



August 2019 Issue

2019 Choctaw Nation ELECTIONS



Thomas Williston
Council, District 1



Tony Ward
Council, District 2



Eddie Bohanan
Council, District 3



Ronald Perry
Council, District 5



Perry Thompson
Council, District 8



Robert Karr
Council, District 11

Chief, Council members to be sworn in Sept. 2

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma General Election was held July 13 with official results released July 17.

The 2019 Public Notice of Official General Election Results for the propositions and Council Members in Districts 2, 5, 8, and 11 states:

"In accordance with the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, adopted by CB-124-18 (amended by CB-39-19, CB-88-19), the period for Contest of Irregularities, Death or Fraud (Article XIX) and Recount ended at 4:30 p.m. on July 17. There were no contests or recount requests, so the Election Board officially ended the General Election cycle with the signing of the Official General Election Results (Article XVIII, Section 9). All election results listed below have been duly certified by the Election Board and will be communicated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs office:

"Legislative Proposition Number 001: Passed with 11,621 votes in the affirmative.

"Legislative Proposition Number 002: Passed with 11,451 votes in the affirmative.

"District 2 winner: Jonathan Anthony Ward (Tony) with 478 votes in the affirmative (56.43%).

"District 5 winner: Ronald Clyde Perry with 726 votes in the affirmative (79.69%).

"District 8 winner: Perry Thompson with 873 votes in the affirmative (79.80%).

"District 11: No candidate received more than 50% of total votes cast. The two candidates that received the most votes were Robert Karr (43.68%) and Bob Pate (28.41%). Article XXII, Section 3 requires a Runoff Election. However, Bob Pate submitted a notarized letter to withdraw his candidacy and remove his name from the Runoff Election, and in accordance with Article VI, Section I, a Runoff Election will not occur for this Council District. Robert Karr is duly certified as the winner by the Election Board."

Chief Gary Batton was unopposed in the 2019 Tribal Election and will begin serving his second full term as Chief of the Choctaw Nation. Batton believes in the vision of living out the Chahta spirit of faith, family and culture and looks forward to continuing the journey of building a great future together for the Choctaw Nation.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Choctaw people for another four years," said Chief Batton. "Thank you for the trust you have placed in me."

District 1 Council Member Thomas Williston was also unopposed and will begin serving for a third full term.

The single candidate filing for the Council seat in District 3 is Eddie Bohanan who will begin his first term in September.

Chief Batton and the six Council members will be sworn in during a ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2, in the amphitheatre at Tvshka Homma. The swearing-in ceremony will be followed by the 2019 State of the Nation address by Chief Batton, bringing to a close this year's Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

For more information about Choctaw Nation elections, visit <http://www.choctawnation.com/elections>.



Gary Batton
Chief

Voters pass propositions

The July 13 Tribal Election resulted in the historic passage of two propositions to amend the constitution. The propositions are the first to ever be brought before Choctaw voters since the ratification of the Choctaw Nation Constitution in 1983.

Legislative Proposition Number 001 proposed an amendment to Section 4 of Article X, changing language to allow members of the tribe to speak to the Tribal Council if a majority of Tribal Council members present approve.

Legislative Proposition Number 002 adds Section 3 to Article XIV, providing for the Speaker of the Tribal Council to become Chief if the offices of Chief and Assistant Chief both become vacant less than one year before the end of the Chief's term.

Per Article XVIII - Amendment, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, "Adoption of not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the total number of qualified voters of the Nation voting in the last Chief's election shall be required to amend this Constitution."

There were 21,808 tribal members who voted in the last Chief's election July 11, 2015. In this year's election, 11,122 votes in the affirmative were required to pass the amendments. Both propositions received more than the required number of votes to pass the legislation.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Official Election Results General Election Saturday, July 13, 2019

Legislative Proposition Number 001

Yes	11621	
No	774	

Legislative Proposition Number 002

Yes	11451	
No	973	

Tribal Council Member - District 2

Jonathan Anthony Ward (Tony)	478	56.43%
Michael A. Amos	235	27.74%
Sherrill Battiest	134	15.82%

Tribal Council Member - District 5

Ronald Clyde Perry	726	79.69%
Louisa Tad Gonzalez	185	20.31%

Tribal Council Member - District 8

Perry Thompson	873	79.80%
Paul Roberts	221	20.20%

Tribal Council Member - District 11

Bob Pate	335	28.41%
Robert Karr	515	43.68%
Nellie Meashintubby	295	25.02%
Arthur (Rob) Robertson	34	2.88%

Faith, Family, Culture

Enhanced technology providing easier access



Chief Gary Batton

Technology is an ever-evolving tool. In a recent report, Cisco predicted that by 2020, there will be nearly 4.1 billion internet users around the world. More and more people are gaining access to the internet and using technology each day. With that in mind, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has made steps to increasing our online accessibility and exploring new technological endeavors.

With this increase of internet users, the Choctaw Nation has taken steps to help our tribal members access our programs and

information online in a more user-friendly way.

Our new Chahta Achvffa member portal launched this summer. This technology platform was created to transform online interactions between the Nation

and tribal members. Currently, members can set up profiles and have access to four programs. Programs on the portal at the moment include the 2019 Hunting and Fishing program, Student School Activity Fund, College Clothing Allowance, and name change requests. We plan to add more in the future and are excited to see how this benefits our members.

Our social media presence is also growing each day. One of our goals is to share with you all news and information as quickly and accurately as possible. Our social media team works hard each day to share with all of our followers information and news as it happens in real-time. You can keep up to date with us in all major social media networks.

Our online communications team also works diligently to keep our website up to date and share information through text and email alert systems. We want everyone to have access to news, information and programs at their fingertips. It is great to see and interact with our followers, and to watch our social media presence grow.

Our health services are also taking steps into the future with virtual visits. The Choctaw Nation Virtual Medical Visit service enables healthcare access for patients not able to travel to the provider for specific

non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses. This service is a video appointment with a healthcare provider that is available to patients with specific symptoms.

To be eligible, patients must have a CDIB and have a current consent to treat on file. Patients must also reside in Oklahoma and be 5 years of age or older. This is a great service for individuals with minor conditions and saves them a trip to the clinic. For more information on the Virtual Medical Visit service, please call 580-916-9231.

The Nation isn't just making technological endeavors online, but in the physical sense as well. In 2018, we were named one of 10 Unmanned Aircraft System Integration Pilot Program sites by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Nation has partnered with the Noble Research Institute to conduct research on the typical rural and agricultural community applications of drone technology. This is an exciting program and our researchers are hoping to discover information that can help our communities in the future.

There are many other ways that the Nation is using technology to help our tribal members grow, learn and access information. To find out more about the programs I have mentioned and others, please visit <http://www.choctawnation.com>.

Summer camps render lifelong skills, memories



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

August means back to school for many students. I hope that you all have a great school year and that you learn as much as possible. Education is so important, and I encourage you all to try your hardest and push yourselves to be the best student you can be.

Though another summer has passed us by, we get to take with us the memories we made. Maybe you went on vacation with your family, played sports or went to church camp. This summer, roughly 2,000 Choctaw students made

lifelong memories at our Youth Events and Activities Summer Camps.

The weather put a damper on a few of the camps, with heavy rain, lightning, and even tornadic storms causing early closings and even one cancellation. However, the Youth Events and Activities team worked with Choctaw Nation Emergency Management to make the best decisions for the safety of the campers.

Despite the weather, this year was a huge success.

There were a total of 19 camps, ranging in a variety of topics and sports. Each camp offered a unique experience to campers, offering the opportunity to learn new skills from qualified instructors. Camps included cultural, stickball, golf, baseball, softball, basketball, conservation and a new addition for 2019.

Cheer camp was added for the first time this year and was a hit. More than 100 campers attended the two-day camp. Coaches from all over the area were brought in to assist with the camp. Students were able to work on their skills and receive mentorship from the coaches.

My children have had wonderful experiences attending the youth camps, learning something new, becoming more confident in a sport or cultural activity that they are passionate about.

It is so essential for our young people to have opportunities like this. Instead of sitting at home, they get to go outdoors, be active and socialize. Experiences like this are vital in developing positive and productive lives. Camps are not only an opportunity to learn, but a safe and fun environment to meet new friends, build life skills and just have fun.

I look forward to seeing how this program grows in the future. The goal of the Youth Events and Activities team is to continue to improve upon the success of the program each year. They hope to grow with new activities and recruit more campers. To find out more about these summer camps, please visit <http://www.choctawnation.com/youth-events-and-activities>.



Photo by Christian Toews

Cheer students practice skills at the newly added cheer camp.



From left, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James R. Floyd, Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton, Seminole Nation Chief Greg. P. Chilcoat, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker hold a resolution opposing Gov. Stitt's repudiation of the State-Tribal gaming compacts. The resolution was signed Friday, July 12.

Tribal leaders united in response to Oklahoma governor

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) provided a unified, formal and firm response to Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt's recent repudiation of the Oklahoma Model Tribal Gaming Compact through a joint resolution signed by the leaders of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations. The Tribal leaders unanimously agreed and adopted the resolution at the Inter-Tribal Council meeting July 12 at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The ITC is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

Leaders of all five nations, which collectively represent more than 750,000 Native people, jointly signed the resolution outlining a clear and strong response to Gov. Stitt's letter dated July 5, 2019, proposing the Tribes negotiate a new Class III gaming compact.

Tribal leaders expressed their disappointment in the action by Gov. Stitt to take a matter of such great importance to the media before engaging in respectful and purposeful conversations given the complexity of the compacts and the law. The ITC memorialized through the joint resolution their collective intent to reject the state's attempt to unlawfully and unilaterally terminate the compact.

The gaming industry has become a significant driver of Oklahoma's economy, employing over 55,000 Oklahomans, primarily in rural areas, and paying more than \$1.5 billion in exclusivity fees over the past 15 years, mostly for public education. In response to the exclusive fee arrangement outlined in the compacts, Tribes have invested hundreds of millions of those dollars into education, roads, health care, public safety, and tourism to support the betterment of our state for the benefit of all residents. The tribes' investments have allowed the state to channel tax revenue to other high priority needs.

During Friday's general session of the ITC, the tribal

leaders detailed the extensive legal history and complexity surrounding gaming compacts and highlighted the current compact, which was approved by Oklahoma voters on Nov. 4, 2004, and approved by the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

The tribes also detailed their concerns that Gov. Stitt made no proposal of any terms, nor presented a framework, for any renegotiation. That noted, the ITC pledged their support for the continuation of the exclusive fee structure and amounts outlined in the current compact. They underscored their confidence in the legal reality that the compact does not expire, but in fact renews on Jan. 1, 2020.

Joint Statement from the Five Tribal Leaders:

"We have considered the state of Oklahoma a trustworthy partner through the years. Working together we have made strides in building a better, stronger and more prosperous Oklahoma for the benefit of the hundreds of thousands of members of our Tribes who live and work here as well as all residents of this great State. We can trace the starting point of our constructive partnership to the carefully crafted and balanced approach represented in the current compact negotiated in a respectful manner between the State of Oklahoma and the sovereign Tribes residing in Oklahoma. This compact represents a continuing and mutually beneficial partnership. The recent action of Governor Stitt puts into question his sincerity to work with us in a cooperative manner moving ahead. We are resolute in our position, and it is our hope Governor Stitt and his advisors will not attempt any bad faith interference on the compact which could set back the progress we have achieved by working together."

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief, The Cherokee Nation
 Gary Batton, Chief, The Choctaw Nation
 James R. Floyd, Principal Chief, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
 Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief, The Seminole Nation

Endure failure and grow

We often fail in this life. Whether it is in relationships, at work or in athletics, failure is common to all of us. Often, we set goals and fail to reach them. We disappoint and hurt those we love. We make bad decisions and suffer the consequences. What are we to do with this element which invades all people in all walks of life? Do we continue or submit to the fear it produces? Can we learn from it and elevate to a higher potential? The Bible is full of stories of people who failed and yet rose to higher planes.

One person is Simon Peter. He was a faithful follower of Christ Jesus. In a bold statement, Peter had proclaimed he would never desert Jesus. But in the course of one night, he denied knowing the Messiah three times. He had failed. He came to a low point in his life. He could have stayed in that condition and remained stagnant. But he took this point of failure as a building process and continued to become a prominent figure in the first century church. He spread the gospel of Christ far and wide until in the end, he faced death on a Roman cross. This time he did not deny Christ but set an example for others to follow.

Let us consider another man. He failed in business in 1831. In 1832, he was defeated for the state legislature. He attempted business again in 1833. He failed again. In 1836, he had a nervous breakdown. His bid for the speaker of the state house was unsuccessful in 1838. Between 1843 and 1855, he was defeated for Congress three times straight. He was defeated for vice president in 1856. He lost one more time for the Senate in 1858. He was elected president in 1860. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

A famous author, Herman Melville's approach to failure is, "He who has never failed cannot be great. Failure is the test of greatness."

Walt Disney was fired from one of his first jobs and went bankrupt with his ventures before the Disney empire succeeded. Henry Ford went bankrupt before his car manufacturing business flourished. In 1978, Arthur Blank and Bernie Marcus were working for a hardware retail store in California. The store was bought by a new owner. These two men were both fired. They decided to start their own hardware retail business. Today, their Home Depot stores are all over America.

In the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians, chapter 4 and verses 12 and 13, we read, "I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Christ himself showed us by his death, burial and resurrection, that we are to look beyond the failures of this life and look unto Him to endure the failure and grow from the lessons we learn through failure.



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain



BOOM

in the Valley
2019



The 14th Annual Boom in the Valley was held July 3 at the Choctaw Nation's capitol grounds, Tvshka Homma. The family-fun event included activities for the kids, live music by Mason Jar Revival Band, the annual Boom in the Valley 5k, and one of the state's best fireworks shows. The overall male winner for the 5k, Curtis Hale, is pictured above left with Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Gary Batton, and overall female winner, Hali Repass, above. Tim Skinner, a firefighter with the Poteau Fire Department, is pictured at left, ready for the 5k with all of his gear on.



Photos by Payton Gulthrie

Regional businesses gather for preferred vendors fair

By Christian Toews

The Choctaw Nation hosted the annual Choctaw Business Summit and the Preferred Supplier Program Fair Thursday, June 20, and Friday, June 21, at Choctaw Casino & Resort Durant. An estimated 500 business owners, potential new clients and tribal representatives were in attendance over the two days of activities. Vendors showcased their products and services to all who attended.

"Every booth space is taken," said Boyd Miller, Preferred Supplier Program commodity manager, Choctaw Nation Procurement Department.

On June 20, the Small Business Development and Partner Appreciation Dinner allowed participants to network and be recognized. Award winners announced at the banquet included a Choctaw business entrepreneur from each of the 12 districts of the Choctaw Nation. Overall "Chahta-preneur of the Year" was from District 7, Wayne Tipps with Antlers-based Sacred Grounds Coffeehouse and Tipps Electrical Services.

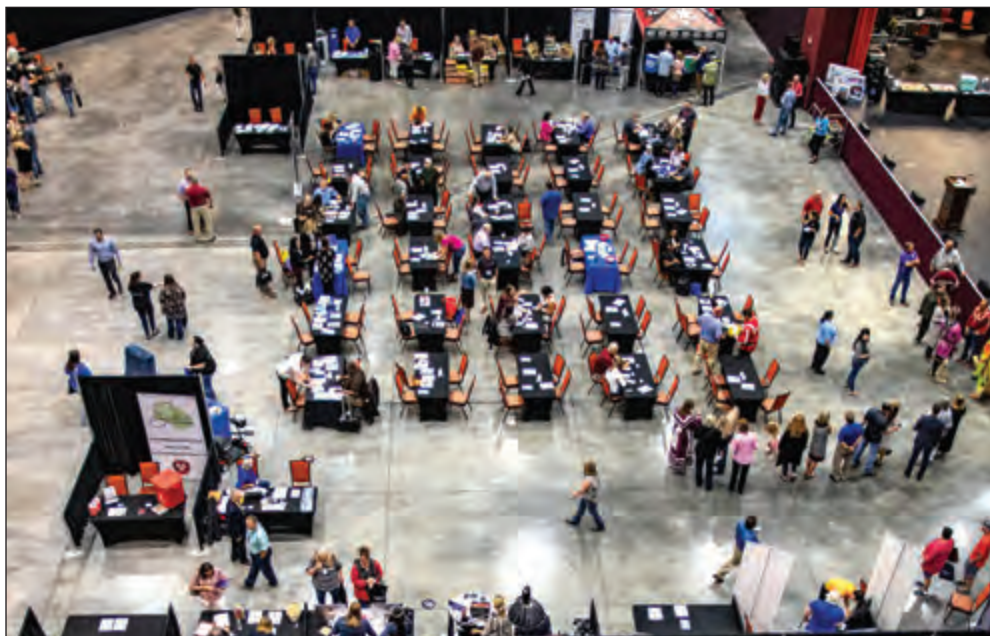


Photo by Christian Toews

Regional businesses fill the floor during the preferred vendors fair June 20-21 at the Choctaw Casino & Resort Durant.

In the opening ceremony of the fair, Chief Gary Batton said, "Our mission is to provide an opportunity for growth and prosperity."

"This is our fourth year for the preferred vendors fair. We strive to help you be aware of what contracts are available, how you can deal with those and how to get your

services to the Choctaw Nation and to other tribes. We want to help you grow your family, sustain your business and hopefully employ more tribal members."

To learn more about the Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program, contact Boyd Miller at 580-924-8280, ext. 2899, or bmiller@choctawnation.com.

2019
CHOCTAW
LABOR DAY
FESTIVAL
AUG 30 - SEP 2

STOP BY AND SHOP AT THE CHOCTAW STORE LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

CHOCTAW

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CHOCTAWSTORE.COM



2019
CHOCTAW
LABOR DAY
FESTIVAL

TENT CAMPING RULES

OPENS FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 6PM

BE COURTEOUS TO YOUR FELLOW CAMPERS AND FOLLOW THESE RULES

- No camping within 20 ft of any pavilion.
- No drones or flying objects allowed on capitol grounds.
- Electrical Hook-ups:**
 - All electrical hook-ups are for public use
 - Should not be included as part of an individual tent area
 - Use of only one plug is permitted per tent
 - Splitters are not allowed
 - Only use 12-gauge extension cords
 - Extension cords can't be longer than 100 ft or cross roadways

CHOCTAWNATION.COM #CHAHTALABORDAY

LOST CHILD STATION

To ensure that child safety is a priority, The Choctaw Nation has created a Lost Child Station near the main entrance of the Capitol Grounds. If you and your child are separated, please go directly to this station to assist in finding your child. Visit www.choctawnation.com/wristband to register for Child Safety Wrist Bands.

CHOCTAW #CHAHTALABORDAY

Council Corner



Ron Perry, District 5

District 5 enjoying community activities

The Stigler Seniors and I participated in a Grave Cleaning Class at the Sansbois Cemetery in Kinta. The class was presented by Skyler Robinson, the Choctaw Nation cemetery restoration coordinator. We learned the techniques to cleaning and restoring graves that are almost unreadable.

May 14 – I was honored to present checks on behalf of Choctaw Nation to Haskell County officials and the City of Stigler officials as part of our partnership with local communities.

June 5 – We had our yearly Veterans Dinner at the Stigler Community Center. We had a great turnout and program. Raymond Johnson and his group performed Choctaw hymns. Chief Gary Batton was our speaker and we presented mugs to our veterans to show our appreciation for the sacrifices they made for our freedom.

June 12 – We had our veterans Dinner at Spiro Community Center and also presented the Veterans there with mugs.

June 26 – Spiro Senior Citizens presented me with an appreciation cake and card for my involvement in their district and community center.

July 2 – Spiro Senior Citizens had a fundraiser with the group 2 Country for Nashville performing. They had a good turnout and a great time enjoying pulled pork sandwiches and homemade ice cream.

July 3 – We had a great 4th of July lunch at the center. Janice Williams, Chamber of Commerce director, was a guest speaker.

July 10 – Brian Post provided a drone presentation.

July 20 – The town of Stigler partnered



with Choctaw Nation in the construction of a new sports complex. The opening ceremony will be July 20, with me throwing out the first pitch.

Water Treatment Facility Grants were awarded to the towns of Stigler, Spiro and McCurtain.

“It is a tremendous honor to work for the Choctaw people.”



Photo by Dara McCoy

Peter Pitchlynn is presented certification to teach the Choctaw Language during the monthly regular session of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council July 13 at Tvshka Homma. Pictured are, from left, Choctaw Language Teacher Angie Williston, District 3 Council Member Kenny Bryant, Pitchlynn, and District 9 Council Member James Dry.

Tribal Council holds July session

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on July 13 at Tvshka Homma, Okla.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
- 3) ROLL CALL
- 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Session June 8
- 5) WELCOME GUESTS
- 6) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- 7) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Presentation of Choctaw Nation School of Language Teacher Certificate
 - 8) AGENDA:
 - a) Approve the Funds and Budget for the Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program (Community Connect)

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

b) Approve Application for the Tribal Management Grant (TMG) Program

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

c) Approve Application for the 2019 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (VSSA) Grant

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

d) Approve Application for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program Competitive Grant

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

e) Approve Application for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

f) Approve Application for FY2020 Community Services Block Grant Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

g) Approve Application for FY2020 LI-HEAP Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

h) Approve Grazing Lease No. 4200178648 in Favor of Sonny Dutchover on Land Held by the USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Bryan County, Oklahoma

Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

i) Approve the Issuance and Funding of Debt to Choctaw Global, LLC

Vote Counts: YEAs- 8 (Thomas Williston, Tony Ward, Ron Perry, Jennifer Woods, James Dry, Anthony Dillard, Bob Pate, James Frazier)

NAYS- 3 (Kenny Bryant, Jack Austin, Perry Thompson)

Vote Result: Bill passed

8) OTHER NEW BUSINESS

9) OLD BUSINESS

10) ADJOURNMENT

11) CLOSING PRAYER

Council Members present: Thomas Williston, Tony Ward, Kenny Bryant, Ron Perry, Jennifer Woods, Jack Austin, Perry Thompson, James Dry, Anthony Dillard, Bob Pate, James Frazier.

Council Members absent: Delton Cox.

Next regular scheduled council meeting will be 10 a.m. Aug. 10 at Tvshka Homma.

We Salute Our Veterans



TALIHINA



WILBURTON



ATOKA



McALESTER

Veterans are honored each year at the Choctaw Nation community centers in each of the 12 districts. Groups of veterans from Atoka, McAlester, Talihiina and Wilburton are featured in this issue. Veterans from Idabel, Battiest, Broken Bow, Smithville, Poteau, Spiro, Stigler, Antlers, Wright City, Hugo, Durant, Coalgate and Crowder were featured in the July issue of the Biskinik which can be found on <http://www.choctawnation.com/news>. Yakohe to each of the men and women who have served and protected our country, helping to ensure the freedoms we all enjoy today.

ENVISION CENTER

A resource center to help Native American individuals and families living in HUD-assisted housing climb the ladder of opportunity.

918-647-3665
ENVISIONCENTER@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority

MEMBER SERVICES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Introducing
Chahta Achoffa
A New Online Member Portal

Keep information and documents up-to-date on individual accounts. Apply for services as readily available. Access on any device.

Now Available

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EVENTS

**Heritage Day
Monday, Sept. 23**

8:30-9 a.m. Opening Prayer and Devotional with Paula Carney of Grace Church (Headquarters, Main Lobby, 1802 Chukka Hina, Durant)

8:30 a.m.-Noon Wesson Farms (CNO Regional Medical Clinic, Front Parking Lot, Back Row, 1801 Chukka Hina, Durant)

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wear traditional clothing or jewelry and receive a door prize ticket. Complete a morning or afternoon activity and receive another ticket (Headquarters, Main Lobby)

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Choctaw Artists (Headquarters, Main Lobby)

10-10:45 a.m. Choctaw Language/Dora Wickson, CNO Language (Headquarters, Conference Center Room 2)

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Program Booths: Cultural Services, First United Preferred Bank Program, Genealogy, Greenhouse (Headquarters, Main Lobby)

12:30-1 p.m. Cultural Center Presentation, Stacey Halfmoon (Headquarters, Conference Center Room 2)

1:15-3:15 p.m. Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge," a book by Dr. Ian Thompson, CNO Historic Preservation and Museums. This presentation will include a book signing opportunity and taste testing for traditional menu items planned for the 2020 Cultural Center. (Headquarters, Conference Center Room 2)

3:20-3:30 p.m. Choctaw Dance Chant Class – "Four Step War Dance" (Headquarters, Third Floor Rotunda)

3:30-4 p.m. Choctaw Dance – "Four Step War Dance" (Headquarters, Third Floor Rotunda)

District 6 August Activities

*Every Monday and Wednesday Senior Fitness Program "55+" 9 a.m. then Chair Volleyball Practice – 9:30 a.m., Wellness Center

*Every Wednesday – Lunch served, with guest speaker – salad bar opens at 11 a.m.

*Choctaw language Classes – Monday 6-8 p.m.

*GED Classes – Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

August 2

Councilwoman Jennifer Woods Prayer Meeting 7-8 a.m. (breakfast to follow)

Indian Taco/Bake Sale/Indoor Yard Sale 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

August 6

Durant Casino Day Trip (bus leaves at 8:30 a.m.)

August 7

Health Fair 10 a.m.

Monthly Senior Meeting (after lunch)

Commodities pickup (McAlester – after meeting)

August 8

Durant Chair Volleyball Tournament

August 13

Short Shopping Day – destination to be announced

August 20

Small Business Classes 9 a.m. (with CN & EOSC)

August 23

Long Shopping Day – destination to be announced

August 27

Family Night Bingo and Potluck – 6-8 p.m.

Week of August 26-29

Prep for Labor Day Festival

August 29-September 2

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival – Indian Taco Concession

*More activities, chair volleyball games, day trips and events to be announced
Dates are subject to change

NOTES TO THE NATION

Flags, lights appreciated

We, the members of the Choctaw Veterans Association, Skullyville Post 4501, Spiro, Oklahoma, wish to take this moment to extend our appreciation to the maintenance crew of the Choctaw Nation.

The flags at the Choctaw Nation National Cemetery, Skullyville (I.T.), Spiro, were frayed and tattered. When notified a few days before Memorial Day, the maintenance crew promptly changed the flags and reinstalled a new lighting system to illuminate the flags at night. This task was completed in time for Memorial Day.

Timely input by Speaker Delton Cox and District 5 Councilman Ron Perry was certainly appreciated. Yakoke!

**MSGT Paul Perry (USAF) (Retired)
Post Commander, Skullyville Post 4501**

Chapman realizing dream

I want to thank the Higher Education office as well as the entire Choctaw Nation for the generous financial support I received while attending college.

I have benefited from the Choctaw Nation's education scholarships both as an undergraduate and graduate student. First, I pursued a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Tulsa, graduating magna cum laude in 1986. In May 2019, I realized my dream of obtaining a master's degree in Library and Information studies from the University of Oklahoma.

The Choctaw Nation's vision to fund scholarships, as well as provide career training, encourages tribal members to seek career paths that will enable them to pursue their passions rather than just accept the status quo.

By awarding scholarships and career training, the Choctaw Nation is creating generations of highly educated tribal members who are able to pursue and realize their dreams as becoming a reality. Thank you for believing in all of us. Thank you for believing in me.

**Rebecca (Vance) Chapman
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Seeking photos for Cultural Center

We are looking for a variety of photographs to include in one of the films in the new Choctaw Nation Cultural Center. These can be photographs of all types:

- Portraits
- Family gatherings and special events
- Older photographs of people or places in the past
- Photos of artwork, crafts, dancing, stickball, etc.

Please send digital files to:
judy@monadnock.org

Or, mail originals to (they will be scanned and returned):

Judy Stern, Monadnock Media
59 North Street
Hatfield, MA 01038

Questions? Please contact Judy Stern at judy@monadnock.org or 413-247-6447. Thank you!

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Read the Biskinik online at
CHOCTAWNATION.COM/NEWS



**Biskinik
Announcement Guidelines**

We accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 and above. Couples may send announcements of silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries. We do not post wedding announcements.

News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer's full name and city will be published.

All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.

Mail to: Biskinik
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

*Gary Batton
Chief* *Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief*

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



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Brad Gernand, Senior Director
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P.O. Box 1210
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email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for space, proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be type-written and double-spaced. You must include an address and phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive. Items are printed in the order received. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK or your address needs to be changed, our Circulation Department would appreciate hearing from you at ext. 2116.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Circulation is monthly. Deadline for articles and photographs to be submitted is the first day of each month to run in the following month.

Editor's note: Views and opinions in reader-submitted articles are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.

Saturday, October 5, 2019

In celebration of 50 years serving youth of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, we are inviting all past campers and families to join us.

For information and to make reservations:
Web: bbbcamp.org Email: jerry@bbbcamp.org
Phone: 580-212-1839

**PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

**Choctaw Nation of OK
Child Care
Assistance Program**

The Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program will conduct a public hearing on **August 23, 2019 at 9 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance office located at 1802 Chukka Hina Dr. Durant, OK in Room 2210**

Child Care Providers, parents, and the public are invited to attend the hearing, or may forward comments or questions to:

**Choctaw Nation
Child Care Assistance
Program**


**ATTN: Monona Dill,
Director
P. O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
800 522 6170 or
580-924-8280 X 2391**

**THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
Schedule of Net Assets (Unaudited)
As of March 31, 2019**

	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,617,695,114	405,123,534	2,022,818,647
Receivables	221,996,018	36,212,062	258,208,080
Inventory	3,960,894	21,190,741	25,151,636
Prepaid Expenses	8,139,381	7,796,038	15,935,419
Other Assets	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	852,573,731	713,905,863	1,566,479,594
Less Payables	(285,618,921)	(93,472,930)	(379,091,851)
Net Assets	2,418,746,218	1,090,755,307	3,509,501,525

**Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures (Unaudited)
For the Six Months Ended March 31, 2019**

	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	213,931,508	583,146,557	797,078,065
Expenditures			
General Government	72,729,143	-	72,729,143
Health	139,410,207	-	139,410,207
Education	21,537,256	-	21,537,256
Human	34,725,409	-	34,725,409
Community	19,352,110	-	19,352,110
Cultural	6,102,334	-	6,102,334
Judiciary	1,669,300	-	1,669,300
Internal Service	21,022,834	-	21,022,834
Choctaw Businesses	-	392,348,343	392,348,343
Total Expenditures	316,548,593	392,348,343	708,896,937
Transfers	23,547,493	(23,547,493)	-
Increase in Net Assets	(79,069,592)	167,250,721	88,181,129
Beginning Net Assets	2,497,815,810	923,504,586	3,421,320,396
Ending Net Assets	2,418,746,218	1,090,755,307	3,509,501,525




**RENTAL
EDUCATION**

Giving tribal members the necessary skills to become successful renters and potential homeowners.

Dates and cities available:
August 2.....Atoka/Coalgate
August 9.....Antlers
August 16.....Broken Bow/Idabel
September 13.....Stigler
September 20.....Krebs
September 27.....Durant

To enroll, email:
HousingEducation@ChoctawNation.com

Stay Connected
CHOCTAWNATION.COM



**Southeastern Oklahoma
Indian Credit Association
& Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund**

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. The Choctaw Revolving Loan Program offers micro-loans, available for emergency home improvements and small businesses.


For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2161, ext. 2158 or toll-free (800) 522-6170.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association Loan
To Be Eligible to Apply:
- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe

Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund
To Be Eligible to Apply:
- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from the Choctaw Nation

If you are interested in applying for a loan a representative will be available at the:

**McAlester Community Center
August 16, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



BACK to SCHOOL

August is back-to-school time. The Choctaw Nation has several programs that can assist with enhancing the experience for students from Kindergarten through high school and beyond. Please log on to <http://choctawnation.com> for more information on tribal services for students, including post-secondary and career development.

The Choctaw Nation offers a variety of programs for students from Kindergarten through high school and beyond.

Visit <http://www.choctawnation.com> or call 800.522.6170 for more information.



JOHNSON-O'MALLEY (JOM)

The JOM program was created as a result of the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934 to meet the specialized and unique educational needs of eligible tribal students, including programs supplemental to the regular school program.

JOM provides a per-student allocation to participating schools to help improve the educational experience for federally recognized tribal students age 3 to grade 12. JOM funding can be used to provide cultural activities, technology, school supplies, testing and club fees, cultural field trips, caps and gowns, and many other needs. It cannot be used for personalized items like class rings or letter jackets.

Parents can confirm with the school that their child is enrolled in the JOM program and find out when and where the school will be having the JOM meetings.

It is beneficial for parents to be involved and stay informed. Try to attend your school's JOM parent meetings and if interested, you can also try to be a part of the JOM Parent Committee. Each school allocates its JOM budget based on a needs assessment from the parents/guardians. The more participation a JOM program sees from the parents/guardians, the more accurately they can meet the educational needs of their JOM students.

STUDENT SCHOOL & ACTIVITY FUND

The Student School & Activity Fund (SSAF) offers an annual \$100 grant to purchase school supplies and clothing for Choctaw students possessing a tribal membership card.

The Student School and Activity Fund application is now available through the Chahta Achvffa Member Portal. It can be

accessed by logging on <https://www.choctawnation.com/student-school-and-activity-fund-ssaf>.

You may also return the application in the mail, by fax, or by email.

The application period began July 1 and will close May 1, 2020.

Students must be enrolled at an accredited school or daycare in order to receive funds. Home school students are also eligible to receive the grant.

Students must be at least 3 years old at the time an application is submitted. High school seniors cannot apply after their graduation date. If your high school student is 19 or older at the time of application submission, please mail a paper application and attach a document verifying that your student is still enrolled in high school.

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

Students, especially those who may become the first in their families to go into higher education, need to start planning early for college with the help of the Educational Talent Search program. Students as early as the sixth grade will be provided with educational information and encouragement as they begin to prepare for college.

The program identifies and serves students attending specific target-area middle schools and high schools who are in grades 6-12 who meet the eligibility guidelines (first generation and/or economically disadvantaged), and who have been identified as having the potential to succeed in college.

Students are encouraged to have high expectations, to stay in school, to study hard, and to take the right courses to get ready for college. Services may also include academic counseling, college and financial aid information, ACT preparation, college campus visits, and career exploration.

The program encourages students to graduate from high school and enroll in a college of their choice.

For an application, call 800-522-6170 or visit with your school counselor.

STAR

The Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) program is an educational incentive program that began in the Fall of 2007 and continues to grow rapidly. It currently serves 20,000 students in 48 states and six foreign nations. The mission of the program is to encourage and improve the academic success of Choctaw students.

As our students excel in school, the Choctaw Nation wants to make sure they are rewarded. Choctaw members who are currently enrolled in second through 12th grades are eligible to join the STAR program.

Incentives are given at the end of each semester for:

- All A's: \$25 gift card
- All A's and B's: \$10 gift card
- Perfect attendance: \$25 gift card

Students have until Sept. 1 to turn in their 2019 spring semester report cards and attendance records to obtain their rewards cards. To sign up for STAR or to learn more, call STAR Program Manager Ashley James at 800-522-6170 ext. 2573.

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB)

The Youth Advisory Board empowers youth to become leaders with a servant attitude toward others. The program utilizes a leadership curriculum that develops within the student positive change to reach their full potential through creative thinking, presentation, planning and team building to foster success as leaders of tomorrow. Students are inspired to use their service-leadership skills through community service projects to promote positive change within our communities.

YAB is available to eighth- through 12th-grade students who live within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

PATHS

The overarching goal of Pipeline for Advanced Training in Health Sciences Academy (PATHS) is to increase the number of minority students in southeastern Oklahoma who enter health career pathways, which lead to successful employment in health care professions and result in more minority health professionals in the region, engendering both economic and social prosperity within these minority populations.

The Choctaw Nation has partnered with Kiamichi Technology Centers (KTC) to bring a training program to high school students geared toward a future in the medical field.



Jarecki entering PhD program

Quinn Jarecki graduated magna cum laude, earning a Bachelor of Science in Optical Sciences and Engineering with a Minor in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Music in French Horn Performance.

He will be continuing directly to a PhD program at the University of Arizona, studying optical science.

Quinn worked as an instructor for the Rincon/University High School Marching Band, was a member in the University of Arizona Student Optics Chapter, and served as an officer in the STEM outreach club, CATalyst. He performed undergraduate research in the Polarization Laboratory at the Wyant College of Optical Sciences where he supported efforts using Mueller-matrix imaging polarimeters and the development of the Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols project with NASA'S Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Additionally, he interned at Airy Optics Inc. where he tested in-development software and helped to improve software usability. In his final year, Quinn was team lead for his interdisciplinary engineering capstone project, where his team constructed a novel division of amplitude polarimeter.

Broome earns bachelor's degree in astrophysics



Madelyn Broome graduated cum laude, earning a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from Princeton.

Madelyn will continue her studies in astrophysics and is headed to the University of Cambridge in England this coming fall to begin the pursuit of her PhD by first earning a 1-year Master's degree before returning to the states to attend the University of California at Santa Cruz for her doctoral degree.

As an active leader during her years at Princeton, Madelyn co-founded and presided over the university's Undergraduate Women in Physics, wrote for and served as editor-in-chief of Princeton's general-audience science publication: Innovation Journal of Science and Technology, and volunteered as a communication and outreach/science education ambassador for the Council on Science and Technology at Princeton. She was the only undergraduate invited to speak about her research at the She-Roars Princeton alumnae conference this past spring and is working toward publishing her research discoveries from both her summer internship at ALMA in Chile's Atacama Desert and her senior thesis work this past year.

Phillips graduates Fresno State University



Braden Phillips graduated Fresno State University in Fresno, California with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business on May 17. She also has an associate's degree in animal science.

Braden said that she is very thankful for the support of the Choctaw Nation and appreciates the financial aid she received. She hopes to one day move to Oklahoma and give back to the Choctaw Nation.

Sampson receives doctorate



Aaron Lee Kasey Sampson, PhD, son of Kenneth Sampson of Chickasha and Zora Lobaugh Sampson of Pauls Valley, grandson of Imogene Gay Garland Lobaugh, completed his doctoral research and successfully defended his thesis on May 13. He has earned the degree Doctor of Philosophy of Neurosciences from the University of California San Diego. His research under Professor

Terrence J. Sejnowski focused on analyzing brain states using advanced signal processing techniques and resulted in several published papers. During his graduate studies, Aaron also served as the Chair of the American Indian Graduate Student Association at UC San Diego. Aaron will be moving to the Johns Hopkins University, a postdoctoral fellow with Professor Ernst Niebur.

Sammons receives nursing award

Diane (Boydston) Sammons was awarded the 2019 Julie L. Bonner Nurse Award during the "Annual Child Abuse Prevention Awards Ceremony and Reception" on April 9 in the Great Room of the Oklahoma Judicial Center. This award recognizes an individual who empowers parents to care for themselves while creating safe, healthy, nurturing relationships and environments for children.

Sammons grew up in the Oklahoma City area and attended the University of Oklahoma. After



raising her family, she returned to complete her studies at Oklahoma State University-OKC, where she graduated in 1992 with

a degree in nursing.

Sammons worked for approximately nine years as a NICU nurse for Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. In 2001, she transferred to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Children's First program, where she was promoted to supervisor in 2010. After many years of compassionate and selfless service, she will retire this August.

Sammons and her husband David have been married 47 years and have five children and 10 grandchildren.

Choctaw Nation
Higher Education

COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

CCAAPPLICATION.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

The Choctaw Nation offers a one-time college clothing allowance to Choctaw tribal members throughout the United States who are currently attending an accredited college or university. Students must be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The application is open
June 1 - September 1

Qualifying applicants will receive a Visa card to purchase college clothing. The card can only be used at retailers that sell clothing. It will be declined at ATMs, gas stations, restaurants, and movie theaters.

800-522-6170 ext 4240 or 4241
CHOCTAWNATION.COM

JONES ACADEMY

COME JOIN US THIS FALL!

Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2019 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost free to families. Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st – 12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post-Secondary Preparation
- Vo-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and other Services Provided

- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Sports Programs for all Ages
- Robotics and STEAM/Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math Programs
- Award winning Agriculture Program
- Scenic 540-Acre Campus in Oklahoma's Ouachita Mountain Range

Click on the link to access the 2019 Applications:
<http://jonesacademy.org/20192020JAAdmissionApplication.pdf>

Please call for a tour @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or write to:
Jones Academy 909 Jones Academy Road, Hartshorne, OK 74547

EMPOWERING NATIVE YOUTH WITH THE WARRIOR SPIRIT

Start good hydration habits at an early age

By Chris Jennings

With the summer heat at full strength, knowing how to stay hydrated is an important part of enjoying the outdoors.

Thirst is not always an indicator of dehydration, so it's not as simple as waiting until you're thirsty to take a drink. To stay safe, it's important to drink plenty of fluids before going outside or attending outdoor activities.

Some of the short-term effects of severe dehydration can be diarrhea, vomiting and fever. Dehydration can also lead to longer-lasting medical problems such as seizures, kidney or liver failure and kidney stones.

With these more serious long-term effects of dehydration, it's especially important to keep children hydrated. Often, they can get dehydrated without knowing it, especially playing games or even swimming.

Creating habits at an early age is important. Choctaw Nation WIC Nutrition Coordinator Lauren Wren said, "Get children into a schedule with staying hydrated and knowing when they need to take breaks." Getting them accustomed to drinking, regardless of thirst, will stick with them as they grow up.

When asked how parents could help their kids develop these good habits, Wren said, "The biggest is be the influencer; children watch parents and making your own habit of drinking water will be a proactive step for your child."

Wren gave some additional tips to help parents



Photo by Chris Jennings

Several water stops are posted along the Trail of Tears walk in June to help keep participants hydrated.

ensure their kids are hydrated. "Encourage children to drink water before activities, offer water at mealtimes and snacks, give fresh fruit or veggies as snacks and make sure there are breaks during vigorous activities for fluid replenishment," said Wren.

Water isn't the only way to stay hydrated. Smoothies, milk and fruit juice can also be used to replace fluids lost through sweat. Many fruits, such as watermelon and grapes, are a good rehydrating snack.

Besides keeping yourself hydrated, it's also important to make sure your pets are properly hydrated. Keeping fresh water available for them at all times will keep them healthy and happy.

Summertime is a prime time to spend outdoors. Staying hydrated will ensure it remains enjoyable for everyone.

Takkon (Peach) Sorbet

- 5 medium-size ripe peaches (approx. 4 cups)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup vanilla almond milk
- 2 teaspoons lime juice

Preparation

1. Remove pits from peaches and dice into 1" cubes. Place in bag and freeze for six hours.
2. Remove from freezer and place in food processor or blender.
3. Add honey, almond milk and lime juice to blender, and blend until smooth.
4. Transfer blended mixture to metal loaf pan, and smooth the top with a spatula.
5. Freeze for at least five hours.
6. Let sit for 10 minutes before serving.

Nutrition Facts:

Servings: 4, Calories: 145, Trans Fat: 4.1 grams, Cholesterol: 0 milligrams, Sodium: 7 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates: 27 grams, Dietary Fiber: 3.2 grams, Sugars: 26.6 grams, Protein: 2.1 grams

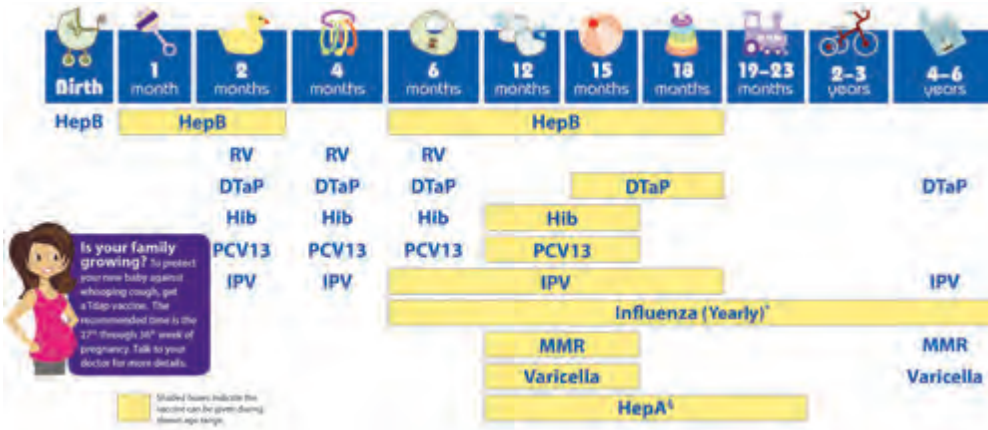


Recommended immunizations through 6 years old

August is National Immunization Awareness month. According to the CDC there are 14 vaccine-preventable diseases that can protect children from before the age of two.

Some of those diseases are chickenpox, measles, mumps, polio and the flu.

For more information on immunizations visit the nearest Choctaw Nation clinic.



NURSERY NEWS



Milo Jase Ryan Mitchell was born June 3, 2019, to Shoshana Mitchell. He weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 17 1/2 inches long.

He is the grandson of Jackie and Lisa Mitchell; great-grandson of Norris Samuels and the late Brenda Joyce Taylor Samuels, J. Keith Qualls, Johnny and Teri Mitchell; great-great-grandson of Carolyn Dollins, the late Jack Dollins, Tony Mitchell, Howard Taylor and Joan M. Jim.



Landis Sky Love was born on April 9, 2019, in North Bend, Orww. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21 1/2 inches long. Landis was welcomed into the world by his parents Nicholas Love and Taylor (Hochderffer) Brown.

Enjoy Full WIC Services and See If Your Child Qualifies for SoonerCare

August Mobile Unit Schedule

- 1st Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 6th Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 7th Boswell - across from Pushmataha Family Clinic
- 8th Clayton - Country Market
- 13th Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 15th Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 20th Clayton - across from Pushmataha Family Clinic
- 21st Coalgate - Choctaw Nation Community Center
- 22nd Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 27th Heavener - CV's Grocery
- 29th Heavener - CV's Grocery

For More Information Call (580) 380-3628

Free backpack with every approved Connecting Kids to Coverage application.



Marceli Shutik Goins was born June 2, 2019, in Durant. She was 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and 18 inches long. She is the daughter of Billy J. Goins III and Brianna Phillips of Silo. Grandparents are Billy and Monica Goins of Silo and Brant and Karen Phillips of Mead.

Are Virtual Medical Visits for you?

Virtual Medical Visit services enables healthcare access to patients who are not able to travel to the provider for specific, non-life threatening, injuries or illnesses.

The service is a video appointment with a healthcare provider; that is available to patients with specific symptoms. Patients may have 3 virtual visits within a 30 day period, then must physically see a provider.

Eligibility

To qualify for a virtual medical visit, patient must:

- Be a CDIB holder and have a current Consent to Treat on file.
- Live in Oklahoma and be age five (5) years or older.
- Have an active chart at any Choctaw Nation Health Services facility and have been seen within the last 12 months.



- To qualify for Virtual Medical Visits, you must meet eligibility requirements and have one of the approved symptoms:**
- allergies
 - poison ivy
 - sunburn
 - head lice
 - pink eye
 - insect bite(s)
 - cough/cold
 - yeast infection
 - cold sores
 - recurrent genital herpes

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please call (580) 916-9231 or visit us online at www.choctawnation.com/virtualvisits



Choctaw Nation Health Services

Living out the Chahhta Spirit FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE



Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon., Wed., Thur., & Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st Tue. of Every Month	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Tue. & Thur. (except for Battiest & Smithville days)	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Durant 580-916-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon. - Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-9707	Daily Mon. - Fri	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Mon., Wed., & Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
McAlester 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Poteau 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Smithville 580-244-3289	1st Thur. of Every Month	8:30 a.m - 4 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thur., & Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Mon. 7 Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mobile Clinic	Tues., Wed., & Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Building Healthy Families Through Good Nutrition

The sun can damage your skin in as little as 15 minutes. The CDC recommends a broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15.

Obituaries

Lathin Dale Payton



Lathin Dale "Buzzy" Payton, 69, passed away May 25, 2019.

Lathin was born Oct. 24, 1949, in Lubbock, Texas, to Lonnie Kevin and Betty Jo (Stewart) Payton.

He was preceded in death by his father; sister Linda Boland; brother Jimmy Payton; niece Heather Gilbert; father-in-law and mother-in-law Si and Frieda Tarbox; and sisters-in-law, Sharyl Patten and Shereatta Tarbox.

Lathin is survived by wife Jo Ellen Payton; mother Betty Payton; brother Billy and spouse Bettie Payton; sister Twila Heidelberg and spouse Steve; brother Don Payton; sisters-in-law Suzi Gannon and Debbie Fairchild; brothers-in-law Roy West and Gus Tarbox; special cousins David Payton, Bill Payton and Kim Payton; and other extended family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Copper Funeral Home.

Anna Grace Hicks

Anna Grace Hicks, 14, passed away April 18, 2019.

Anna was born Nov. 24, 2004, to Lori and John Hicks. She was preceded in death by grandfather Gary Miller and cousin Roger Halford.

Anna is survived by her parents; grandparents Martha Miller and Curtis and Patsy Hicks; brothers Adrian, Aaron and fiancé Brittney Daniel, Avery, Jesse, Peter, Luke, Jaxon and Jonah Hicks; sisters Tasha Jasper and spouse Matt, Miranda and fiancé Thang Mang, and Kittie Hicks; aunts Tammy Miller and spouse Jerry Jernigan, Judy Stan and Tonja Roberson; uncles James and spouse Jennifer, Joe, DJ and Austin Hicks; cousin Zoe Adair and numerous other cousins.

For the full obituary, please visit Gordon Funeral Home.

Jacob Snow Pierce

Jacob Snow Pierce, 18, passed away April 26, 2019.

He was born April 24, 2001, in Boswell, Oklahoma, to Preston Michael "Mike" Pierce and Toni (Christian).

Jacob is survived by his parents; brothers Patrick, Joseph, Jesse and Michael Bryan Pierce; sisters Amy Pierce and Corteney Starsick; maternal grandparents Mike Christian and Reney Christian; paternal grandparents Elmer and Martha Pierce; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and a host of other family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Miller and Miller Funeral Home.

Rachel Gatlin

Rachel Gatlin, 90, passed away May 31, 2019.

Rachel was born March 28, 1929, in Anadarko, Oklahoma to Tressie and Devenworth Bacon. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Lee Roy, D.G. and Harvey Bacon; sisters Hazel Gatlin and Maydene Davis; and husband Huey Gatlin.

Rachel is survived by sister AltaMae Glover; daughters Shirley Durban and spouse Jim, and Patricia Thompson; son Travis Gatlin and spouse Rossana; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and many loved and adored nieces and nephews.

For the full obituary, please visit Dignity Memorial.

William Lee Nale Jr.

William "Bill" Lee Nale Jr., 84, passed away April 18, 2019.

Bill was born Nov. 9, 1934, in Indianola, Oklahoma to William and Ethel Nale.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bill is survived by his children Melodee, William III, Bart, Susan, Grant and Tiffany; grandchildren Caleb, Heather, Kelsey, Katelyn, Stacie, William IV, Cheyenne, Griffin, Kellan and Rhys; and sisters Patricia and Jerry Ann.

For the full obituary, please visit Flower Mound Funeral Home.

Richard Kirk Southerland

Richard Kirk Southerland, 55, passed away May 5, 2019.

Richard was born Sept. 8, 1963, in Perryton, Texas, to Eldon James and Vivian Pauline Southerland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; brothers Jackie Eugene Southerland, Eldon Wayne Southerland and Adrian Leroy Southerland; and nephew Christopher Southerland.

Richard is survived by wife Sara Prihoda Southerland; sons Kurtis Southerland, Jacob Norrell, Zachary Norrell and Witten Southerland; daughters Shelby Southerland Guzman and spouse Ubaldo, Caitlin Norrell, Annabella Norrell, Hunter Southerland and Taylor Southerland; and grandchildren Kolton Southerland and Gabriela Guzman; brothers Paul and Joe Southerland; sister Kathy McMillan; mother-in-law and father-in-law, James and Carolyn Prihoda, and his wife's extended family; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; and extended children and grandchildren, including Greg Ibarra and Raul Olvera.

For the full obituary, please visit Biskinik.

Vivian Vanriette Guerra

Vivian Vanriette Guerra, 94, passed away April 19, 2019.

She was born Dec. 12, 1924, in Albion, Oklahoma, to Mamie Bryant Vanriette and Alexander Vanriette.

She is survived by daughter Deborah Anne Guerra; son Roy Guerra Jr. and spouse Natalia; grandson Gabriel Joseph Guerra and spouse Erika; two great-grandchildren; one brother; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Dignity Memorial.

Leonard Verlon Robison

Leonard Verlon Robison, 72, passed away April 21, 2019.

Leonard was born Oct. 22, 1946, in Durant, Oklahoma, to Leonard Clovis Robison and Jessie (Hamp-ton) Robison.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Susan Mustin; brother Mike Mustin and a cousin who was very special to him, Gary Robison.

Leonard is survived by wife Jeannette Robison; sons Clovis Robison, and Chad Robison and spouse Denise; daughter Jessie Robison; grandchildren Lillie Robison, Timmy Robison, Montana Dill, Emily Robison, Savannah Robison, Coby Robison, and Josie Robison; great-grandson Rane Garrett and his sister Lazette Lee; along with many other relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Miller and Miller Funeral Home.

Regina Lois Lopez

Regina Lois (Lewis) Lopez, 67, passed away May 19, 2019.

Regina was born April 1, 1952, to Winfred Jacob and Elsie Mae (Williams) Lewis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Janell Huff, Vera Kemp, Faye Foreman and Wilma Lewis; brothers Alex Lewis, Jerry Lewis and Javine Lewis; and grandson Jonathan.

Regina is survived by daughters Kimberly Willis (Daniel Shelton), Theresa White and spouse Clint, and Kaelyn Willis; sons Manuel and Wayne Lopez (Amanda Smith); sister Zelma Lanter; and grandchildren Colton, Michael, Kalina, Paiton, Tahini and Jase.

For the full obituary, please visit Hales Funeral Home.

Lorena Moses

Lorena Moses, 89, passed away March 30, 2019.

Lorena was born Aug. 17, 1929, in Seminole, Oklahoma, to Solomon and Vera McGilberry.

She was preceded in death by husband Robert; sister Eva Groce; son-in-law Larry Wittsell; grandson Adam Wittsell; and great-grandson Erick Wittsell.

Lorena is survived by siblings Stephen McGilberry, and Cheedle McGilberry and spouse Ginny; children Pat Meinberg and spouse Dave, Robin Wittsell, and Jackie Whitchurch and spouse Moe; grandchildren Brian Wittsell and spouse Jenn, Justin Meinberg and spouse Kulvir, Erick Wittsell and spouse Courtney, Brad Meinberg and spouse Jamie, Shelly Wittsell and spouse Ricky, Moe Whitchurch and spouse Azzurra, Scott Meinberg and spouse Melissa, Robbie Whitchurch and spouse René and Sarah Gramps and spouse Donald; great-grandchildren, Trenton, Kaya, Riley, Carly, Tate, Nolan and Avery Meinberg, Isaac, Lillian and Corey Wittsell, Riley and A.J. Kimbler, Rowdy, Racin and Anabelle Gramps, Cooper and Luca Whitchurch; and best friend Pat Hawkins.

For the full obituary, please visit Newton Bracewell Funeral Home.

Gordon Wooden

Gordon "Chuck" Wooden, 65, passed away May 2, 2019.

Chuck was born May 16, 1953, to Wayne Wooden and Jane Sweet.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and grandson Brendon Hill.

Chuck is survived by wife Brenda Wooden; sister Debra Merjil; brother D'Wayne Wooden; children Amy Hill and spouse Brent, Jason Wooden and spouse April, and Stacy Dillon and spouse James; grandchildren Sarah Sephus, Matthew Hill, Cory, Jason, and Addie Wooden, Luke and Logan Barr and Kennedy Dillon.

For the full obituary, please visit Buchanan Funeral Service.

James Smith Jr.

James Smith Jr., 66, passed away May 26, 2019.

James was born Aug. 3, 1952, in Clinton, Oklahoma, to James Smith Sr. and Rachel (Meeley) Smith.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Levester and Roger Smith; and sister Rosemary.

James is survived by wife Kathy Smith; son James Albert Smith; daughters Mona and Jenelle Smith; sisters Clare, Verna, and Esther; and six grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit Hunn, Jack and Merritt Funeral Home.

Jennifer Williston-Herrod

Jennifer Williston-Herrod, 42, passed away May 25, 2019.

Jennifer was born June 23, 1976, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Ronald Williston and Loretta Kaye (Thomas) Snyder.

She was preceded in death by husband Sheldon Herrod Sr.; and mother Loretta Kaye Snyder.

Jennifer is survived by father Ronald Williston; sons Jordan Williston, Sheldon Herrod Jr., Jasiah, Kaylem, and Noah Herrod; daughters Aspen Williston, Cienna O'Donnell and Aleah Herrod; brothers Allen Snyder, and Matthew Thomas and spouse Adrianna; sisters Michelle Williams and spouse Lonell, and Kayela Thomas; special sister Sharla Thomas; grandchildren Jaden Lane Williston and Jacob Johnson; paternal grandfather Ben Williston; uncle Don Williston; aunts Carolyn Jefferson, and Wanda Francis and spouse Anthony; special friend Martha Carmez; many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Brumley Funeral Home.

Fonzell Williams

Fonzell Williams, 92, passed away March 7, 2019.

Fonzell was born Jan. 30, 1927, to Joe and Willie Ann Daniels.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband Eddie Williams.

Fonzell is survived by daughter Loreta Ann Perry; grandchildren Gregory C. Perry and spouse Denise, and Jean Ann Ahrens; great-grandchildren Malia Ann Ahrens, Jarod Perry, Zach and Nic Perry; half sisters Barbara Rice and Madge Clogston and one half-brother Dean Derreberry.

For the full obituary, please visit Foster Petering Funeral Home.

Arville King

Arville King, 84, passed away May 11, 2019.

Arville was born May 18, 1934, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Gilbert and Minnie King.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son David King; brother R.G. King; sisters Lexie King and Gracie King.

Arville is survived by his children Rocky, Dale, Amy, and Randell King; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; brother Ulyss King; nephews G.W. Long, Rodney Wright and spouse Cynthia, and Larry Wright.

For the full obituary, please visit McCarn Funeral Service.

Thomas Bert Williams

Thomas Bert Williams, 78, passed away June 4, 2019.

Tom was born March 19, 1941, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, to Bert Woodrow and Myrtle Emily (Byington) Williams.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers John and Bobby Williams.

Tom is survived by wife Christine; sons Christopher Williams, John Williams and spouse Shelley; daughters Tammy Tirado and spouse John, Latisha Potter; sisters Minerva Louise Thompson and spouse Floyd, Ruth Ann Castor and spouse Tommy, Susan Roberts; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, other extended family and a host of friends.

For the full obituary, please visit Gordon Funeral Home.

Stephen Cartisano

Stephen "Steve" Anthony Cartisano, 63, passed away May 4, 2019.

Steve was born Aug. 15, 1955, to Anthony Cartisano and Bonnie Lou Coley.

He was preceded in death by his parents; adoptive parents Troy H. and Inez E (Akins) Harwell; in-laws Earl Enos "Buck" Jr. and Geneva Ann (Martin) Carr; sister Patti Campbell; and brother Kenneth Campbell.

Steve is survived by daughters Jennifer Sparlin and spouse Jason, Catherine Cartisano and fiancé Ross Thelen; sons David Cartisano and Daniel Cartisano; grandson Jack Sparlin; granddaughter Olivia Sparlin; wife Deborah Cartisano; brothers Marc and Chris Cartisano; and half siblings, nieces, nephews, extended family and beloved friends.

For the full obituary, please visit King and Sherwood Funeral Home.

Ramona Pierce

Ramona "Carol" Pierce, 77, passed away on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019.

Carol was born Jan. 6, 1942, to Tams and Vema Autry.

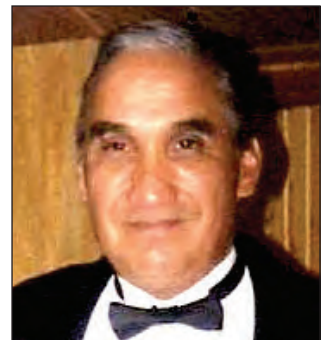
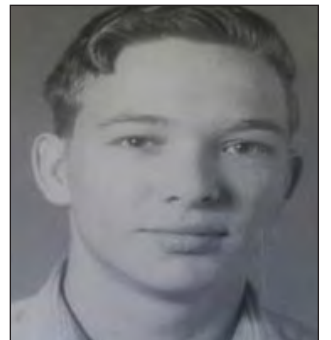
She was preceded in death by her parents.

Carol is survived by husband Albert Pierce; children Genevieve Kyle and Travis Pierce; sister Kay Autry Macgruder and their families.

For the full obituary, please visit Grimes Funeral Chapel.

Billy Joe Grant

Billy Joe Grant, 90, passed away July 9, 2019. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, at 2 p.m., at the Bill Grant Civic Center in Hugo, Oklahoma.





Congratulations to the 2019-20 Owa-Chita Princesses – Kayla Ward, Owa Chito Chahta Sr. Miss; Mekiah Carey, Owa Chito Chahta Jr. Miss, and Kristen Jefferson, Owa Chito Chahta Little Miss. The annual Kiamichi Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest was held June 21-22 at Beavers Bend State Park.

ITI FABVSSA

Takkon Hvshi: Peach month is bountiful time of the year

This article is part of a series entitled "A Year in the Life." Focusing on the time period around AD 1700, this series follows the traditional Choctaw calendar through a year, with each article providing a glimpse of the activities that our ancestors were up to during each month. This information is excerpted from a book, soon to be published by the Choctaw Nation, which is entitled "Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge."



Photo provided

For centuries, the diamond pattern has appeared on Choctaw basketry. These diamonds represent *sinthullo*, the supernatural snake, an animal known to English-speakers as the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

Takkon Hvshi, Peach Month in the Choctaw calendar, is roughly equivalent to August. This time of year brought continued heat and humidity, but also more opportunity for harvesting foods.

The month's name may refer to the peaches introduced into the Choctaw homeland by the Spanish in the 1500s. Conversely, it may refer to the old Choctaw name for native plums. Some varieties, such as the Mexican Plum, ripen in late summer. In the early 1700s, both plums and peaches were gathered from natural areas and from orchards planted between houses.

A number of other fruits ripened during this season as well. Choctaw communities gathered crabapples from August through September. Pawpaws were harvested in late summer. August is also when the grape harvesting season began. Grapes were harvested from vines growing between Choctaw houses, and also in areas outside the villages. Grapes harvested in the warm season which didn't get eaten quickly were stored by drying them into raisins on the stem.

Different Choctaw traditional foods are designed to take advantage of the corn at its varying stages of ripeness. By July, and especially August, much of the corn crop would be entering the roasting stage – where the kernels are starting to become firm, but are not yet fully dry. Roasting ears were bulk processed by harvesting and shucking them, digging a long trench in the ground, filling it with hot coals, suspending a pole of green wood lengthwise over the trench a short distance off the ground, and propping one end of the ears of corn against the pole to roast over the hot coal.

When one side of the ears roasted, they were carefully turned to roast the other side. Once cooled, the ears of roasted

corn could be eaten as they were. More often, the kernels were shucked from the ears and allowed to dry for storage.

Being roasted, these kernels would be easier to process into food than the later-harvested corn that would only be dried. Some of the kernels of roasted corn were prepared directly into special dishes, such as **bota kapvssa** (an instant cornmeal soup enjoyed by travelers).

Rather than roasting, however, most of the corn ears were left on the stalks through the month. These stalks were sometimes bent over, allowing the ears to dry in preparation for the main harvest, while giving them some protection from the weather and the birds.

The beans growing on vines too high to reach were left in their pods to dry in the late summer sun. Meanwhile, the maturing squash crop rested on the ground under the canopy of leaves.

Such a scene was not only bountiful to people, but also to hungry animals. For centuries, the diamond pattern has appeared on Choctaw basketry and pottery and, in later times, it would become a common decorative element on clothing and in beadwork.

These diamonds represent **sinthullo**, the supernatural snake, an animal known to English-speakers as the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. The Choctaw people respected this animal, not only for its lethality and because it gives a warning before it strikes, but also because it helped remove hungry rodents from agricultural fields.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

August Language Lesson

Names of Insects - Shoshi I Hohchifo

ant - shukvni	bee - foi	butterfly - hvtapushik
grasshopper - shakinli	house fly - chukani	mosquito - sapuntak
lightning bug - hvba/pvba moshli	spider - chulhkun	tick - shatvnni
wasp - chanvshik		

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shukvni i hinoshi ish pisa? | Do you see the ant's trail? |
| 2. Foi yvt napakanli ma aiyyasha. | The bees are all around the flower. |
| 3. Hvtapushik vt pisa achukma chiyyohmi. | The butterfly is very pretty. |
| 4. Shakinli yvt sigtobli tuk. | A grasshopper jumped on me. |
| 5. Chukani ma vbi! | Kill that fly! |
| 6. Sapuntak vt sa kopoli tuk. | A mosquito bit me. |
| 7. Ninak a hvba lawa ish pisa hinla. | You can see a lot of lightning bugs at night. |
| 8. Chulhkun vt ma anya. | There goes a spider. |
| 9. Shatvnni yvt a shulush lapanli. | A tick is on my shoe. |
| 10. Chanvshik vt ik chi nvhlo nna! | Don't let the wasp sting you! |

www.choctawschool.com

Community dinner held in District 1



Cooking up catfish for the Idabel dinner and sampling great cooking are Thearen Tolison, Richard Williston, Dean Winship, Lynn Williston, Holly Tolison, and Council Member Thomas Williston.



Photos by Lisa Reed

District 2 Senior Miss Kayla Ward hands a door prize for veterans to Walter Davis, who is also the District 1 senior citizens' fitness coordinator.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. visits with Keith Middleton and Jeff and Lee Harley at the District 1 community dinner.



Greyson Ashley, above, and his nephew, Daeton Holt, left, are thoroughly enjoying the catfish dinner and dessert at Idabel.



Chief Gary wBatton visits with young Jaz'Lynn Jefferson, during the community dinner in Idabel.

HINA HANTA

THE BRIGHT PATH

Explore the art and culture of the Chohta people online.

HINAHANTA.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Dolls | CM, 2017, 116, 1-p-6

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma ◀ TOGETHER WE'RE MORE ▶

GOING GREEN BOOTH

RECEIVE A T-SHIRT

WITH 25 ALUMINUM CANS OR PLASTIC BOTTLES

Friday - Sunday | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Ball Park entrance

Limited number of shirts available | 10 shirt per person limit

#CHAHTALABORDAY

Shop now at ChoctawStore.com

SHOP SMALL, GIFT BIG

HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY

Handcrafted Artisanal Pieces, Jewelry, Apparel, Books & CD's, Home Goods and Branded Items

STORE

Growth continues with more elder homes

By Chris Jennings

Choctaw tribal members, local officials and council members all came together to celebrate the opening of the latest Choctaw Nation Independent Elder Living community in Coalgate June 14.

With this latest addition of independent elder homes there are now 156 homes providing Choctaw elders with a nice, affordable place to live.

District 12 Council Member James Frazier said, "We vote and work as a team to get these things accomplished for the Choctaw people, it is amazing ... the growth that we're doing, it's because we work together."

This teamwork is having a long-lasting impact on tribal members.

Chief Gary Batton said, "You can start seeing our communities rise up again because we're starting to do housing. We're doing LEAP homes and independent elderly homes. We're doing economic development; all these initiatives are to provide those opportunities for tribal members to succeed and grow, and be self-sustaining."

Chief Batton also thanked the housing department for being creative and for the

long hours they put in to get these projects done for the tribal members.

Each home is 850 square feet with an attached carport and a covered front porch. The design includes one bedroom, a living area, bath, kitchen and safe room. The homes all come equipped with a new refrigerator, stove, washer and dryer.

Homes like these can make a big difference for elders. Leon Mathews, who was raised a few blocks from where the homes are in Coalgate said, "I'm disabled, on a limited income, so it [the elder homes] really helps you sustain a better way of life."

The homes not only provide the new tenants with a place to live, but also a built-in community. There are 10 homes and a community building, all next to each other at the one-block location.

During the opening ceremonies, Chief Batton asked, "What better way to support our elders than providing them a place to live?" In doing so, Batton said we sustain our culture and heritage for our tribe as a whole.

Eligibility for the homes is based on income and for tribal members 55 and up. For more information, please contact housing at 800-235-3087.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Jack Austin Jr., Council Member James Frazier, residents and other special guests cut the ribbon for the latest addition to the Choctaw Nation Independent Elder Housing community in Coalgate Friday, June 14.



Tulsa-area Choctaws enjoy afternoon of culture



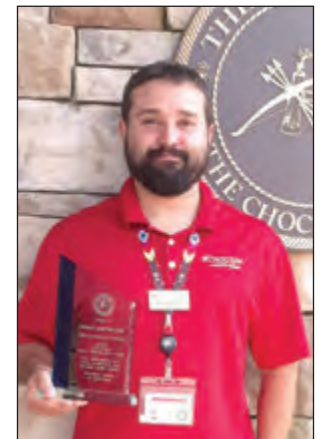
More than 400 Choctaw members attended the Choctaw Community Cultural Meeting June 15 in Tulsa. They enjoyed an afternoon of cultural activities and the opportunity

to connect with several program representatives, including Membership, Voter Registration, Housing and Storm Shelters, Education, Language, and Career Development.



Enjoy stopping for red lights

ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK, OK



Pictured above, Joe Fletcher, Commerce Division. At left, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Rocky Grant, Integrated Services Division; Allison Britton, Member Services Division; Tony Bryant, Legal & Compliance Division, and Chief Gary Batton.

Choctaw Nation Associates of the Quarter honored

The Choctaw Nation recognized its Associates of the Quarter on June 20 with an award ceremony and lunch. Nominations are solicited every three months for exemplary employees who have shown their enthusiasm and performance excellence in the workplace. Chosen as the Associates of the Quarter per division for Jan. 1 through

March 31 are Joe Fletcher, Country Market Retail Grocer Shift Supervisor, Commerce Division; Rocky Grant, Integrated Technology Architect, Integrated Services Division; Allison Britton, Director of Higher Education, Member Services Division, and Tony Bryant, Director of Probation, Legal & Compliance Division.

COME VISIT THE CHAHTA GRILL AT THE LABOR DAY LOCATION

FRIDAY/SATURDAY 7AM-9PM

SUNDAY 7AM-2PM

CHAHTA GRILL

2019 CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL AUG 30 - SEP 2

PRE-ORDERS July 1-August 19
Orders will not be taken after August 19

SIZES & COLORS
Youth | Royal Frost | S-L
Adult | Grey/Teal | S-5X

CHOCTAW STORE
CHOCTAWSTORE.COM | 580.296.2672

Annual summer camps sport new addition

By Christian Toews

The cafeteria in Tvshka Homma was buzzing with excited and tired athletes. Everyone was eating pizza after practicing baseball all morning. These athletes range in age from 8 to 18 and were from all over the Choctaw Nation. They were there for the baseball camp that is part of the Choctaw Nation's annual summer camps.

Every year the Choctaw Nation hosts around 2,000 athletes in a variety of sports and activities.

"The purpose of these camps is to further the education and abilities of these students and to have fun," said Javen Henson, director of Youth Events and Activities for the Choctaw Nation. The summer camps include cultural enrichment, golf, softball, baseball, stickball, football, wildlife conservation, basketball, and the newest addition, cheer.

According to the senior director of Youth Activities,

Kevin Gwin, cheer camp has been requested by students and parents.

"We weren't sure what the turnout would be like our first year, but we knew people wanted this camp. We think this is a great turnout for the first year," said Gwin.

A total of 129 students came to Tvshka Homma for the two-day camp.

Henson said they bring in coaches from all over the area to assist with the camp. The coaches work on skills with the students as well as mentor them.

"One of the best parts about having all these coaches here, is that the kids get a lot of information and ideas they may not normally get," she commented.

"We always try to bring in a very qualified staff that is great with kids, knows their sport, and just all-around good people who can be a light in these kids' lives while they're here for a couple of days...and just be good role

models."

Often the cost of similar sports camps prohibits some athletes from attending. Gwin said that he was very glad that, through these summer camps, they could provide access to great coaches and mentors for kids that might not have the opportunity otherwise.

Jon Garza was the lead cheer coach this year and seemed to enjoy the experience. "I love that we are providing this opportunity to the schools in the Nation because when I was growing up there weren't gyms or programs to develop skills and now we are able to give back to these kids," said Garza.

If you would like more information on summer camps or to register for the 2020 summer camps, visit <http://www.choctawsummercamps.com>. All registration for 2020 summer camps will be online only. Contact Kevin Gwin with any questions at: 580-924-8280, ext. 2517.



Photos by Christian Toews

Trace Ayers from Antlers takes his turn at batting practice during a baseball camp at Tvshka Homma.



From left, Jordan Lewis, Zarian Westbrooke and Courtney Walker demonstrate a cheer skill to students during the first day of cheer camp.

Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears (TOT) Bicycle Team

Rider Application 2020

Print and Mail Application or email to:
Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Bike Team
Attention: Teresa Eagle Road
One Choctaw Way
Talihina, Oklahoma 74571
tdeagleroad@cnhsa.com



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (County) _____ (Zip Code) _____

Age: _____ Male _____ Female _____ Email: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Work #: _____

Native American: Yes _____ No _____ (If yes, provide copy of Tribal Membership/CDIB)

Tribal Affiliation(s): _____

Application Deadline is September 30th

All Riders will be approved by the TOT Committee

Final TOT Roster will be emailed on November 30th.

Full Payment(s) of \$300 and/or fundraisers balance due within 60 days of acceptance

T-Shirt Size: _____ Jersey Size (XS-4XL): _____ Riders extra Jersey Cost (optional): \$60

Special needs required for the rider? _____

Riding: Years of Experience: _____ Longest Mileage completed to date: _____

I acknowledge that I am bound by the terms and conditions of this member agreement and must comply with the Choctaw Nation TOT's Team policies and procedures as they may be amended from time to time. I understand the Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Team sometimes makes agreements with third parties involving funding of activities. I understand that if I do work to which such a third party agreement pertains, I must abide by the agreement as it relates to me. I agree to cooperate with the Choctaw Nation TOT's policies, procedures and to confirm, establish or protect the rights of the Team, Choctaw Nation, or its designees. I grant full permission for the organizers to use video or photographs of me in the Biskinik or any other papers or promotional posters.

***If you cannot, for whatever reason, continue your application in good faith, you agree to resign, by letter, to the Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Bike Team.**

Attention: Teresa Eagle Road, One Choctaw Way, Talihina, Oklahoma 74571
tdeagleroad@cnhsa.com

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Parent or Guardian must sign if under 18 years)



Fast-Pitch Softball

Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1

Team Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Deadline: August 9, 2019. Mail entries to:
Hugo Community Center, Attn: Larry Wade, 1304 W. Victor, Hugo, OK 74743

THIRD ANNUAL REGION 8 AMAIRA RODEO

Durant Rodeo Arena at the Bryan County Fairgrounds
1901 South 9th Street / Durant, OK 74701

Saturday, August 24, 2019

10am Slack / 6:30pm Opening Ceremony / 7pm Performance

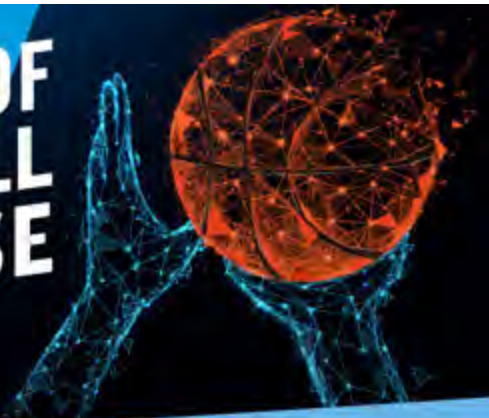
Call In August 18, 2019

5pm - 8pm / 918-772-6168



CHOCTAWCOUNTRY.COM

FUTURES OF BASKETBALL SHOWCASE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Bloomer Sullivan Gymnasium | Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Girls Showcase

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Boys Showcase

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 12:00 noon

- Competitive High School athletes currently in grades 9-12
- Tribal members must provide copy of Tribal Membership Card
- Lunch will be provided

Athletes will receive instruction and evaluation from regional college coaches

- To register, email the following to mclapp@choctawnation.com:
- Completed Player Profile & consent forms (attached)
 - Recent headshot photo (on player profile)
 - Copy of Choctaw Nation tribal membership card

Registration deadline: September 9, 2019

Choctaw Nation
Youth Events & Activities

800-522-6170 EXT. 2739
CHOCTAWNATION.COM/YOUTH-EVENTS-AND-ACTIVITIES

Labor Day Festival highlights family activities

The 2019 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival will feature new and exciting events. While the majority of the festival will resemble past years, the organizers are always looking for ways to enhance the experience of everyone attending. The festival will take place Aug. 29, through Sept. 2, at the Choctaw Nation Capitol in Tvshka Homma, located at Council House Road, Tuskahomma, OK 74574.

As in past years, the festival will have exciting and interesting events each day that will lead up to the State of the Nation address by Chief Gary Batton on the morning of Monday, Sept. 2.

The swearing-in of Chief Batton and the six council members who will start their four-year terms will also take place on Monday. A list of entertainers is below and the schedule of events can be found on Page 14.

The cafeteria will have an exciting new feature. The Chahta Grill that you know and love from our travel plazas and country markets will be featured in the cafeteria. Now you can enjoy all of your favorite Chahta Grill items without leaving the festival.

The festival will also include pre-registration for Child Safety Wrist Bands. These safety bands are being promoted to improve child safety and parents are encouraged to register all children (0-12 years old). Carnival rides at the Labor Day Festival will continue to be free of charge and unrestricted (dependent upon the safety restrictions related to child age/size of each ride) in 2019. You can find more information and pre-register your children online at the Labor Day page on the Choctaw Nation's website.

The Going Green recycling booth will once again be offering T-shirts to those who bring their recycling to its location

near the volleyball and horseshoes area in the Red Warrior Ball Park. One T-shirt will be exchanged for each 25 plastic bottles/aluminum cans in the Going Green tent which is listed on the map below.

The domino tournament and the checkers tournament will be held in the information tent this year. You can also see the location of the information tent on the map.

Every year the Labor Day 5k draws runners from all over. This year

the 5k will start at 7 a.m. at the Capitol Museum. Registration is open online and pre-registration will also be available on Friday afternoon for those who want to beat the Saturday morning crowd. Online registration can be completed at: <https://www.ok.enmotive.com/events/register/2019-choctaw-nation-labor-day-festival>.

The Choctaw Village will display traditional, historical and cultural life ways of the Choctaw people. Cultural experts will dis-

play, demonstrate, educate or offer hands-on experiences in their traditional art expertise. The traditional Choctaw food booth will offer a "sampling" of banana and tanchi lobona along with an opportunity to experience pounding corn on an authentic Choctaw "mortar and pestle" known as a "kittih."

Other "hands-on" cultural arts will include pottery, flint knapping, basketry, beadwork, rabbit stick throw and blow gun. Demonstrations and

sharing of knowledge with instruction will include dressmaking, stickball stick and ball making, and primitive weapons.

Participants will be invited to participate in on-going activities throughout the day in Choctaw social dancing, stickball skills, Choctaw hymn singing and language activity.

Children can participate in a fun, engaging Rabbit Stick Throw activity and in a robust, competitive Corn Game.

Choctaw Storytellers

will entertain with wit, wisdom and sharing of oral traditions.

Nearby, a traditional Choctaw hut will be built. to be completed with "mudding" the exterior with help from children and visitors.

Sunday afternoon activities on the Capitol lawn will consist of Choctaw social dancing beginning at 4 p.m. and stickball exhibition games at 5 p.m. for all ages.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate.



2019
CHOCTAW
 LABOR DAY
 FESTIVAL

FEATURED ENTERTAINERS

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 2

FRIDAY



TBA
Choctaw
Artist
 6:00pm



Neal
McCoy
 7:30pm



Jake
Owen
 9:30pm

SATURDAY



TBA
Choctaw
Artist
 6:00pm



Hunter
Hayes
 7:30pm



Kelsea
Ballerini
 9:30pm

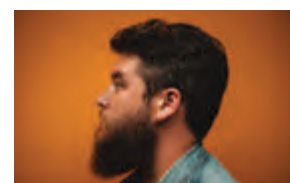
SUNDAY



The Dove Brothers
 5:30pm



The Martins
 6:30pm



Trevor McBane
 7:00pm



Jason Crabb
 8:00pm



Zach
Williams
 9:00pm

Free Admission to all concerts in the Amphitheatre. Program agenda, dates and times subject to change.

CHOCTAWNATION.COM

2019
CHOCTAW
 LABOR DAY
 FESTIVAL

Thursday, Aug. 29

8 am - 4:30 pm – Capitol Museum hours
 8 am - 4 pm – Museum Gift Shop hours
 8 am - 11 pm – RV Gate hours
 11:30 am - 6:30 pm – Ice House hours
 12 pm - 6 pm – Choctaw Store hours
 4 pm - 10 pm – Arts & Crafts Vendor check-in
 6 pm - 10 pm – Princess Pageant, Amphitheatre

Friday, Aug. 30

7 am - Midnight – Choctaw Store hours
 8 am - 3 pm – Capitol Museum hours & Museum Gift Shop hours
 8 am - 10 pm – Ice House hours
 8 am - 8 pm – RV Gate hours
 9 am - 3 pm – Youth Crafts, Playground
 9 am - 4 pm – Mobile Library, Playground
 9 am - 5 pm – Education Tent hours
 9 am - 11 am – Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament, Information Tent
 10 am - 4 pm – Going Green Tent hours
 10 am - 6 pm – Information Building hours
 10 am - 10 pm – Arts and Crafts Building hours
 10 am – Choctaw Social Dance Class, Capitol Lawn
 Noon - 5 pm – Quilt entries
 Noon - 6 pm – Information Tent hours
 Noon - 6 pm – CDIB/Membership hours
 Noon - 6 pm – Voter Registration hours
 Noon - 8 pm – Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
 2 pm – Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn
 2 pm - 4:00 pm – 5k registration, Capitol Museum
 5 pm – Registration for Chief's Youth Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers Lawn
 6 pm – Chief's Youth Physical Fitness Challenge
 6 pm – Choctaw Artist TBA, Amphitheatre
 6 pm – Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn
 6 pm - Midnight – Carnival
 7 pm – Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field
 7 pm – Pow Wow Grand Entry, Capitol Lawn
 7 pm – Fast-Pitch Tournament, Red Warrior Park
 7:30 pm – Neal McCoy, Amphitheatre
 9:30 pm – Jake Owen, Amphitheatre

Saturday, Aug. 31

6 am - 6:45 am – 5k registration, Capitol Museum
 7 am - 5k Race begins and ends at Capitol Museum
 7 am - Midnight – Choctaw Store hours
 8 am - 8 pm – RV Gate hours
 8 am – Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
 8 am – Fittest Choctaw Registration, Council Chambers Lawn
 8 am - 8:30 am – Co-Ed Volleyball Check-In
 8 am - 10 pm – Ice House hours
 8:30 am - 9:30 am – War Hoops, 3-on-3 Basketball Team Check-In
 9 am – Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament
 9 am – Horseshoe Tournament
 9 am – Fittest Choctaw, Council Lawn
 9 am - 3 pm – Youth Crafts, Playground
 9 am - 5 pm – Quilt Show
 9 am - 5 pm – Education Tent hours
 9:45 am – Terrapin Race Registration, Playground
 10 am – Choctaw War Hoops, 3-on-3 Tournament
 10 am - Noon – Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
 10 am - 2:15 pm – Choctaw Village Activities (see schedule)
 10 am - 4 pm – Going Green Tent hours
 10 am - 4 pm – Greenhouse Tours
 10 am - 5:30 pm – Museum Gift Shop hours
 10 am - 6 pm – Information Tent and Information Building hours
 10 am - 6 pm – Capitol Museum hours
 10 am - 6 pm – 16th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show, Museum
 10 am - 6 pm – Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
 10 am - 6 pm – CDIB/Membership hours
 10 am - 6 pm – Voter Registration hours
 10:30 am – Terrapin Races, Playground
 Noon - Midnight – Carnival

1 pm - 3 pm – Mobile Library, Playground
 3 pm - 5:30 pm – Community Language Presentations, Village Amphitheatre
 3 pm – Tough Tough Registration, Council Chambers Lawn
 4 pm – Tough Tough Contest, Council Chambers Lawn
 6 pm – Choctaw Artist TBA, Amphitheatre
 7 pm – Drawing at Healthy Living Expo
 7:30 pm – Hunter Hayes, Amphitheatre
 8 pm – Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field
 9:30 pm – Kelsea Ballerini, Amphitheatre

Sunday, Sept. 1

7 am - Midnight – Choctaw Store hours
 8 am - 10:00 am – National Choctaw Day of Prayer, Chapel
 8 am – Bow Shoot, Choctaw Village
 8 am – Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
 8 am - 10 pm – Ice House hours
 8:30 am – Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton
 9 am - 5 pm – Quilt Show
 10 am – Worship Services at Chapel
 10 am - 2 pm – Choctaw Village Activities (see schedule)
 10 am - 4 pm – Going Green Tent hours
 10 am - 6 pm – Information Building hours
 10 am - 8 pm – RV Gate hours
 Noon – Choctaw Village Activities (see schedule)
 Noon – Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheatre (for updates visit www.Choctawnation.com)
 Noon – Domino/Checker Tournament registration, Information Tent
 Noon - 2 pm – 16th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show, Museum
 Noon - 4 pm – Greenhouse Tours
 Noon - 4 pm – Museum Gift Shop hours
 Noon - 4:30 pm – Capitol Museum hours
 Noon - 6 pm – CDIB/Membership hours
 Noon - 6 pm – Voter Registration hours
 Noon - Midnight – Carnival
 1 pm – Domino/Checker Tournament, Information Tent
 1 pm – School Supply Pick-up, Education Tent (while supplies last)
 1 pm – Wristband Drawing, Education Tent
 1:30 pm – Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton
 1 pm - 3 pm – Mobile Library, Playground
 1 pm - 5 pm – Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
 1 pm - 5 pm – Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure checks, Health Tent
 1 pm - 5 pm – Children's Health Fair, Health Tent
 1:30 pm - 3 pm – Choctaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers
 2 pm - 4 pm – Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
 4 pm – Choctaw Dancers, Capitol Lawn
 5 pm – Stickball Exhibition, Capitol Lawn
 5:30 pm – The Dove Brothers, Amphitheatre
 6:30 pm – The Martins, Amphitheatre
 7 pm – Trevor McBane, Amphitheatre
 7 pm – Children's Stickball Exhibition, Stickball Field
 7 pm – Traditional Choctaw Hymn Singing, Chapel
 8 pm – Women's Stickball Exhibition, Stickball Field
 8 pm – Jason Crabb, Amphitheatre
 9 pm – Championship Stickball Game, Stickball Field
 9 pm – Zach Williams, Amphitheatre

Monday, Sept. 2

8 am - 10 am – Capitol Museum hours
 8 am - 10 am – Museum Gift Shop hours
 9 am - Noon – Quilt Show
 9 am - Noon – CDIB/Membership hours
 9 am - Noon – Voter Registration hours
 9 am - 2 pm – Choctaw Store hours
 9:30 pm – Cultural Activities, Amphitheatre
 10 am – Labor Day official ceremonies, Amphitheatre
 Opening Prayer
 Posting of Flags-Choctaw Nation Color Guard
 National Anthem
 Lord's Prayer in Sign Language-Choctaw Royalty, Brad Joe
 Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges
 Swearing-in of Chief and Council Members
 State of the Nation Address, Chief Gary Batton
 Door Prize Drawings
 11:30 am – Free Lunch for All, Cafeteria
 Noon – Pick up quilts from Quilt Show
 Noon - 3 pm – Carnival

Times and events subject to change.

Alcohol, drugs (to include medical marijuana), guns, and weapons are NOT permitted on the Festival grounds.
 Due to limited space, only ONE vehicle will be permitted per campsite. Additional vehicles must be parked in the General Parking area.
 All roadways must remain clear for emergency vehicles.
 Do not park in
 NO PARKING Zones
 VENDOR Parking Zones
 Reserved RV/Trailer Parking Zones
 Vehicles blocking roadways, RV/Trailers, or other vehicles subject to tow at the owner's expense.
 Pavilions are for PUBLIC use only.
 Tent campers are permitted one plug per tent.
 Campers may not use SPLITTERS in electrical outlets.
 All extension cords must be 12-gauge, less than 100', and not installed across roadways.
 UNAUTHORIZED GOLF CARTS and ATV'S ARE NOT ALLOWED IN FESTIVAL AREA.
 All personal Golf Carts/ATV's must remain in Camping areas.
 ALL drivers must have a valid driving license.
 Please use extreme caution and watch out for pedestrians.
 NO BOATS are allowed in the camping area
 NO PETS are allowed in the Festival area.
 Please be courteous and pick up after your pets.
 Tushka Homma Capitol Grounds is a No Drone Zone. Any use of a Drone (UAS) must be requested and authorized by the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department.

Choctaw Village

Saturday
 10:00 a.m. Social Dancing
 10:30 a.m. Stickball Skills
 10:30 a.m. Choctaw Hymns
 11:00 a.m. Storytelling
 11:30 a.m. Rabbit Stick Throw
 1:00 p.m. Stickball
 1:30 p.m. Language
 1:45 p.m. Corn Game
 2:15 p.m. Social Dancing
Sunday
 Noon Cultural Demonstrations
 1:00 p.m. Rabbit Stick Throw
 1:30 p.m. Storytelling
 2:00 p.m. Corn Game



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma ♦ TOGETHER WE'RE MORE ♦

AUGUST 2019

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Page 1:

Results of the July 13 Tribal Election.



Labor Day Festival information can be found throughout the paper, including the princess pageant contestants, map, schedule, and this year's entertainers.



Page 6:

Choctaw Nation programs that can enhance students' experiences as they go back to school.

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CHOCTAW NATION
21ST ANNUAL POW WOW

AUGUST 30, 2019

Gourd Dance: 2pm-5pm & 6pm
Grand Entry: 7pm

STAFF

Emcee – Tim Tallchief
ADs – Bill Takes Horse & Randy Frazier
Head Man – Larry Liles
Head Lady – Yonavea Hawkins
Head Gourd – Michael Tsotaddle
Southern Drum – Medicine Horse
Northern Drum – Ocese Band Singers
Color Guard – Choctaw Nation

CATEGORIES

Tiny Tots (6 & Under)

Preteens (7-12 Years)

1st - \$125; 2nd - \$100; 3rd - \$75

Boys (Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy)

Girls (Buckskin, Cloth, Jingle, Fancy)

Teens (13-18 Years)

1st - \$150; 2nd - \$125; 3rd - \$100

Boys (Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy)

Girls (Buckskin, Cloth, Jingle, Fancy)

Adults (19-49 Years)

Golden Age (50-64 Years) Combined

Senior Golden Age (65 & Older) Combined

1st - \$500; 2nd - \$400; 3rd - \$300; 4th - \$200; 5th - \$100

Men (Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy)

Women (Buckskin, Cloth, Jingle, Fancy)



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