



# MVSKOKE NEWS

APR. 1, 2022 | "TASAHCE RAKKO" BIG SPRING MONTH | VOL. 52, ISSUE 7

## CONGRESS FUNDS TRIBES TO SUPPORT MCGIRT DECISION

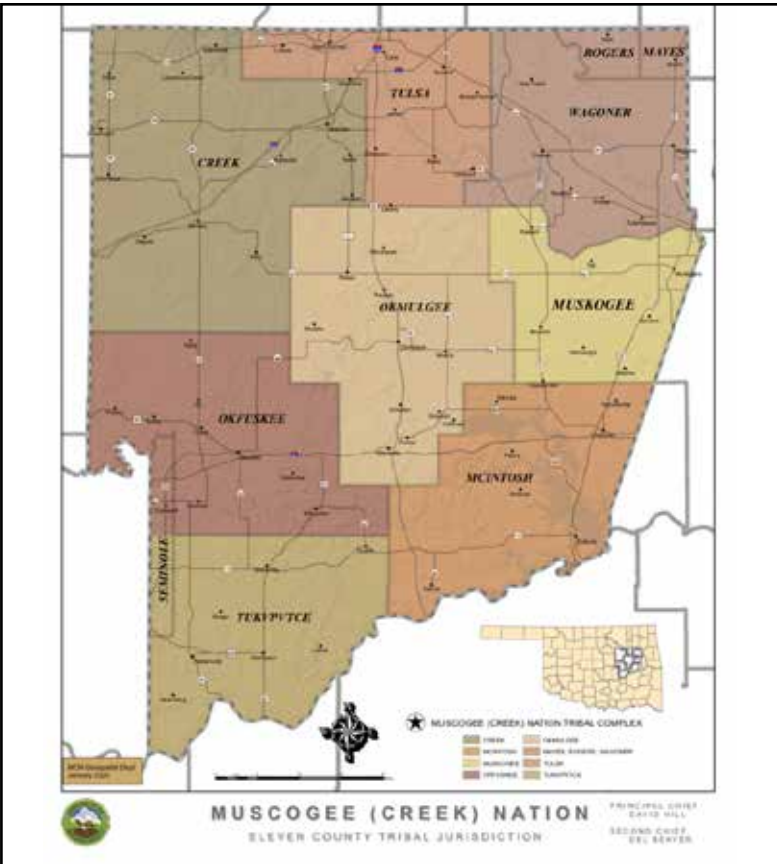
THE GOVERNMENT-SPENDING BILL INCLUDED FUNDS TO ASSIST TRIBES DUE TO MCGIRT

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma - Tribal nations were allocated \$62 million in the U.S. Congress spending bill that was announced on Wednesday March 9. The bill will help improve the criminal justice systems and assist in the overload of cases caused by the landmark McGirt Decision. Originally, four Oklahoma delegates requested \$308 million in federal funding from the House Appropriations Committee in letters dating January 19. "The result of the Supreme Court case has created a severe shortage of police and investigative personnel in tribal jurisdiction areas, which in turn has drastically increased federal and tribal law enforcement responsibilities,"

the Oklahomans wrote. Reps. Stephanie Bice, R-Okla-homa City; Tom Cole, R-Moore; Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne; and Markwayne Mullin, R-Westville, signed the letters. Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Tulsa wrote a separate letter on Dec. 2 requesting more funding with no specified amount of funding. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was to consult with tribes and submit a request for allocating the money as directed Congress. Although the funding has fallen short of the original request by Oklahoma's Congressional delegates, tribes are appreciative of Congress for aid and overall support of the McGirt decision. The Appropriations Committee said the agreement reached on funding for the Justice Department appropriately funds the U.S. Attor-

ney's offices, United States Marshals Service, DEA, and FBI workload increases resulting from the McGirt v. Oklahoma decision for fiscal year 2022. Principal Chief David Hill released a statement saying the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is encouraged by the actions of Congress on that Wed. for the reauthorization of Violence Against Women Act and support of tribes implementing the U.S. Supreme Court's "sovereignty-affirming McGirt ruling". VAWA will provide important tools to help tribal nations throughout the U.S. pursue justice and provide support to Indian women who are victims of violent crimes or domestic abuse committed by non-Indians. "We continue to make significant investments to expand our



The Muscogee Nation jurisdiction includes 11 counties (Submission)

criminal justice infrastructure to fully implement McGirt as it adds more safety, security and judicial response for all. We welcome Con-

gress' recognition that decades of illegal actions by the State of

## OCMULGEE MOUNDS GROWS WITH ADDITIONAL PROTECTION OF LAND

ANCESTRAL LAND RECEIVES PROTECTION WITH THE HELP OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND PRIVATE FUNDING

by **LANI HANSEN**  
SENIOR REPORTER

MACON, Georgia- The Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park is receiving an additional 951-acres that will protect some of the most significant prehistoric Indigenous mounds in North America. The national historic park was established in 1936, it preserves and interprets evidence of one of the longest periods of human habitation at any one in the national park system. Ocmulgee Mounds has yielded artifacts from every major period of American Indian history in the Southeast.



The beautiful Ocmulgee Mounds is home to prehistoric American Indians of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. (MM File)

According to an Ocmulgee Mounds press release, the 951-acre property is located adjacent to the park and inside the city limits of Macon. The property was under threat of incompatible industrial development before Open Space Institute (OSI) negotiated a deal to purchase the land in 2021. The project will be a major result of an expansion of the park in 2019. The acquisition is made up of 906 acres and will be transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) immediately, according to the press release. The other 45 acres will be transferred to the Ocmulgee Land Trust during wetlands restoration and then later donated to the park service. The property is located within the "Ocmulgee Old Fields," also known as the Macon Reserve. The Ocmulgee Old Fields Macon Reserve is a site revered as a sacred place to the Muskogean people. It is compromised of lands specifically retained by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from 1805 until the 1826 Treaty of Washington. MCN Principal Chief David Hill said in a release, "This additional property includes some of

our most important unprotected ancestral lands. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a long-standing history of preserving the Ocmulgee Old Fields-Macon Reserve. We have never forgotten where we came from and the lands around the Ocmulgee River will always and forever be our ancestral homeland, a place we consider sacred and a place with rich cultural history." The park's striking mounds are marvels of highly skilled Indigenous engineering that today constitute one of America's most important cultural landscapes. Seven of the mounds can be found at the park, including the 55-foot-high Great Temple Mound, located on a high bluff overlooking the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River. Cornfield Mound is believed to have originally been a ceremonial cornfield, where the mound was built over the field. Earth Lodge is a reconstructed council chamber of the Mississippian culture with the original 1,000-year-old clay floor. The Funeral Mound is a burial spot for elite members of the Mississippian society, originally standing at 50 ft. tall. The McDougal Mounds was built by the Mississippians af-

ter Captain Robert McDougal who was in command of Fort Hawkins in 1809 died. Mound X is no longer visible but was found in 1806 and only stood at three feet high at the time. The Southeast Mound is unknown but the oval shape of it is believed to be caused by an erosion and ploughing before the 1930's. The Muskogean people who built these mounds spoke unique dialects reflecting lingual divergence from other tribes more than 3,000 years ago, making it the only truly native southeastern language. "It is our solemn duty and honor to protect our nation's most significant lands. It's even more critical that we work collaboratively with Tribal nations to ensure proper conservation and access. The National Park Service will continue to work with willing sellers to preserve the culturally significant land associated with the Ocmulgee Old Fields," said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams in a press release. The conservation project was funded by the NPS using Land and Water Conservation Funds, Kno-



Community Centers will now have a small library with books related to Mvskoke Culture. (Submission)

## MCN CULTURAL PRESERVATION BRING LIBRARIES TO COMMUNITIES

PROJECT FUNDED BY THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - Muscogee (Creek) Community Centers around the Mvskoke Reservation are participating in a project to educate the members and citizens offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Department. Cultural Coordinator and Librarian Odette Freeman refers to the project as the Mini Library project. The project is funded by a \$50,000 grant awarded to the department by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Freeman claimed the department is a frequent grantee of IMLS, and this grant was one they apply for yearly usually amounts to \$7,000, but due to COVID the grant amount had increased. Normally, Freeman uses the grant funds to supply art classes at the various community centers. "Due to COVID, we weren't able to do that," Freeman said.

"We had to think of another focus for our grant." The department landed on the idea of mini libraries and provided community centers with shelving and 50 books each and other small supplies including time stamps and due date tabs. The shelves were set up inside the centers, where they are accessible to all. Freeman stated there will be books for all ages and groups. "We want this information to be shared because it's not taught at the schools," she said. According to Freeman, many of the communities within the reservation do not have access to a public library. The department's goal is to provide citizens with readily available information to spread education on Mvskoke history and culture. "We want to get people to want to learn more," Freeman said. The department also pro-

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# CHANGES, TAFVMPUCE, HAPPY RETURNS

## CHANGES TO COME, REZ DOGS AWARDS, COMIC PRINCESS, WILD ONION DINNERS

by GARY FIFE  
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Okmulgee, Oklahoma—In late February, the Interior Department put out a preliminary report on its plan to change the names of geographic places on its federally controlled lands that use a Native American slur. 660 places use such terms in their names.

The worst examples were places that used the word: “Sq..w” in its title (That one’s so bad, I can’t even write it.) First on the list, a spot in Alabama named: “Sq..w Shoals.” It’s possible replacement: “Bankhead Lake.” According to Native News Online, each candidate for the change gets 5 possible replacements.

If you have a suggestion, check out the Federal Register, “Reconciliation of Derogatory Geographic Names. But you have to hurry, the deadline is April 25, 2022. My favorite is one called, “Snag Point.”

Native News Online had another noteworthy article. After

nearly 150 years, two Lakota young men will finally be returned to their lands and peoples after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania in 1869—if the U.S. Army approves.

Amos LaFramboise and Edward Wright passed away while attending the school as part of the U.S. government’s ill-famed attempts to eliminate the Indian culture from Native children. Both young men died while attending Carlisle and were buried there. Their families have been working with the Army and have nearly completed the necessary paperwork.

Once this sad task is finished, the job is not over. There are 176 other Native children still buried there.

On a much lighter note, the Hollywood Reporter says, the folks from the wildly popular TV series, “Reservation Dogs” have collected a few more awards, this time from the 37th Film Independent Spirit Awards. At least five cast members received awards and the

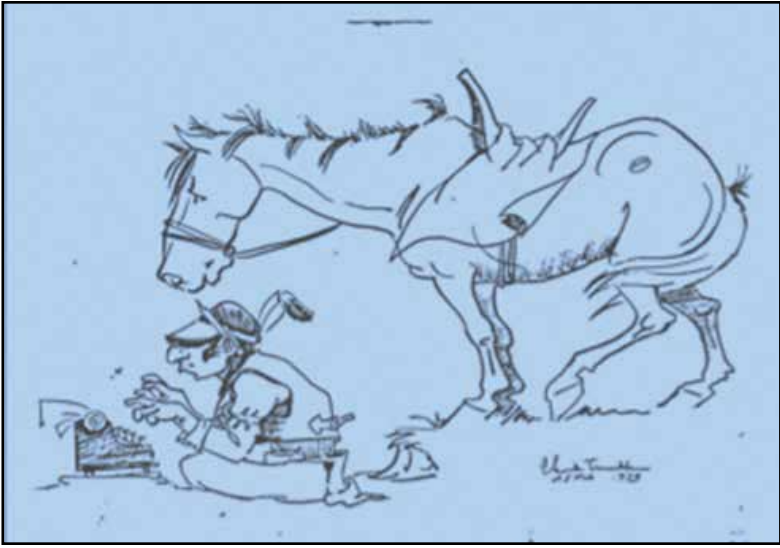
series itself got recognition for wins for best new scripted series and best ensemble cast in a new scripted series.

More lighter notes, a comic book stereotypical “Indian Maiden” image is being dumped by Marvel Comics. A nubile, barely-clad “Indian princess” character will be disappearing from the pages of the “King Conan” comic book. In its ridiculous story line, the comic uses the name “Matoaka”, which just happens to be the name of the Powhatan woman known as Pocahontas.

The comic’s creator admitted his ignorance about the woman, apologized, and is donating the proceeds from the publication to the National Indian Women’s Resource Center.

Have you made it out to one of the church-sponsored Tafvmpuce (Wild Onion) dinners yet? So far, this year, I tried to pick up a couple of dinners from the Pickett Chapel UMC feast but with no luck. After standing in line for about an hour, they ran out of everything and left a bunch of us disappointed. Bummer. Food was to be served, starting at 11 a.m., but one of the volunteers told me that people were lining up at 9 a.m.

I’m sure it’s not their fault



“IN ITS RIDICULOUS STORY LINE, THE COMIC USES THE NAME “MATOAKA”, WHICH JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE NAME OF THE POWHATAN WOMAN KNOWN AS POCAHONTAS.”

but it shows you how popular these dinners are and how much they were missed last year. I’m going to keep trying at one of the other dinners and get in line a lot earlier.

The Creek Nation Festival is back! Repeat: The Creek Nation Festival is back! The Nation announced that it would go on June 23-26 at the Dome festival grounds. No details have been released yet. One

thing to consider is parking. The new administrative and safety building occupies some of the space northwest of the Dome that used to be available for parking, so keep that in mind.

Hvtvm cerecares! Hvmpaks ce! **Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or Mvskoke Media.**

### CONGRESS

Continued from Page 1

Oklahoma have created the need to expand tribal capacity and are grateful for the addition of vital funding to support these efforts as an extension of the federal government’s trust authority and responsibilities to tribal nations.

“We are thankful to Oklahoma’s delegation for their leadership on these important issues that deliver benefits to tribal citizens and everyone who lives in Oklahoma.” –Principal Chief David Hill

The House Appropriations Committee approved a bill last year that included \$70 million to boost funding for the state’s three U.S. attorney offices, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Marshal’s Service.

However, the spending bill for the Interior Department, which included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, added only \$10 million for tribes to ramp up their criminal justice systems.

### MOUNDS

Continued from Page 1

bloch Family Foundation through a grant to OSI, Peyton Anderson Foundation through a grant to the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, and the National Park Foundation.

Efforts to protect the park would not be possible without the partnership of the Ocmulgee Land Trust, National Parks Conservation Association, the Nature Conservancy and Georgia Conservancy.

### LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

vides genealogy services, cemetery cleanup and a library of archives located in the Education and Training building on the MCN Complex.

For more information, contact MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Office at: 918-732-7733.



Kids played with their fathers on the playground at the Omnplex. (Morgan Taylor/Reporter)

## MCN HEAD START HOSTS DAD’S DAY

PROGRAM PROMOTES RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR FATHERS

by MORGAN TAYLOR  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start promoted father and child relationships by hosting an annual “Dad’s Day” event on March 10.

All fathers of the Head Start participants were invited to come and spend the day with their child at school and join them in various activities.

The dad and child duos spent time making a survival kit, which included small miscellaneous items, which were representations of small reminders.

After the survival kit were put together, the fathers were taken into the classroom by the hand of

their son or daughter to complete an art project using paint.

The group of fathers and children then went to the Claude Cox Omnplex to play and grill burgers provided for the event.

Family Service Worker Marcus Jeffrey said he was pleased with the amount of dads, grandpas, and other father figures that had attended.

“It’s a really good day, a lot of fathers have come out,” Jeffrey said. “About 65-70 percent participation.”

In his position, he serves as what could be considered a liaison between the parents and the head start.

As a father himself, Jeffrey believes it is important for fathers to be involved with their child’s edu-

cation and school.

He said some fathers tend to think that this part of parenthood is the mother’s job.

“I think children need that security and that structure,” Jeffrey said. “Fathers provide that.”

Father participant Sidney Watson said he and his son were enjoying their day together.

“I have three other ones at home and I work,” Watson said. “This gives me some extra time with him.”

Watson said he wishes other schools implemented these opportunities because time is limited with children.

The MCN Head Start Program has several locations across the reservation. For more information visit: [www.muscogeenation.com](http://www.muscogeenation.com).



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Ayo Bear (Runner-up Division II) and Anniyah Bear (First place in Division I) bring home two medals from the OKWA State Championships. (Submission)

# MVSKOKE YOUTH PLACE IN OKWA STATE TOURNAMENT

## BEAR SIBLINGS WON FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN YOUTH WRESTLING

by LANI HANSEN  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– Muscogee (Creek) siblings Ayo and Anniyah Bear made an appearance at the Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association (OKWA) State Championships bringing home two medals, one for each and qualifying for world championships.

Back on February 18 & 19 the Bear siblings wrestled their way to the wrestling state tournament in Oklahoma City, making this Ayo's third appearance and Anniyah's second appearance. They were two out of 21 from their academy to make it to state.

Ayo, who is in the third grade at Wilson Public Schools made his first appearance at the OKWA State Championships in 2020 where he placed first in the Division I category. Returning for the third time,

the young wrestler was named runner-up in the Division II category.

Anniyah, who is in the first grade at Wilson Schools made her first appearance at the state championships in 2021 where she was named runner-up. She returned for her second year and received first place in the Division I category 7 and under girls.

Both siblings wrestle with MOJO Grappling Academy out of Schulters, Oklahoma. Their coaches are Jeremy Tecumseh, Garrett Sands and Robby Bear. Their practices take place at Wilson Indian Community Gym. The siblings work hard during practice to be better competitors on the mats.

Traysa Bear who is the mother of both wrestlers reported they had 61 wins, 14 losses and 47 pins combined this season.

Anniyah has been wrestling

for two years with the club. She wrestles in the 7 and under girl's division 45 pounds, and also the Division I boy's 43 lbs. Ayo has been wrestling for seven years. He is in the Division II competing against 83 through 120 lbs weight class.

With the state championships behind on them, the siblings look forward to competing in the world's championships that takes place in Reno, Nevada. Since both have won in state they qualified for world's, making MOJO Grappling Academy take seven qualifiers.

"It was really intense," Traysa said about watching her children compete in state. "There was no feeling to prepare you or anything for it."

MOJO Grappling Academy will be taking their seven qualifiers to the Reno World Championships April 7-10 to represent Oklahoma.

# CITIZEN'S CHILDREN'S BOOK TURNED INTO FEATURE FILM

## "A MOSES PRAYER FOR EASTER" INSPIRED BY "TEN COMMANDMENTS"

by Morgan Taylor  
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma – Muscogee (Creek) citizen Robert (Bob) Harmon visited with Mvskoke Radio on March 9 to talk about the release of his children's book turned feature film, "A Moses Prayer for Easter."

The story is about two girls who pray to change the heart of their father to get him to go to church on Easter Sunday, but adds a humorous twist when the ten plagues are cast on their father.

The story highlights the 1956 classic film, "The Ten Commandments."

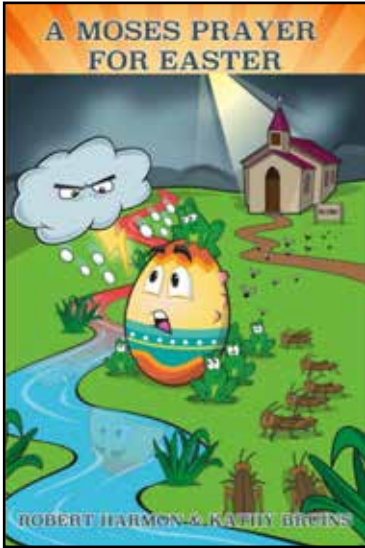
Actor and former Superman/Clark Kent, Dean Cain plays the villain role in Harmon's film, the boss of the father who tries to stray him away from church on Sunday.

The week prior to the radio, Harmon had been in Texas at a faith-based film festival promoting his film where he said he got positive feedback.

"There was a lot of clapping and applause," Harmon said. "That made me feel good, but I'm really just testing the waters on this."

Harmon's background has nothing to do with film making or even writing, this was something he would do in his spare time, something he claimed made him feel sane or sort of like therapy.

Harmon jokingly said in "real life" he is a petroleum geologist and runs the family oil business C.E. Harmon



The book can be found on Amazon and the film can be found on Amazon Prime. (Submission)

Oil, Inc. out of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

His love for entertainment is what draws the interest of writing screenplays and authoring.

Harmon's current project is being filmed at the family business location and is what he called an "oil field reality" by JCFilms.

"They shot in our office and out in the field," he said. "Our whole goal was to present a slice of life that doesn't get much attention."

This comes from a screenplay Harmon wrote that features a Muscogee (Creek) young man as the hero of the story.

"A Moses Prayer for Easter" can be found on Amazon for the book or Amazon Prime for the movie.



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**by MORGAN TAYLOR**  
*REPORTER*

Owned by Chickasaw citizen Suzy Warren and her hus-

Postoak was a Civil War Veteran and settled in this area near the Euchee River, just a mile away from Sand Springs, where he built a home for his family.

The first person to be buried in the cemetery was Postoak's 15-year-old daughter, Phoebe.

"I wanted the meadow; he wanted the lake," Suzy said.

See more about the history  
rich location at: [www.meadow-lakeranch.com](http://www.meadow-lakeranch.com).

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# GAS UTILITY LINE TO BENEFIT DEPARTMENTS

REP. CLOUD SPONSORS THE GAS UTILITY LINE INSTALLATION

by **MORGAN TAYLOR**  
*REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - OKMULGEE, Oklahoma - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting was held March 8 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 22-044**  
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute two separate agreements for

gas installation by Oklahoma Natural Gas Company for the MCN GSA Warehouse and the Safe Space Facility located in Okmulgee OK. Representative Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. There is a current need for natural gas utility line to provide services to GSA and the Safe Space Facility.

**TR 22-045**  
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the Schuler School District for the Schuler School Parking Lot Project. Rep. Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. The agreement is regarding the

construction of an asphalt parking lot with drainage improvements on the Schuler school complex.

**TR 22-048**  
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, acting by and through the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs. Rep. Nelson Harjo Sr. sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. The Nation has been in delinquency of submitting the required audit due to COVID-19 impacts that are preventing the initiation of audit field work and preparation and submission of the draft audit to the auditee and the final audit FAC. SPONAP acknowledges that the Nation has taken action to comply with the audit submission requirements, but the pandemic has prevented MCN from complying with the audit submission requirement.



The agreement is regarding the construction of an asphalt parking lot with drainage improvements on the Schuler school complex. (MM File)

**NCA 22-021**  
Authorizing an appropriation of funds for the installation of Natural Gas utility service for the MCN GSA Warehouse and Safe Space Facility. Rep. Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0 and was forwarded to Business, Justice, and Finance Committee for funding source. The Nation is to pay \$200,655 for the installation of the natural gas utility line. Meetings and agendas can be viewed at: www.mcnnnc.com.

# SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FOR STUDENTS

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND MOBILE UNITS

by **LANI HANSEN**  
*SENIOR REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held March 9 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the Regular Session March 26. HEW addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**TR 22-043**  
Authorizing the execution of a grant award letter with the National Congress of American Indians Fund awarding grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation. Representative Leonard Gouge sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. The MCN Scholarship Foundation was awarded \$5,000 in COVID Response Fund. The grant award letter waives MCN’s sovereign immunity by requiring the Nation to indemnify the NCAI fund, its officers, employees, agents and affiliates from

and against any and all third-party claims, liabilities, costs and expenses arising out of, or resulting from any harmful or neglectful activities that are partially or wholly supported by the Nation’s use of grant funds.

**TR 22-049**  
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a letter of agreement with Kotter International Inc. for the benefit of College of the Muscogee Nation. Rep. Anna Marshal sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. Kotter International Inc. is a professional development training series for CMN Administrators, Faculty and Staff. Carter will provide an 8-week virtual training for CMN.

**NCA 22-019**  
Amending MCNCA Title 37, subsection 2-123, entitled “Este Cate Veterans (Mvskoke Nation) Honor Guard.” Rep. Gouge sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0 and forwarded to the Business, Finance and Justice committee for funding source. An annual appropriation of \$20,000 to \$40,000 towards Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard includes meals following local activi-

ties and to include per diem while traveling in and out of state.

**NCA 22-020**  
Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 received from the National Congress of American Indians for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation. Rep. Gouge sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. The MCN Scholarship Foundation received grant funds from the National Congress of American Indians in the amount of \$5,000. The funds will help to provide supplemental scholarships to students who have been impacted by COVID-19.

**NCA 22-022**  
Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded in the amount of \$2,707,132 from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for children and families for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. The grant funds in the amount of \$2,707,132 awarded will be used increase services for sexual assault survivors during the COVID-19



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting was held March 9 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

public health crisis, capacity and work support for advocates and SANE nurses, while also increasing access to multi-disciplinary training for professionals interacting with survivors.

**NCA 22-023**  
Authorizing the expenditure of grant funds awarded in the amount of \$9,741,589 from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for children and families for the benefit of the Family Violence Prevention Program. Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. The grant funds of \$9,741,589 will be used to conducts programs and activities in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency to ensure that domestic violence survivors and their dependents have access to mobile health units.

**NCA 22-024**  
A law of Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 11 subsection 3-201, entitled “CMD Fund” and subscription 6-303, entitled “Audits.” Rep. Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 4-0. The amendment would add the following to section B of MCNCA Title 11 subsection 3-201: “Exception, in the event that Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosts an event outside of the reservation, CMD Funds may be used for overnight stays in accordance with the Nation’s Travel Policy.” For video of committee meetings visit: www.mcnnnc.com.

# BOARD MEMBERS, CHIEF OF STAFF, AG NOMINEES PASS THROUGH COMMITTEE

MCN WISHES TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

by **LANI HANSEN**  
*SENIOR REPORTER*

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held March 17 at the Mound building in Okmulgee. All passed legislation will go before the full Council during the regular session March 26. BFJ addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

**NCR 22-003**  
Selecting Jackie Jackson to the Board of Directors of Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC. Representative Patrick Freeman Jr. sponsored the resolution, which passed 3-0. The National Council has selected Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jackie Jackson to serve on the Board of Directors for a term that shall end March 31, 2023.

**NCR 22-004**  
Selecting Cynthia M. Tiger to the Board of Directors of Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises, LLC. Rep. Anna Marshall sponsored the resolution, which passed 3-0.

The National Council has selected Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynthia M. Tiger to serve on the Board of Directors for a term that shall end March 31, 2024.

**TR 22-046**  
Confirming the nomination of Geraldine (Geri) Wisner to serve as the Attorney General of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Thomasene Yahola Osborn sponsored the resolution, which passed 3-1 with Rep. Patrick Freeman Jr. voting no. The Principal Chief has nominated Muscogee (Creek) citizen Geraldine “Geri” Wisner to serve as the MCN Attorney General.

**TR 22-047**  
Confirming the nomination of Jeffrey Fife to serve as the Chief of Staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 3-1 with Rep. Sandra Golden voting no. The Principal Chief as nominated MCN citizen Jeffrey Fife to serve as the Chief of Staff of the MCN.

**TR 22-050**  
Authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract with Karpel Solutions for the benefit of the Office of the Attorney General. Rep.

Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 3-1 with Golden voting no. The Office of Attorney General has identified Karpel Solutions as the best software system for updating its criminal case management system and converting its case records to a digitized system.

**NCA 22-015**  
A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37 substitute 3-505, entitled “Employee at will doctrine not impliedly abolished.” Rep. Leonard Gouge sponsored the legislation, which failed 2-3. Patrick Freeman Jr. and Randall Hicks, along with Thomasene Yahola Osborn who broke the tie voted against the legislation. The legislation would have abolished the doctrine of at will employment for the Nation’s tribal government. Subject to limitations as outlined in this Chapter and subchapter (such as violations of the law and drug or alcohol related matters), disciplinary matters involving employees of the Nation shall be subject to a progressive disciplinary model.

**NCA 22-019**  
A law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending MCNCA Title 37,



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting was held March 17 at the Mound building in Okmulgee. (MM File)

subsection 2-123, entitled “Este Cate Veterans (Mvskoke Nation) Honor Guard.” Rep. Gouge sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. An annual appropriation of \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 towards Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard includes meals following local activities and to include per diem while traveling in and out of state.

**NCA 22-021**  
Authorizing an appropriation of funds for the installation of Natural Gas utility service for the MCN GSA Warehouse and Safe Space Facility. Rep. Galen Cloud sponsored the legislation, which passed 4-0. The Nation is to pay \$200,655 for the installation of the natural gas utility line.

**NCR 22-006**  
Preparing support and solidarity with the people and Nation of Ukraine. Rep. Marshall sponsored the legislation, which passed 3-1 with Golden voting no. MCN as a sovereign Nation stands in solidarity with Ukraine. No other tribal nation has reached out to the people of Ukraine and MCN would be the first tribal nation. Rep. Marshall stated, “On February 24, CNN news viewers saw women and children leaving Ukraine going to other states to seek refuge. As they were walking it reminded me of our women and children of the Trail of Tears, it’s not the exact same journey but similar.” For video of committee meetings visit: www.mcnnnc.com.





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Shannon James owner of “Rez Served” opens up business from the kitchen of her home. (Lani Hansen/Senior Reporter)

**MEAT PIE LADY FINDS SPOT WITH  
MOTHER ROAD MARKET**

SHANNON JAMES OWNER OF “REZ SERVED”  
ACCEPTED INTO PROGRAM TO HELP FULFILL DREAM

by **LANI HANSEN**  
SENIOR REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Oklahoma– In the kitchen of her very own home you will find Shannon James owner of “Rez Served” cooking up dishes with a Rez twist as she grows in her own business with the help of Mother Road Market – Kitchen 66 launch program.

James is a Cherokee Nation citizen who recently moved to Okmulgee with her family. Before getting into the launch program, she had a career in the medical field working with Indian Health Services as an Oral Surgeon Assistant for ten years. It wasn’t until the COVID-19 pandemic hit that forced everyone to work from home, when one day she was scrolling through Facebook and saw the post about the launch program through Mother Road Market.

“My supervisor had asked if I was coming back to work, because my spot was still sitting there and

I was torn,” James said about her decision. “It was a hard decision for my family. It was choosing to fulfill my dream or go back to my 9-5 work schedule.”

The day she saw the launch program posting, James said it felt like a sign from God telling her to do it. She had heard of people she knew who have applied for it before and they did not get accepted, but she moved forward and took a chance.

James also known as “Meat pie lady” has been selling meat pies as a side job since 2012 and it started in Tahlequah. Her daughter was into cheering at the time and was searching for funding for a cheerleading competition, so James sold meat pies as part of the fundraiser.

“Everybody loved my meat pies,” James said. “So from then on I started slowly making them more and more. I’d sell at powwows, and after a couple of years people recognized my face.”

After she applied for the launch program, James continued

to sell meat pies until the following week she received her acceptance call into the program. She had brought in some food examples such as “rez dogs,” “skoden tacos,” philly cheesesteak in fry-bread and others and the Kitchen 66 staff loved it.

“I always incorporate my fry-bread into whatever I’m making,” James said.

As she begins this new journey in the Kitchen 66 launch program James is operating her new take-out kitchen called “Rez Served,” a Native American/Indigenous based business located in Okmulgee.

The launch program was accepting 10 applicants for the spring and James was chosen out of over 300 other applicants. Classes for the program started in February and they meet in person every Tuesday.

“They help you launch your business from rock bottom and all the way up,” James said. “It’s a six-month training course program with so many benefits.”

The benefits offered from the program consist of assigning the participant a business attorney to making sure the business is running smooth. The program also helps the participants with their sales pitch.

“I don’t have any culinary experience, I just grew up in my grandma’s and mom’s kitchen and was put to work in there,” James stated.

Her specialty is to stick to “grandma’s kitchen” cooking such as homestyle and traditional on her menu. Since opening her “kitchen” and participating in the program, James feels like more doors are opening for her.

Rez Served is located on 620 S. Miami Ave. Okmulgee, OK 74447. She is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch and 4 p.m. until sold out for dinner.

Check out Shannon James business page through Facebook at: Rez Served, or call at 918-901-3183.

**CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS**

2022 Muscogee (Creek) high school, military, technical and college graduates for the June 1st edition.

Sunday, May 15th at 5:00pm is the deadline for our special June 1st print edition.

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

2022 Graduate Profile Form  
High Resolution Digital Image  
Name  
High School/College/Technical Institute/Military Program  
BIO **(150-word limit)**

**DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2022 AT 5PM  
LATE PROFILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

E-mail all information to **info@mvskokemedia.com**

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



OBITUARY



Skyler Ray Carrick Bohannon

Skyler Ray Carrick Bohannon left this life Friday February 11, 2022 in Collinsville, OK at the age of 26. He was born October 19, 1995 in Claremore, OK, at the Claremore Indian Hospital, to Rebecca Greene and

Clinton Bohannon. He attended the Sapulpa school system. He worked at various jobs starting at the age of 16 and made many friends along his work journey. Skyler loved watching and playing sports, especially football. He was an avid OU football fan and enjoyed watching them play, on tv or in person, whether they won or lost. He also enjoyed watching his sisters, Ashtyn and Adrian, play softball and soccer respectively. He is preceded in death by his Sister, Cheyenne Bohannon; Grandma, Brenda Bohannon and Grandpa, Gary Greene. Skyler is survived by his Mom, Rebecca Greene, of Sapulpa, OK, Dad, Clinton Bohannon and Step-mom Angela of Beggs, OK, Stepdad Elmo Morgan, Jr of Tulsa, OK, Grandma, Pat Greene, of Prior Lake, MN, Grandpa, Vance Bohannon, of Collinsville, OK, Brothers and Sisters: Bailey, Ashtyn, Adrian, Payge, Thomas, Brittany, Sarah, Shawnie, Christina, Rujelio and his best friend Darren. He leaves behind a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Buddy Yargee

Robert Lee Yargee, Jr., better known by all as “Buddy”, was born on February 15th, 1972 to Phyllis Ann (Jones) Yargee and Robert Lee Yargee, Sr. “Bobby” in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He passed away at the age of 50 on February 27, 2022 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was of the Baptist faith. He is survived by his Daughters, LeeAnna and Danielle Yargee; and Grandson, Kaylis Gibson, all of

Bixby, OK.; Mother, Phyllis Yargee, of the home; brothers, Curtis Yargee, of Notchietown, OK, Jason Yargee, of Gore, OK, and Kenneth Yargee, of Vian, OK; Uncle Robert Jones Jr, “Tiger” and wife, Angela of Perkins, OK; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Bobby. Many of us that knew and loved Buddy knew him to be a proud father and Papa. He had a crazy sense of humor and was always laughing and easy going. He was a hard worker and dedicated to any job or task he had to do. He was an avid OU Sooners fan and enjoyed watching games with family and friends. His ceremonial name was “Nokose Emarv” which translates as, Roaming or Wandering Bear and for years he lived up to that name. He enjoyed driving and traveling all over. He found his dream job when he worked for Toro, delivering lawn equipment and parts. He was a good and faithful man, with both religious and ceremonial roots to ground him. Buddy will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved him. He has gone too soon but he will forever remain in the hearts of many.

SUBMISSION

I wish to say mvto to the Creek Nation Tree Service for cutting down my big tree. And to the Creek Service citizen men who hauled it off. Thanks Very Much. - Mariah Lee

LEGALS

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: )  
ADLEY WILLOW FORRESTER, )  
DOB 07/09/2020, )  
A Minor Child. )

Case No. AD-2021-0014  
Judge Shannon Prescott

NOTICE OF HEARING ON BEST INTEREST  
AND FINAL DECREE OF ADOPTION

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TO: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE A PUTATIVE FATHER OF  
ADLEY WILLOW FORRESTER, INCLUDING CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM FORRESTER  
Putative Father

NOW on this 21 day of March, 2022, the Petitioner, Andrea Yvonne Potter, by and through  
her attorneys, Catherine Z. Welsh, Jim C. McGough, and Matthew J. Hall, Welsh & McGough, PLLC,  
having filed her Application for Setting of Best Interest Hearing and Final Decree of Adoption herein,  
the Court FINDS that the Application should be granted and that the same should be set for hearing on  
Best Interest and entry of a Final Decree.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Court that this matter be, and it is hereby, set for  
issuance of a Best Interest and Final Decree of Adoption on the 10th day of May, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in  
the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courtroom, 2501 Lvnihvlke, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, and  
that notice thereof be given to all interested parties.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE  
IN SUPPORT OF AND IN OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION AT  
THE TIME AND PLACE SHOWN ABOVE WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE  
PRESENT AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR  
AT SAID HEARING SHALL CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE  
CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OF THIS  
PROCEEDING OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS, IN THE ADOPTION OF THE  
CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

Signed and dated this 21 day of March, 2022.

HONORABLE SHANNON PRESCOTT  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Prepared by:  
Catherine Z. Welsh, MCN #358  
Jim C. McGough, MCN #914  
Matthew J. Hall, MCN #407  
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ballet

Marcello Angelini | Artistic Director

AND THE  
JACK BEANSTALK

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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, **\$308,762,619.78**

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

ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	<i>PRINCIPAL CHIEF</i>				
56010	Donations	39,187.20	-	-	39,187.20
	<i>SECRETARY OF NATION</i>				
53000	Supplies	196.00	-	-	196.00
54000	Contractual <5K	383,112.56	-	-	383,112.56
59220	Grants	2,496.53	-	-	2,496.53
	<i>MARKETING &amp; TOURISM</i>				
59050	Food Purchases	10,981.65	-	-	10,981.65
	<i>CONTRACTING EMPLOYMENT</i>				
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
	<i>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</i>				
53000	Supplies	27,193.91	2,193.65	(2,193.60)	27,193.86
53010	Software/Licenses	804,417.40	490,122.11	5,581.58	308,713.71
55210	Communications - Other	100,000.00	19,202.40	-	80,797.60
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	209,291.23	400.33	33,820.99	175,069.91
85500	Equipment	0.67	-	-	0.67
	<i>FLEET MANAGEMENT</i>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	2,906.94	432.53	-	2,474.41
50020	Salary & Wages - O/T Over 1.5	3,293.77	5,798.88	-	(2,505.11)
50100	Salary & Wages - PT	1,888.00	-	-	1,888.00
51000	Fringe - FT	6,800.00	3,364.97	-	3,435.03
51100	Fringe - PT	290.47	-	-	290.47
53000	Supplies	1,143,903.95	262,890.06	(15,199.20)	896,213.09
53290	Postage/Shipping	13,775.14	13,402.70	-	372.44
54000	Contractual <5K	16,229.80	7,497.73	-	8,732.07
55300	Bldg Maint/Repairs	1,315.00	800.00	-	515.00
57000	Indirect Costs	(101.52)	729.32	-	(830.84)
85400	Vehicles	5,455.00	-	-	5,455.00
85500	Equipment	125,792.06	-	-	125,792.06
	<i>SOCIAL SERVICES</i>				
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	263,370.64	262,797.97	-	572.67
59050	Food Purchases	1,423.29	1,423.29	-	-
59071	Direct Assist - Income Support	223,181.41	5,925.00	-	217,256.41
59072	Direct Assist - Hardship	183,188.07	3,500.00	-	179,688.07
	<i>SENIOR SERVICES</i>				
53000	Supplies	14,635.99	-	-	14,635.99
	<i>FOOD DISTRIBUTION</i>				
53000	Supplies	4,784.95	-	-	4,784.95
85050	Renovations	2,712.52	-	-	2,712.52
85170	Construction	282,262.30	200,913.30	2,000.00	81,349.00
85500	Equipment	131,250.00	131,250.00	-	-
	<i>ELDERLY NUTRITION</i>				
53000	Supplies	1,048.00	339.96	-	708.04
55100	Utilities	1,431.00	110.00	-	1,321.00
85170	Construction	25,028.07	-	-	25,028.07
	<i>SECRETARY OF EDUCATION</i>				
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
	<i>MCN MEAT PROCESSING PLANT</i>				
53000	Supplies	36,360.43	13,429.84	(1,793.10)	24,723.69
59050	Food Purchases	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00
85010	Architect & Engineering	30,237.18	7,975.53	(7,975.53)	30,237.18
85170	Construction	1,339,411.71	1,338,179.71	(1,338,179.71)	1,339,411.71
85500	Equipment	120,511.47	114,594.11	(114,594.11)	120,511.47
	<i>REAL ESTATE SERVICES</i>				
54000	Contractual <5K	903.17	-	-	903.17
	<i>CULTURAL PRESERVATION</i>				
59220	Grants	0.05	-	-	0.05
	<i>TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION</i>				
85010	Architect & Engineering	16,082.65	-	-	16,082.65
85170	Construction	124,763.00	(6,710.00)	-	131,473.00
	<i>SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS</i>				
58010	Construction	15,665.36	-	-	15,665.36
	<i>OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSION</i>				
54000	Contractual <5K	10,797.00	-	-	10,797.00
55300	Bldg Maintenance	1,500.00	-	-	1,500.00
85500	Equipment	1.03	-	-	1.03
	<i>CITIZENSHIP BOARD</i>				
53000	Supplies	5,813.70	-	-	5,813.70
54000	Contractual <5K	88,600.00	88,335.00	-	265.00
	<i>DISTRICT COURT</i>				
85500	Equipment	16,250.00	-	-	16,250.00
	<i>TOTAL</i>	8,000,517.58	2,968,898.39	(1,440,532.68)	6,472,151.87
	<i>CONTRACT HEALTH</i>				
59070	Direct Assistance	9,702.41	(73,858.66)	-	83,561.07
99980	CHS Accrual	-	(2,659.28)	-	2,659.28
	<i>SECRETARY OF HEALTH</i>				
54100	Non- Medical Service Contract	22,200.00	22,200.00	-	-
	<i>FACILITIES MANAGEMENT</i>				
55020	Storage	3,315.00	3,315.00	-	-
85010	Architect & Engineering	-	-	-	-
85050	Renovations	31,253.68	31,253.68	-	-
85500	Equipment	119,427.07	119,427.07	-	-
	<i>HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT</i>				
53000	Supplies	-	475.71	(475.71)	-
53060	Supply - Computer/Print/lpad	-	-	-	-
53320	Software Maint Contract	266,642.64	266,642.64	-	-
54100	Non-Medical Service Contract	1,824,879.00	1,824,879.00	-	-
	<i>OKEMAH HOSPITAL</i>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	8,577.69	8,577.69	-	-
50090	Salary & Wages-Float Pool	367.08	367.08	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	4,631.95	4,631.95	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT	38.54	38.54	-	-
53050	Medical Supplies Non-Billable	9,133.95	9,133.95	-	-
53290	Postage/Shipping	135.26	135.26	-	-
54220	Physician Contract	3,277.50	3,277.50	-	-
54280	Medical Service Contract	18,165.56	18,165.56	-	-
54370	Nursing Contract	583,315.30	583,315.30	-	-
85500	Equipment	48,188.27	-	48,188.27	-
	<i>OKMULGEE MEDICAL CENTER</i>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	174,602.70	174,602.70	-	-
50010	Salary & Wages - OT	26,650.22	26,650.22	-	-
50090	Salary & Wages-Float Pool	13,860.45	13,860.45	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	108,676.58	108,676.58	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT	1,455.35	1,455.35	-	-
53050	Medical Supplies Non-Billable	19,767.95	19,767.95	-	-
53290	Postage/Shipping	4.44	4.44	-	-
53490	Medical Supplied Billable	8,482.00	8,482.00	-	-
54220	Physician Contract	3,277.50	3,277.50	-	-
54280	Medical Service Contract	17,476.86	17,476.86	-	-
54370	Nursing Contract	398,658.44	398,658.44	-	-
85500	Equipment	48,188.27	-	48,188.27	-
	<i>LTACH</i>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	1,100.92	1,100.92	-	-
50090	Salary & Wages-Float Pool	565.44	565.44	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	594.50	594.50	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT	59.37	59.37	-	-
	<i>SKILLED NURSING FACILITY</i>				
50000	Salary & Wages - FT	1,392.10	1,392.10	-	-
50090	Salary & Wages-Float Pool	5,795.69	5,795.69	-	-
51000	Fringe - FT	751.73	751.73	-	-
51100	Fringe - PT	608.55	608.55	-	-
	<i>COUNCIL OAK COMP HEALTH HOSPITAL</i>				
53000	Supplies	4,123.46	4,123.46	-	-
53420	Property Taxes	496,195.23	496,195.23	-	-
54100	Non-Medical Service Contract	20,100.00	-	20,100.00	-
85500	Equipment	32,087.38	22,558.35	9,529.03	-
	<i>EUFAULA CLINIC</i>				
85500	Equipment	21,620.00	-	21,620.00	-
	<i>TOTAL</i>	4,359,346.03	4,125,975.82	147,149.86	86,220.35