



October 2018 Issue



State of the Nation Address Celebrates Choctaw Spirit



Chief Gary Batton

The annual State of the Nation address on Monday, Sept. 3, closed out the five-day Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival held each year at Tvshka Homma, the historic Capitol of the Chahta.

Chief Gary Batton reported on Labor Day the economic impact made by the Choctaw Nation to be a healthy \$1,868,451,097.

"That's a \$1.8 billion with a B, impact made on the State of Oklahoma," said Chief Batton. "Total tribal assets are \$2.4 billion."

The Fiscal Year 2016 figure, the most recent available, but still growing, lit up a power point presentation in Chief Batton's State of the Nation address.

Chief Batton said, "The economic impact made by the Choctaw Nation is accelerating opportunities for growth and prosperity for the tribe and the State of Oklahoma."

What that translates to, he said, are 8,358 direct jobs supported in 2016 (the 2018 figure has jumped to 10,346 employees) and 12,161 total jobs supported, making direct income payments of \$518,000,000.

"Everyone wants to know where the money comes from," Chief Batton said, posting a pie chart behind him and on other screens, some outside the amphitheater for the overflow crowd to see.

"The largest amount, about 58 percent, comes from the business operations of the tribe; 24 percent from federal and state grants; 12 percent from Medicare and third-party insurance; 3 percent from general government revenue; and 2 percent from housing."

Another pie chart showed "Where the Money Goes." It stated 67 percent goes to services to tribal members, 21 percent to capital projects, and 12 percent to the permanent fund.

Chief Batton explained that there were large building projects completed in the past year including, in Durant, the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters and Regional Medical Clinic. He also listed the Choctaw Casino & Resort expansion in Grant; Wellness

Centers in Poteau and Durant; Community Center in Broken Bow; and Head Start in Wright City.

The Housing Authority's lease-to-purchase program, LEAP, also opened 10 new brick homes each in Atoka, Cameron, Coalgate, Heavener and Hugo. By the end of the year 10 new homes will be in each of the 12 districts of the Choctaw Nation.

Future projects scheduled for openings in the coming months, he said, include more homes in other communities and the new Choctaw Nation Judicial Center.

Chief Batton praised the Tribal Council and noted among their accomplishments, the passing of a new Election Ordinance and a new state of transparency with the Code of Ethics and streamlined reporting.

All programs, from education, youth, social and elder services and more, showed increases in numbers of tribal members served.

Some were substantial. In health, outpatient visits went from 107,563 to 364,857; surgeries performed went from 2,688 to 3,514. Households assisted with home repairs jumped from 154 to 548. Home ownership, assisted by the Choctaw Nation, grew from 158 to 240.

The across-the-board growth was clearly in line with the tribe's Mission Statement. Chief Batton said, "To the Choctaw Proud, ours is the sovereign Nation offering opportunities for prosperity and growth."

The close of Chief Batton's presentation, like his introduction, was received with a standing ovation.

From Aug. 30 through Sept. 3 an estimated 100,000 people came to the Pushmataha County site to participate and share in Choctaw heritage, such as stickball, storytelling, Native hymns, and traditional arts and crafts; enjoy the family fun, including carnival rides and sports tournaments; and learn about today's programs and services in health, education and more.

Day visitors drove from across Oklahoma and from neighboring states. More than 350 RV campsites had all been reserved by the end of last January, while an estimated 1,500 to 1,700 campers set up tents to stay for the duration of the festival.

Each evening, more than 5,000 people packed the amphitheater for concerts by country music headliners Trace Adkins, Neal McCoy, and Dan + Shay, and popular Christian acts Chris Tomlin and Jason Crabb. Local opening acts were Choctaw musicians Jerry Tims and Kylie Morgan.

The annual Choctaw Nation Art Show again drew 56 of the top tribal artists from across Oklahoma and several states including, Arizona, Indiana, Missouri and Texas. Their work was displayed in the historic Choctaw Capitol building.



John A. Hoosier was the oldest Choctaw man present at the State of the Nation Address. Hoosier is 94 years old.



Lena Krausch was the oldest Choctaw woman, at 97 years old, present at the State of the Nation on Monday, Sept. 3. Krausch was born Sunday, Sept. 5, 1920

The October 2018 issue of the Biskinik is the Special Labor Day Festival Edition. This issue will not have Education, People You Know, Obituaries and other regular columns. Graduation announcements, obituaries, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, sports accomplishments and other regular content will resume in the November 2018 issue of the Biskinik.

2018-19 Chahta Royalty Crowned at Labor Day Festival

by STACY HUTTO

The Choctaw Nation 2018-19 Princesses were crowned Aug. 30 at the 2018-19 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. The 2018-19 princesses are Little Miss Mia Reich from District 7, Junior Miss Kalin Beller from District 9 and Miss Loren Crosby from District 7.

This year, there were 23 contestants, eight in the Little Miss division, nine in the Junior Miss division and six in the Miss division.

The pageant was livestreamed and featured live entertainment. For those who missed the pageant or livestream, the pageant in its entirety can be watched on ChoctawNationOK, the official YouTube channel of the Choctaw Nation.

Once again Gena Timberman was the host of the night's festivities. Timberman is the founder of the Luksi Group, former director of the American Indian Cultural Center Museum and is working with the Choctaw Nation in planning the Choctaw Cultural Center.

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. Christian Potter of District 9 told the story of the robin red-breast, while other contestants like Mandy Steele of District 1 performed Choctaw Hymn #46.

The Junior Miss contestants took the stage after the Miss contestants were done with their performances. Many of these contestants sang as well, but Chasely Roberts of District 1 performed the song "I Can Only Imagine" in Sign Language.

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 Mia Reich of Wright City is the 10-year-old daughter of Jay and Melissa Roberts-Reich. Mia is in the fourth grade at Finley Reese Elementary. Mia is on the Superintendents Honor roll and has received awards in reading, math and Johnson O'Malley Superior Academics award. She was a McCurtain County Curriculum Contest qualifier. Mia plays basketball, the piano and competes in dance. She likes to go camping, fishing, shooting her .22, riding her bike, reading, skating and participating in Girl Scouts. Mia enjoys making fry bread, learning to bead, learning to speak Choctaw and attending Choctaw Cultural days at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant.

Mia wore a red and white traditional Choctaw dress made by hand in Mississippi. The dress was a gift to her grandmother. She wore a medallion and rosette beaded by Collins Hickman. The handkerchief around her neck belonged to her great-grandfather McKinley Taylor Sr. Mia's grandmother, Lillie Roberts, made the silver collar and red and silver earrings. She also gave Mia the brown moccasins that completed her ensemble.

When it came to the question portion of the contest Mia drew the question, "Who is your tribal councilperson and what is the district?"

With ease Mia said, "My tribal councilperson is Jack Austin Sr. and I represent District 7."

Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Kalin Beller, of Durant, Oklahoma, is the 15-year-old daughter of Brandon and Crystal Beller. Kalin is a sophomore at Durant High School. Kalin is an honor roll student. She was 2017 District 9 Junior Miss. Kalin was a 2018 Choctaw Nation Youth Leadership intern. She enjoys reading, writing, spending quality time with her family, going to church, singing and most of all volunteering at the Choctaw Nation Community Center or within her community. Kalin performed Choctaw Hymn #11 and Choctaw Hymn #46.

Kalin wore a traditional turquoise and red dress made by her great-grandmother, Nadine Billy. The dress had three tier ruffles and the red trim represented the long walk of the Trail of Tears, while the red diamonds represented the diamond-back rattlesnake. Kalin carried a red shawl with turquoise fringe that was made by Rhoda Eyachabbee-Scott and a hawk feather fan made by Gordon Poche. Her jewelry set included a collar necklace, lapel, ribbon holders and earrings containing a circular pattern with a gem in the middle. The jewelry set was made by Felicia Scott, who also loaned Kalin the round comb she wore in her hair.

Kalin's question was, "How long is the election term for the chief?" Her answer was, "The election term for the chief is four years followed by a new election."

Miss Choctaw Loren Crosby, of Wright City, Oklahoma, is the 18-year-old daughter of Elizabeth and Kenneth Crosby. Loren is currently a freshman at Carl Albert State College and a 2018 graduate of Wright City High School. Loren held the title of Junior Miss Choctaw Nation 2015-2016, Miss Lumber Jax 2017. She was Student Council President, co-captain for the basketball team and the cheerleading squad. Loren has been Honor Show Choir All District for three years. Loren loves to sing at church, learn new Choctaw hymns, hunt, fish, swim, play stickball and eating. She likes spending time with family and friends and eating her favorite food Indian Tacos. Loren is currently attending Eastern Oklahoma State in Idabel and is working on a General Education major. She plans on moving to Southeastern Oklahoma State University to finish her degree to become a teacher. Loren performed Choctaw Hymn #21.

Loren wore a purple and yellow dress. The dress is trimmed in yellow stickball and sticks with a yellow apron. Her three tier necklace, earrings and ribbon holders were made by Jennifer Davidson. The beadwork was amethyst purple, satin yellow with crystal gems in a swirl pattern. The web necklace Loren wore was made by her mother.

Loren drew the question, "What is one of your goals if you win the Choctaw Nation crown?" Her answer was, "One of my goals is to help and encourage more young ladies to be in these pageants abd not only that, but to encourage the youth of our Choctaw Nation to get more involved in our culture and learn more about their heritage."

The pageant judges this year were Reverend Dr. David Wilson, Callie Youngblood and Dora Wickerson.

David is currently the Conference Superintendent for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church. The conference is made up of 87 Indian Methodist churches in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. The conference began in the 1800s upon removal of the Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws and Cherokees from their homelands. David is the grandson of Choctaw Code Talker Calvin Wilson.

Callie Youngblood was raised in Wister and is a graduate of Carl Albert State College in Poteau. She works at the Union Bank of Mena in Mena, Arkansas. Callie served as Miss Choctaw Nation 2013-14.

The third judge on the poanel was Dora Wickerson. Dora is a fluent Choctaw speaker and lives in Fort Towson. She is a member of the Choctaw Language Department and is employed as a Language Specialist. Dora works on translations and teaches Choctaw to employees who want to learn the language. Before joining the language department, Dora worked at the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Hugo for 14 years as a medical records clerk.

The exiting royalty for the Choctaw Nation is Little Miss Mya Thomas, Junior Miss Jade Cossey and Miss BreAnna Jefferson. They will still be involved in the Choctaw culture, but will no longer represent the Nation as royalty.



(from left) Miss Choctaw Nation Loren Crosby of District 7, Chief Gary Batton, Junior Miss Kalin Beller of District 9, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Little Miss Mia Reich of District 7 gather after the 2018-2019 princess pageant. The new royalty will serve as ambassadors of the Choctaw Nation through the next year at official events.



Visiting princesses take to the stage after congratulating the new Choctaw princesses.



District 7 Little Miss Mia Reich talks with Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom backstage of the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant.



Backstage Chief Gary Batton talks to District 10 Senior Miss Callie Armstrong and 2017-18 Miss Choctaw Nation BreAnna Jefferson.



Participants of the 2018-19 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant watch the livestream while they wait for their turn to take the stage. Those who are finished watch the pageant and wait for the results.



Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Growall, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.



Above: A visiting princess snacks on fresh fruit while watching the livestream backstage. Right: Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. visits with District 1 Senior Miss Mandy Steele and District 7 Little Miss Mia Reich during the Labor Day Pageant on Thursday, Aug. 30 in Tvshka Homma.

Labor Day Festival Great Time to See Growth in Our Youth



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend. It was so good to see so many come together for a fun-filled festival. I look forward to it every year and remember being there as a child with my family. The theme for this year’s festival was, “Making a Difference in a Child’s Life.” Here in the Choctaw Nation, we understand how important our young

people are. They are the future of the nation. During the festival, there were many different booths and activities geared toward our young tribal members. Keeping our children active and healthy is an important goal. Many of the activities were held to promote a healthy lifestyle. Various sports competitions were held throughout the weekend such as stickball, softball, volleyball, horseshoes and basketball. Each year, the Chief’s Youth Physical Fitness Challenge is held on the Council Chamber lawn. The challenge is a fun way to encourage our children to stay active. When we make exercise fun, we are encouraging healthy habits for the future. It is great to see our young ones excited about being active. Inside the Healthy Living Tent, there were various booths encouraging healthy lifestyles. Kids could also swing by the crafts booth presented by the Youth Advisory Board and the Choctaw Nation Day Care, visit the Education Tent or grab a book at the



While parents and family members either play in the volleyball tournament or watch from the sidelines a group of children play in the sand next to the volleyball courts.

by Stacy Hutto

Mobile Library. The Choctaw Village offered many cultural activities during the festival. Our young ones could take part in hands-on cultural demonstrations like pottery, taste traditional food, listen to Choctaw storytellers and take part in fun games throughout the weekend. I always enjoy seeing our young people learning about the Choctaw culture. Watching them grow as individuals, not only at the Labor Day Festival, but throughout the year, is one of my

favorite things. One of the upcoming events is the annual Harvest Carnival in Tvshka Homma on Friday, Oct. 19. The event is popular with all ages and will take place from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. at the Arts and Crafts Building. There will be a costume contest for children up to 16 years of age, \$1 cake walk and bingo, as well as free games and prizes. The popular Trail of Terror begins at dusk, for those who enjoy a spooky adventure. The Cultural Events team will be showing a movie at the amphitheater and hosting a haunted house backstage. It is sure to be a hauntingly good time for everyone. We invite you and your family to come out and join the fun.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION 2018

10:00 a.m. | November 10, 2018
Choctaw Capitol Grounds | Tvshka Homma

Honoring Our Veterans

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

There will be a drawing for:
3 Day weekend 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 COB and Veteran status)

CHOCTAWNATION.COM

National Recovery Month

Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover

september 2018

Please help us celebrate Recovery Month by joining us for a “Recovery Walk” on Friday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m. Walking from Chi Hullo Li to the Recovery Center and back.

Chi Hullo Li is located at: 13597 SE 202nd Road in Tali hina.

Call 918-567-2905 if more information is needed.

BISKINIK

October 2018

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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](#)

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[www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK](#)

[www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation](#)

Imagine the Possibilities...

Choctaw Nation

Educational Talent Search

Is pleased to Announce

Our FREE ACT Prep Workshop

For Grades 9 – 12

Thursday, October 25, 2018

8:30 am to Noon

McAlester Kiamichi TechCenter

301 Kiamichi Drive

McAlester, OK

You must be Choctaw or a Talent Search student to attend the workshop. Pre-register by calling 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2711. Check with your high school counselor or call our office for a new Talent Search application. (New students may apply at this time.)

Run to Honor Veterans 15k/15k Relay

15k is a Certified Challenging Course

15k Three Person Relay Team

Where: Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Tali hina, Ok. Saturday November 3, 2018 at 10:00am

15k Registration Fee: \$30
15k Three Person Relay Registration Fee: \$60
Registration: 8:30am to 9:30 am
You must Pre-Register by 10-22-18 to be guaranteed a shirt.
T-shirts will be based on availability after 10-22-18 and for on-site registration

Name: _____ Race Day Age: _____ Gender: _____
Print
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you a Choctaw Nation P.A.C.E. club member? Yes or No if so, **Deadline date is Oct. 22nd**

T-Shirt Adult: Sm Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X T-Shirt Youth: Sm Med. Lg. XL
Must pre-Register by 10-22-18 to be guaranteed a shirt

Circle One: 15k

15k Relay Team Name _____

15k Relay Category Circle one- Co-Ed Team - All Female Team - All Male Team

Please circle which leg you will be doing- 1st 2nd 3rd

(Relay Team must have team name and registrations turned in together)
1st Leg approx. 3.0 --- 2nd Leg most challenging, approx. 3.3 -- 3rd Leg approx. 3.0
Shuttle will be provided to relay exchange zone and back to Finish line.

Awards for 15k Relay--Top 3 teams in each category- Co-Ed Team - Female Only Team- Male Only Team
Awards for 15k -- Overall Male and Female - 9&under-10to14-15to19-20to24-25to29-30to34-35to39-40to44-45to49-50to54-55to59-60to64-65to69-70+

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on the road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Biskinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and Newspaper articles.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian if under 18 yrs _____ Date: _____

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans-15k-run-and-15k-three-person-relay-team-tickets-47220409516?aff=ea2>
line registration does not apply to PACE members

Or Mail Entry Forms to: Teresa EagleRoad Attn:Veterans 15k One Choctaw Way, Tali hina, OK 74571
Make checks payable to, “Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team”
For more information: Teresa EagleRoad 918-721-2461 or Jana Boykin 580-775-5723

15th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show Winners

Heritage Awards

Best of Show

Debra Irvan won Best of Show with her Graphic work “Traditional Choctaw Cooking.” Irvan uses Graphite pencil to create her realistic drawings and uses family members as inspiration.



Sculpture



Lyman Choate took first, second and an honorable mention in the Sculpture category.



Lyman Choate's sculpture “The Chanter” took first.



Ross Ridge's “Copperhead Cane” won third.



Ross Ridge received third place for “Copperhead Cane.”

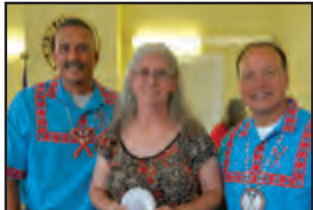
Graphics



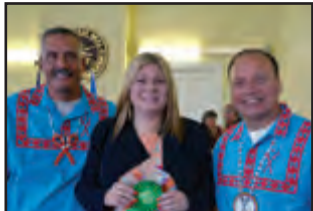
Debra Irvan took first in Graphics for her piece “The Turtle Race.”



Gwen Lester took home second in Graphics with her work, “Playing in the Rain.”



Miranda Fann placed third with “Chahta Issuba.”



Stacy Ayers Pierce received an honorable mention for “His Last Stand.”

Painting



Jane Umsted was awarded first in Painting for “Choctaw Wedding Dance” and second for “Two Cultures - Joined by Compassion.”

Pottery



Edmon Perkins Jr. took first for “Moundville Serpent Bottle.”



Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin admire Perkins' work.



Second went to Carolyn Young for “Miss Lil-lie.”



Maudell Meshava won third for “Lukfi Ampo Chito.”

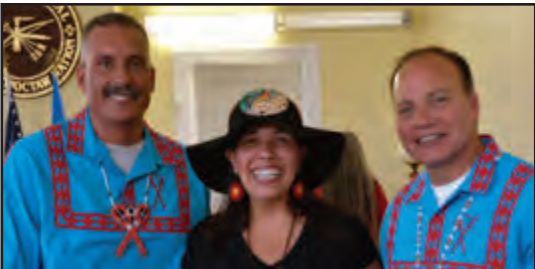


Cliff Wilson Jr. was awarded an honorable mention for his work, “Red Connection.”



Nancy Rhodes was awarded third place for her portrait “Car-ole Ayers - When she speaks Choctaw.”

Jewelry



Deana Ward won first for “Bee's Knees” and third for “My Grandmother's Quilt.”



“Bee's Knees” by Deana Ward took first place.



Chester Cowen won second for “Honoring the Choctaw Code Talkers.”

Cultural



Judy Davis placed first in Cultural with “Traditional Choctaw Dress” in green.

Basketry



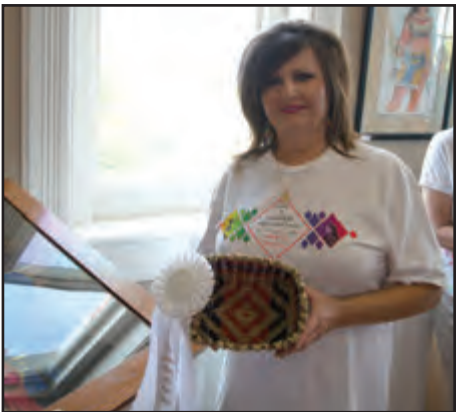
John White took home second place for his piece, “Iti Tapa Hila” or Dance Sticks.



Tiajuana Cochnauer received third place for her “Choctaw Code Talkers” quilt.



Lizabeth Mitchell took home first for “Storage Basket” and second for “Taposhake Shakapa.”



Kay Jackson received third for “Diamond Basket.”

EVENTS

LETTERS

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

Choctaw Nation Community Center Octoberber Health Fair

Crowder Wednesday, Oct. 10

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted.

This is the last Health Fair of 2018

Jones Academy Alumni Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. Jones Academy Gym

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the gym on the Jones Academy campus. Lunch will be provided in the school cafeteria. Come join Jones alumni and renew old friendships.

For questions please contact, Robert Wilson at (918) 931-2016 Elois Cole Barcus at (972) 845-2779 Paulette Phillips Wilson (918) 931-2012

District 2 Fall Bazaar

Saturday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. Choctaw Community Center Broken Bow

The fundraiser for District 2 seniors starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Vendors are needed, it is \$10 for a table.

For more info contact Polly at (580) 236-5447 or Patsy at (580) 236-0445

Annual Gospel Singing

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. First Indian Baptist Church 608 W. Tyler, McAlester

Supper will begin at 5 p.m. Convention style singing starts at 6 p.m. followed by group singing at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Joe Coley will be the emcee.

District 6 October Events

- Volleyball practice every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Senior Citizens Lunch every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
- Choctaw class every Monday at 6 p.m.
- October 5**
 - Prayer Meeting, 7 a.m.
 - Business Development Meeting.
- October 6**
 - Tuskahoma Council Meeting.
- October 9**
 - Shopping Day.
- October 11**
 - Medicare Meeting, 9 a.m.–noon.
- October 12**
 - Indian Taco sale,
- Bake sale and Indoor Garage sale.
- October 19**
 - Fall Fest Robbers Cave.
 - October Fest, Tvshka Homma at 6 p.m.
- October 20**
 - Fall Fest Robbers Cave.
- October 25**
 - Casino.
- October 27**
 - Shopping Day
- October 29**
 - HR Job Fair 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- October 30**
 - HR Job Fair 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
 - Senior Night, 6–8 p.m.
- Volleyball games to be announced**

Gary Batton Chief

Jack Austin Jr. Assistant Chief

The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Dara McCoy, Executive Director Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor Apryl Mock, Reporter/Photographer Christian Toews, Reporter/Photographer

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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. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

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.



During the recent Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma I had set up an authentic arts and crafts booth during the annual pow wow next to the Capitol building on Friday, Aug. 31.

On my table was a pair of stickball sticks made by the late Darryl Tubby from Philadelphia, Mississippi on display. They were not for sale.

The stickball sticks were taken by mistake around 5 p.m. or suppertime. They are priceless and a historic, personal collection belonging to my family.

They are made of hickory wood, about 24-30 inches long, the cup is tied with white deerskin and they are nearly 30 years old.

I am asking for your help to locate and return these sticks to me. No questions asked and a reward will be offered. I can be reached at (817) 715-9827. My email is anthony.thompson002@gmail.com. My mailing address is below.

Anthony Thompson 2502 Stonehurst Court Arlington, TX 76014



Come learn about 2019 Medicare plans and how they may be of benefit to you. Attend our open meeting to ask questions about Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Part D plans

Choctaw Community Center 100 Railroad St Talihina, OK, 74546

October 25 and 26, 2018 9am and 130pm November 8 and 9, 2018 9am and 130pm

Call 816-265-0859 or 866-991-7189 to reserve your space at one of our meetings.

A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, please call 816-265-0859, TTY711. Enrollment in a plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare.

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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.

We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Mail to: Biskinik Attn: Notes to the Nation P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

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 10½ 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 10½ 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:

Crowder Community Center October 22 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

November 2018

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Idabel by appointment

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

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Sept. 8, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, Aug. 11 were approved.

Election for Tribal Council Speaker, Secretary and Chaplain were held.

Delton Cox was elected Speaker of the Council, Ron Perry was elected Secretary and Jennifer Woods was elected Chaplain.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Letter of Appointment for Chief Justice David Burrage to the Constitutional Court of the Choctaw Nation.
- Dispose surplus capital assets.
- FY2019 Operating and Capital projects budgets for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Funds and budget for the 2018 Energy and Mineral Development Program (EMDP) Award Feasibility Study.
- Funds and budget for Year One of the 2018 Choctaw Nation Public Health Strategic Planning Talking Circles Cooperative Agreement.
- Funds and budget for the 2018 Native American Library Services Grant.
- Amendment to CB-61-18 to legal description for grazing lease No. 4200070201 with Jesse Chip Lott II and David Cantrell on land held by the USA in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.
- A service line agreement in favor of Public Service Company of Oklahoma on land held by the USA in trust for the Choctaw Nation in Choctaw County, Oklahoma.
- A right-of-way easement in favor of Choctaw Electric Cooperative, Inc., on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land held in McCurtain County, Oklahoma.

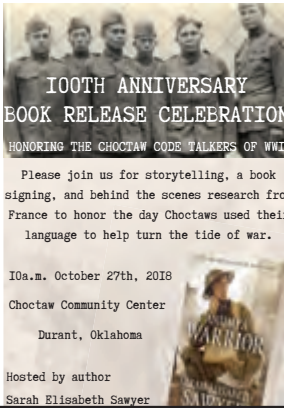
For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to www.choctaw-nation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills.

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

100th Anniversary Book Release Celebrating Code Talkers

Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m.

Choctaw Community Center 2750 Big Lots Parkway Durant, Oklahoma 74701



Choctaw author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer will be hosting a book signing event

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
10-4 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-1 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-18 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-8 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-25 Talihina: 10-1 & 1:30-3	11-15 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3
	11-29 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3



MBCI Comes Out on Top of Tourney for Fifth Year

by STACY HUTTO

The Double Elimination Stickball Tournament began before the first game was played on Friday, Sept. 31. On Wednesday, July 25, the drawing was held to fill the 2018 Labor Day Double Elimination Stickball Tournament. The drawing was held live and can be seen on Choctaw Nation's official YouTube channel, Choctaw-NationOK.

During the random drawing Tvshka Homma's coach, Les Williston, drew number 2. When the spots at the bracket were filled, Koni Hata was opposite Tvshka

Homma and the two teams would be the first game in the tournament.

Tvshka Homma and Koni Hata took the field the evening of Friday, Aug. 31. Tvshka Homma marched onto the field behind the drummers. They were led by Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., the newly crowned Choctaw princesses, tribal council members and coaches.

After touching sticks with Koni Hata the referee threw the ball and the game was on.

The ball flew up and down the field when Tvshka Homma put the first point on the board.

By the time the first quarter ended Tvshka Homma would find the goal post again to make the score 2-0.

In the second quarter Curtis Billy aims at the goal and scores, adding a point to Tvshka Homma's 3-0 lead.

After the ball zips back and forth across the field, the score climbs to 4-0 as Tvshka Homma scores once again.

Both teams go all out trying to get control of the ball. After a few scums the ball is on Tvshka Homma's side of the field.

Koni Hata goes for a goal, but it is blocked by Tvshka Homma's Ryan Spring and soon after the ball is sent to the north end of the field.

At the north end of the field Tyler McKinney shoots and scores bringing Tvshka Homma's lead to 5-0.

Before the half draws to a close Tvshka Homma scores again bringing the score to 6-0.

After the half the two teams switched to the opposite side of the field. Koni Hata comes out strong and quickly scores two points, bringing the score to 6-2.

As the clock winded down on the third quarter Tvshka Homma found the goal once again bringing the score to 7-2.

Tvshka Homma put two more points on the board when the game was called due to the Mercy Rule. The final score was 9-2, Tvshka Homma.

Tvshka Homma would go on to play reigning champions MBCI later that night.

During the first quarter MBCI came out hard and quickly put 5 points on the board.

Tvshka Homma fought hard and brought the score to 1-5. Most of the first half was spent on the south side of



At the end of the Double Elimination Labor Day Stickball Tournament held at Tvshka Homma during Labor Day weekend MBCI came out on top as the tournament Champions. This is the fifth year in a row MBCI headed back to Mississippi with the Championship trophy. MBCI tore through the tournament bracket without having a single loss.

the field with Tvshka Homma repeatedly digging deep and sending the ball to the north end of the field.

When the clock ran out on the first half the score was still 1-5, MBCI.

The third quarter started with Tvshka Homma guarding the north end of the field. MBCI were quick to add another point to their lead.

Tvshka Homma raced the ball to the south end of the field. A scrum at the base of the MBCI goal post ended with a missed shot.

The missed shot was followed by success as Tvshka Homma hit the goal bringing the score to 2-6.

Towards the end of the third quarter MBCI lengthened their lead making the score 2-7.

With less than five minutes left in the game MBCI quickly scored 2 points putting the Mercy Rule into effect. The final score was 2-9.

As it was a Double Elimination Tournament Tvshka Homma was not out of the tournament. They would go on to play Bok Chito on Saturday, Sept. 1.

Before the tournament started on Saturday, Sept. 1, a memorial was held to retire the jersey of Chikasha Toli's No. 48, Jeremy Wallace. This was only the second time a jersey has been retired.

Wallace was involved in a fatal car crash earlier this year. He was a fixtue at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, where he was an instructor. He was also a musician and an artist who had a passion for sharing his culture and encouraging those around him.

In addition to Chikasha Toli, he also played on the Bok Chito stickball team.

His friends and family, including his wife Ashley and daughter Nannola, gathered in the middle of the stickball field.

Les Williston spoke about Wallace and shared memories and sadness at the loss. He then handed the mic to Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom.

Folsom spoke about the warrior who was proud of his heritage, from the history of his tribe, to the dances of

his people to the joy of racing up and down the field with a pair of stickball sticks in his hands, and shared it with those around him.

Folsom then introduced Chief Gary Batton, who presented Ashley with a beaded medallion.

Jared Tom then presented Ashley with Jeremy's jersey, officially retiring the number 48. Friends and family of the Wallace family comforted each other during the ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony players took a knee and there was a moment of silence. When the ceremony was over Tvshka Homma and Bok Chito took to the field.

During the first half Bok Chito was able to hit the goal making the score 0-1. Bok Chito would score again in the second half while Tvshka Homma was unable to get to the goal. The final Score was 0-2, Bok Chito. The loss knocked Tvshka Homma out of the tournament.

The Championship game was held on Sunday, Sept. 2. MBCI and Bok Chito took to the field to see who the 2018 Champion would be.

It is a fast paced game as the ball zips up and down the field. In the first quarter MBCI is the first to put points on the board.

With less than five minutes left in the half Bok Chito rings the goal making the game tied at 1-1. The score remains tied until the beginning of the third quarter when MBCI takes the lead with a 2-1 score.

Before the thrid quarter ends MBCI lengthens the lead when they get another goal making the score 3-1.

Bok Chito answered the double score by hitting the goal post bringing the score to 3-2.

A scrum at the base of the goal ended with a Bok Chito player flinging the ball to the north end of the field. At the end of the third quarter the score was still 3-2, MBCI.

When the final buzzer sounded the score was still 3-2 making MBCI the tournament champions. This is the fifth year in a row MBCI were crowned the tournament champions.



During the youth exhibition game players scrum for the ball at the north end of the field. The youth game went until the Double Elimination Tournament started. The game was open to all youth who wanted to play.



Tvshka Homma celebrates after their 9-2 win over Koni Hata in the opening game of the Double Elimination Stickball Tournament at Tvshka Homma during the Labor Day Festival.



During the youth exhibition game players from opposing teams jump for control of the ball.



The purple team was the winner of the 35+ exhibition stickball game held on the Capitol lawn. The exhibition game was held on Sunday, Sept. 2.



Players and spectators alike either knelt or bowed their heads in respect for Jeremy Wallace, who was involved in a fatal car crash earlier this year. Chikasha Toli retired Wallace's No. 48 jersey in a ceremony held on Saturday, Sept. 1, before the second day of the tournament started. It is the second jersey to be retired.



Jeremy Wallace's wife, son, daughter and brother comfort each other during the ceremony to retire Wallace's jersey.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Growall, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.

The November issue
of the Biskinik will
have the dates, times
and locations for
the Community
Thanksgiving
Dinners.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Choctaw Nation Career Development

2018 Career EXPO

866.933.2260 www.choctawcareers.com

Location: South East EXPO Center

4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74502



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. of 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 580-920-2100 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. of 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.

Building Healthy Families Through Good Nutrition

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
FAITH ♦ FAMILY ♦ CULTURE

WHERE OPPORTUNITY IS
MORE THAN JUST A WORD

Please apply today at careers.choctawnation.com

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COMMUNITY CENTER JOB FAIRS

Broken Bow	Tuesday, October 2	Stigler	Monday, October 22
Idabel	Wednesday, October 3	Talihina	Monday, October 15
Poteau	Tuesday, October 9	Wilburton	Tuesday, October 30

OPEN 10:00AM - 2:00PM



CHOCTAW
RANCHES

CONGRATULATIONS CHOCTAW RANCHES RODEO TEAM

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Choctaw Ranches were well represented at the 34th Annual Oklahoma Cattleman's Association Ranch Rodeo, in Guthrie, OK.

- 5th - Overall for the Two-Night Competition
- 3rd - Team Branding
- 3rd - Wild Cow Milking

Pasture/Rangeland Plant Identification & Soil Health Workshop

Hands-on pasture and rangeland plant identification
workshop to be followed by soil health workshop

October 11, 2018

McAlester Choctaw Nation Community Center

3274 Afullotha Hina

McAlester, OK 74501

9:00 AM

To RSVP, Contact Tonee Wolf 580.924.8280 ext.6019

Partners include USDA NRCS and Choctaw Nation Land Management

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.



Name: _____
Race Day Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Male _____ Female _____

Circle One: 5k Fun Run
T-shirt Adult: Sm. Med. Lg. Xlg. 2X 3X
Youth: Sm Med. Lg.

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Biskinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Parent or Guardian must sign if under 18yrs.

October 27th

Jones Academy

909 Jones Academy Rd.
Hartshorne, OK 74547

- ♦ Best participant costume contest!!!!
- ♦ Family friendly event, please keep costumes kid friendly
- ♦ **Free to register**

- ♦ Registration 5:30pm-6:30pm
- ♦ Race begins at 7:00pm in front of Gym
- ♦ First come first serve on T-shirts until we run out
- ♦ Awards for 1st 2nd 3rd male and female in each age division

- ♦ Contact Carly Blommel at Jones Academy (888) 767-2518 ex 1087 or cjbommel@cnhsa.com
- ♦ **Register on site or online** at:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/OK/Hartshorne/JonesAcademy/Halloween5kndFunRun>

Choctaw Nation No Registration Fee!!! Diabetes 5k/1mile/5k Stroller Saturday October 27, 2018

8 & under 5k after 5k awards
Register by October 12th to be Guaranteed a T-Shirt!!!

The course is USATF certified. Medals will be awarded to the top three male & female finishers in each age group for the 5k event. In addition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall male and female finishers will receive an overall award. **Registration begins at 8:30am to 9:30am** at the Talihina, OK, Victory Baptist Church parking lot on 5th and Isherwood. Participants will receive a t-shirt if registered by Oct. 12th. After Oct. 12th and onsite registrations t-shirts will be based on availability. **5k starts at 10:00 am.**

Name: _____ Race day age _____ Date of birth _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Male _____ Female _____
Email (optional) _____ Are you a P.A.C.E. member? Yes No
T-Shirt Adult: Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X T-Shirt Youth: X-Sm. Sm. Med. Lg. XL
5k Run/Walk, 1 mile will start at the same time. Stroller Division will start after 5k/1mile
8 & under will start after the 5k awards.

Circle Division: 5k Run/Walk 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk
8 & under 5k 5k Stroller Division
Child Must be able to walk. Parents may walk/run with child (No Strollers allowed during 5k).
Also, certified due for child to stroller
No age group category in the stroller division. Only 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall.

Pre-Registration Deadline Date October 22nd
Register by Oct. 12th to be Guaranteed a Shirt!!!
After deadline date, please register on site
Register by mail before Deadline Date Mail to:
Choctaw Nation P.A.C.E.
One Choctaw Way
Talihina, OK 74571
Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.
Sign: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18yrs.
For more information call Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles at 800-349-7026 X-6844 or 6675
SPONSORED BY:
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles - Diabetes Wellness Center

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 Afullotha Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

November 2018

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30.

Cooking With Carmen: November 2 & 6, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30.

Cooking With Carmen: November 7 & 19, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30.

Cooking With Carmen: November 8 & 14, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

MCALESTER

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30.

Cooking With Carmen: November 5 & 20, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:

Closed: November 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30.

Cooking With Carmen: November 1 & 9, 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.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

♦♦♦ Lesson of the Month ♦♦♦

**Nittak, Hvshi, Holhtina micha
Afvmmi**

Day, Month Date and Year

Day of the Week:

Speaker 1: Himak nittak vt nanta? *What day is today?*

Speaker 2: Himak nittak vt _____. *Today is _____.*

Svnti Sunday Mvnti Monday Tusti Tuesday Winsti

Wednesday Hlvsti Thursday Flaiti Friday Satiti Saturday

Month:

Speaker 1: Himak hvshi yvt nanta? *What is the month?*

Speaker 2: Himak hvshi yvt _____. *The month is _____.*

Chanuali January Fibuali February Mach March Eplil April Me May Chun June Chulai July

Akvs August Siptimba

September Aktoba October Nofimba November Tisimba December

Date:

Speaker 1: Himak nittak holhtina yvt nanta? *What is the date today?*

Speaker 2: Himak nittak holhtina _____. *The date is _____.*

1 Achvffa

2 Tuklo

3 Tuchina

4 Ushta

5 Tahlapi

6 Hannali

7 Untuklo

8 Untuchina

9 Chakkali

10 Pokkoli

11 Awah achvffa

12 Awah tuklo

13 Awah tuchina

14 Awah ushta

15 Awah tahlapi

16 Awah hannali

17 Awah untuklo

18 Awah untuchina

19 Awah chakkali

20 Pokoli tuklo

21 Pokoli tuklo akocha achvffa

22 Pokoli tuklo akocha tuklo

23 Pokoli tuklo akocha tuchina

24 Pokoli tuklo akocha ushta

25 Pokoli tuklo akocha tahlapi

26 Pokoli tuklo akocha hannali

27 Pokoli tuklo akocha untuklo

28 Pokoli tuklo akocha untuchina

29 Pokoli tuklo akocha chakkali

30 Pokoli tuchina

31 Pokoli tuchina akocha achvffa

Year:

Speaker 1: Himak afvmmi yvt nanta? *What is the year?*

Speaker 2: Himak afvmmi yvt _____. *The year is _____.*

Tahlepa sipokni tuklo akocha awah untuchina 2018

www.choctawschool.com



Children participate in Chief Gary Batton’s Physical Fitness Challenge.



Reigning Chahta royalty and hopeful district princess snap a selfie backstage at the princess pageant.



Kamden Hatak Frazier, 2, enjoys one of the water attractions provided during the Labor Day Festival.



Players collide during the Labor Day stickball tournament.



Juda Long, 4, plays with a bundle of ribbons at the Arts and Crafts building during the Labor Day Festival.



Children enjoy the view from the Buffalo Tour bus.



The sun sets on the Tvshka Homma carnival.



Choctaw Nation Health Services employees take a popcorn break during the Labor Day Festival.



Black Panther stopped by to visit with his adoring fans.



Little Miss, Mia Reich, performs The Lords Prayer.



Festival guests wait for the Sizzler ride to begin.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Growall, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.



Nathan Johnson, 10, performs a handstand while he waits for his turn on the inflatable water slide. The slide offered children a fun way to cool off quickly.



A young man hits his target on the first try during the carnival at the Labor Day Festival.



The Farris Wheel is a favorite attraction at the annual Labor Day Festival.



Les Williston assists Lola Vargas as she competes in the annual Labor Day Bow Shoot.



Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival guests enjoyed thrilling rides, a wide variety of entertainment and an enormous selection of food during the free carnival.



Byron Smith competes in the Fittest Choctaw competition.



A Big Eagle Express player misses a catch, but not for lack of hustle. Big Eagle Express finish third in the annual fast pitch tournament.



The 5K participants enjoyed a beautiful view on their way to the finish line.

Healthy Living Expo



Kaylee Smith has her iron levels tested at the Health Tent during the festival.



Tagan Gibson, 9, makes his a smoothie during the Healthy Kids cooking seminar hosted by Erin Adams, Registered Dietician of CNHS.



Reba Ramsey, a LPN at Talihina Hospital, checks the blood sugar of her “best patient,” Brian Watson.



Dental check-ups were offered by Choctaw Nation staff at the Labor Day Festival.

Education Tent

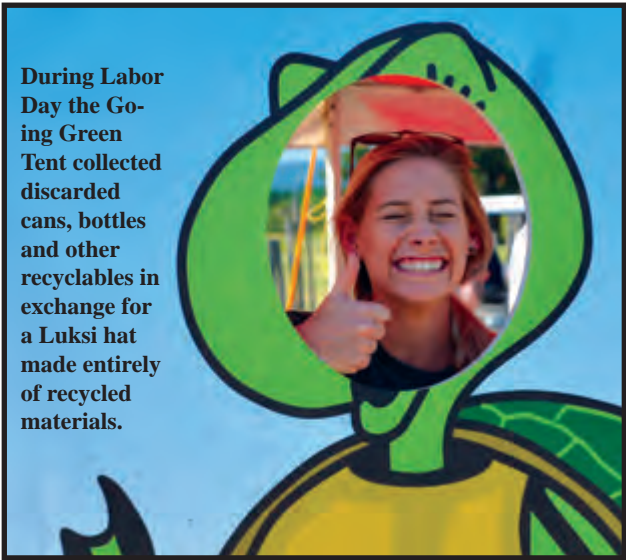


A mobile library was available for Labor Day Festival visitors.



Children were given luksi or turtles to paint at the education tent during the Labor Day Festival.

Going Green



During Labor Day the Going Green Tent collected discarded cans, bottles and other recyclables in exchange for a Luksi hat made entirely of recycled materials.

Horse Shoes



Mitchell Smith and Mat Cummings took first place in the Men’s Doubles Competition.



(Left to right)Youth singles winners Torben Vocque won second, Issac Simes won first, Rance Lewellen won third.



Michael Cummings and Bunky Impson took home second place in the Men’s Doubles Competition.

Dominoes



Frank Hyland took home first place and Roland B. Wade placed second in the Dominoes Tournament.

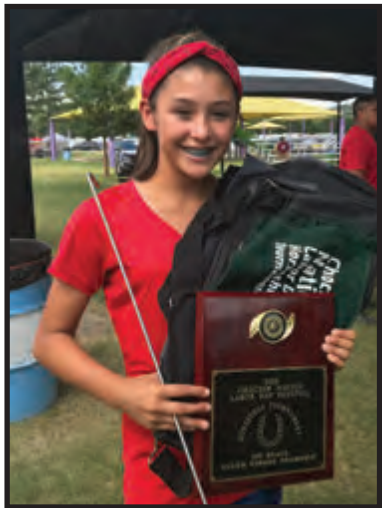
Checkers



Quint Hodges took home first in the checkers tournament and Jason Baker placed second.



Mitchell Smith also took first place in the Men’s Ringer Competition, during the Horse Shoe Tournament.



Angel Clemmons won first place in the Youth Ringer division in the 2018 Horse Shoe Tournament.



Tiffany Taylor placed first in the Women’s Ringer division.



(From left) During the Women’s Singles Competition Tiffany Taylor won second place, Phyllis Bohanon earned first place and Nakisha Bohanan won third place.



(From left) During the Women’s Doubles Competition Tiffany Taylor and Ashley Gannt won second place, Phyllis Bohanan and Nakisha Bohanan won first, Stephanie Bohanan and Tiffanie Burchfieldwon third.

Fast Pitch



Tribal Brothers 1st

(In no particular order) Michael Clay, Chris Leaf, Robbie Tahah, Silas Baker, Carl McKinney, Cade Clay, Dustin Davidson, Brandon Raines, Ethan Bell, Bryant Beaver, Randall Clay, Malcom “Dirt” Smith, Johnathan Beaver, Blane Brown and Jason Underwood.



Robbie Tahah was named MVP of the 2018 Labor Day Men’s Fast Pitch Softball Tournament.

11

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Growall, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.



Bailey Donathan Sellers was named MVP of the 2018 Women’s Fast Pitch Tournament.

Chitto Harjo 1st

(Back row from left) Lisa Smith, Kylie Bear, Taleesha Conder, Dana Askins-Bradley and Manda Harjo. (Front row from left) Kendra Pierce, Taylor Pence, Jessica Bluebird, Erica Sampson, Kelsey Watson and Bailey Donathan Sellers.



Kansas Indians 2nd

(Back row from left) Dakota Cowett, Choogie Smoke, Elijah Tucker, Aaron Littlehead, Dakota Blanchard, Cory Tucker and Dave Buzzard. (Front row from left) Chebon Wind, Tat Ross, Larry Russell, Dylan Taylor, Todd Tucker, Fabian Glass and Ron Eagle Road.



Chatas 2nd

(In no particular order) Jocelyn James, Lexy Taylor, Ariel Hartin, Adrianna Canard, Clarissa Peters, Marcella McKinney, Cheryl Billy, Yulonda Mathis, Wynona Gibson, Rebecca Hobbs, Sabrinna Branch, Alanna Lascaux, Kailyn Bearpaw and coach Shawn Lowe James.

Volleyball



The Diggers won first place in the Volleyball Tournament. In the Championship game they faced off against Choctaw Housing. The Diggers (in no particular order) are Mitzi Groves-Doster, Donya Bat-tiest, Pamela Gibson, Leila Kaseca, Abigail Schilli, Noah Schmidt, Sean Gentry, Nick Gunville, Lori Hamilton and Joe Thomas (not pictured).



Choctaw Housing was the second place team in the Volleyball Tournament. The players on Choctaw Housing (in no particular order) are Sheila Davis, Heather Horner, Abigail Toombs, Joe Burger, Dillon Medford and Callie Shephard.

5K Race



Runners of all ages begin the 5K race on Saturday morning at the Labor Day Festival.



Quartermain Briggs took the overall win for the men at the 5K with a time of 17:36 and Zoe Nesbitt (not pictured) took the overall women’s title in 20:57.

Pow Wow



Many tribes are represented in the Pow Wow grand entry on Friday, Aug 31.



Michael Roberts helps the drum circle keep rhythm for the grand entry.



Traditionally dressed men and women dance the arena during the Pow Wow Grand Entry.



Cynae Wiley dances in the Pow Wow grand entry.



Dancers put on a great display during the Pow Wow grand entry.



Candelinn Toehay-Tartsah in her traditional dress during the grand entry.

Gourd Dancing



Terry Ashby dances during the Labor Day Festival.



Gourd dancers come together during the Labor Day Festival.



Michael James takes a moment before the dance.



The Gourd Dancers shake hands while still maintaining their rhythm.



Mary Wade prepares for the Goard Dance.



Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Grow-all, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.

Choctaw Village



Erica and Sadie Silverstein learn how to make traditional Choctaw pottery at the Choctaw Village.



The Choctaw Village is always a fun-filled attraction during the Labor Day Festival. Visitors can take part in many different traditional Choctaw activities such as social dancing.



Children delight in the traditional "Corn Game" during the 2018 Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.



A guest learns the skill of flint knapping.



Tim Tingle shares traditional Choctaw stories.



Hiloha Ward takes aim at the mischievous chukfi during the Rabbit Stick game on Sunday in the Choctaw Village.

Social Dancing



A young Choctaw boy joins in the social dancing, holding on tightly to his mother's hand.



Visitors join in a dance on the Capitol Lawn .



Guests participate in social dancing on the Capitol Lawn.



Newly crowned Chahta royalty join a dance.



Brenner Billy leads the social dancing on Sunday evening.

Quilt Show



Lois Thomas placed first in the hand-stitched category with "Iris." This was also a People's Choice Winner.



Nona Humphrey placed first in the machine and hand-stitched category.



Nona Humphrey won second in machine and hand-stitched as well.



Lois Thomas placed first in the machine-stitched category with her "Ribbons & Flowers."



Nona Humphrey won second place for the "Boy & Girl" hand-stitched quilt.



Ron Mizel won third place for this machine-stitched quilt.

War Hoops



War Hoops is a popular event at the Labor Day Festival. Many teams gather on the shaded basketball courts to compete in the men’s and women’s divisions. The women pictured battle it out at the 2018 War Hoops competition.



Men’s teams compete against each other at the 2018 War Hoops.



(from left) Men’s winners of the 2018 War Hoops competition Chris Hawk, Malcolm Smith, Michael Clay, Chad Smith.



(from left) Women’s winners of the 2018 War Hoops competition Tiffany McKinney, Tammy Pardon, Tabatha LeForce.

Gospel Singing



(left) Performers take the stage on Sunday during the gospel singing in the amphitheater. Some artists play with a full band and some sing along to tracks at this event.



(right) The crowd enjoys the many talented musicians who perform during the gospel singing. This event always draws a large audience and is fun for the whole family.



Choctaw tribal member and musician Alana Hughes performs on Sunday, Sept. 2.



Many gathered in the chapel for gospel singing on Sunday evening.



The congregation is led in Choctaw hymns at the gospel singing.

Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge



Children are taught the importance of physical activity during the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.



Children race to the finish line during the running portion of the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.

Bow Shoot



(from left) Women 18-up division winners Kasey Lopper, third; Jennifer Parker, second; Sherri Hartman, first; and instructors Les Williston (back) and Ross Green (right).



(from left) 8-up division winners Lola Vargas, third; Gage Buresh, second; and Luke Paker, first with instructors (back) Ross Green and Les Williston.



(from left) Boys 9-13 division winners Meeko Leflore, third; Awon Copeland, first; Tristen Ross, second; and instructors Les Williston (back) and Ross Green (right).



(from left) Girls 14-17 division winners Ashley Dawson, second; Journey Bell, first; and instructors Les Williston (back) and Ross Green (right).



(from left) Men 60+ division winners Chester Cowen, third; Tim Nestell, first; Billy Butler, second.



(from left) Men 18-up division winners Dale Buresh, third; Villa Hoss, first; Ross Green, second, (not pictured); and instructor Les Williston (back).



Women 60+ division winners Sue Folsom, first; and Delores Nestell, second.

Tough Tough



Tiffany Burchfield places first in the Tough Tough Choctaw women's division.



Justin Boyd takes first in the Tough Tough Choctaw Competition for the third year in a row.



Micheal Burch flips a 600-pound tire during his run through the Tough Tough Choctaw course.



A competitor makes her way through the Tough Tough Choctaw course as the crowd looks on.

Fittest Choctaw



(from left) Fittest Choctaw female open winners Kathryn Jernigan, third; Tiffany Burchfield, first; Elizabeth Hardin, second.



(from left) Fittest Choctaw male open winners Kirk Taylor, third; Payton Guthrie, first; Chris Burns, second.

Iti Fabussa Little Hunger Month

This article is part of a series titled “A Year in the Life.” Focusing on the time period of around 1700, the 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.

The information in these articles is taken from a book titled, “Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge,” which will be published by Choctaw Nation later this year. This edition of *Iti Fabussa* presents Little Hunger Month.

Chafo Iskitini Hvshi (literally *Little Hunger Month*) came at the end of the main growing season, but before frost. This is roughly October in our current calendar.

The Choctaw language refers to the cool season as **Hvshtula**, meaning *Reclining Sun*. This is because after the fall equinox, the sun reclines farther in the southern sky, making the nighttime longer than the day in the northern hemisphere.

The lower angle of the sun also brings cooler temperatures. At this time of year, the woods in the Choctaw homeland soon begin to take on their fall color peak, with yellow hickory leaves contrasted by the brilliant red leaves on the oak and maple trees.

Coming immediately after the main harvest, Little Hunger Month was usually an abundant time in Choctaw communities.

Corn cribs and homes were full of bags of dried corn kernels, sunflower seeds, beans, rings of dried winter squash hanging on strings and stores of parched chestnuts.

Given this abundance of food, the name “Little Hunger Month” at first seems strange. The month may have received this name because it coincided with the time Choctaw people were preparing to leave their villages to go on the winter hunt the following month.

These preparations included not only activities like greasing bows and making new arrows, but also fasting for spiritual purification.

Although a time of the year when food was everywhere, for many it would have been a time of hunger.

As Choctaw communities prepared for the winter hunt, a number of resources were harvested near the villages.

Yaupon holly leaves were gathered to be used in making the Black Drink. This caffeinated beverage, known in the Choctaw language as **kvti okchi**, *thorn juice*, was used in the purification process before important discussions took place and for certain ceremonies.

Little Hunger Month also began the season for gathering red sassafras leaves to make fil . Later known as **kombo akshish** in the Choctaw language, this powder was used to thicken and add flavor to stews.

Little Hunger Month began the season for harvesting hickory nuts, acorns, chinquapins, walnuts and beechnuts.

The harvest seasons for each of these would reach their peak, later in the following month. Nuts and acorns were an important part of the Choctaw diet. They provided flavor and richness to a number of food dishes, along with a number of important nutrients.

The nut and acorn harvest was gathered by groups of women, children and elderly men. They went out into the woods or to orchards near their homes and collected the nuts and acorns where they fell on the ground.

After being gathered, the harvest was parched in a bed of hot coals. This process lightened the weight, helped to dry the harvest and killed the eggs of any insects that could be lying dormant within it.

The parched nuts and acorns could be taken back to the village and processed into the food dishes such as hickory nut porridge or acorn mush. Alternatively, they could be stored for the coming year, perhaps after further processing them into a concentrated form, like balls of hickory nut meat, to save on space.

Nut harvests could be highly efficient sources of food. Period accounts describe families harvesting enough nuts to last them for several years. This worked out well since good nut crops did not come every season.

The acorn harvest was a different story. Unlike most of the nut trees, oak trees are capable of producing a good acorn crop year after year. With oaks being the most abundant type of tree in the Choctaw homeland, the acorn harvest could truly be substantial.

Compared to the shells on most nuts, acorn shells are much easier to remove. However, the acorns from most oak species go through a leaching process to remove their bitter tannic acid before they can be used as a food ingredient.

When the first chill was felt in the air, Choctaw communities began building or refurbishing their winter homes.

These were fittingly called **anuka lashpa**, *hot inside*. Home building was an organized activity, in which the elder men of a community, whose aching backs prevented them from going on the winter hunt, worked together.

The winter houses had floors excavated about three feet below ground surface. Circular in shape, they had walls made of wooden posts, interwoven with strips of split oak and covered in adobe-like plaster.

Their roofs were thatched in such a way that rain could not get in, but smoke could escape from the fire inside the home.

Entrances wound around the outside of the building a short distance to block the wind. Beds lined the inner walls of the house.

These were set up several feet off the ground on a platform of oak, making it harder for fleas to attack. The



by Ruby Bolding

Choctaw winter homes were called anuka lashpa, or hot inside. When the days started getting chilly men in the community would build or refurbish the homes.

mattresses were made of split cane and covered in softly tanned hides of panthers, buffalo, or deer.

A fire made of low smoke, dry hickory bark was burned in a hearth on the ground at the center of the house in the evening and covered with ashes at night. Coals would be scraped out of the fire and taken to individual beds during the night as needed for warmth.

Editor’s Note: For Iti Fabvssa stories you might have missed please visit ChoctawNation.com and click on History & Culture.

District 9 October Events

- Senior lunch, Exercise by Shirley McLain, Wellness Team and Mandatory Roadrunner Singers practice every Wednesday.
- October 3
 - White Buffalo Sale (Thrift store open before and after lunch.)
 - Corn Husk Doll making.
- October 10
 - Crafts for Casino Contract gifts. (Earn trip volunteer hours).
- October 11
 - Texas State Fair (Bus loads at 8 a.m.)
- October 12 & 13
 - White Buffalo Sale in Bus Barn 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- October 17
 - Cultural Museum update.
 - New Membership Directory Photo
- Shoot in Councilman Dry’s Office before and after lunch.
- October 19
 - Councilman Dry Monthly breakfast, 7-9 a.m.
- October 20
 - “Monster Mash” Halloween party, costume contest, 4-7 p.m.
- October 24
 - Dr. Carmen Jones, “Healing Powers of Nature.”
- October 26
 - Indian Taco fundraiser, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (Bread makers arrive at 7 a.m., servers arrive at 10 a.m.)
- October 31
 - Prize Bingo. (Pick up card at 10:45, starts at 11 a.m.)

Pastor Olin Williams

Knowing God’s Will



**Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain**

Many believers often ask the question, “How can I know God’s will for my life?”

The first thing is to realize that God has a very definite plan and purpose for every believer. The Christian life is not a life blowing in the wind with no definite purpose, but there is a course and goal for every believer.

Once this is realized, the Christian life takes on new meaning. No one can take serious business about the will of God until he is convinced that such a will exists.

God shows much personal interest in each believer, then He must have a plan and purpose for our lives.

Matthew 10:30, says, “The very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Exodus 3:7 says, “He knows our sorrows.”

Psalms 56:8 says, “He records our tears.”

Psalms 139:2 says “Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising.”

Psalms 139:2-6 says, “All our thoughts and ways are known unto Him.”

The second thing is to have a right attitude toward His will. “If any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine,” John 7:17.

God’s will is not discovered out of curiosity. We must commit ourselves unreservedly to do God’s will even before we know what it is. Sometimes we think, “Lord, let me know your will for me so I can decide whether or not I will do it.”

We must subjugate our will to His will. One person asks, “But what if I surrender to do God’s will and He leads me to do something I don’t want to do?” This just reveals that we do not trust Him like we say we do.

The third thing is there must be an absolute surrender to God. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, will of God,” Romans 12:2.

A believer must place himself as an instrument in God’s hand. We must be available and accessible in every area of our lives to allow God’s will to manifest itself.

Sometimes we have a “Do Not Disturb” sign on our hearts and minds and not willing to let God enter. A “Do Not Disturb” sign means “Do what you will out there, but don’t come in here.” We must trust Him to know His will for our lives as we trusted Him for our eternal salvation.

Labor Day photos by Apryl Mock, Charles D. Clark, Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Jonathan LeClair, Joseph Jefferson, Katy Pickens, Kelsey Brown, Kendra Germany, Kim McCaslin, Lisa Reed, Nick Growall, Payton Guthrie, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.

SPECIAL LABOR DAY EDITION

The October 2018 issue of the Biskinik is the Special Labor Day Festival Edition. This issue will not have Education, People You Know, Obituaries and other regular columns. Graduation announcements, obituaries, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, sports accomplishments and other regular content will resume in the November 2018 issue of the Biskinik.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of June 30, 2018			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,782,510,915	199,049,772	1,981,560,687
Receivables	390,255,945	37,947,037	428,202,982
Inventory	5,141,317	18,680,292	23,821,609
Prepaid Expenses	6,248,691	8,958,818	15,207,509
Other Assets	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	849,796,483	687,792,549	1,537,589,033
Less Payables	(527,239,282)	(88,296,170)	(615,535,451)
Net Assets	2,506,714,070	864,132,298	3,370,846,369

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Nine Months Ended June 30, 2018			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	213,021,678	929,279,338	1,142,301,016
Expenditures			
General Government	118,515,852	-	118,515,852
Health	98,789,852	-	98,789,852
Education	24,542,317	-	24,542,317
Human	43,429,073	-	43,429,073
Community	15,506,504	-	15,506,504
Cultural	7,696,237	-	7,696,237
Legislature	-	-	-
Judiciary	1,263,650	-	1,263,650
Internal Service	2,492,489	-	2,492,489
Choctaw Businesses		641,319,598	641,319,598
Total Expenditures	312,235,975	641,319,598	953,555,573
Transfers	308,654,786	(308,654,786)	-
Increase in Net Assets	209,440,489	(20,695,047)	188,745,442
Beginning Net Assets	2,297,273,581	884,827,345	3,182,100,926
Ending Net Assets	2,506,714,070	864,132,298	3,370,846,368

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 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 800-522-6170