



October 2019 Issue



State of the Nation address highlights growth, encourages sustainability

By Kellie Matherly

On Sept. 2, Chief Gary Batton addressed the Choctaw Nation in a speech that highlighted growth and progress in several areas, including elder care, healthcare, education, employment, and government.

This year's State of the Nation address closed out the 2019 Labor Day Festival and began Chief Batton's second consecutive term in office.

Batton began his address by acknowledging all the people who work together to make the Choctaw Nation successful.

He then shared graphs showing where the Choctaw Nation gets its money and where the money goes. "We are making our own way. We are proud to be the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma," Batton said.

According to the most recent reports, 54% of revenue comes from tribal businesses, 30% from grants, 13% from Medicare and third-party insurance, 2% from general government sources, and 1% from housing.

Chief Batton emphasized the fact that the Choctaw Nation spends nearly 80% of the money it receives on services to tribal members, while the rest helps fund investments, sustainability initiatives and capital projects.

"The success of our nation is measured by the strength of our people," Batton said.

One way the Choctaw Nation ensures that strength is through elder care and other healthcare programs. Last year, 62,770 meals were provided to Choctaw elders. In addition, farmers markets were established for seniors to ensure they have access to healthy food.

There was also considerable growth in the healthcare system last year, including 999,000 visits to healthcare facilities and 1.5 million prescriptions provided to tribal members.

Chief Batton praised council members for removing age restrictions on eyeglasses, dentures and hearing aids so that all Choctaws nationwide have access to them. Last year, the Choctaw Nation provided over 14,000 eyeglasses, dentures and hearing aids.

Another area of growth was education.

Nearly 10,000 Choctaws went through education programs designed to help people finish their college

degrees or certificates. Programs offering summer employment, on-the-job training, and internships had 1,146 participants. The Choctaw Nation also has programs for students who attend trade schools. Chief Batton shared the story of Jeremy Gray, a Choctaw tribal member who has found success with the help of the reintegration program, which helps people who have been incarcerated.

Gray's desire to own a house brought the address around to a discussion of progress in housing and home repair.

Over 5,000 people received assistance ranging from home purchases, rental homes and independent elderly homes to home repairs. At least 200 new homes were built for lease or purchase last year and over 1,200 repairs to existing homes were made.

"That is like quadruple what we've done in the past," Batton said as he gave credit to the Council for the achievement.

Chief Batton went on to discuss gains in employment.

Currently, the Choctaw Nation employs 10,868 people and has 421 positions open online. "We've got a job for you if you're interested," Batton said.

Job for the Day is one of the employment programs available. People who participate in this program are given a job working for the Choctaw Nation for up to eight weeks. Some participants are able to get permanent positions.

The past year has seen many changes in governmental operations.

Chief Batton praised the Choctaw Nation judicial system as "one of the best, if not the best within the United States."

He also highlighted the efforts of the Council, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Rep. Markwayne Mullin in getting vital legislation passed, including amendments to the Stigler Act, which prevents Choctaw families from being taxed on land allotments they have inherited.

Batton credited the Assistant Chief with successes in negotiations on the fish and wildlife compact and Chahta Sia Hoke car tags, which saved tribal members 12 million dollars.

Before closing, Chief Batton made a point of empha-

sizing the Choctaw Nation's position on the proposed changes to the state's gaming compact with Oklahoma tribal governments. Governor Kevin Stitt has sought to renegotiate the compact in a way that would cost the Choctaw Nation and other tribes a considerable amount of money.

Batton noted that 30 tribes in Oklahoma came together to sign a resolution stating no one would act unless everyone acted together.

Tribal leaders have argued the existing compact will automatically renew in January. The governor has the right to submit a proposal prior to the end of the calendar year, but if tribal leaders do not agree on the proposal's terms, the Choctaw Nation "will continue to function just like we think it should," Batton said. "We believe we are on the right side."

As the State of the Nation drew to a close, Chief Batton turned his attention to the future of the Choctaw Nation.

In the interest of sustainability, Batton's 2020 budget will include more dollars going into higher education programs and services for elders, including the possibility of new lawn mowing and handyman services.

Construction will continue on new homes, cultural centers, and the ongoing casino expansion in Durant.

The growth and progress in the Choctaw Nation not only benefits Choctaws but all Oklahomans, and Chief Batton is proud of the positive impact the tribe has had.

In the final moments of the address, Batton reminded the audience to "remain strong and who we are as the Choctaw people." He emphasized the importance of inspiring the next generation and maintaining spiritual unity. "If we ever forget that, we'll fail to exist as a nation," he cautioned.

In addition to the swearing in of Chief Batton and the State of the Nation address, ceremonies included the swearing in of six tribal council members: Thomas Williston of District 1, Tony Ward of District 2, Eddie Bohanon of District 3, Ronald Perry of District 5, Perry Thompson of District 8, and Robert Karr of District 11.

The entirety of the event was streamed live and is available on YouTube.



Chief Gary Batton is sworn in for his second consecutive term.



Newly crowned Choctaw princesses perform the Lord's Prayer to open the State of the Nation address.



Choctaw Tribal Council members are sworn in before the State of the Nation address, including newly elected members Eddie Bohanon and Robert Karr.

Faith, Family, Culture

Princess pageant kicks off 2019 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

By Kellie Matherly

Three new Choctaw princesses were crowned Aug. 29 at the annual Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. The 2019-2020 Choctaw Princesses are Little Miss Alyssiah Camp, Junior Miss Chayenne McCoy, and Miss Choctaw Nation Summer Moffitt.

All contestants won their district pageants and participated in an interview process in order to compete for the titles.

The pageant was the first official event of the 2019 Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma and was streamed live on YouTube, where it drew viewers from all over the US and even as far away as Ireland. Royalty from the Okla Chahta Clan of California, Muskogee Creek Nation and Chickasaw Nation were also in attendance.

Stacy Shepherd introduced the pageant's hostess, Gena Timberman, founder of the Luksi Group and former director of the American Indian Cultural Center Museum.

Judges for the event were Chris Ward, Elaine Thompson, and Michelle Westbrook.

After Shepherd led the crowd in prayer, the contestants took the stage in their unique traditional attire to perform the Lord's Prayer in sign language as a group. Brad Joe sang the prayer in Choctaw.

The Little Miss contestants were the

first to compete.

Each gave a short introduction and walked the stage while Timberman gave their biographies and described their ensembles, including the significance of the symbols incorporated in the traditional dress and accessories. Contestants then answered randomly chosen questions about Choctaw culture.

The Junior Miss contestants took the stage next.

These young ladies gave introductions and answered questions about Choctaw culture as well, but they also had to perform a talent for the judges and audience. Many of the contestants chose to sing traditional Choctaw hymns while Alexis Futsicha of District 11 played "Amazing Grace" on the flute.

Finally, the Miss Choctaw Nation contestants presented themselves one by one.

Several contestants carried baskets or shawls they made themselves. Talents included hymn singing, a sign language demonstration, a speech about Councilwoman Jennifer Woods and traditional storytelling.

While the judges deliberated, the audience heard parting remarks by outgoing Little Miss Mia Reich and Junior Miss Kalin Beller.

Both offered reflections of their time as Choctaw princesses and acknowledged those who supported them



The new Choctaw princesses smile proudly after earning their crowns. Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin presented each Princess with gifts, including a new set of luggage for their upcoming travels.

during their reigns.

Reich spoke of the importance of being a culture keeper for the Choctaw people, while Beller focused on the importance of appreciating life and making memories.

At the end of their presentations, both princesses were given gifts by Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Micah Frazier of Broken Bow then performed five songs for the audience before the pageant winners were announced. Frazier is a former Choctaw Youth Dancer and currently works for the Boys and Girls Club.

Little Miss Alyssiah Camp, 8, of Atoka in District 10 is the daughter of Tamara and Chiefton Camp Jr. She focuses mainly on her grades in school and has a goal of reading half a million words by the end of the school year. In her free time, Alyssiah enjoys attending summer camps, swimming and serving elders at the local community center. She is a member of the Big Cats AAU Gold Competitive Gymnastics Team and attends weekly Choctaw language classes.

Junior Miss Chayenne McCoy, 16, of Coalgate in District 12 is the daughter of Krista and Thomas McCoy. She participates in FCCLA, basketball,

golf, and cross country in school and is on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Chayenne also studies the Choctaw language and is a Choctaw Star Student in school. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys reading, attending church, spending time with friends and family and practicing the Choctaw language. For her talent, Chayenne performed Choctaw Hymn No. 41.

Miss Choctaw Nation Summer Moffitt, 18, of Hugo in District 8, is the daughter of Barbara and Johnny Moffitt. She is a sophomore studying early intervention and child development at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Summer has served as Miss Indian SOSU, Little Miss Choctaw Nation and Junior Miss Choctaw Nation. She is a member of SOSU's Native American Student Association. Summer enjoys singing, competing in powwows, playing stickball, attending church and going to Choctaw language classes in her free time. She performed "How Great Thou Art" in Choctaw for her talent.

All three Choctaw princesses received gifts from Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. They will spend the next year serving as ambassadors for the Choctaw Nation at events across the US.



Little Miss Choctaw Nation Alyssiah Camp



Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Chayenne McCoy



Miss Choctaw Nation Summer Moffitt

History of the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Another successful Labor Day Festival is in the books. If you didn't make it to the festival, this issue of the Biskinik will show you some of the highlights of the weekend. It was hot, but so much fun to get to fellowship with so many of you. Chief and I got to see many old friends and meet new ones.

It is always great to see so many of our brothers and sisters from Mississippi who drove nine hours for our festival. They did well on the stickball field and seemed to enjoy themselves. I look forward to seeing them again next year.

Labor Day at Tvshka Homma always makes me reflect on what it means to all of us. I thought I would share some interesting points about Labor Day.

After Oklahoma's statehood in 1907, there was a rush of immigration into the new state. The population changed quickly, and for many, it seemed almost overnight. Many at that time believed the tribes, and the tribal governments would fade away. But we all know, that didn't happen.

What did happen was the Council House, which was built in 1884, became vacant. By the late 1920s, there were plans to sell the building. For two years, many expected it to be torn



Photo Provided by Suzanne Heard

A group shot taken at an early Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma. The two-day meetings were a time to spend with family and friends.

down and reassembled in Durant, as a memorial to the Five Civilized Tribes. The Great Depression forced the cancellation of those plans.

In 1933, a movement began to preserve the building in its existing location and establish it as a memorial.

By the end of 1937, this was becoming a reality. The property had been deeded back to the tribe by the state, and a crew of 40 men repaired the building and restored it to its former glory. The men were Native Americans themselves, serving in the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The restoration work was completed in May and the building was dedicated in a grand celebration organized by Chief William A. Durant on June 3-4, 1938. Several hundred Choctaws and Chickasaws attended, and this marked the first of a continuing series of large, yearly celebrations of Choctaw faith, family and culture.

World War II forced a temporary end to the yearly gatherings, which didn't begin again until 1948. Led by Chief Harry J.W. Belvin, the gathering was moved from June to Labor Day. Belvin hoped it would become an annual custom, like the earlier meetings were. He was successful, and you can see the result. We owe these great Choctaw chiefs a debt of gratitude.

What I find interesting is that the Antlers American, in reporting on these efforts, suggested we were a "vanishing race" and felt the Council House would be, "the last remaining evidence of a race of people who lived and reigned over this part of the country." Not only have we not vanished, but because of our ancestors' answered prayers and determination, we are a strong, thriving tribe that is a beacon to others around the world.

I look forward to seeing you again next year at Labor Day. We are a blessed Nation and have so much to celebrate!

The Love of God

The love of God controls the believer. In Philippians 1:23, the Apostle Paul writes, "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." "I am in a strait betwixt two" could be translated, "I am held in constraint by reason of the two." Picture a man pressed on both sides or held so that he cannot move as he will. The idea is that of a person being shut up to one line and purpose. The love of Christ limits the believer to the mastering principle of love itself.

Next, the love of God is captivating. The Apostle Paul was possessed, engrossed, occupied, and absorbed with the wondrous love of Christ. He was captivated so much by the love of God, that even when he was imprisoned, he prayed and sang praises unto God (Acts 16:25).

The love of God also compels the believer to push on when things get to be too much. The physical body gets weary at times, but the spirit reaches out to the abiding love and finds a refreshing of hope and life.

Lastly, the love of God constrains the believer. In II Corinthians 5:13-15, we read, "For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God; or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. For the love of God constraineth us: because we thus judge, that if one died for all then all were dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again." The mediocre Christians at Corinth misunderstood the sacrificial life of the Apostle Paul. Some thought Paul was out of his mind at times. Paul was strong in his argumentative reasonings. Paul's answer is a polite apology, "Whether we be out of our mind or in a sound state of mind, I have only one explanation to put forward in my defense: the very spring of my actions is the love of Christ, for the love of Christ constraineth me." The word "constraineth" portrays the deep and overwhelming mastery of love at its core. This is what converted a man who hated Christians at one time to become a believer and became the great Apostle Paul.



Pastor Olin Williams Employee Chaplain



Photo by Christian Toews

Today, the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival attracts thousands of visitors, tribal and non-tribal. Labor Day is not only a time for fellowship but also a time to share our culture with others.

RIDE THROUGH HISTORY

Our mission is to embrace the memory and perpetuate the spirit of our Choctaw ancestors, to bring honor and remembrance, and to increase knowledge of Choctaw history by living an active, healthy lifestyle and serving as an example for individuals, families, and friends.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

CHOCTAWNATION.COM
TDEAGLEROAD@CNHSA.COM

Choctaw Nation
2019 Labor Day Festival

JOB FAIR

POTEAU AREA - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CONNECT WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS WHO ARE HIRING!

Opportunities include: Healthcare, I.T., Manufacturing, Transportation, Hospitality/Tourism, and others.

Bring copies of your resume.

Dress professionally.

NOVEMBER 7, 2019 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

DONALD W. REYNOLDS COMMUNITY CENTER | 105 REYNOLDS AVE. | POTEAU, OK

TOGETHER WE'RE MORE

580-920-2260
BMARTIN@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation
Career Development



Photos by: Christian Toews and Whitney Lautner
The Choctaw Nation Color Guard leads the way during the Pow Wow grand entry at the Labor Day festival. This year, Gourd Dancing and the Pow Wow were moved into the Gym in Talihina due to inclement weather.



Choctaw princesses share a few laughs between dances.



The kids were given an opportunity to dance after the adult dancing on Friday. Kids of all ages joined in.



4 year old, Josiah Kelough smiles while he waits for the kids dancing to begin.



Terry Ashby dances in the Talihina gym during the Gourd Dance. The event traditionally takes place prior to the Pow Wow and features a variety of dances for both men and women.



Women from many tribes joined in the Gourd Dancing on Friday, August 30.



Many tribes were represented at the Pow Wow grand entry in a variety of colorful attire.



Yonavea Hawkins, the Head Woman Dancer, participates in the gourd dancing prior to the Pow Wow grand entry on August 30.

Social Dancing



Photo by Kellie Matherly

The Snake Dance is performed during the social dancing exhibition. Participants dance in a spiral until they form a tight coil before breaking out.



Photo by Christian Toews

Crowd members were encouraged to participate during some of the social dancing.



Photo by Christian Toews

Social Dancers perform the Stomp Dance.



Photo by Kellie Matherly

Participants of all ages performed in the social dancing exhibition.



Photo by Christian Toews

Oklahoma Secretary of Native American Affairs, Lisa Billy participates in the social dancing exhibition.



Photo by Kendra Germany

Mahli Billy chants during the social dancing exhibition. Billy underwent a kidney transplant in July but decided to attend and participate in the Labor Day events, despite still recovering from the surgery. "It's like the slogan says, Faith, Family and Culture. It's my faith that got me through to where I am today," said Billy. It was his family that helped make his attendance possible. Billy said it's always been important to him to share the culture with his kids. Because of that he was able to rely on them to help with some of the events that he couldn't do because of certain restrictions after his surgery.

Choctaw Village



Photo by Chris Jennings

Jacqueline Putman gives a tour of the greenhouse.



Photo by Chris Jennings

From left: Te'Ata, Chloe and Bryar Maldonado all work on their pieces in pottery class at the Choctaw Village.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Festival attendees work on flint knapping at the Choctaw Village.

Bow Shoot



Photos by Deidre K. Elrod

Men's 18+ Winners: First - Dexter Underwood, Second - Jason Heckle, Third - David Edward



Girls 14-17 Winners: First - Journey Bell, Second - Aubrey Hopson



Boys 14-17 Winners: First - Tristen Ross, Second - Matthew Wilder, Third - Dylan Wilder



Boys and Girls 9-13 Winners: First - Carl Heckle, Second - Tabitha Wilder, Third - Kadey McKay



Women's 18+ Winners: First - Anna Diaz, Second - Alecia Ross, Third - Valerie Underwood

EVENTS

Nanih Chito United Methodist Church
45th Annual Singing
Oct. 26, 2019
7 p.m. - 12 a.m.
4 miles East of Wright City, OK
Henry Battiest Sr. - Emcee
Concession stand will be available
Supper from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Group and Classical Singing

Featured Singers:
Crimson River Band - Valliant, OK
Ron Brandy - Durant, OK
Blest Travelers - Yanish, OK

For more information contact, Mike Davis 580-320-7985,
Solomon Tonic 580-236-0525 or Henry Battiest 580-306-7158



Saturday, October 5, 2019

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

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

NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

Contact the Choctaw Nation
Circulation Department
580.924.8280 x4028

Read the Biskinik online at
CHOCTAWNATION.COM/NEWS



Biskinik
Announcement Guidelines

We accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 and above.
Couples may send announcements of silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries. We do not post wedding announcements.
News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows.
We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer's full name and city will be published.
All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.

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

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Dara McCoy, Executive Director
Mary Ann Strombitski, Senior Director
Kellie Matherly, News Editor
Chris Jennings, News Reporter
Christian Toews, News Reporter
Kendra Germany, Contributing Reporter

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
580-924-8280 • 800-522-6170
www.ChoctawNation.com
email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

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

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

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

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



The Goodland Cemetery Association
5th Pie and Cake Auction
Oct. 12, 2019

Kiamichi Area Vo-Tech
107 S. 15th Street, Hugo, OK 74743
Auction will be begin 6:00 p.m.
Come join us for chili prior to the auction.
Contact information 580-317-6395, 580-372-5517
or rcooper_99@yahoo.com

Veterans Association Members Needed

Choctaw Veterans Association is searching for new members. Most of our members are Vietnam Vets. We need young Choctaw military men and women, active or retired. Members of different tribes are welcome as well. Veterans Association paper work is needed. Meetings are 8 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Spiro Choctaw Community Center. Members attend funerals, Disabled American Veterans and Marine Corp League.

For information call:
Ed Hendricks, Recruiter 918-962-5524
Paul Perry, Commander 479-353-2709

Poteau Valley Genealogical Society Open House

Poteau Valley Genealogical Society will host an Open House Oct. 8, 2019, at the PVGS Genealogy Library from 1-7 p.m. October is Family History Month, so come see the services we have to offer to help you during your research. Volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions. We will have door prizes, refreshments and a goody bag to take with you to help in your research. PVGS is located inside the Patrick Lynch Public Library, 206 S. McKenna, Poteau, OK

Please visit the Poteau Valley Genealogical Society Facebook page for more information.

District 6 Oct. Activities

- *Every Monday and Wednesday
Senior Fitness Program "55+" 9 a.m.
- *Chair Volleyball Practice - 9:30 a.m.
at the Wellness Center
- *Every Wednesday - Lunch served,
with guest speaker - salad bar opens at 11:00 a.m.
- *Choctaw Language Class Monday Evenings 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- GED Classes Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - Noon
- Oct. 2**
Monthly Senior Meeting (after lunch)
Commodities pickup (McAlester - after meeting)
- Oct. 3**
Outstanding Senior Banquet - Durant
- Oct. 4**
Councilwoman Jennifer Woods Prayer Meeting -
7:00-8:00 a.m. (Breakfast to follow)
Indian Taco Sale 11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Oct. 7**
CHR Community Meeting at Red Oak School Cafeteria - 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 8**
Short Shopping Day - Destination to be announced
- Oct. 10**
Medicare Meeting - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17**
Medicare meeting 10:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pocola Casino Trip (Bus leaves at 4:00 p.m.)
- Oct. 18 & 19**
Indian Taco Concession - Downtown Wilburton & Tuskahoma Halloween Carnival
- Oct. 25**
Long Shopping Day- Destination to be announced
- Oct. 29**
Family Night Potluck and Bingo - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 31**
Community Halloween Party at Gary Rosebure Park

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna
October Language Lesson

- Usage of Common Verbs**
awant - a marker appearing before a verb and meaning 'with (someone)' or 'accompanying'.
awant aya - to accompany someone
Pronounced: ah-want a'yah
awant ia - to go and accompany someone
Pronounced: ah-want e-yah
1. Kvta hosh chi pokni awant aya?
Who is with or accompanying your grandmother?
 2. Im ofi yvt awant aya tuk.
His/her dog was with/accompanying her.
 3. Chi awant aya chi.
He/she will go with/accompany you.
 4. Iki awant ia tuk.
He/she went with/accompanied his/her father.
 5. Chi awant ia sv bvna.
I want to go with/accompany you.
 6. Si awant bininli.
He/she is sitting with me.
 7. Pi awant ilhkola chi.
They will go with/accompany us.

www.choctawschool.com

LETTERS

Small Business and Preferred Supplier
program promotes Choctaw businesses

Yakoke to Choctaw Small Business Services and Choctaw Preferred Supplier Program for yet another incredible event to promote Choctaw-Owned Businesses!
Just wanted to send a quick note to tell you the true measurement of your success through the Choctaw Small Business Development Services and Preferred Supplier Program. We were incredibly honored to receive the Business of the Year for District 12 of the Choctaw Nation.
As a result of the Preferred Supplier Fair on Friday, June 21, 2019, we were able to obtain 6 prospective clients and secure an immediate (on-site) contract worth over \$3,000. Your hard work and dedication to assisting Chahta business is reflective in the work you do every day. I call LaNell frequently just to see if someone is a Preferred Vendor and encourage candidates to complete the application process. When possible, we keep our outsourced dollars in the hands of Choctaw Preferred Suppliers! The power of what you do is evident of the funds that you are keeping and bringing to Indian Country.
You don't just manage a Preferred Supplier Network, you are providing economic growth and security for Choctaw businesses. There is no one else that does what you do. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for offering growth opportunities for our business each and every day.
Chi pisa la chike!

Jack Hedrick-Lightfoot, M.S.
President
Unboxed Training Solutions, LLC



Photo by Chris Jennings

U.S. Representative, Markwayne Mullin and his sons, Andrew and Jayce watch his son Jim climb the rock tower. The whole Mullin family was at the 2019 Labor Day festival and worked as volunteers doing things like helping with voter registration, unloading trucks and picking up trash.

Veteran of the Month

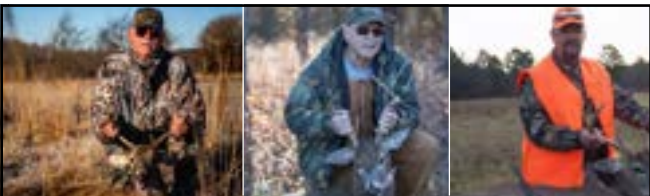


Sylvester Moore of Talihiha was awarded Veteran of the Month at the September Council Meeting in Tvshka Homma. Moore served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1954 during the Korean War, where he was stationed in France.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

Nov. 5	Idabel	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 5	Poteau	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 6	Coalgate	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 6	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 8	Crowder	by appointment
Nov. 12	Wright City	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 12	Atoka	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 13	Talihina	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Nov. 13	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Nov. 15	Wilburton	10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Nov. 15	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 19	Broken Bow	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Nov. 19	Poteau	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 20	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Nov. 20	Stigler	by appointment
Nov. 22	Atoka	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Nov. 22	Talihina	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Durant: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Call 580-326-8304 for an appointment



CHOCTAW VETERANS HUNT

DRAWING: NOVEMBER 11, 2019

TWO-DAY WHITETAIL HUNT

Five Choctaw Veterans from the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation will be randomly selected during the Veterans Day event for a two-day whitetail hunt at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge. Sign-ups and drawing will be held on capital grounds in Tvshka Homma. (Must be present to win. Subject to verification of CDIB and Veteran eligibility.)

Day 1 - December 2nd - Half Day Hunt (Begins at 12pm)
Day 2 - December 3rd - Full Day Hunt
Day 3 - December 4th - Half Day Hunt (Ends at 12pm)

HUNT INCLUDES:
• All meals and two-night stay in the Choctaw Hunting Lodge
• Two-Day Rifle Hunt - During rifle season (management buck only)
• Selected hunters may bring one person with them if assistance is needed



CHOCTAWHUNTINGLODGE.COM

Obituaries

Lilliella (Samuel) Willis

Lilliella (Samuel) Willis, 99, passed away August 1, 2019. Lilliella was born March 25, 1920, in Beachton, Oklahoma, to Kizzie and Sampson Samuel. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Elesten Willis, Sr.; brother Williston Samuel; sisters Frances Willis, Lena Frazier, and Effie Watson; five nephews and two nieces; son Norman D. Samuel; daughter Mona Stricklin; granddaughter Amanda Willis; and son-in-law Larry Stricklin.

Lilliella is survived by sons Edgel Samuel and spouse Jane, Vernon Willis, Elesten Willis Jr. and spouse Tracie, and Everett Glenn Willis and fiancée Lisa Silva; daughters Freda Willis, and Alestine Thomas; 16 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; a host of other relatives, friends, and a special friend, Charlotte Polk.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Harold Gene Benton

Harold Gene Benton, 80, passed away July 3, 2019. Gene was born Dec. 20, 1938, in Dawn, Texas, to Charles Wesley and Beatrice Elizabeth (Cobb) Benton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Charlene Dodson; in-laws Joe and Dorothy Blanks; brother-in-law Wesley Blanks, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Gene is survived by wife Sharon Lue Benton; daughters Leschia Molzahn and spouse Neil; Charlotte Jay and spouse Chad; and Teresa Seyler; five grandchildren Benton Seyler, Cody Molzahn and spouse Sonia, Chase Seyler, Maggie McConnell and spouse Michael, and Connor Jay; three great-grandchildren Kayleigh Lashley, Marlie McConnell, Meritt McConnell; brother Eddie Benton; sister-in-law Pat Walker and spouse Dan; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Biskinik](#).



Charles Robert Coffman

Charles Robert Coffman, 49, passed away June 26, 2019. Charles was born July 13, 1969, in Dos Palos, California, to Utah Carl and Lynda Frances (Logue) Coffman.

He was preceded in death by maternal grandfather Charles Logue; and paternal grandparents George and Pauline Hogwood.

Charles is survived by his parents; daughter Charlee Coffman; brothers Ronnie Coffman and spouse Sarah, Justin Coffman and spouse Sommer; maternal grandmother Beatrice Logue; nieces Amber Coffman, Machenzie Coffman, and Hailey Coffman; nephews Ty Utah Coffman and R.J. Coffman; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).



Beatrice LaVerne Logue

Beatrice “Bea” LaVerne Logue, 95, passed away June 30, 2019.

Beatrice was born July 20, 1923, in Lula, Oklahoma, to Carl and Mary Wade.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Charles Logue; grandson Robbie Coffman; siblings Woodrow Wade, Verna Wade, Melba Mullins and Cleve Wade.

Beatrice is survived by daughters Lynda Coffman and spouse Carl, and Gayle Rincon and spouse Carlos; brothers Carl Wade and spouse Susan, Jeannie Adams, and Matta Wade and spouse Karen; grandchildren Melody Barragan and spouse Gary, David Norton, Dené Vincent and spouse Darrell, Ronnie Coffman and spouse Sarah, and Justin Coffman and spouse Sommer; great-grandchildren Crystal Schmidt, Samantha Brown and spouse Ty, Michael Barragan, Meghan Willden and spouse Woody, Bridgette Parker and spouse Quinton, Chandler Norton, Logan Vincent, Nicolas Vincent, Ty Coffman, R.J. Coffman, Amber Coffman, Machenzie Coffman, Hailey Coffman and Charlee Coffman; and great-grandchildren Talon Brown, Gavin Brown and Adalyne Willden.

For the full obituary, please visit [Jay chapel](#).



Mary Nell Crane

Mary Nell Crane, 87, passed away July 21, 2019. Mary Nell was born December 8, 1931, in Zafra, Oklahoma to Edgar Ellis James and Nellie Perkins James.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Donald Neil Crain; and brother Ellis James.

Mary Nell is survived by children Rickey Dale Crain and spouse Kimberly Ann, Randy Lee Crain and spouse Christi Ann, and Gayla Sue Dixon and spouse Rodney Keyth; grandchildren Joshua Dixon, Samantha Crain, Brandon and Charis Dixon, Lindy Crain, Rickey Crain, and Mikala and Robby Tabuchi; great-grandchildren Paisyn Crain and Emma Dixon; siblings Charlie and Gloria James, and Juanita Lewark.

For the full obituary, please visit [Biggers Funeral Home](#).



Michael Keith Cole

Michael Keith Cole, 59, passed away July 27, 2019.

Mike was born April 9, 1960, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to James and Betty (Hall) Cole.

He was preceded in death by his parents and several brothers and sisters.

Mike is survived by sisters Marsha Burgess and Vonda Cole; aunt Maggie Anderson; special friend Sue Moore; Numerous nieces, nephews, great & great-great nieces and nephews along with numerous other dearly loved family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Service](#).



Delmar Joe Choate

Delmar Joe Choate, 74, passed away June 19, 2019.

Delmar was born Feb. 13, 1945, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Boyd and Lois (Cecil) Choate.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Jimmy Darrel Choate; and his niece Kristine Louise Woods.

Delmar is survived by brothers Dennis James and spouse Carol, Kirby Lee, Clarence and spouse Edith, and Clinton Eugene; sisters Charlene Bailey, and Karen Sue Woods and spouse Gary; nephews Dennis Allen Choate and spouse Shannon and Jason Wyatt Choate and significant other Kathleen; nieces Jamie and spouse Paul Bryant, Sherry and spouse Anders Becklund, Tomah Kay Pickering and Jennifer Lynn Choate; great-nieces Jessica Powell, Lexi Marie Choate, Tomah Nattistie Watters and Alexis Alba; and great-nephews Samuel Powell and Joseph Dwight Emmertt.

For the full obituary, please visit [Mallory Martin Funeral Home](#).



Virgil Going

Virgil Going, 94, passed away July 6, 2019.

Virgil was born Nov. 12, 1924, in Smithville, Oklahoma, to Abner and Caroline Hudson Going.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Neva Going; son Aaron Going, and all his siblings.

Virgil is survived by children Vanessa Herron and spouse Mike, and Anthony Going and spouse Lydia; granddaughter Ashley Herron; along with numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

For the full obituary please visit [Dignity Memorial Funeral Home](#).



Arnold Charles Lee Taylor

Arnold Charles Lee Taylor, 73, passed away June 20, 2019.

A.T. was born March 27, 1946, in McAlester, Oklahoma, to Johnson and Ethel (Perry) Taylor.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother Jessie Taylor.

A.T. is survived by children Charlie Taylor, Donya Battiest and spouse Randy, Brandon Taylor, and Starla Austin and spouse Ed; special niece and nephew Kami Taylor and Chase McKinney; sister Peggy Larney; and nephew Brian Larney.

For the full obituary, please visit [White Family Funeral Home](#).



Ramona Choate Schrader

Ramona Choate Schrader, 88, passed away June 22, 2019.

Ramona was born December 15, 1930, in the Choate Prairie community west of Indianola, Oklahoma, to George Rudolph Choate and Lois Olivette Edens Choate.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers James Frederick Choate and Lieutenant George R. Choate, Jr.; sisters Mary Kay Choate Johnson and Lois Geraldine Colby.

Ramona is survived by her children Alfred L. Schrader and spouse Kim, George Choate Schrader and spouse Linda, and Laura Schrader Crenshaw; grandchildren Christian Frederick Schrader, Elizabeth, Emily and Clare Crenshaw; brother David E. Choate and his spouse Sharon; nephews, John and George Colby; and niece Deirdre Colby Sato.

For the full obituary, please visit [Dignity Memorial](#).



Ruth Ann Tom

Ruth Ann Tom, 64, passed away May 21, 2019.

Ruth was born April 3, 1955, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, to Nellie and Jefferson Tom.

She is preceded in death by her parents; and brothers Joseph, Vernon, Leonard, Walter, Jessie, Glen and Lawrence.

Ruth is survived by sister Sallie Diaz; brothers Elton E. Vaughn and Jefferson J. Tom; and four daughters.

For the full obituary, please visit [Biskinik](#).



Cecelia June Baker

Cecelia June (Lewis) Baker, 72, passed away June 27, 2019.

Cecelia was born in Fort Towson, Oklahoma, to Simon Lewis and Ora Mae (Wright) Tims.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son Travis Moore; daughter Monette Baker; sister Martha Jean Hudson; and brother Forest Tims.

Cecelia is survived by her husband Houston Baker Jr.; son Jeremy Kemp and spouse Stacey; daughters Victoria Gonzalez, Tamara Gonzalez and spouse Jose; sisters Carol Nadine Kemp, Lota Wanna Moore, and Lila Annette; thirteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Miller and Miller Funeral Home](#).



Kenny Joe French

Kenny Joe French, 38, passed away Aug. 6, 2019.

Kenny was born July 22, 1981, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Moses I. Cooper and Vera Mae Mitchell.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Kenny is survived by his wife Carrie Millar; daughters Sierra and Brianna French; sisters Kisha Mitchell, Anna Stoeckert and Yolanda Bertis; brothers Ralph French, Moses Cooper and Steven Cooper; and numerous extended family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Service](#).



James Earl Davis

James Earl Davis, 81, passed away May 21, 2019.

James was born Feb. 7, 1938, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, to James and Veda (Packard) Davis.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and wife Reba Louise Davis.

James is survived by sons James Matthew Davis, David Mark Davis, John Daniel Davis, and Timothy Milton Davis; daughters Teresa Lynn Williams, Constance Ann Smith and Catherine Joyce Canonico; brother Walter Davis and spouse Linda.

For the full obituary, please visit [Dignity Memorial Funeral Home](#).



Becky Gay Holmes

Becky Gay Holmes, age 63, passed away Aug. 4, 2019. Becky was born July 20, 1965, in La Jolla, California to Raiford R. and Mildred Bobbie (Rogers) Strickland.

She was preceded in death by her father; and brother Raiford Strickland Jr..

Becky is survived by her son Tony (Anthony) Celender; mother; and Daniel C. Babineaux; along with many other relatives and a host of friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Biskinik](#).

Billy Joe Grant

Billy Joe Grant, 90, passed away Jul 9, 2019.

Bill was born May 9, 1929, to Ray and Edna Myres Grant.

He was owner & promoter of the first bluegrass festival west of the Mississippi from 1969-2004. Bill received the Bluegrass Music Association Distinguished Achievement award and was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Juarez Bostic Grant; son Jack Barnes; daughter Nancy Barnes Lindamood; and grandson Tim Weatherford.

Bill is survived by his wife Barbara Grant; daughter Amy Patrick and spouse Harry; Grandsons Gavin and Evan Patrick; grandchildren AnnaBeth Rose Patrick, Shelly Wall and spouse Brandon, Amanda Bazor and spouse Josh, Chad Weatherford and spouse Stacia, Kristinia Fischer; Leigh Ann Kidney and spouse Steven, Jennifer Beattie and spouse Will, Marcie Johnson, Scott Lindamood and spouse Kelly; 14 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Prater-Lamp-ton-Mills & Coffey](#).



Thurman D. Hudson

Thurman D. Hudson, 78, passed away July 19, 2019.

Thurman was born May 19, 1941, in Smithville, Oklahoma, to Dixon and Sarah (Amos) Hudson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Von Hudson; and sisters Corrine Hudson and Lita Baxter.

Thurman is survived by wife Peggy; daughters, Kimberly Richie, and companion John Curtis, and Carla Roberts and spouse John; brothers E.B. Hudson, Dean Hudson, Cordell Hudson, and spouse Vera, Greg Hudson, and R.E. Hudson; sisters Magdalene Scott, Verdella Hudson, Kathleen Hudson, and Loretta Richardson and spouse Jimmy; grandchildren Hannah Keller and spouse Josh, Heather Richie, and Johnny Roberts; four great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; other relatives and a host of friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Clint Stacy Caldwell

Clint Stacy Caldwell, 52, passed away July 19, 2019.

Stacy was born March 6, 1967, in Idabel, Oklahoma, to Cecil Samuel and Eleanor (Gibson) Caldwell.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Boyd and Fannie Gibson, and Coleman and Eliza Caldwell; and sister-in-law Diana Caldwell.

Stacy is survived by his parents; his friend Susie Rose; brothers Shannon Caldwell and spouse Michelle, Christopher Caldwell, Cliff Caldwell, and Coty Caldwell and spouse Ellen; sisters Chantay Bates and spouse Wayne, and Shari Williams; nieces and nephews Ashley, Jordan, Jace, Willard, Coleman, Cameron, Charity, Evening, Yukpa, Chance, Avery, Delta, Quintin, and Annabelle; great-nieces and nephews, Isaiah, Samuel, Daxton, Ryan, Camdynn, Dominic, Jade, Christian, Joclyn, Charlie, Payslee, Marlie, Stella, Jessie, and Sophia; special friends, Ken Jennings, Damon Taylor, and Nahmee Jones; his friends and family of law enforcement; a host of other relatives and many friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



ITI FABVSSA

Indigenous archaeology: what it is and why it is important to the Choctaw Nation

Choctaw identity is founded upon a unique and special heritage, which is embodied in our language, our historic sites and our traditional knowledge. By practicing indigenous archaeology, we are keeping our culture safe and making sure future generations of Choctaws know about their culture and history. But, what is indigenous archaeology? You might have heard the terms used on their own but maybe not together. “Indigenous” is used to describe the original inhabitants and their descendants (i.e., Native Americans) of the United States. Archaeology is the study of the material objects and lifeways of past people. After reading these two definitions, one might think that indigenous archaeology is the study of the material objects and lifeways of Native Americans and their ancestors. While this assumption is not totally wrong, the meaning and roots of indigenous archaeology go much deeper. Dr. Joe Watkins—an anthropologist and member of the Choctaw Nation— has written an entire book on this topic entitled “Indigenous Archaeology: American Indian Values and Scientific Practice.” Dr. Watkins states that indigenous archaeology needs to collaborate with, be influenced by and be practiced by indigenous peoples—after all, according to Sonya Atalay, it is supposed to be archaeology that is done “for, by, and with” Native American communities. Scholars of indigenous archaeology have defined it in many ways. Sharon Milholland defines indigenous archaeology as “a form of archaeology where indigenous knowledge, values, and goals are the underpinnings of research.”

Indigenous archaeology isn’t so much about who is doing the archaeology (Native or non-Native archaeologists), but rather it is about using Native American worldviews and ideas to conduct archaeological research. Another important aspect of an indigenous archaeology approach is the fact that indigenous archaeologists have worked to expand the Native American voice within archaeology and in American history textbooks. They have also helped tribes reclaim the bones and funerary objects of ancestors and worked to support tribal sovereignty through helping tribes comply with cultural resources laws internally. Through all this work, indigenous archaeologists can practice archaeology in a far more ethical manner than it has been practiced in previous years. Also, placing an emphasis on the Native worldview and voice has allowed for important topics to be addressed within many Native communities in North America and elsewhere in the world. So, how and why is the practice of indigenous archaeology important to you and the Choctaw Nation? Indigenous archaeology is practiced every day by the staff of the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department. We practice community engagement through presentations on Choctaw culture and history, archaeology camps, and even our upcoming archaeology day that will be held Oct. 19, 2019. We have a deep respect for the past and items that were left behind by Choctaw ancestors. We also protect the sites in Choctaw Nation today as stew-



Photo Courtesy of Kristen Walczesky
Artifacts are carefully excavated and preserved by the Choctaw Nation’s Historical Preservation department.

ards of the lands of other tribes such as the Osage Nation and Caddo Nation, among others. Unlike most archaeologists, Choctaw Nation archaeologists do not totally excavate sites—unless absolutely necessary. Essentially, we protect Choctaw history by protecting archaeological sites left behind by our ancestors. We also incorporate Choctaw knowledge into our research. This can take many forms, but one example is working with tribal members to write down stories they have regarding Choctaw history and culture, or visiting old Choctaw sites they know about so we can keep those sites safe from any destruction. If you know of any archaeological sites and especially sites that pertain to Choctaw history, please feel free to contact the Historic Preservation department at 800-522-6170 and let us know.

Labor Day Art Show Winners

Painting

1st Place: “Prayer” – J. Dylan Cavin
2nd Place: “The Lecturer” – Candace Shanholtzer
3rd Place: “With Quiet Courage” – Connie D. Phillips
HM: “Portrait of a Choctaw Girl” – Miranda Fann
HM: “Princess in Yellow Dress” – Kevin Hardin
HM: “Mother and Child” – Candace Shanholtzer

Graphics

1st Place: “Always Speak the Truth” – Laurretta Newby-Coker
2nd Place: “Buffalo Valley” – Gwen Coleman Lester
3rd Place: “Running Shadow” – Stacy Pierce
HM: “Thinking Ahead” – Laurretta Newby-Coker

Sculpture

1st Place: “Hollow Trail” – Ross Ridge
2nd Place: “Lazy Days of Summer: - Karen Braudrick
3rd Place: “Bear Slayer” – Jack Haynes
HM: “Choctaw Spear Warrior” – Jack Haynes

Pottery

1st Place: “Tornado – Mahli Chito” – Evangeline Robinson
2nd Place: “Long Neck Bottle” – Evangeline Robinson
3rd Place: “Oka Katoba – Water Bottle” – Evange-

line Robinson

Basketry

1st Place: “Choctaw Elbow Basket” – Susan Locke Charlesworth
2nd Place: “Choctaw Storage Basket” – Susan Locke Charlesworth

Cultural

1st Place: “Song of My Mother” – Carolyn Bernard Young
2nd Place: “Biskinik Gorget” – Michael Rose
3rd Place: “Weaver’s Bundle” – Sandra Riley

Jewelry

1st Place: “Stickball Bracelet and Ring set” – Jerry Lowman
2nd Place: “Forever” – Brent Deramus
3rd Place: “Bright Shining” – Jerry Lowman

Heritage Awards

1) “Chahta Sia Hoke” – Lizabeth Mitchell
2) “Two Beauties” – Jane Semple Umsted
3) “Good Medicine” – Jeanette Anne Ozee

Best of Show

“Traditional Choctaw Beadwork” – Debra Irvan

People’s Choice

“Traditional Choctaw Beadwork” – Debra Irvan

Pottery



Evangeline Robinson - 1st Place: “Tornado – Mahli Chito”, 2nd Place: “Long Neck Bottle” and 3rd Place: “Oka Katoba – Water Bottle”

Jewelry



Jerry Lowman - 1st Place: “Stickball Bracelet and Ring set” and 3rd Place: “Bright Shining”

Sculpture



Ross Ridge - 1st Place: “Hollow Trail”

Best of Show, Peoples Choice



Debra Irvin won both Best of Show and the People’s Choice awards for her piece “Traditional Choctaw Beadwork.”

Heritage Awards



“Good Medicine” – Jeanette Anne Ozee



“Chahta Sia Hoke” – Lizabeth Mitchell



“Two Beauties” – Jane Semple Umsted

Labor Day 5K

654 Entries

89 Degrees

16:51 Fastest time



The husband and wife team of Chase and Kortney McMichael won the 5k in both the men's and women's races. Chase finished with a time of 16:51 and Kortney finished with a time of 20:51.



Photos by Christian Toews
Top: Runners make the turnaround at the Labor Day 5K race.

Right: Josh and Stihl Snyder run the Labor Day 5K. Stihl, right, beat Josh by 19 seconds.

Left: Peggy Newcomb poses with her children and Chief Batton at the start of the Labor Day 5K. Newcomb set a goal of running a 5K every month in 2019. The Labor Day run also coincided with her 50th birthday. Newcomb said she thinks about her grandfather and the lessons he taught her about the hardships suffered by her Native ancestors as she runs.



Basketball



First Place, 18+ Women's Division: No Names



Second Place, 18+ Women's Division: Wild Ponies



First Place, 36+ Men's Division: Tribal Elders



Second Place, 36+ Men's Division: Nexxxt



First Place, 12-14 Co-ed Division: War Cry



Second Place, 12-14 Co-ed Division: Native Nerds



Second Place, 15-18 Co-ed Division: Team X



First Place, 15-18 Co-ed Division: Rams



Second Place, 9-11 Co-ed Mini-Ballers: Tomahawks



First Place, 9-11 Co-ed Mini-Ballers: Mississippi Li'l Hoopers



Second Place, Young Guns: Fort Squad



First Place, Young Guns: Chuntaks

Horseshoes



Women's Ringer Champion, Phyllis Bohanan.



Men's Ringer Champion, Paul Impson.



Youth Ringer Champion, Fleming Sims.



Men's Singles: First Place, Paul Impson; Second Place, Glen Burton; and Third Place, Kevin Kaseca.



Women's Singles: First Place, Phyllis Bohanan; Second Place, Tiffany Taylor; and Third Place, Brenda Smith.



Youth Singles: First Place, Torben Vorque; Second Place, Kylie Harvie; and Third Place, Daysia Johnson.



Skylar Henry took home first place and Fischer Glendenig took home second place in the youth 15 and under checkers competition.



Men's Doubles: First Place, Mike Mings and Nicky Slabaugh.



Women's Doubles: First Place, Phyllis Bohanan and Kisha Bohanan.

Dominoes & Checkers



Roger Waymire took home first place in the dominoes tournament, while Vince Ortiz took home second.



Sylvester Moore took home first place and Quint Hodges took home second in the 16 and over checkers competition.

Photos by Karen Jacob, Brittany Lopez and Mallory Phelps.

Quilt Show



Ruth Ann Dighton: "Birds & Hearts" Third Place.



Alma Grogan: "Mini Square Stars" Hand Stitch, Second Place.



Rebecca Mizell: Machine Stitch, Third Place.



Lois Thomas: "Log Cabin" Machine Stitch, First Place.



Ambia Crain: "When Geese Fly" Machine Stitch, Second Place.



Ruth Ann Dighton: "Farm" Hand Stitch, Second Place.



Lois Thomas: "Basket of Flowers" Hand Stitch, First Place.



Tony Ward, District 2

Progress continues in District 2

Halito,
It is great to have the opportunity to share some news from District 2 and the Choctaw Nation.
In August we had a ribbon-cutting for 20 new LEAP homes in Broken Bow, helping 20 families realize the dream of owning a new home. It was great to hear the new homeowners' stories and excitement they had during the ceremony. We now have a total of 30 new homes in District 2. We would like to thank everyone involved in making this happen.
We also had a Chahtapreneur business open in Hochatown called The Gallery. Debra Lewis and her husband Jack opened an art gallery to display their art along with that of other talented local artists. The Gallery will host painting parties and other artists and their paint parties.

The Battiest and Broken Bow Senior Citizens honored the senior veterans. It is always an honor to recognize our veterans as often as we can. From District 2, we would like to say yakoke to each of the men and women who have served and protected our country, giving us the freedoms we have today.
Throughout the summer, our youth were able to participate in our summer youth camps, like the Culture Enrichment camp, golf, softball/baseball, stickball, football, cheer, wildlife and basketball camps. This is a great experience for our youth to be involved in and to have something to do during the summer.

Our seniors from Broken Bow and Battiest participated in the first annual chair volleyball tournament for the Labor Day festival at Tvshka Homma. Team 1 from Broken Bow made the final four and played at Tvshka Homma. Congratulations!

As summer comes to a close, we look forward to more exciting things to come in the fall. School has started, so be careful and cautious of the buses and children as they make their way to and from school. With cooler weather approaching, please make sure you are prepared. Check your heaters and smoke detectors.

I hope you had a safe and fun Labor Day and enjoyed the festival! It is an honor to serve as your District 2 councilman during this exciting time for the Choctaw Nation. None of these things could be done without all the associates, directors, leadership and the Chief and Assistant Chief. Again, yakoke to you all, as we continue to progress...God bless you all.



James Dry, District 9

District 9 has a successful year

Halito District 9. We are happy to announce that 40 families moved into our LEAP homes May 30 in Durant. This program is a new homeownership program for Choctaw Tribal Members who meet program income guidelines. Our Tribal members pay \$500 a month for a new home. We look forward to providing more homes in the future.

Our District 9 community center hosted our scholarship banquet May 28 and presented a total of 19 scholarships worth \$1000 each. It's been a great partnership with the Chahta Foundation, which matches dollar for dollar and allows us to touch more kids' lives in District 9. A big thank you to Chahta Foundation and all who helped raise this money.

I would like to congratulate and welcome our two newest members to the Tribal Council, Eddie Bohanan from District 3 and Robert Karr from District 11. I

look forward to working with these fine men. I also want to say a special thank you to Bob Pate and Kenny Bryant for their many years of service to our Tribe.

We had 105 youth participate in our summer Youth Work Program in Bryan County this year. Participants gained work experience in retail, avionics, food and beverage, information technology, health and wellness, multimedia and education. Our community center had the privilege of having two of our youngsters participate in the program, Isiah Marris and Onnatminti Watson. They learned many skills while serving our elders. They each created a vision board with their goals and presented them to the operations team at the Durant resort. It was a great learning experience for these two up-and-coming tribal members.

The Miss Choctaw Pageant of 2019 resulted in naming Audrina Samuels as District 9 Little Miss, Kenzie Wilson as District 9 Junior Miss and Haleigh Gibson as District 9 Senior Miss during this years' Durant Magnolia Festival.

These gracious young ladies did an outstanding job representing District 9 at our Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Also, in preparation for the 2020 Miss Choctaw Pageant in Tvshka Homma, they conducted their interviews in the true Chahta Spirit. We are proud to announce that Audrina, Kenzie and Haleigh will be attending all upcoming Choctaw events representing District 9.



District 9

District 9 Fun Facts for This Year

Current Construction

- Choctaw Nation Housing Authority – 10
- Lease to Purchase (LEAP) Homes located in Calera, Oklahoma
- Affordable Rental (AR) Homes located in Calera, Oklahoma
- Choctaw Nation Cultural Center in Durant, Oklahoma
- Choctaw Casino Mega Expansion – Casino Expansion in Durant, Oklahoma

Employment

- 3,372 associates employed in Durant

Education

POSSE participation

- Calera- 134 students attended
- Durant- 239 students attended
- Rock Creek- 105 students attended
- 241 9th-12th grade students participated in High School Student Services for the 2018-2019 Year
- 28 9th-12th grade students received a 3.9 or above GPA and were inducted into the Oklahoma Indian Honor society for 2018-2019
- Higher Education Scholarships- 432 assisted and awarded \$330,600
- 2019 expected graduates-74 students
- Technology Allowance- 25 assisted and awarded \$12,500

- College clothing- 706 assisted and awarded \$202,850
- 54 Tribal members graduated in May from Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Career Development assisted 122 Tribal members since Oct. 1, 2018
- Bennington Public Schools- 123 Choctaw students
- Caddo Public Schools- 103 Choctaw students
- Durant Public Schools- 777 Choctaw students
- Rock Creek Public Schools- 91 Choctaw students

Health

90,764 Wellness center visits
47,069 Primary provider visits
128,146 Total patient encounters



Eddie Bohanan, District 3

Bohanan ready to serve the Choctaw people

Halito,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the celebration of the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival! It was great to see so many of our Chahta family come home from where they live around the world to take part in our traditional activities, admire the artwork, cheer at the stickball games, and enjoy the food, dancing, and crafts. These gatherings always remind me of the importance of preserving and sustaining our culture, recognizing the core values of faith and family that have been so carefully handed down from generation to generation which helped us face whatever challenges were presented, and to honor with a thankful heart the sacrifices of so many who have walked before us to ensure that we have the opportunities that we have today.

This year, I was humbled to stand at that same gathering and take the oath to serve our great Nation and district as your District 3 tribal council member. Just as I took an oath to protect and serve our communities during my years in service in the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, I am committed to serving our Chahta families as we work together for a strong future.

As I stated in my campaign announcement, being Choctaw has shaped who I am, providing a firm foundation of faith, family, and culture. Thank you for placing your trust in me. I look forward to the opportunity to give back to the heritage that has provided me so much and ensuring that our Nation is strong for current and future generations of Choctaws to thrive.

Tribal Council holds September session

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on Sept. 14, 2019, at Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
- 3) ROLL CALL
- 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) Regular Session Aug. 10, 2019
- 5) WELCOME GUESTS/RECOGNIZE VETERAN OF THE MONTH
 - a) Sylvester Moore, District #3
- 6) ELECTION OF SPEAKER, SECRETARY, CHAPLAIN, AND SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Speaker: Thomas Williston

Secretary: Ron Perry

Chaplain: Jennifer Woods

Speaker Pro Tempore: James Dry

- 7) APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, AND RECORDING SECRETARY

Parliamentarian: J. Renley Dennis

Sergeant-At-Arms (Tabled until next session)

Recording Secretary: Patty Hawkins

- 8) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- 9) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Presentation of Choctaw School of Language Teacher Certificate

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

- b) Approve the FY2020 Budgets for the Indian Child Welfare Program and to Approve the Family Preservation Program

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

- c) Approve the Choctaw Nation FY2019 WIC Budget

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

- d) Approve the FY/2020 Annual Tribal Budget

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

- e) Approve Application for Head Start One-Time Grant Funds, Approve Application to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services for the Joint Venture Construction Program, to Approve Negotiation and Execution of a Joint Venture Construction Agreement, and to provide funding to Construct and Equip a Health Clinic in Hugo, OK, and Approve Application for the 2019 Tribal Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration-Supportive Housing Grant

(VASH)
Vote Counts: YEAs- Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed

- f) Acknowledge the Chief's Designation of Certain Employees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to Execute Federal Indian Preference Forms and to Rescind CB-88-16

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

- g) Approve Funds and Budget for Year 5 of 5 Continuation for the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Purpose Area 2 (Project Path of Hope)

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

- h) A Resolution Proclaiming that the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Stands United with All Oklahoma Tribal Governments Regarding the Tribal-State Gaming Compact

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

- i) Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets

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

- j) Authorize the Child Care Assistance Program to be Consolidated into the Choctaw Nations 477 Plan Pursuant to the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 and as Amended by the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017

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

10) OTHER NEW BUSINESS

11) OLD BUSINESS

12) ADJOURNMENT

13) CLOSING PRAYER

Council Members Present:

Thomas Williston

Tony Ward

Eddie Bohanan

Delton Cox

Ron Perry

Jennifer Woods

Jack Austin

Perry Thompson

James Dry

Anthony Dillard

Robert Karr

James Frazier

Next regular scheduled council meeting will be 10:00 a.m., Oct. 12, 2019, at Tvshka Homma.



Photo by Kelsey Brown

Poteau Seniors won the first ever chair volleyball tournament at the 2019 Labor Day festival. Tribal elders are fiercely competitive when it comes to chair volleyball, and each team brought their A-game to the tent.



LOOKING FOR A BETTER CAREER? DON'T WAIT ANOTHER MOMENT

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CHOCTAWCAREERS.COM | 866-933-2260

Choctaw Nation Career Development CHOCTAWNATION.COM

National Day of Prayer



Photos by Kellie Matherly and Krislan Turner

The 9th Annual Choctaw Day of Prayer was observed on Sept. 1, 2019, in the beautiful Bertram Bobb Chapel. The Bertram Bobb Chapel opened its doors on Aug. 29, 2014. The Chapel was named after the late Bertram Bobb, who served as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Chaplain for many years. Guests in attendance included Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Cyrus Ben of Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Guest speakers included Joseph Wolfe, Curtis Billy and Apostle Teri Brecheen. Speakers from further away included Caleb Willis from Choctaw, Mississippi, Apostle Joe Donnell from Sisseton, South Dakota and Apostle Thomas Ben from Choctaw, Mississippi. Sundays are always a busy day, filled with faith, family, and culture. There are traditional and contemporary gospel singings, as well as Christian concerts in the amphitheater. This year, Trevor McBane, The Dove Brothers, The Martins, Jason Crabb and Zach Williams all performed for a full house.

THE CHOCTAW NATION JUDICIAL COURTS OFFERS E-FILING PORTAL

A new electronic service offered by the Choctaw Nation.



Odyssey e-File breaks the constraints of traditional filing:

- 24/7 filing and access to electronically filed documents via a secure, user-friendly Web portal
- Online tracking and proof of delivery
- Instant access to file stamped copies of filings
- Advanced search functionality indexes, bookmarks and finds documents in seconds
- Streamline filing processes and reduce paper with the e-File solution

Choctaw Nation
Judicial Branch

CHOCTAWNATIONCOURT.COM

MEMBER SERVICES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Introducing
Chahta Achvffa
A New Online Member Portal

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

Now Available

800-421-2707 | CHAHTAACHVFFA.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

HARVEST CARNIVAL

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2019 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM



- Costume contest for children up to 16 years will begin at 7:00 pm
- \$1 Cake Walk and \$1 Bingo
- Free games and prizes
- Trail of Terror begins at dusk
- T-shirts given out in the souvenir shop
- Haunted House at Amphitheater backstage

* Costume contest participants must sign up by 6:30 pm
* No strollers or walkers allowed in the Trail of Terror or Haunted House
* Check your local Choctaw Nation Community Center for last pickup times and to reserve your seat if available

Arts and Crafts Building | Choctaw Capital Grounds at Tushka Homestead
163665 N. 4255 Road | Tuskahoma, OK 74474

Choctaw Nation
Outreach Services

877-285-6893

Stay Connected
CHOCTAWNATION.COM

f t i y

Shop now at ChoctawStore.com

SHOP SMALL, GIFT BIG
HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY

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

CHOCTAW
STORE



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 24, 2019 | 11:00 AM


All breast cancer survivors and family are invited to participate in our survivors' walk.

403 CHAHTA CIRCLE | HUGO, OK | 800-522-6170

Choctaw Nation
Outreach Services

Stay Connected
CHOCTAWNATION.COM

f t i y



Choctaw Nation

Next Step Initiative

Short-term assistance program to supplement household food, necessities, gasoline and small automotive repairs, while also providing financial literacy tools for long-term success.

Stay Connected
CHOCTAWNATION.COM

f t i y



Enjoy stopping for red lights

ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK, OK

CHOCTAW
COUNTRY

Hurry Up and Slow Down

CHOCTAWCOUNTRY.COM

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association & Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

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

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

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association Loan
To Be Eligible to Apply:


- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe

Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund
To Be Eligible to Apply:

- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from the Choctaw Nation

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

Idabel Community Center
October 25, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Stickball



The kids had an opportunity to learn and play stickball during the exhibition games on Sunday, Sept. 1.



Women collide while chasing the ball during a stickball game on Friday, Aug. 30. The annual Labor Day stickball tournament took place Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights during the Labor Day festival in Tvshka Homma.



Chief Gary Batton jumped in and played during the Tvshka Homma men's 35+ game on Saturday, Aug. 31.



Players try to block a shot from being taken. 2019 was the first year that a women's tournament took place at the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.



An MBCI player tackles a Bok Cito player during the championship game on Sunday, Sept. 1. Stickball is traditionally a very rough sport and the championship game was no exception.



A Tvshka Homma player tackles a Tvshka Homma 35+ player during their game on Saturday, Aug. 31.



Players jump for the ball during one of the stickball exhibition games on Sunday, Sept. 1.



Bok Cito took first place over MBCI in the 2019 Choctaw Labor Day men's stickball tournament.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. goes for a block during the exhibition game on Sunday, Sept. 1.



MBCI took the win over Ittibah Achafah in the first annual 2019 Choctaw Labor Day women's stickball tournament.

Chief’s Physical Fitness Challenge



Above: Sequoyah Johnston participates in the Chief’s Physical Fitness Challenge. Right: Participants were challenged with a variety of tasks in the event, including running the tires.



Tough, Tough



From Left: Tiffanie Burchfield took the win with a time of 1:12 and Cassie Tisho was runner up with a time of 1:25 in the women’s Tough, Tough competition.



From left: Cordell Zalenski took the win with a time of 1:12 and Micheal Burch was the runner up with a time of 1:14 in the men’s Tough, Tough competition.



The women’s Fighting Hard Award went to Denise Stewart.



The men’s Fighting Hard Award went to Zac William.

Fittest Choctaw Teen Division



From left: Jenna Gardner took second place in the Teen Girls’ Division and Chelsea Holloway won first place.



From Left: Derek Noah took third, Cory Hicks took first and Dawson Conover took second in the Teen Boys’ Division.

Legends Division



From left: Jackie Hatcher took third, Kenneth Ashalintubi took second and Mark Ellison took first in the Men’s Legends Division.



From left: Kay Ellison took first place and Jana Wallace was runner up in the Women’s Legends Division.

Masters Division



From left: Teresa Gardner took the win, Bonnie Curry took second and Denise Stewart took third in the Women’s Masters Division.



From left: Anthony Dillard took first place, Lee Baigus took second and George Jesse took third place in the Men’s Masters Division.

Open Division



From left: Josiah Lawson took third, Jacob Luellen took the win and Stephen Lawson took third place in the Men’s Open Division.



From left: Candi Vaughn took third place, Tiff Burchfield took second and Elizabeth Harden took the win in the Women’s Open Division.



Chase McDaniel runs through the early morning fog on his way to winning the Labor Day 5k.

Photos by Christian Toews



Top and bottom: Kids play stickball during an exhibition game.



Carnival rides were among the most popular attractions during the Labor Day festival.



From left: A horse waits for a rider, Pow Wow participants make the grand entry and competitors ride bikes during the Fittest Choctaw event during the Labor Day festival.



Cordell Zalenski flips a 600 pound tire to finish and win the Tough, Tough competition.



Carnival rides and the midway had long lines and large crowds every night of the 2019 Labor Day festival.



Photos by Chris Jennings
Top left: A family strolls through the food vendors. Bottom left: Brynlee Tehauno is all smiles riding a horse. Right: Elanora Wilson begins to learn the game of stickball.



From left: participants begin a round of checkers, Lee Frazier tries his luck with the quarters and carnival goers ride the swings on a sunny afternoon.



A large puddle reflects people coming and going from the soggy softball fields.



Kiki Harjo, right, watches her grandmother Loretta Denny make fry bread, trying to learn some of her secrets. Denny and her family have been coming to the Labor Day festival for over 20 years.



Tucker Manley does a flip at the Labor Day carnival. The Manleys traveled from Texas to attend the Labor Day festival.

By Kendra Germany

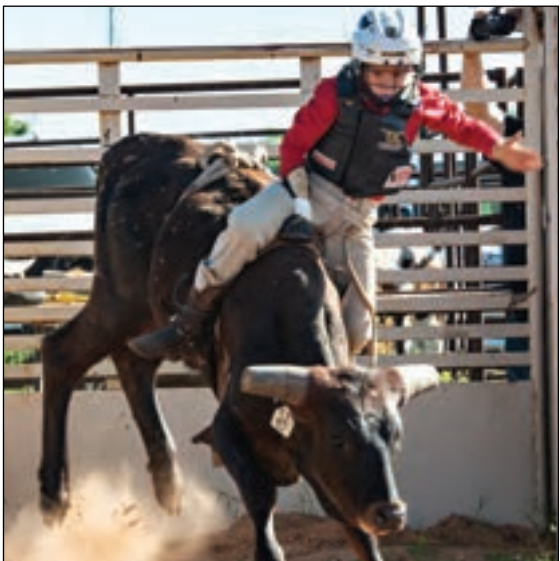
Brazos Heck is not your average 11-year-old. While most kids his age are content playing video games, Brazos is busy riding broncos and bulls.

A mini bull and bronc rider from Tupelo, Oklahoma, Brazos has been steadily proving that he is a top competitor in the rodeo world.

According to his father, Odie Heck, the “All-Around Cowboy” was born into a ranching family. It’s in his blood.

"I college rodeoed at Murray State College in Tishomingo," explained Odie. "My two best friends were rough stock riders, pretty good rough stock riders. When he was little, they were around, and he hung around them a lot."

Brazos became very interested in sheep riding at an early age, which is where he got his start in the rodeo business.



From there, it evolved further than his parents ever thought it would go.

Brazos progressed from riding sheep to mini bareback and now even mini bulls.

Not only does he want to ride, but he wants to win, and that's what he does.

In 2017, Brazos made his debut at the Junior National Finals Rodeo. In 2018, he won the peewee division All-Around Championship.

His success didn't end there.

In 2018, Brazos proved he was a cowboy worth watching when he won the Cheyenne, one of the biggest rodeo competitions in the world.

"That was really a dream come true. It was really, really exciting. It kind of shocked me at first that I won," explained Brazos. "It was like, oh my gosh, I just won one of the biggest rodeos in the world."

This year, he took home second place, which is also a huge accomplishment.

Brazos continues to work hard whether he wins or not.

talented and driven as he is, he could be one of the greats. Now, that's just my opinion," said Odie. "The most important thing, to me about all of this isn't even about rodeo. It's about life."

According to his family, one thing Brazos doesn't lack is determination.

"Brazos is pretty special. He's always been a special kid. He never got scared. When it was sheep riding, and he was a little bitty guy, we'd take him. I always thought he'd get scared or he'll cry a little bit. He'll get thrown off real hard, and that'll be the end of this," Odie admitted. "It never happened. He's had some pretty bad wrecks since he was little. It just seems like the further we go, the more he works."

Though he loves the sport, Brazos and his family never forget the risk and danger that riding brings with it.

"I've had the wind knocked out of me a few times," laughed Brazos.

Earlier this year, Brazos had a pretty serious run-in with a bull at a rodeo in Lockney, Texas.

“He got on a bull, and he ran him down the gate and fouled him. So, they gave him a re-ride. The first re-ride was on a bull they call Monkey Trouble,” explained Odie.

Monkey Trouble is known to be a little hard to handle. His reputation proved correct, when he hit Brazos in the chin with his horn, breaking off and knocking out some of Brazos' teeth.

Brazos is tough and tried to ride again the next day, only to get hit in the face a second time.

"It's hard when you're a parent to watch that. You know it's part of it, and you have to get used to it. But, it's difficult to watch it," explained Odie. "Brazos is a lot tougher than I was when I was a kid. He's one of the toughest kids I know."

According to Odie, Brazos came home and had to have pretty extensive dental work done. Even though he was in pain, he still was bound and determined to get back in the game.

"I'd probably still be in Lockney, Texas, crying right now if I got hit like that, but it doesn't bother him," laughed Odie.

Brazos has a different outlook on getting hurt than most 11-year-olds.

"Injuries like that happen in rodeo, and you have to get over it and go to your next one. You gotta forget about what's behind you and look forward," explained Brazos.

You might think a kid who is turning into a rodeo star might let that go to his head, but that isn't the case with Brazos.

Even with a growing collection of awards and buckles, he is humble and thankful for every opportunity he has been given.

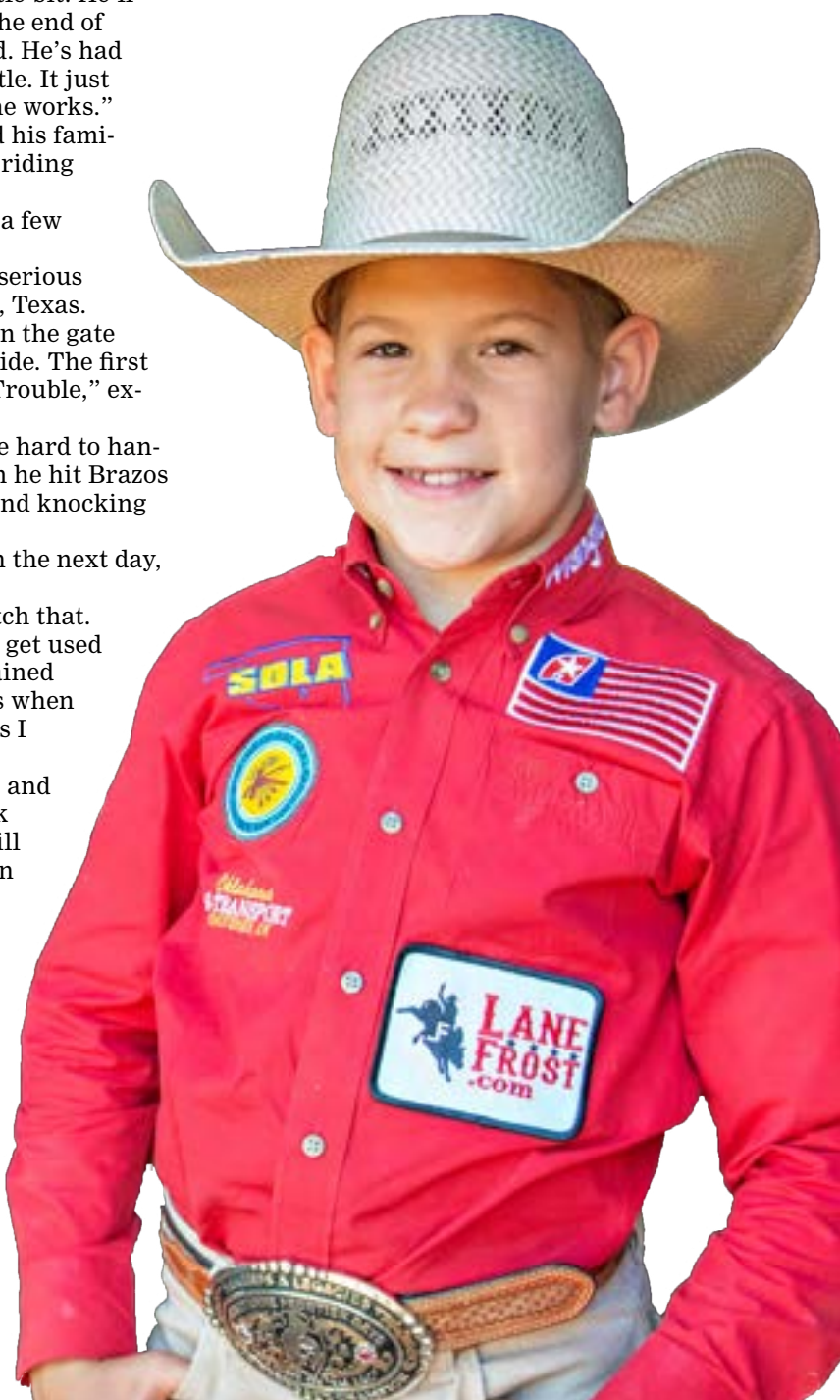
"It's just really cool, the experience I get to have. When I win rodeos, it always gets me really happy. I'm always proud of myself. But yes,

I do have a big collection going," Brazos explained with a smile.

Brazos has one word of advice for any young people thinking of starting the sport.

"Just don't be scared. Just try your hardest and don't let go until the buzzer goes off," said Brazos.

To keep up with Brazos' journey, you can like his Facebook page, Brazos Heck – All-Around Cowboy.



The ***Inspire What's Next*** campaign aims to tell the story of the Choctaw Nation through the inspiring stories of tribal members, employees and tribal members who are employees. These stories are about cultivating leaders, strengthening families, supporting our neighbors and building economic opportunities.

CHOCTAW POW WOW



December 7-8, 2019 | Choctaw Event Center | 3702 Choctaw Rd | Durant, OK 74701

Schedule of Events

Saturday, December 7

10 a.m.....Gourd Dance

12 noon.....First Grand Entry

4 p.m.....Break

7 p.m.....Second Grand Entry

Sunday, December 8

10:30 a.m.....Sunday Service

12 noon.....Grand Entry Contest

OVER

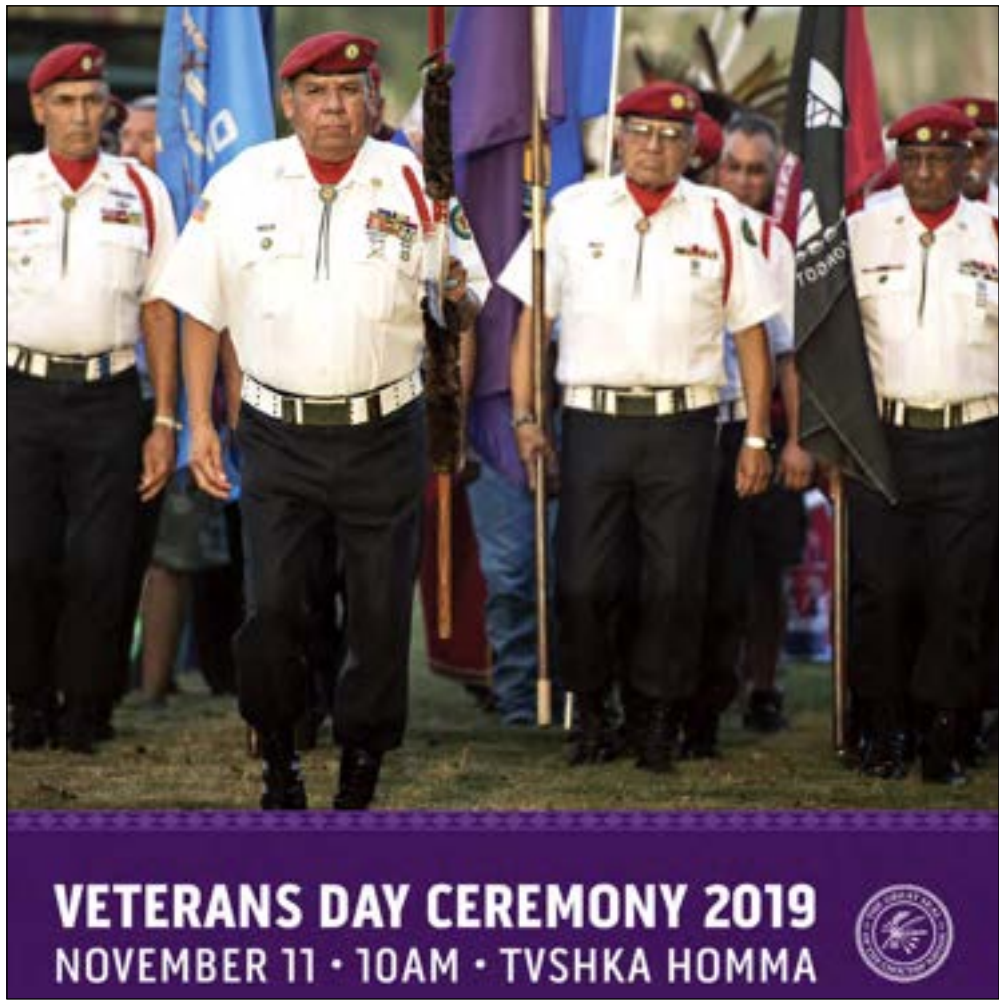
\$120,000


IN PRIZE MONEY

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: 888-652-4628

RATE CODE POWWOW2019

CHOCTAWNATION.COM/POWWOW | #CNPOWWOW






Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma ♦ TOGETHER WE'RE MORE ♦

OCTOBER 2019


In This Issue

- 2 Faith Family Culture
- 4 Social Dancing
- 5 Events
- 6 Obituaries
- 7 Iti Fabvsa
- 8 5K/Basketball
- 9 Horseshoes/Quilts
- 10 Council Corner
- 11 Day of Prayer

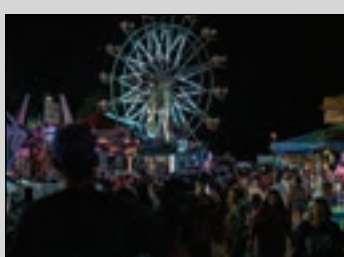
Biskinik
Mission Statement:
*To serve as the source of
information for Choctaw
Nation tribal members by
delivering community news
through a variety of
communication channels.*



Page 3:
Pow wow and gourd
dancing photos.



Page 12:
Stickball tournament
photos.



Pages 14/15:
Highlights from the
2019 Labor Day Fest-
tival.