



October 2017 Issue



New Royalty Crowned During the 2017-2018 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant

by KENDRA GERMANY

The Choctaw Nation 2017-18 Princesses were crowned Aug. 31 at the 2017-18 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. The 2017-18 princesses are Little Miss Mya Thomas from District 8, Junior Miss Jade Cossey from District 4 and Miss BreAnna Jefferson from District 7.

The pageant was host to many new contestants and continued the modern style of pageant production.

This year, there were 27 contestants, 11 in the Little Miss division, 10 in the Junior Miss division and six in the Miss division.

The pageant was streamed live with commercial breaks and live performances.

For this year’s pageant, Gena Timberman was the host of the night’s festivities. Timberman is the founder of the Luksi Group and former director of the American Indian Cultural Center Museum.

The Miss contestants took the stage first. Each gave their introductions; MC Gena Timberman gave their biographies and read their dress descriptions. The contestants were then asked randomly chosen questions. After answering the question the ladies performed their talent.

Talents ranged from traditional hymn singing to storytelling. Jerai Billy of District 10 told the story of how the possum got a large mouth, while other contestants like Deedra Tonihka of District 2 performed Choctaw Hymn #48.

The Junior Miss contestants took the stage after the Miss contestants were done with their performances. Many of these contestants sang as well, but Hailee Pitman of District 10 told the story of the Lone Hunter.

The Little Miss contestants were the last to walk the stage and they did not have a talent portion. When asked their onstage questions, each gave their answer confidently.

Little Miss Choctaw Nation Mya Thomas of Boswell is the 11-year-old daughter of Sammie Jo and Lynsey Thomas. Mya is in the sixth grade at Boswell Elementary. Mya is an Honor Roll student and excelled in math by reaching an eighth-grade level. She has been a National American Miss Oklahoma State finalist for the past four years. Mya placed third in modeling and being photogenic. She was invited to compete in the final in California. She likes to cook and sew clothes for her dolls. Mya likes to play outside and read. She enjoys spending time with her animals and is looking forward to college so she can be a veterinarian.

Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Madison Jade Cossey of Spiro is the 16-year-old daughter of Karla McGee. Jade is a sophomore at Spiro High School. She is the Spiro High School band clarinet section leader. Jade is a member of the 2017 Spiro track team. She likes playing stickball, traditional Choctaw dancing, singing, playing basketball, and running 5k’s. Jade also likes to volunteer at Choctaw Community Center events. She enjoys getting involved in cultural activities like Chahta singing, learning the Choctaw Language, beading, learning to sew dresses and making moccasins.

Miss Choctaw BreAnna Jefferson of Millerton is the 18-year-old daughter of JoAnna Jefferson. BreAnna is a 2017 graduate of Valliant High School. BreAnna was voted class favorite and has been accepted into OSU-IT Okmulgee, where she will major in nursing. BreAnna loves to sing, spend time with her family and learn new aspects of her Choctaw Heritage.

The exiting royalty for the Choctaw Nation is Little Miss Isabella Muncy, Junior Miss Savannah Herndon and Miss Karen Crosby. They will still be involved in the Choctaw culture, but will no longer represent the Nation as royalty.



(from left) Chief Gary Batton, Little Miss Mya Thomas of District 8, Miss Choctaw Nation BreAnna Jefferson of District 1, Junior Miss Jade Cossey of District 4 and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. pose for a photo after the 2017-2018 princess pageant. The new royalty will serve as ambassadors of the Choctaw Nation through the next year.



Mya Thomas of District 8 models her traditional wear during the 2017-18 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant.



BreAnna Jefferson of District 1 performs Choctaw Hymn #46.



Jade Cossey of District 4 was all smiles after being crowned 2017-18 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation.



(Left) Chief Gary Batton gives some words of encouragement to the contestants. (Right) A few of the 2017-2018 pageant contestants gather for a behind-the-scenes interview.



SPECIAL LABOR DAY EDITION

The October 2017 issue of the Biskinik is the Special Labor Day Festival issue. The October issue will not have Education, People You Know, Notes to the Nation, Obituaries, and other regular columns. Graduation announcements, obituaries, birthday announcements, wedding anniversaries, sports accomplishments, and other announcements and regular columns will resume in the November 2017 issue of the Biskinik.

State of the Nation Urges Members to Stay the Course

by CHARLES D. CLARK

Chief Gary Batton wrapped up a big event on a high note with his 2017 State of the Nation address at this year’s Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival. The State of the Nation is always a concluding highlight of the five-day event at Tvshka Homma, the historical Capitol Grounds of the Choctaw Nation. It opened this year Aug. 31 and closed on Labor Day morning, Sept. 4.

A crowd of thousands gathered at the amphitheater in Tvshka Homma to listen to the State of the Nation address. After introducing family, friends, the Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch, and several honored guests, he offered a remembrance of the late Councilman Ted Dosh.

Chief Batton’s presentation was filled with one success story after another. Last year, he cited examples of how 2017 would be a year of amazing growth for the

Choctaw Nation. His words proved to be honest, accurate and welcome.

“Everyone wants to know, where does the money come from?” Chief Batton said. He explained that the funds are from “tribal, federal and state” sources. Total income over the past fiscal year was \$744,200,000.

“State and federal dollars are shrinking,” Batton said. Meanwhile, tribal income is up 58 percent since 2014, showing steady growth and success.

“Where does the money go?” Chief Batton said, noting over \$504 million is put into services, over \$152 million is invested in growing businesses of the tribe, and over \$86 million is put into sustainability.

Employment for our Choctaw people is important, he said, pointing out the Tribal Council’s efforts in this area.

“The Job for the Day program has found work for 493 people,” Chief Batton said.

The Choctaw Nation will be building 120 new homes across the 10½ counties of southeastern Oklahoma. Rental residences will also be constructed in the coming year. Through another housing program, 470 eligible households will receive funds to rehab their existing homes.

Since 2016, 14 construction projects have been completed across the 10½-county service area of the Choctaw Nation. “Another 28 sites are under construction or in planning stages,” Chief Batton stated.

Photos of the various facilities appeared on screens as Chief Batton cited, “The Choctaw Nation Regional Health Clinic in Durant, Community Centers in Bethel/Battiest, Hugo, Talihina-Broken Bow. Head Starts in Atoka, Bethel/Battiest, Wright City-Antlers, Hugo, Poteau, Talihina.”

He also noted Choctaw Nation Day Cares, Head Starts, Food Distribution, Independent Elderly Housing, Wellness Centers, Choctaw Travel Plazas with Casinos, and the expansion of the Choctaw Casino Resort – Grant, which includes a Chili’s. Coming to Durant are the Choctaw Cultural Center, the Judicial Center and the



Chief Gary Batton introduced his family to the audience before giving the annual State of the Nation. After introducing his family on the stage, Chief Batton introduced his mother, sister and brother. His brother came from Kansas to be a part of the festivities.

new Choctaw Nation Headquarters.

After a sea of hands went up when he asked, “How many of you like to hunt and fish?” Chief Batton said, “Tribal members have been saved \$5,029,552 on over 18,000 Hunting and Fishing licenses.”

He then announced that the Choctaw Nation has recently helped the State of Oklahoma with the caretaking of nearby Lake Nanih Waiya. The assistance has been so successful that discussions are now underway for the Choctaw Nation to take full responsibility for the lake.

The Choctaw Vehicle Tags program has grown to 34,595 tags issued, resulting in total dollars reimbursed to tribal members of \$5,270,783 since 2015.

Also announced during the State of the Nation was the new Choctaw Veterans tag.

“We want to recognize our veterans with this Choctaw Veterans License Plate that will become available Jan. 1, 2018,” Chief Batton stated.

The importance of auditing, compliance, and ethics will continue to be a priority.

The Choctaw Nation is also developing a single identification card for members usable for all services. It has safety features for identity protection and becomes available Jan. 1, 2018.

“Faith, Family, Culture” is visible on many items produced by the Choctaw Nation. However, it is proving to be more than a statement, as the Tribal Council has put it into action.

In a nod to the faith of so many Choctaw members and their leadership, Chief Batton said, “While other governments are taking down symbols of Christianity, the Choctaw Nation erected our ‘Ten Commandments’ monument during our Trail of Tears Walk this past May.”

The topic of family was key in Chief Batton’s talk. In one of the biggest surprises of the day, he introduced “Lexi.” The little girl who had been at the

Members of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association were recognized for their efforts in passing state legislation to have county bridges named after America’s first Code Talkers, who served in World War I and WWII.

Touching on culture, Chief Batton then offered insights about the Choctaw delegation that attended the unveiling of “Kindred Spirits” in Cork, Ireland earlier this year. The 20-foot stainless steel sculpture is a “recognition of the gift from our ancestors.” The public art marks the ties between the Choctaw and the Irish people, a bond that began after the Choctaw donation to help save those starving during the Irish Famine in the early 1800s.

“Our act of generosity is part of their documented history and is taught in their schools,” Chief Batton



The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for 2017 are (front, from left) Jack Austin Sr., District 7; Ron Perry, District 5; James Frazier, District 12; Perry Thompson, District 8; (middle, from left) Bob Pate, District 11; Anthony Dillard, District 10; Jennifer Woods, District 6; Thomas Williston, District 1; (top, from left) James Dry, District 9; Delton Cox, District 4; Tony Ward, District 2; and Kenny Bryant, District 3.

heart of great controversy when her temporary foster parents in California refused to return her, was seated on the front row. She and her family traveled from their western state home to be at the Labor Day ceremony.

“Many of you are aware of the Indian Child Welfare case with Lexi,” Chief Batton said. Because of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Choctaw Children & Family Services, “Lexi was returned to her family, where her little sister was already living and has been legally adopted. I love this picture,” he said looking at the family photo splashed across all of the screens.

Chief ended his speech with words of hope for the future of the Choctaw Nation.

“In closing, I hope my presentation has given you a snapshot of how we are staying the course,” stated Chief Batton. “We are keeping our rich cultural history alive, protecting our sovereignty, providing opportunities, and keeping the tribe strong for our kids and grand kids.”

The annual ceremony also included the swearing in of six Tribal Council members.

Returning members who retained their seats were Delton Cox for District 4, Jack Austin Sr. for District 7; Anthony Dillard for District 10 and James Frazier for District 12. New faces sworn in were Jennifer Woods for District 6 and James Dry for District 9.

The entire State of the Nation was live-streamed and can be viewed at www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK.

Chief Gary Batton



Before the anthem was sang, Chief Gary Batton took a moment to recognize all of the Choctaw men and women who have served in the military.



Chief Gary Batton congratulates Lilliella Willis for being the oldest Choctaw woman present at the State of the Nation Address. She is 97 years old.



Chief Gary Batton congratulates John Hoosier for being the oldest Choctaw man present at the State of the Nation Address. Hoosier is 93 years old.

Choctaw Labor Day Festival Gets Better Every Year



Chief Gary Batton

Some people are saying the 2017 Labor Day Festival was one of our best ones ever. It was a very special event for certain, and we couldn't have put in a request for better weather.

Over the five days, Aug. 31 through Sept. 4, tens of thousands of people came to Tvshka Homma, the historic capital of the Chahta Nation, to share in our heritage, to enjoy our arts and crafts, and to gain knowledge about today's programs and services.

Each evening, more than 5,000 people enjoyed concerts that included country superstars Alabama and one of the world's hottest new Christian bands, For King and Country.

We also came together as Choctaw people, as friends, and as family to reminisce, share stories, and grow closer.

While we celebrated our good fortune in Tvshka Homma, we did not forget the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

That same weekend, after Jake Owen's performance at the Choctaw Casino & Resort-Durant, proceeds from the concert and vendors were collected for a \$70,000

donation to the Houston Food Bank.

The gesture was a reminder for many of the Choctaw aid sent to victims of the Irish Famine in the 1830s. We are still a giving people, and it was just one of the ways the Choctaw Nation is coming to the aid of those in need after the recent hurricanes.

The annual ceremony on Monday also saw the swearing in of Tribal Council members. After our recent elections, council members retaining their seats were Delton Cox for District 4; Jack Austin Sr. for District 7; Anthony Dillard for District 10; and James Frazier for District 12.

The election also brought two new members onto the Council, Jennifer Woods for District 6; and James Dry for District 9.

Labor Day is always a time I look forward to, because I get a chance to tell Choctaw people directly of our tribe's growth and prosperity.

This year's State of the Nation address had the theme "Stay the Course" for good reason. Last Labor Day, I had told you that 2017 was going to be a year of growth like none before in the Choctaw Nation.

I was glad to report that the leadership of the Tribal Council, and the hard work of our employees kept us on track. My recommendation in the year ahead is to "Stay the Course."

Everyone always wants to know, "Where does the money come from?" and "Where does the money go?"

As I explained, the funds are from "tribal, federal and state" sources. Total income over the past fiscal year was \$744,200,000.

While state and federal dollars are shrinking, it pleases me to say that tribal income is up 58 percent, showing steady growth and success.

This has allowed us to put over \$504 million into services for our Choctaw people; invest more than \$152 million into growing our tribal businesses; and put over \$86.5 million into sustainability.

We put more people to work full time, and the Job for the Day program has found work for 493 people.

The Choctaw Nation Housing will also be building 120 new homes across the 10½ counties of southeastern Oklahoma.

Rental residences will also be constructed in the coming year. Through another housing program, 470 eligible

households will receive funds to rehab their existing homes.

Since 2016, 14 construction projects have been completed across the 10½ county service area of the Choctaw Nation.

Another 28 sites are under construction, or in planning stages. The Choctaw Nation Regional Health Clinic in Durant, Community Centers in Bethel/Battiest, Hugo, Talihina-Broken Bow.

Head Starts in Atoka, Bethel/Battiest, Wright City-Antlers, Hugo, Poteau, and Talihina have opened, along with Choctaw Day Cares, a Food Distribution center, Independent Elderly Housing, Wellness Centers, Choctaw Travel Plazas with Casino Toos, and the Choctaw Resort & Casino expansion in Grant that includes a Chili's.

Coming in the future are the Choctaw Cultural Center, the Judicial Center and the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters, all in Durant.

I hope my report has given you a snapshot of how we are staying the course. We are keeping our rich cultural history alive, protecting our sovereignty, providing opportunities, and keeping the tribe strong for future generations.

If you were not able to be there, I would encourage you to visit the Choctaw Nation's YouTube site, ChoctawNationOK, and see the Labor Day Ceremony in its entirety.



by Lisa Reed

Hundreds of people gather around the Amphitheater in Tvshka Homma during the Labor Day Festival.

Pastor Olin Williams Teshuvah or Repentance



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

Aug. 21, 2017, was an eventful day across our land. A Great Solar Eclipse was running across America from Oregon to South Carolina.

The media informed people of the historic proportions of this event. Excitement for this event drew people into a massive state of curiosity. People drove to places where they could get a better view of the eclipse. Many babies born on that day were named "Eclipse." Entrepreneurs benefited from the sales of merchandise connected with the event.

Another event was happening at the same time. August 21 was also the first day of the Jewish season of Teshuvah, a 40-day season of repentance and return to God leading up to the Day of Atonement. There was no massive curiosity and media coverage of this event. 2nd Chronicles 7:14 reads, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." Our

land is covered with violence, hate, social protests, crimes, and other forms of immorality. This is an indication that we need a healing to return back to our state of social health.

Teshuvah means repentance. The word repent comes from two Greek words in the New Testament. The first word is Metamelomai. In layman's terms, this means a person regrets having been caught or sorry about a wrong he has committed. However if the same circumstance arise where he thinks he could get away with it, he would do it again. The second word is Metanoia. This means one is sorry and regret for the wrong he has done and takes a reversal into a different direction. So by definition, to truly repent means to "change one's mind or purpose." Godly repentance is turning from evil to good. It speaks of a complete reversal. A Godly repentance is to desert the wisdom and thinking of this world and embrace the truth of God. Secular repentance is turning from something to something. The Apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles, "That they should repent and turn to God." There are many false religions and philosophies so a person choosing any one of these can be basically heading in the same direction and just changing a degree or two.

2 Timothy Chapter 3 describes the status of a people who is "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Perhaps the folly of man is eclipsing the truth of God in our day.

BISKINIK

October 2017

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Page 1:

The Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival kicked off on Thursday, Aug. 31, with the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. When the night was over, new Chahta Royalty was crowned.

Biskinik Mission Statement: To serve as the source of information for Choctaw Nation tribal members by delivering community news through a variety of communication channels.

Stay Connected. ChoctawNation.com features access to information about tribal history, culture, news, services, government, businesses, applications and contacts. The Choctaw Nation's official publication, the BISKINIK, is available to tribal members by mail and archived editions are on ChoctawNation.com.

- www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma
- www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK
- www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK
- www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

ties. The teams behind the scenes delivered a great weekend.

Several of those teams, along with many volunteers prepared the grounds, assisted with traffic and parking, saw that the grounds were kept clean, recyclables were gathered, electricity and water kept flowing, ensured safety standards were maintained, and help was provided when needed. Those are many of the things we take for granted and I am very grateful for them all.

I have many great memories from the weekend. Chief Batton and I had the privilege to present a jacket to a softball legend on Friday night at the Red Warrior Park. Wayne Tisho was honored for 53 years of dedication to the game.

He is retiring after playing and then coaching with the same team and many players. Yakoke to you, Wayne, for your commitment and love of softball that you have shared with us through the years.

This year was the first to have Choctaw talent open the concerts on Friday and Saturday nights. They were great! Joni Morris took the stage Friday night and Jerry Tims rocked the night on Saturday—a great way to start the concert entertainment. I am so proud of them for stepping up to the challenge of opening before well-known entertainers. They delivered concerts equal to, if not better, than many we have had at Tvshka Homma before.

The Choctaw National Day of Prayer is held every year during the festival. It is an inspiration to hear the prayers and testimonies from the very young to our revered elders. This year, the Red River Prayer Network and the congregation at the chapel took up a special offering for victims of Hurricane Harvey. They gave from the heart to help the thousands who were in need. Since then we have had several teams and staff members deploy to assist with recovery of both Hurricane Harvey and Irma. Our prayers are with them and those who are faced with disaster.

The Chahta spirit was evident everywhere during the festival. And, now it is time to count down to next year's amazing event.



by Apryl Mock

(from left) Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Wayne Tisho and Chief Gary Batton share a laugh after Tisho was presented a jacket to honor his 53 years of dedication to softball at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

CHOCTAW VETERANS HUNT



REGISTER VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

On Veterans Day, five Choctaw Veterans will be drawn from eligible entries to win a **three-day whitetail deer hunt** at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge.

Contest registration begins Veterans Day, **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 10:00am**, at the Choctaw Nation Annual Veterans Ceremony in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.

Must be present to win. Subject to verification of CDIB and Veteran eligibility.

CHOCTAW
HUNTING LODGE

The Choctaw Hunting Lodge is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

WWW.CHOCTAWHUNTINGLODGE.COM

Travis Benes at 580-740-0040 or tenes@choctawnation.com

14th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show Winners

Best of Show

Paul King received the Best of Show award for his work “Chahta Phases.” The piece was completed with colored pencil and graphite on art board. On his website pk-artz.com, King says of the piece, “The skill level parallels the age level, young and experienced, as individuals preserve the Choctaw culture through an active, competitive and learning game which includes many levels of life-learning.”



Sculpture



(Left) Lyman Choate won first in the Sculpture category for his piece “Good Effort.” Second place went to Jane Semple Umsted for “Ha-Tchoo-Tuc-Knee/Snapping Turtle.” Third place went to Lyman Choate for “Little Brother.” Margaret Riley Santham received an Honorable Mention for her piece “Little Brother.”

Pottery



(clockwise from left) Edmon Perkins was awarded first in Pottery for his piece “Thumbprint Vessel.” The piece was made using the coiling technique. Chief Gary Batton admires Perkins’ work. Maudell Meshaya took second for “Lukfi Shoti” and third for “Lukfi Kotoba.” Margaret Riley Santham received an honorable mention for “How Possum Got His Tail” (not pictured.)



Basketry



Mary Jo Cook placed first in Basketry for her piece “SheNiYa’s Kishi,” a burden basket with tumpline. Second Place was awarded to Lizabeth Mitchell for “Storage Basket” and an Honorable Mention for “Double Weave Storage Basket.” Kay Jackson took third for “Rivercane Basket.”

Graphics



Debra Irvan was the recipient of the People’s Choice Award and first in the Graphics category for the second year in a row for her piece “Three Little Sisters.” Lauretta Newby Coker received second for “Like Her Mother Before Her.” J. Dylan Cavin received third for “A Girl and Her Nashoba.” Debra Irvan received an honorable mention for “The Harvest.”

Heritage Awards

Karen Clarkson received the first place Heritage Award for her work “Morning Prayers.” Clarkson belongs to the National Registry of Native American Artists and the Choctaw Nation Registry of Artists and tribal members. Second prize went to Candace Shanholtzer for “Break Time” and third was awarded to Lauretta Newby for “Anticipation.” Heritage Award pieces are chosen by the judges as specifically illustrating Choctaw Heritage, culture and philosophy.



Painting



Nancy Rhoades placed first in the Painting category for “Take My Hand” and second for “Back to the Grindstone.” Third was received by Candace Shanholtzer for “Minnie.” Charles E. Dye Jr. received an Honorable Mention for “My Brother.”

Jewelry



(clockwise from top left) Tia Carter won first for her jewelry piece titled “Choctaw Council House.” Jerry Lowman took second for “Turtle Scarf Pin and Earring Set.” Third place went to Chester Cowan for “100th Anniversary Code Talker Collar and Earring Set.” Deana Ward celebrates her Honorable Mention with son Hiloha Ward and friend Kay Jackson. Ward’s piece, “Brett Miko’s Medallion” is pictured at the far left.

Cultural



(Clockwise from top) Karen Braudrick received first in the Cultural category for her work “Bowl with Horn Spoon.” Tiajuana Cochnauer received an honorable mention for her quilt titled “2016 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Voting Districts.” Second place went to Shirley Lowman for “Princess Crown.” Third place was awarded to Laura Pickens for “Child’s Moccasins” (not pictured.)



5TH ANNUAL Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Sept. 9, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The Speaker, Secretary and Chaplain of the Tribal Council were elected.

Kenny Bryant is the new Speaker, Ron Perry was elected Secretary and Jennifer Woods was elected Chaplain.

Appointments for parliamentarian, secretary, sergeant-at-arms and two committees will be made during the October Tribal Council meeting.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Membership to the National Congress of American Indians.
- Authorized Chief to place property in Bryan County in Trust Status with the United States of America.
- Amended CB-105-97 and authorized Chief to place property in McCurtain County in Trust Status with the USA.
- Disposal of surplus capitol assets.
- Funding for acquisition and installation of wireless internet equipment.
- Application for the Behavioral Health Integration Initiative.
- Application for the Energy and Mineral Development Program—Solar Power.
- Application for the Energy and Mineral Development Program—Wind Power.
- Application for the Energy and Mineral Development Program—Waste to Energy.
- Funds and budget for the Native Asset Building Initiative.
- Funds and budget for the National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program.
- Funds and budget for the State-sponsored Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Funds and budget for the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Purpose Area 2.
- Funds and budget for the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Purpose Area 4.
- Funds and budget for the Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment, and Development Grant.
- Approved naming the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo, Oklahoma in honor of Choctaw Tribal Council Member Perry Thompson.
- Approved the FY2018 budgets for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Resolution of the Great Choctaw Nation endorsing the "Imagine Durant" organization.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills.

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available by appointment **ONLY** to provide assistance with simple legal documents free to all Choctaw members. Examples of matters that the attorney may be able to assist with:

- Family law (divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications

The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. At this time the legal department is not providing assistance with wills and probate. To make an appointment, or for any questions, contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

October Community Center Schedule	November Community Center Schedule
10-5 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-2 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-12 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-9 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-26 Wright: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-30 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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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 typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or 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.

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

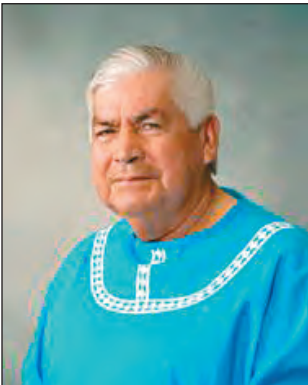
Circulation is monthly. Deadline for articles and photographs to be submitted is the first day of each month to run the following month.

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.



by Apryl Mock

Choctaw Nation Tribal Chief Justice David Buraage swore in six tribal council members on the last day of the Labor Day Festival, Monday, Sept. 4. (from left) Delton Cox, Jennifer Woods, Jack Austin, James Dry, James Frazier and Anthony Dillard took the Oath of Office and started their new four year term.



Photos by Deidre Elrod

(Clockwise from above)
Kenny Bryant, District 3, Speaker; Ron Perry, District 5, Secretary; and Jennifer Woods, District 6, Chaplain.



Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Pre-Homeownership Education

October

10-12 Idabel	10-20 Calera
10-19 Antlers	11-9 McAlester & Atoka

No Fees. All materials furnished. Pre-registration required.

Please contact Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 or arussell@ChoctawHousing.com to pre-register.

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Post Purchase Education Workshop

10-10 Broken Bow	11-14 Calera	12-12 Wilburton
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Pre-registration required.

Please contact Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 or arussell@ChoctawHousing.com to pre-register.

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is now accepting applications for the Lease Purchase (LEAP) Program

The LEAP Program is a new homeownership program opportunity for Choctaw Tribal members who meet program income and credit guidelines. The goal of this program is to assist families with credit issues to become mortgage ready and lender qualified over time with credit counseling services available.

For additional program information or for an application please contact Donna Courtwright at the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation at 1-800-235-3087

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation.

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

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the:

Bethel Community Center
October 23
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center October Health Fairs

Crowder
Wednesday, October 11

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted. This is the last Health Fair of 2017.

District 2 Senior Citizens Arts & Crafts Bazaar

October 14 and October 15

VENDORS NEEDED

Vendors are needed for the bazaar. If you are interested in being a vendor, contact Polly or Patty at (580) 236-0445.

Hartshorne Class of '72 Reunion

Saturday, October 14
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
520 S. Fifth St.
Hartshorne, Oklahoma

Classmates, friends and teachers are invited to the 45th reunion of the Class of 1972. The reunion will be held at the Hartshorne High School Cafeteria. The Hartshorne Alumni Association is looking for the following classmates: Frances Blanlot, Kenny Cable, Betty Deere, Jerry Francis, Pam Impson, Donald Kitchell, Linda Landsaw, Wilma McClure, Jim Oxford, Teresa Scott, Mike Two Gun and Imogene Walker.

If you know these people, please send their current address to: Hartshorne Alumni Association
P.O. Box 221
Hartshorne, Oklahoma 74547

Annual All Night Gospel Singing

Saturday, Oct. 28
First Indian Baptist Church
608 W. Tyler St.
McAlester, Oklahoma

Supper is at 5 p.m. With Convention Class Singing at 6 p.m. and Group Singing at 7 p.m.
The MC is Joe Coley. All solos, duets, trios, quartets, church choirs and listeners are welcome.

Nanah Chito United Methodist Annual Singing

Saturday, Oct. 28 from 7-11 p.m.
Four miles east of Wright City, Oklahoma

Concession stand available. MC is Henry Battiest Sr. Featured singers: ReDefine, McAlester; Battiest Boys, Broken Bow; The Johnsons, Durant; and Scrap Irons, Connerville. For more info: Mike Davis (580) 320-7985, Bernie Davis (580) 320-7984, or Henry Battiest (580) 306-7158.

Horton-Umber Family Reunion

Thursday, Nov. 23-Friday, Nov. 24
Memphis, Tennessee

Descendents of Ida Umber Dorsey, Joe Umber, or Bob Horton are invited to spend Thanksgiving celebrating their Choctaw history and meeting new relatives at the first ever Horton-Umber Family Reunion. Due to family members coming from Alaska, Texas, Michigan and everywhere in between, the reunion will be held in Memphis, Tennessee.

For more information please call or text:
Bernard Walker Jr. at (907) 631-1037
Ramsey Horton Jr. at (281) 638-0256

Chahta Anumpa Aikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Verb Conjugation

Choctaw verbs can be expanded in meaning by adding prefixes and suffixes. Practice these sentences.

Verb – nusi (sleep)

1. Ak – let me Ak nusi. - Let me sleep.
2. Ke/Kil – let us* Ke nusi. - Let us sleep.
3. kna – future tense Vla yvt musikma, ia la chi. - I will leave when the child goes to sleep.
4. chi – to cause or make Vlosi ya nusichi li tuk. - I put the baby to sleep.

Verb – pisa (to see)

1. Ak – let me Ak pisa. - Let me see.
2. Ke/Kil – let us* Ke pisa. - Let us see.
3. kna – future tense Ishki pisakma, na yukpa chi. - He/she will be happy when he/she sees his/her mother.
4. chi – to cause or make I shulush himona pisachi tuk. - He/she showed his/her new shoes. (cause to make see.)

Verb – apoksiachi (to repair, to adjust, to prepare)

1. Ak – let me Illimpa ak apoksiachi. - Let me prepare the food.
2. Ke/Kil – let us* Aboha kil apoksiachi. - Let's straighten up the room.
3. kna – future tense Pvla ish apoksiachikma, na pisa la hinla. - I could see (something), if you would fix the light.

* Ke precedes words beginning with a consonant and Kil precedes words beginning with vowels.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

November 2017

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Idabel by appointment
Phone: (580) 326-8304 Fax: (580) 326-0115 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Broken Bow by appt.	2	3 Wright City by appt.	4
5	6 Durant 8:00-4:30	7 Talihina 10:00-2:00	8 Antlers by appt.	9 Poteau 11:30-1:00	10	11
12	13	14 Idabel by appt.	15 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	16	17	18
19	20	21 Crowder by appt.	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Wilburton by appt.	29 Atoka & Coalgate by appt.	30		

Labor Day Stickball Tournament Full of Excitement

by STACY HUTTO

The 2017 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Tournament was full of excitement and action. Tvshka Homma, the official stickball team of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, got the tournament started on Friday, Sept. 1, when they took the field against Beaver Dam. Spirits were high and the drum beats loud as Tvshka Homma was escorted onto the field by the drummers, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., members of the Tribal Council and the new Choctaw Royalty.

The action was face-paced as Tvshka Homma put the first point on the board soon after the game started. When the final buzzer sounded, Tvshka Homma was on top with an 11-0 shut out.

The win advanced Tvshka Homma to the next round where they took to the field against Chickasha Toli later on Friday night.

After an intense battle on the field, Tvshka Homma could not get past Chickasha Toli. Tvshka Homma fought hard, but Chickasha Toli fought past Tvshka Homma's defense to win the game.

Tvshka Homma's next game was on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. against Koni Hata. Tvshka Homma played hard and came out on top with a win.

The last game of Saturday night was Tvshka Homma took the field against Pearl River. Due to a goal post needing repairs during the Chickasha Toli vs MBCI game prior to the last game, Tvshka Homma's game started late.

After a contentious game, Pearl River knocked Tvshka Homma out of the tournament

Pearl River would go on to meet MBCI on Sunday, Sept. 3, in the Championship game. Once again MBCI ended the Choctaw Nation Stickball Tournament as the championship team.



MBCI won the 2017 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Tournament Championship. The Mississippi team kept their win streak alive by winning the championship game. MBCI beat Beaver Dam in the final game 7 to 2.



Tvshka Homma's Josh Riley scoops up the ball before it goes out of bounds during the game against Beaver Dam during the first game of the tournament.



Beaver Dam took home second place in the 2017 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Tournament.



Team Tvshka Homma enters the field during the 2017 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Tournament.



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma team Tvshka Homma huddles up before taking the field.



A young Choctaw boy gets ready to throw the towa during the annual youth stickball exhibition game.



Jared Tom was honored on Sept. 2, for his dedication to Choctaw stickball, the youth league and team Tvshka Homma. Left to right: Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Jared Tom, Executive Director of Cultural Services, Sue Folsom and Team Tvshka Homma Coach Les Williston.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Katy Pickens, Kendra Germany, Kim Ebrel, Krislan Turner, Lisa Reed, Marcia Ragland, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan and Vonna Loper.



Known as the "heartbeat of the game," the side line drums are an important part of the game of stickball.



A group of Choctaw women get into a scrum during the women's exhibition.



Tyler McKinney, Dalton Gaines, and Andrew Amos pose for a picture before they take the field.



Chief Batton and other tribal members battle for the ball during a scrum in the 35 and over exhibition stickball game.



Tvshka Homma is led onto the field by drummers, Choctaw royalty, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and Councilmen James Dry of District 9 and Anthony Dillard of District 10.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. guards the goal post during the 35 and over exhibition game.



Tvshka Homma and Beaver Dam battle it out on the field.

**Don't have anyone to give your box tops to?
Here's how you can help!**

Each year, the Choctaw Nation will select a school district within the Nation to be the recipient of the Box Tops Program.

It's easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops!

It's simple: Buy the products; clip the Box Tops; drop off or send the Box Tops to the Choctaw Nation and help earn cash for things the school needs like: school supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.

Send to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Jerry Tomlinson
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Yakoke to all of the Biskinik Readers
for all of your Box Top contributions!

**You are making a
difference!**

For further information, contact Jerry Tomlinson at 580-924-8280 ext. 2904

Judicial Branch Seeking Peacemakers

The Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch is currently seeking Peacemakers to serve the Tribal District Court in an effort to resolve disputes in a fair, informal manner in accordance with the traditions of the Choctaw people. Applicants must be of good moral character, be familiar with the history and traditions of the Choctaw people, and proficient in oral and written communication.

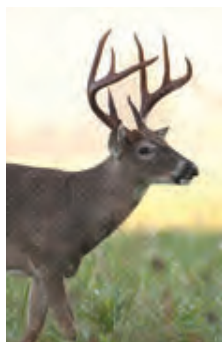
Interested applicants should contact Donna Heflin by phone at 918-567-4134 or email: dhelina@choctawnation.com.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Farmers Market & Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs

October is here and this is the final month that you will be able to redeem you farmers market checks with authorized area farmers. Farmers Market participants, please utilize the list that was given to you and cash your checks if you have not done so. The last date to use printed on the farmers` market checks is October 31 and you can use them through that day. Thank you all for your participation in the farmers market programs.

As always if you have any question or concerns, please contact the Choctaw Nation Farmers Market Coordinator at 580-916-9140 ext. 83812.

CHOCTAW VETERANS HUNT



REGISTER VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

On Veterans Day, five Choctaw Veterans will be drawn from eligible entries to win a **three-day whitetail deer hunt** at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge.

Contest registration begins Veterans Day, **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 10:00am**, at the Choctaw Nation Annual Veterans Ceremony in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.

Must be present to win. Subject to verification of CDIB and Veteran eligibility.

CHOCTAW
HUNTING LODGE

The Choctaw Hunting Lodge is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

WWW.CHOCTAWHUNTINGLODGE.COM

Travis Benes at 580-740-0040 or tbenes@choctawnation.com

Set Your GOAL. Own your Future.

Career-Prep Workshops

Career Development is hosting workshops to prepare you for our upcoming **JOB FAIRS** in **Idabel** and **Poteau** this November. Workshops include: Resume Development, Making a Positive Impression, Interviews and other related topics.

Join us for one of the following sessions:

Poteau

CASC Technical Occupational Bldg. - Room 500
Nov. 1, 12:00pm – 1:00pm OR 5:00pm – 6:00pm

■ Pre-register with Bryan Martin:

bmartin@choctawnation.com or 866-933-2260

Broken Bow

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center

Nov. 2, 11:30am – 12:30pm OR 5:30pm – 6:30pm

■ Pre-register with Becky Hilton

bhilton@choctawnation.com or 866-933-2260

Idabel

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Nov. 6, 11:30am – 12:30pm OR 5:30pm – 6:30pm

■ Pre-register with Becky Hilton

bhilton@choctawnation.com or 866-933-2260



Choctaw Nation Career Development
For More Information contact: 866-933-2260

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

**Tvshka Homma
Cafeteria**

Nov. 2

6:00 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Antlers: 400 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443

Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842

Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773

McAlester: 3244 Afullota Hina, (918) 420-5716

Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

November

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 10, 23, 24, 29 & 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 3 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 10, 23, 24, 29 & 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 8 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 10, 23, 24, 29 & 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 9 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCALESTER

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 10, 23, 24, 29 & 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 6 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 10, 23, 24, 29 & 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 13 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Shake
Out**

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut
Annual Multi-State Earthquake Drill

Tribes

At 10:19 a.m. on October 19, 2017, millions of people will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, the region's largest earthquake drill ever! All tribes are encouraged to participate in the drill (or plan a more extensive exercise).

Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you live, work, or travel. The ShakeOut is our chance to practice how to protect ourselves, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent a major earthquake from becoming a catastrophe for you, your organization, and your community.

Why is a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill important? To respond quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you.



Millions of people worldwide have participated in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills since 2008. The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is now held on the third Thursday of October each year.

Everyone can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, colleges, government agencies and organizations are all invited to register.

Register today at ShakeOut.org/centralus

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Here are a few suggestions for how all tribes can participate in the ShakeOut. Find more information at ShakeOut.org/centralus/howtoparticipate.

Plan Your Drill:

- Register at ShakeOut.org/centralus/register to be counted as participating, get email updates, and more.
- Download a Drill Broadcast recording from ShakeOut.org/centralus/drill/broadcast.
- Have a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill at 10:19 a.m. on October 19. You may also want to coordinate a more extensive exercise of your emergency plan.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Secure building contents with seismic restraints.
- Encourage employees to prepare at home.
- Be sure there are fresh, accessible supplies to support your personnel while they manage an event.
- Provide CERT training for employees.

Share the ShakeOut:

- Outreach to all stakeholders to encourage everyone to register, prepare and drill.
- Add a link to ShakeOut.org from your web site.
- Find posters, flyers, and other materials for promoting the ShakeOut are at ShakeOut.org/centralus/resources.
- Share photos and stories of your drill at Shakeout.org/centralus/share.



DROP!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

As a registered ShakeOut Participant you will:

- Learn what you can do to get prepared
- Receive ShakeOut news and other earthquake information
- Be counted in the largest earthquake drill ever
- Set an example that motivates others to participate

© 2017



WIC CHOCTAW Women, Infants and Children

Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Boswell 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Coalgate 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Durant 580-916-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – 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 Thurs. Every Month	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & 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	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Kids and kids at heart enjoyed the “Tornado” ride during the 2017 Tvshka Homma Labor Day Festival carnival.



Drake Cates rides the mechanical bull while friends watch from the audience. Cates said, “I was glad to see one of these. It was a lot of fun.”



Above: Jennika Kirby gets her face painted inside the Arts & Crafts Building during the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma. Right: Jennika shows off the finished design.



Left: Choctaws, young and old, enjoyed participating in the Choctaw social dances. People at the Choctaw Village and on the Capitol lawn were able to be a part of the traditional dances during the entire festival.



Candance Jewell, age 12, performs a back flip on the bungee trampoline provided at the 2017 Tvshka Homma Labor Day Festival.



Award-winning Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle entertained people at the Choctaw Village with his stories. He also told stories on Monday before the State of the Nation.



A crowd of people enjoy a ride on the Genesis during the free carnival. The Ch



A Choctaw social dancer steals a lovely lady for a dance during the “Stealing Partners” dance.



A group of kids cool off at the water slide by the Red Warrior Park, volleyball and basketball courts. During the heat of the day the water slide was a popular attraction.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and his son, Sam wait for Tvshka Homma to take the field during the Labor Day Stickball Tournament.



Contestants playing horseshoes measure to see how many points their throw earned.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Jason Hicks, Katy Pickens, Kendra Germany, Kim Ebrel, Krislan Turner, Lisa Reed, Marcia Ragland, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan and Vonna Loper.



Josh Riley and his daughter Leilani pose for a picture while watching the stickball tournament.



Payton Guthrie participates in the Fittest Choctaw competition held on the Council Chambers lawn.



A tired little girl catches a nap in a cart during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.



Miss Choctaw Nation BreAnna Jackson adjusts her crown before taking her place for the Grand Entry of the Pow Wow.



High School basketball players visit the Futures of Basketball Showcase booth at the Labor Day Festival.



Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival carnival was a big hit this year.



The next generation of Fast Pitch practices next to the ball fields at Red Warrior Park. Many of the softball teams have players spanning many generations. Some of the teams have been playing in the Fast Pitch Tournament since the very beginning.



Brenner Billy leads the Choctaw Social Dancing on the Capitol lawn with his son Ahinna in his arms.



Ladies hold hands during the “Stealing Partners” social dance. Men and women of all ages participated in the traditional dance.



The band Vienlos Dole Pas, also known as Inka Wyra, has been playing at the Tvshka Homma Labor Day Festival for more than 20 years.



The employee workers at the Baseball RV gate were good examples of working, having fun and making people smile during the Labor Day Festival. Ron Pirkle, Jeremy Shipp and Graham Kovash would ask drivers what event they were there to see, then act out the sport. As the three men are swinging to the fences, the driver was there to watch Fast Pitch.

Going Green



Workers at the Going Green tent count cans and bottles as people turned them in to get a T-shirt. The team gave away T-shirts until they completely ran out.



Chayla Huggins turns in a bag of cans and bottles at the Going Green tent. Participants needed to bring over 25 cans or bottles in order to receive a free T-shirt from the crew.

Healthy Living Expo



Dayzee Flores practices arm circles with her dad at the Limited Mobility Exercises presentation.



People were able to get their blood pressure checked at the Healthy Living tent.



Sabra Batman utilizes the breast-feeding tent provided by the Choctaw Nation WIC program with her son Waylon Batman. In August, the Choctaw Nation WIC program received a “Gold Loving Support Award of Excellence for Breastfeeding Support and Practices.” Look for more information on the achievements of the Choctaw Nation WIC in a future issue of the Biskinik.

Education Tent



Taylor Tedder, of the Antlers Choctaw Wellness Center, shows examples of muscle and fat tissue to Kati Brown.



Festival goers were able to learn more about the Chahta Foundation.



The Education tent was always full as people learned about the education options Choctaw Nation has available for tribal members.

Dominoes



In a battle of the generations, Sylvester Moore won first place while James Toner took home second in the Dominoes Tournament.

Horse Shoes



Billy Van and Kato Rodriguez took first place in the Men’s Doubles Competition.



Stephanie Bohanon and Tiffanie Burchfield took home first place in the Women’s Doubles Competition.

Checkers



Pam Holly won second place and Jasen Baker won first in the 2017 Labor Day Checkers Tournament.



Billy Van took first place in the Men’s Ringer Competition, during the Horse Shoe Tournament.



Tiffanie Burchfield took home first place in the Women’s Ringer division of the Horse Shoe Tournament.



Issac Simes won first place in the Youth Ringer division in the 2017 Horse Shoe Tournament.



(left to right) During the Youth Singles Competition Meshack Taylor took home second place, Issac Simes won first place and Angel Clemons received third place.



(left to right) During the Women’s Singles Competition Tiffanie Burchfield won second place, Phyllis Bohanon earned first place and Stephanie Bohanon won third place.



(left to right) During the Men’s Singles Competition Billy Van won second place, Michael Cummings received first place and Kato Rodriguez won third place.

Choctaw Village



11

Labor Day photos by
Apryl Mock, Charles
D. Clark, Deidre Elrod,
Jason Hicks, Katy Pick-
ens, Kendra Germany,
Kim Ebrrel, Krislan
Turner, Lisa Reed,
Marcia Ragland, Stacy
Hutto, Tracy Mckaughan
and Vonna Loper.



Clockwise from left: Bella Henderson from Tennessee learns about her Choctaw heritage for the first time. Bella is being taught how to make an arrowhead.
Rose Billy shows how to weave a basket out of river cane at the Choctaw Village.
A Choctaw man demonstrates how to create stickball sticks during the festivities at Choctaw Village.
Tanchi Labona being served traditional Choctaw foods at the Choctaw Village by Shirley Barboan.



Social Dancing



Women join hands during the social dancing located on the Capitol Museum lawn.



Members of the crowd were pulled in to the fun during the "Stealing Partners" dance. This dance is traditionally an opportunity for young men and women to socialize.



Choctaw members of all ages participated in the "Stealing Partners" dance.

Gospel Singing



Clockwise from left: Loren Crosby of Wright City, performs during the gospel singing on Sunday at the Amphitheater.
Former councilman Joe Coley leads the Choctaw hymnal singing at the chapel.
Everyone was encouraged to sing along with the original Choctaw songs of praise and worship.



Quilt Show



Lois Thomas won first place in the Machine and Hand-stitched category for her quilt "Foxglove Manor."



Sue Badmocsin took second in the Machine and Hand-stitched category for her quilt "Moccasins."



Donita Clay took third place in the Machine and Hand-stitched category with "Sunbonnet Sue."



Ronnie Mizell won third in the Machine-stitched category with "Native Wildlife."



Lois Thomas won the People's Choice Award and first place in the Hand-stitched category for her quilt "Magnolia."



Vera Kirkes took third in the Hand-stitched category for her quilt titled "Arkansas Star."



Rebecca Mizell took second place in the Machine-stitched category for her "Squaw Quilt."

Pow Wow



Choctaw royalty took part in the annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow on Friday, Sept. 1.



Members of the drum circle keep the rhythm going during the annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow.



Seven-year-old Axel Polk was honored before grand entry started. This was his first Pow Wow to dance in.



Far left: Many other tribes took part in the Grand Entry. Head woman dancer Samantha Bointy lead in the other dancers on Sept. 1.
Center: Carole Ayers represented the Choctaw Nation in traditional Choctaw dress during Grand Entry.
Above: Autumn Celestine and other members of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard line up for the Grand Entry.



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard led the Grand Entry followed by Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Gary Batton.



Choctaw tribal member Presley Byington took part in the Pow Wow and Grand Entry.



V. DiNardo also took part in Grand Entry, decked out in his traditional Choctaw clothing.

Gourd Dancing



Dancers take part in the Gourd Dance on Friday, Sept. 1. The Gourd Dance traditionally takes part before Pow Wow, with many veterans taking part.



Terry Ashby dances in the Gourd Dance on the Capitol Lawn.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Gary Batton were also honored during the Gourd Dance.



Dancers take to the Capitol Lawn for the Gourd Dance.



Numerous gourd dancers were honoured during the annual Gourd Dance on the Capitol Lawn.



Over the course of the dance, the men slowly approach the drummers, who are positioned in the center of the field.



The drum stands were temporarily lost in transport, but the drummers decided to begin the Gourd Dance without them, demonstrating the resilient Choctaw spirit.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Katy Pickens, Kendra Germany, Kim Ebrel, Krislan Turner, Lisa Reed, Marcia Ragland, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan and Vonna Loper.

Fast Pitch



Tribal Brothers 1st
(Back row left to right) Todd Morgan, Sonny Winship, Chris Leaf, Bryant Beaver, Dave Lindly, Dustin Davidson, Cade Clay and Michael Clay. (Front row left to right) Broderick Crawford, Malcolm Smith, Silas Baker, Randall Clay and Hoss Ward.

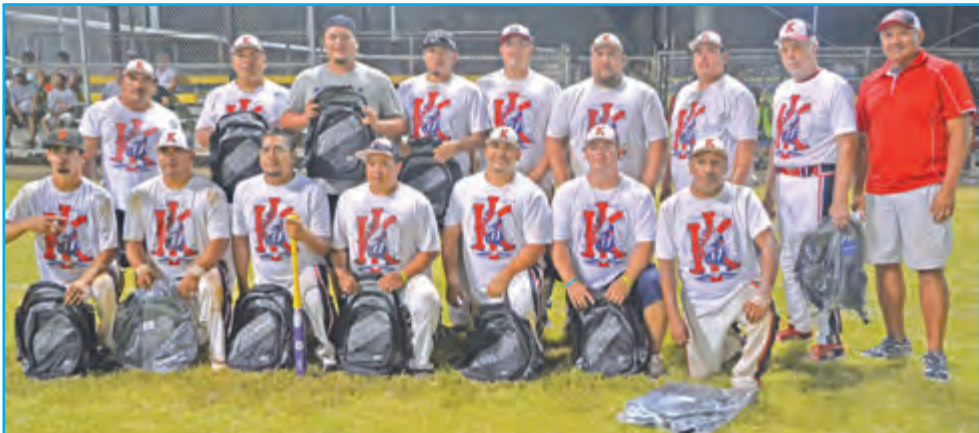


Cade Clay and Dustin Davidson were named Co-MVP's of the 2017 Labor Day Men's Fast Pitch Softball Tournament.



Erica Neal was named MVP of the 2017 Labor Day Women's Fast Pitch Softball Tournament.

by Lisa Ann Smith



Kansas Indians 2nd
(Back row left to right) Fabian glass, Chebon Wind, Elijah Tucker, Aaron Littlehead, Dakota Blanchard, Cory Tucker, Choogie Smoke, Dave Buzzard and Bran Ishcomer. (Front row left to right) Dakota Cowett, Tat Ross, Larry Russell, Miguel Ortiz, Todd Tucker, Dylan Taylor and Ron EagleRoad.



Chitto Harjo 1st
(Back row left to right) Erica Neal, Megan Miller, Amanda Harjo, Kayla Pahcoddly, Kendra Pierce, Summer Leitka, Dana Askins, Brittany Ward, Kylie Bear and coach Jeff Fry. (Front row left to right) Brooke Scott, Jessica Bluebird, Bethany (Jojo) Dupoint, Amber Harjo, Lisa Smith and Bailey Donathan.



Big Eagle Express 3rd
(Back row left to right) Butch Yeahpau, Coach Curtis BigEagle, Daryl Smith, Donovan Harrison, Dave Beets, Craig Wallace, Kevin Bob, Andy Mendez and Daniel Arterberry. (Front row left to right) Jason Hardy, Dave Booth, Todd Fendley, Bossey Drywater, Chris Washington and Kerry Clay.



During the men's softball tournament, Wayne Tisho was presented with a jacket commemorating his dedication and contribution to the Red Oak Raiders softball team. Tisho has been playing with and coaching the Raiders for 53 years. The Raiders have been participating in the Tvshka Homma Labor Day Festival for generations. Tisho's brother and son also play for the Raiders, which began as a church softball league in the 60's.



Left: Wayne Tisho practices pitching. Above: Wayne Tisho shakes hands with Chief Batton after he is presented with a jacket.

Volleyball



The Diggers won first place in the Volleyball Tournament. In the Championship game they faced off against Mississippi Finest. The Diggers, in no particular order, are Lori Hami Hon, Donya Battiest, Pam Gibson (not pictured), Leila Kaseca, Ethan Bell, Mitzi Groves-Doster, Kristy Cox, Abigail Schilli, Sean Gentry and Joe Thomas.



Mississippi Finest was the second place team in the Volleyball Tournament. The players on Mississippi Finest, in no particular order, are Laettner Johnson, Elter Wilson, Sharisna Evans, Alicia Jefferson, Bambi Solomon.

5-Kilometer Race



Kandace Young took home first place in the 5K women's division. Young finished with a net time of 19:40.



Josh Stewart of Ada took home first in the 5K men's division. Stewart finished with a net time of 17:41.



MiniBallers (9-11): First Place Sliders

War Hoops



Womens (18+): First Place Native Shock



Old Timers (36 & up): First place Rams



Thor, God of Thunder, made a stop in Tvshka Homma to visit with festival goers.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and his grandson Dawson listen to the State of the Nation address.



District 5 princess Juanita Gonzalez poses for a picture with the newly crowned Little Miss Choctaw Nation Mya Thomas.



Tim Tingle, known for his animated storytelling, told a story of the Choctaw and Irish connection before the State of the Nation.



Elizabeth Cecil powers through the tire flip portion of the Tough Tough competition.



Choctaw tribal member and musician Jerry Tims performed on the big stage on Saturday, Sept. 2, before Aaron Watson and Alabama.

Barnett Graduates High School

Robi-Von Rollie Houston Barnett is a member of the Mississippi Choctaw tribe. He is the son of Vonda Kay Barnett, of Davis, and the grandson of the late Wanda and Rollie Barnett. On his paternal side, he is the great-grandson of the late Elsie Lewis and grandson of Louetta Faye Foreman. Robi-Von graduated from Davis High School on May 19. He is currently attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where he is enjoying getting in touch with his Choctaw heritage.



Fisher Graduates High School

Morgan Michelle Fisher graduated from Shasta High School in Redding, California on June 2. Fisher will be attending Shasta College in the fall to complete the Nursing Program. She has been taking medical classes throughout high school. Fisher's passion is to help others and she wants to become a pediatric nurse. She received the Indian Education Program and the Native Community Certificate honoring her completing high school. She is the daughter of Brodie and Jodi Fisher of Redding, California.

Benson Graduates With Honors

Jennifer Michelle Benson graduated with Honors from Foothill High School in Palo Cedro, California on June 1. While in high school Benson also attended Shasta College. She participated in leadership programs throughout the United States, was a varsity cheerleader for four years and a junior coach. She received the Highest Native American Female GPA at Foothill High School award, the Indian Education Program and the Native Community Certificate Honoring for Completion of High School and American Indian Graduate Center Recognition to the All Native American High School Academic team.



Recipe of the Month

Black Bean Pinwheels

Recipe by
Carmen Robertson

Ingredients

- 1 cup canned black beans, rinsed
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup diced tomatoes with chilies
- Red onions, sliced thinly
- 4 8-inch whole wheat flour tortillas
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped jalapenos (optional)

Preparation

1. In a bowl, rinse and smash black beans.
2. Stir in the cream cheese, tomatoes with chilies and jalapenos.
3. Spread on tortillas, sliced red onion and sprinkle cheddar cheese.
4. Roll up tightly and wrap in plastic wrap.
5. Chill for 2 to 8 hours.
6. To serve, remove plastic wrap. Slice ½ to ¾ inch thick.
7. Place cut side up on serving platter.

Nutrition Facts:

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Serving:10
Yield: 60 pieces

(per serving)
Calories 23, Total Fat 0g, Trans Fat 0g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 73mg, Total Carbohydrate 4g, Dietary Fiber 0g, Sugars 0g, Protein 1g, Vitamin A 1%, Vitamin C 1%, Calcium 2% and Iron 1%.

For further information, you may contact Choctaw Nation Nutritionist Carmen Robertson (800) 522-6170 ext. 2733, email crobertson@choctawnation.com, or go to a Cooking with Carmen demonstration. Times, dates and locations for Cooking with Carmen can be found on Page 7.

Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge

Right: Aiden Makke shows off some serious ups during the vertical jump portion of the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.



Taydem Harden tries her hardest during the box jump portion of the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge on Friday, Sept. 1.



Chanelle Bell puts her running skills to the test during the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.

Tough Tough



Elizabeth Cecil took home first place in the women's division. 2017 was the first year that the women's division was included numerous powerful women competed in the completion.



Justin Boyd successfully defended his title, winning first place in the Tough Tough Choctaw Completion two years in a row.



Megan McBride was the second place winner in the women's division.



Chris Hawke took home second place in the men's division for the second year running.

Bow Shoot



Clockwise from top left: Isaiah Vasquez, first in 8 & under. Bree Vaughn, first in 9-13. Josh Langston, second in 9-13. Logan Roldan, first in 14-17. Sherri Hartman, third in women's. Sue Folsom, first in women's. Alecia Ross, second in women's. Jeremiah Walker, third in men's. Kevin Ryan, first in men's. James Parton, second in men's. Zack Austin, third in 9-13. Daniel Thomas, second in 8 and under. Logan Parker, third in 8 and under.



Fittest Choctaw



Clockwise from top left: **Master Male:** First, P.J. Brown; second, Andrew Mack (not pictured); and third, Lee Baugus. **Master Female:** First, Robyn Allen (center); second, Denise Stewart (left); and third, Dana Dozier (not pictured). **Open Female:** First, Elizabeth Cecil (center); second, Elicia Marquez (left); and third, Lindsay McKardee (right). **Open Male:** First, Chris Burns (center); second, Justin Boyd (left); and third, Kirk Taylor (right). **Teen Male:** First, Josiah Lawson (left); second, Steven Lawson (not pictured); and third, Bryson Marshall (right). **Legend Male:** First, Sam McFarland. **Legend Female:** First, Nellie Meashintubby.



Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Diedre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Katy Pickens, Kendra Germany, Kim Ebrel, Krislan Turner, Lisa Reed, Marcia Ragland, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan and Vonna Loper.

Choctaw Nation Helps Communities Affected by Hurricanes

by STACY HUTTO & CHARLES D. CLARK

Last month, Hurricane Harvey hit southeast Texas with the worst flooding in the state's history.

While clean-up from Hurricane Harvey was ongoing, Hurricane Irma reached the Florida Keys with the strongest winds ever recorded in the Atlantic.

The Choctaw Nation's Emergency Management department had already given assistance to Choctaw families who were victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Emergency Management was in the vanguard of assessing the damage and needs from Hurricane Irma.

"Emergency Management is the department coordinating and providing individual assistance to survivors," said Jeff Hansen, Director of Choctaw Nation Emergency Management.

Hansen said his office began to closely monitor Hurricane Harvey when, "We saw it strengthen from a Category 2 to a Category 4 overnight."

Once the path was pinpointed, they were able to identify 3,400 Choctaw members that live in the affected counties.

After Harvey hit southeast Texas, 31 families were helped, including 34 children, six of whom were "special needs children."

Several of those families who evacuated south Texas made their way to the Choctaw Nation where Emergency Management was able to offer direct assistance to them, including medical.

They also were instructed in filing insurance claims and completing FEMA applications. One family, originally from Idabel, decided to stay and has already found local housing.

"I have coordinated the delivery of supplies for the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition," Hansen said. "We currently have five Medical Reserve Corps staff members working from Durant with the possibility of activating up to 75 trained and credentialed MRC volunteers in the event that we would need them."

The Emergency Management Hotline

also made numerous referrals to the proper agencies for help.

Hansen said, the Choctaw Nation also had "one staff member in Atlanta, Georgia at the Home Depot headquarters working on situational awareness on evacuations, power outages, and road closures."

In addition, after country recording artist Jake Owen's performance at the Choctaw Resort Casino in Durant over the Labor Day Weekend, concert proceeds of \$50,000 were combined with the vendors' donation of \$20,000 to make a combined \$70,000 gift to the Houston Food Bank.

That same weekend, Brent Oakes, Director of the Choctaw Nation's Veterans Advocacy program, was deployed with his National Guard unit to deal with the needs in Texas.

Plans began more than a week before the hurricane hit to go to Florida to aid those in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Hansen said, two EM staff, two health-care staff, and two volunteers went to the Florida Keys "to work with the local jurisdictions on situational awareness, public information, damage assessments, documentation, and general Emergency Operation Center operations."

They worked in two teams consisting of three people. One team was located in Marathon, Florida and the other team was located in the Florida Keys.

They made preparations, including packing a lot of equipment and provisions for the team to be on site in Florida for two-weeks.

Before they deployed to Florida in response to Irma, Hanson said, "They will be among the first to assess the damage and needs of the area."

The two teams provided Incident Management. Incident Management included situational awareness, public information, damage assessments, documentation, and general Emergency Operation Center operations.

While the two teams left Florida on Friday, Sept. 22, the recovery process



by Deidre Elrod

The Choctaw Nation Emergency Management team of Rachel Nutter, Wendi Marcy, Debra Davis, Hillary Tripp, Carminia Magby and Steve McGee, pack up on Monday, Sept. 4, in Durant for deployment to the Florida Keys. The team will be among the first to assess the damage and needs of the area in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.



Photos Provided by Choctaw Nation Emergency Management

Steve McGee, Facility Manager Director, Choctaw Nation Heath Service Authority, discussed how to set up a field hospital in Marathon, Florida with the Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT).

continues.

For people who have loved ones living in an area hit by a natural disaster, weather it be a tornado, hurricane, or earthquake, one of the worst feelings is not knowing if their loved one is safe.

People in areas affected by natural disasters can let their family and friends know they are safe through the Red Cross website.

To list yourself as safe, when you are able to get an internet connection go to redcross.org and click on the Get Help tab.

Then, under Disaster Relief & Recovery Services click on Contact and Locate Loved Ones.

Under Related Links click on Reconnect with Family after an Emergency and under Family in the U.S., you can either List Yourself as Safe and Well, or Search for a Family Member.

The *Biskinik* online will have a direct link to the Red Cross Safe and Well page [here](#).

Facebook also has a safe check in feature called Safety Check.

According to a Facebook press release, the Safety Check is activated when an incident occurs.

Once activated Safety Check determines if a person is in the area of the incident by looking at the city listed in your profile, your last location if you use Nearby Friends and the city you last used the internet.

If people in the area are talking about the incident, they will get a notification asking if they want to check in as safe.

The Choctaw Nation Emergency Man-

agement office remained open for business to deal with both ongoing disasters.

According to the Choctaw Nation Emergency Management Facebook page, the road to recovery after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma will be a long one.

For those who are interested in donating goods to the affected areas, Emergency Management urges people to please consider a monetary donation instead.

Reputable organizations such as American Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse, or Salvation Army can use these monetary donations to directly provide for the needs of the people affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

For further information on how to donate via these organizations, please visit: American Red Cross at www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey; Samaritan's Purse at www.samaritanaspurse.org; and Salvation Army at www.salvationarmyusa.org.

During a natural disaster anyone needing assistance or information should phone the Emergency Management Hotline at (844) 709-6301.



(from left) Debra Davis, CNHSA; Dr. Dan Zieg, Mayor of Marathon, Florida; Steve McGee, CNHSA; and Marathon City Manager Chuck Lindsey worked together during the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Katy Pickens, Kendra Germany, Kim Ebrel, Krislan Turner, Lisa Reed, Marcia Ragland, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan and Vonna Loper.

SPECIAL LABOR DAY EDITION

The October 2017 issue of the Biskinik is the Special Labor Day Festival issue. The October issue will not have Education, People You Know, Obituaries, and other regular columns. Graduation announcements, obituaries, birthday announcements, wedding anniversaries, sports accomplishments, and other announcements and regular columns will resume in the November 2017 issue of the Biskinik.

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and the Tribal Council would like to invite you to the

CHOCTAW NATION'S ANNUAL VETERANS CEREMONY

November 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
Choctaw Capitol Grounds at Tvshka Homma

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Staff will be set up at 9:00 a.m. to present each Choctaw Veteran with a gift of appreciation. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. A free lunch will be served to all who attend.

This year, there will be a drawing for:

3-Day whitetail deer hunt at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge
3 days, 2 nights at Choctaw Hunting Lodge
All meals provided
(Must be present to win. Subject to verification of CDIB and Veteran eligibility.)

YAKOKE TO ALL OUR VETERANS!

2017 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 13 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID). The class will meet each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, an attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

Haskell County Monday, October 2, 9 a.m. - noon Every Monday and Wednesday Choctaw Nation Community Cntr., 2208 E. Main, Stigler,	Bryan County Tuesday, October 3, 9 a.m. - noon Every Tuesday and Thursday Durant, Headquarters South Bldg. 529 N. 16th Ave., Durant
Latimer County Tuesday, October 3, 9 a.m. - noon Every Tuesday and Thursday Choctaw Nation Community Cntr., 515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton	McCurtain County Tuesday, October 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Every Tuesday and Thursday Southeastern Oklahoma State University, McCurtain County Campus 2805 NE Lincoln Rd., Idabel

Choctaw Nation High School Equivalency Classes

Distance Learning High School Equivalency (HSE) classes are now available at the following locations. An experienced HSE teacher will instruct you, using Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she prepares you to take the HSE test. In addition, an attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE test. Classes meet three days each week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, for approximately nine weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170, ext. 2122. Enrollment for the new classes begins the first day of class and closes to new students on the fourth class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Beginning date for all classes is October 9, 2017

Morning Classes	Afternoon Classes
McCurtain County Bethel/Battiest Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Atoka County Atoka Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Smithville Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Coal County Coalgate Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Wright City Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Leflore County Talihina Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

If You're A Choctaw Veteran, We Want You.

Tell us your story for a video library. Send your information to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Advocacy, veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com

Contact Roger Hamill
Deputy Director
(800)522-6170 ext. 2160