,41 150,51
54000	REAL ESTATE SERVICES Contractual <5K	903.17	-	-	90:
59220	CULTURAL PRESERVATION Grants	0.05			
	TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION				
85010 85170	Architect & Engineering Construction	16,082.65 124,763.00	-		16,08 124,76
58010	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS Construction	15,665.36	-	-	15,66
54000	OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION Contractual <5K	10,797.00	-	-	10,79
55300 85500	Bldg Maintenance Equipment	1,500.00 1.03	1	1	1,50
53000 54000	CITIZENSHIP BOARD Supplies Contractual <5K	5,813.70 88,600.00	-	-	5,81 88,60
85500	DISTRICT COURT Equipment	16,250.00			16,25
03300	TOTAL	8,000,517.58	424,352.40	726,496.76	6,849,66
59070	CONTRACT HEALTH Direct Assistance	9,702.41	(50,691.03)		60,39
99980	CHS Accrual SECRETARY OF HEALTH	-	(922.03)	-	92.
59070 85500	Direct Assistance Equipment	57,000.00 6,134.68	- -	-	57,00 6,13
85010	FACILITIES MANAGEMENT Architect & Engineering Renovations	2,700.88	(3,086.62)		2,70 3,08
85050 85500	Equipment	162,056.53	75,527.07	:	86,52 ^t
50000	HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT Salary & Wages - FT	65,171.77	178,521.17	-	(113,349
51000 53000 53060	Fringe - FT Supplies Supply - Computer/Print/Ipad	36,691.70 0.75 108.99	(5,401.87) 475.71	(475.71)	42,09 10
53320 54100	Software Maint Contract Non-Medical Service Contract	108.99 109,398.36 1,317,754.52	- - -	-	109,39 1,317,75
50000	OKEMAH HOSPITAL Salary & Wages - FT	6,977.69			6,97
50000 50090 51000	Salary & Wages - F1 Salary & Wages-Float Pool Fringe - FT	367.08 3,816.30	- -	-	367 3,810
51100 53050	Fringe - PT Medical Supplies Non-Billable	8.10 7,683.70	- -	- -	7,68
53290 54370 57000	Postage/Shipping Nursing Contract	135.26 205,060.18 1,034.88	73,181.13	-	13 131,87 1,03
57000	Indirect Costs OKMULGEE MEDICAL CENTER			-	
50000 50010	Salary & Wages - FT Salary & Wages - OT	107,759.64 14,325.56	- -	-	107,75 14,32
50090 51000	Salary & Wages-Float Pool Fringe - FT	10,157.27 64,866.47	-	-	10,15 64,86
51100 53050 53200	Fringe - PT Medical Supplies Non-Billable Postage/Shipping	716.20 14,940.53	-		71 14,94
53290 53490 54280	Postage/Snipping Medical Supplied Billable Medical Service Contract	4.44 8,482.00 16,848.09	-	-	8,482 16,848
54280 54370 57000	Nursing Contract Indirect Costs	16,848.09 138,935.49 19,321.20	55,597.29 -		83,333 19,32
85500	Equipment COUNCIL OAK COMP HEALTH HOSPITAL	1,989.63			1,989
53420	Property Taxes	890,604.00		-	890,604
53040	MCN REFILL CENTER Pharmaceuticals	23,331.16	-	-	23,33
	TOTAL	3,304,085.46	323,200.82	(475.71)	2,981,360