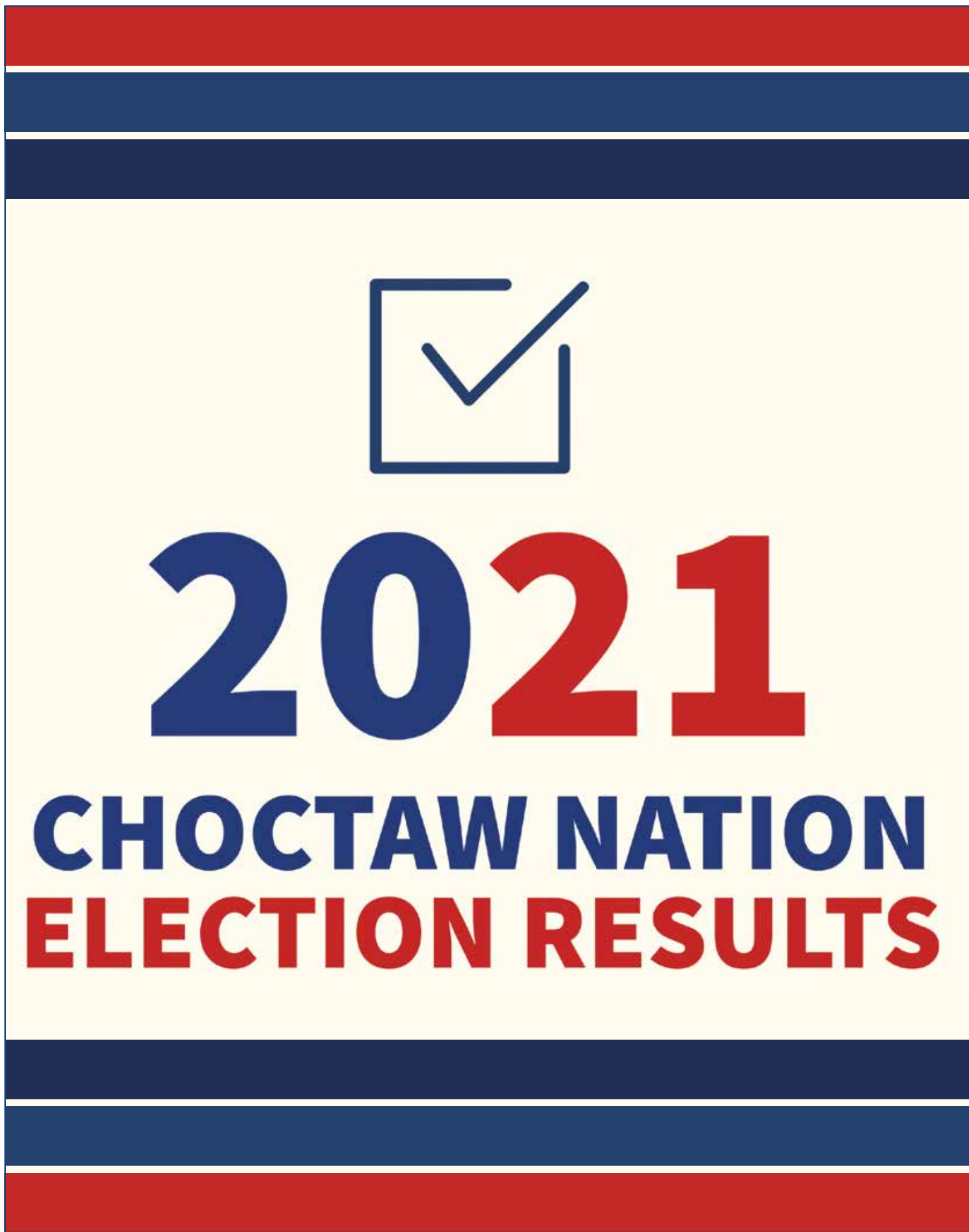




August 2021 Issue



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Board Announces 2021 Tribal Election Results



Jess Henry
Council, District 4



Anthony Dillard
Council, District 10

DURANT, Okla. – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Board announced official results of the 2021 General Election held Saturday, July 10, which includes a Runoff Election for a district council seat.

All election results listed below have been duly certified by the Election Board and will be communicated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs office:

District 4 winner: Jess Henry with 617 votes (53.37%).

District 10 winner: Anthony Dillard with 554 votes (90.67%).

District 7: No candidate received more than 50% of total votes cast. The two candidates that received the most votes were Adrian Johnico (36.67%) and Joey Tom (40.07%). This race will proceed with a Runoff Election between the two candidates.

Other districts that were up for election, but drew no opposition were District 9 Council Member James Dry, District 6 Council Member Jennifer Woods, and District 12 Council Member James Frazier.

District 7 Early Voting in the Runoff will be Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Runoff Election Day is set for Aug. 7 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Same Day Registration offered

as an additional service to eligible tribal members to update their voter information on both dates.

Voting locations in District 7 are at the Choctaw Community Center, 302 SW O St. in Antlers, and at the Choctaw Community Center, 5718 Rodeo Grounds Rd. in Wright City.

All registered voters affiliated with District 7 may also choose to vote by mail. District 7 began receiving ballots in the mail the week of July 19. Mail-in ballots must be received and processed in the Durant Post Office no later than 4:30 p.m. Aug. 6. Voters need to sign the affidavit located on the back of the business reply envelope.

According to the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, after an installation ceremony, the six Council Members will begin their new terms at noon on the first Monday of September.

For complete results of the Choctaw Nation elections, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/elections>. To check on Voter Registration status, contact the Voter Registration Department by email at voterregistration@choctawnation.com or to obtain a form, visit www.choctawnation.com/vote.

DISTRICT 7 RUNOFF ELECTION INFORMATION

CANDIDATES TO APPEAR ON BALLOT

Adrian Johnico
Joey Tom

EARLY VOTING

August 6
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RUNOFF ELECTION DAY

August 7
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Same day registration will be offered as an additional service to eligible tribal members to update their voter information.

VOTING LOCATIONS

Choctaw Community Center
302 SW O St.
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523

Choctaw Community Center
5718 Rodeo Grounds Rd.
Wright City, Oklahoma 74766

All registered voters affiliated with District 7 may also choose to vote by mail. District 7 began receiving ballots in the mail the week of July 19. Mail-in ballots must be received and processed in the Durant Post Office no later than 4:30 p.m. Aug. 6. Voters need to sign the affidavit located on the back of the business reply envelope.

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

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Official Election Results General Election Saturday, July 10, 2021

Tribal Council Member - District 4

Jess Henry	617	53.37%
Jennifer Roberts	539	46.63%

Tribal Council Member - District 7

Adrian Johnico	421	36.67%
Melissa Reich	112	9.76%
James H. Smith	155	13.50%
Joey Tom	460	40.07%

Tribal Council Member - District 10

Anthony Dillard	554	90.67%
Sherman Bo Miller	57	9.33%

Faith, Family, Culture



Chief Gary Batton

Cultural Center opens

Halito, This is an exciting week for the Choctaw Nation! After more than a decade of research and work, the Choctaw Cultural Center will officially open on July 23.

The Cultural Center is such a significant project, because it perpetuates the Choctaw culture. It's a place for the Chahta proud, our allies and partners to share and celebrate our many traditions.

The Cultural Center is also important because it is a place to instill pride in who we are, to learn the stories of our ancestors, and a place to learn how to live out the Chahta spirit.

Our Choctaw culture means everything to me. It is the foundation that our ancestors have built for us, and it is our responsibility to carry on into the future for our youth. Our culture is what makes us unique and defines who we are as Chahta people.

We have so many unique traditions, from our language, to stickball, to our social dances. They all have impacted

me and are deeply rooted in our history to live out our cultural values.

I encourage our elders, tribal members and the Chahta proud to visit the Cultural Center and reflect on what Choctaw culture means to you. Yakoke and God bless!



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Back to school

It's that time of year again. Summer is winding down, and back-to-school shopping for clothes and school supplies is in full swing. In fact, if you live in Oklahoma, Texas, or Arkansas, you can take advantage of the tax-free days, August 6-8, 2021.

But what I love the most about this time of the year is the Choctaw Nation's commitment to education. The Nation offers a variety of programs to assist tribal members, regardless of where they are on their educational journey.

The Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) program is geared towards students in pre-K through second grade. Its main goal is to close the gap by reteaching content that students have previously failed in a culturally enriched, safe and positive atmosphere. I'm proud to share that the POSSE program had 6,100 students across 70 schools this summer.

Our high school students from grades 9-12 can participate in the High School Student Services (HSSS) Program.

The HSSS goal is to assist students with academic information to promote education and/or a career path beyond high school. For the 2020-2021 school year, the HSS had a 98 percent graduation rate of in-area, participating high school seniors, and added 246 new high school tribal members to the program!

The Nation's Higher Education Program (HEP), which began in 1984, is a scholarship and grant program designed to provide tuition assistance to enrolled Choctaw tribal members attending an accredited college, technical school or university. The program has seen an increase in enrollment since the onset of the pandemic. I'm proud to say that HEP has served more than 1,500 tribal members for this funding period.

The Career Development Program, which was established in 2007, assists more than 3,500 students each year. Its goal is to enhance the lives of Choctaw tribal members by providing education and training opportunities, that lead to industry-recognized certifications or licenses and self-sustaining employment.

The Choctaw Nation values our youth and their education. As the back-to-school season begins, I pray that all of our students have a fun, safe, and rewarding school year. If you have any questions about any of our services related to education, please contact (800) 522-6170. God bless.



FIND COLLEGE SUCCESS

Through the College Freshman Year Initiative, we look to unify the community of Choctaw students and empower them to make informed decisions about their academic futures.

With the assistance of First Year Experience Coordinators and partnerships with various campuses across the state, Choctaw students will find the appropriate tools to achieve their goals through graduation.

If you are a first-time freshman, Choctaw tribal member, and are considering attending one of the schools listed, contact our office today.

CONTACT

800-522-6170 | COLLEGEFYI@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation College Freshman Year Initiative

CHOCTAWNATION.COM



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Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

The Unnamed Servant

The Old Testament is filled with metaphors, similes, symbols, types, parables, allegories of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Just as there are types, shadows, and prophecies concerning the advent of Christ, so there are types and shadows concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. In the 24th chapter of the Book of Genesis, we read about Abraham seeking a bride for his son, Isaac. He calls on the eldest servant of his house and made him swear to find the proper bride for his son. This servant is the steward who had charge of all of Abraham's property. He was the manager or administrator of the whole estate. His mission now is to seek a bride for Isaac, Abraham's son.

This is a type of the Blessed Holy Spirit seeking a bride for the Blessed Son. The unnamed servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. He does not "speak of himself" but takes of the things of the bridegroom with which to win the bride.

John 16: 13-15, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me:

for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take care of mine, and he shall shew it unto you."

He is sent to administer the estate of Christ to the future bride. He keeps himself in the background and speaks of the Glories of Christ, and thus woos and wins lost sinners to the Savior. The church is the bride of Christ, the "ecclesia," the called out virgin bride of the groom. The Blessed Holy Spirit's next business is to conduct the church, the bride, home to glory to be received by the bridegroom.

Not knowing and understanding the work of the Holy Spirit in the world today, sometimes church work is regulated by human efforts, philosophies, and secular stimulus to produce the appearance of godliness. A person does not become a believer because of their choosing. They must be called by the Word of God by the courting of the Holy Spirit. Human emotions, however sincere, are not a true calling. Church membership, baptism, good works, and righteousness are the results after accepting the wooing (courting for marriage) of the Spirit. The gospel, or "Good News," is that all is ready. Salvation has been accomplished. Come to the Savior when he bids through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Inter-Tribal Council McGirt decision

(Tulsa, Okla.) July 14, 2021 – The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) met July 9 in its first in-person general session since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The session also marked the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in McGirt v. Oklahoma, which affirmed the Muscogee Nation reservation was never disestablished and its treaty territory remains Indian Country for purposes of criminal jurisdiction.

The ruling has since been applied to the territories of each of the Five Tribes.

"It's never too late to do the right thing, and the Supreme Court did," said Muscogee Nation Principal Chief David Hill. "We are still here. We will fight to protect our sovereignty."

The ITC passed a resolution urging Congress to allocate additional resources directly to tribal governments for McGirt response.

Other tribal leaders joined Chief Hill in discussing the historic decision and affirmed their commitment to devoting resources toward their criminal justice systems.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby said the Chickasaw Nation has prepared to meet the increased duties responsibly.

"Over a year ago, we formed a task force to analyze the situation and developed a comprehensive plan to meet these important new responsibilities," said Governor Anoatubby. "For years, we have worked closely in partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to serve residents of our area, and this will continue to increase with the McGirt and Bosse rulings."

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton said the Tribe continues to maintain law and order.

"The sky is not falling. There's not a person who has been released that has not gone through our court system or who has not been prosecuted for the crime that has been done," said Chief Batton. "We are responsible. We are stepping up."

Tribal leaders spoke about efforts underway to put resources into expanding and strengthening their criminal justice systems, and renewing partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

"The McGirt decision was about the United States keeping a promise, and this country is a great country and ought to keep its promise. The promises of the Five Tribes that our reservations have always been intact, needed to be kept," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., who serves as ITC President. "We started working on the impact of the McGirt ruling and opportunities presented even before the court decision was handed down. And now, a year later, we are well on our way to expanding and building the best criminal justice system – one that is respectful and

protects the victims, one that is fair to defendants and one that takes people who must be incarcerated and finds a way, if they can, to bring them back into society."

Riyaz Kanji, a partner at Kanji & Katzen PLLC who represented the Muscogee Nation at the Supreme Court, appeared at the meeting through video and said being involved in the case was one of the greatest professional privileges of his lifetime.

The meeting was hosted by the Muscogee Nation July 9 at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa and marked the first time the ITC has met in-person since January 2020. Meetings have been hosted virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tribal leaders detailed their scientifically-based reopening efforts as they move forward with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're still continuing our vaccinations, and we're enjoying our recovery and restoration," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby.

Principal Chief Hoskin said the tribes have led the way in the recovery from the pandemic.

"We have been the leaders in this country in responding to COVID and in recovering from COVID," he said.

Indian Health Service (IHS) Oklahoma City Area Director Rear Adm. Travis Watts said vaccinations performed by the tribes present at the July 9 meeting represented more than 60% of the 360,000 vaccinations performed by IHS.

He said although the delta variant is highly transmissible, he is confident the tribes are moving forward carefully with reopening and recovery utilizing science and data.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland appeared virtually at the meeting to update tribal leaders on the Biden administration's efforts to ensure Indian Country has a voice in the administration.

Lt. Governor of Oklahoma Matt Pinnell appeared virtually and spoke to tribal leaders about tourism initiatives in Oklahoma.

The ITC passed multiple resolutions at the meeting, including:

- A resolution urging Congress to allocate additional resources for McGirt response and urging Congress to allocate resources directly to tribal governments
- A resolution supporting federal and state efforts to address the murdered and missing Indigenous peoples' crisis
- A resolution urging Congress to swiftly pass S. 1402, the Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act of 2021
- A resolution urging Congress to pass H.R. 1884, the Save Oak Flat Act
- A resolution supporting teaching the complex history of tribal nations and the United States
- A resolution supporting the president's FY2022 Indian Health Service Budget Request

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Jones Academy a positive influence for Native youth after 130 years of operation

By Shelia Kirven

Jones Academy was founded in 1891 by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, one of the first tribes to build its own school. The facility was named after Mississippi-born Choctaw Chief Wilson N. Jones. Jones had traveled with his own family over the Trail of Tears and was a strong advocate for his tribe's people to become educated.

Situated on 540 acres near Harts-horne, in southeastern Oklahoma's Ouachita Mountain range, Jones Academy began as a school for boys. However, in 1955 when the Wheelock Academy, a Native American girls' school near Millerton closed, it received approximately 55 girls who were transferred in. Jones Academy then became a co-educational boarding facility.

Students who lived at Jones Academy attended Hartshorne Public Schools as early as 1952 when the Bureau of Indian Affairs ceased funding of academic and vocational activities at most Indian boarding schools.

In 1972, the Choctaw Nation became the first Native American tribe to operate a tribally controlled grant school. The Tribe then later contracted the school in 1985 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A \$10 Million state-of-the-art elementary academic facility was constructed on the campus in 2008, and in 2012 it

became a BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) elementary school under the authority of the Tribe. The elementary school educates students in grades 1-6, while older students attend school at Hartshorne public school.

All students are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe. Approximately 200 students attend Jones Academy each year without cost.

Jones Academy's mission is to create an ideal or prototype learning community within the larger geographics and social community for Choctaw and other Native American youth. The emphasis is on transforming the learning experience through effort and design to produce a special setting where students are provided the care, attention, resources, and success-oriented experiences that promote their development into independent, self-directed, successful adults. Not only do students at Jones Academy receive outstanding academic educations, but they are also immersed in cultural and recreational activities.

If you would like more information on Jones Academy, please visit <https://jonesacademy.org> or call (888) 767-2518.

For enrollment information, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/jones-academy-admissions> or email administration@jonesacademy.org.

To donate to the Jones Academy Fund, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/JonesAcademyFund>.



Jones Academy is a residential school for grades 1-12, tribally controlled by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Jones Academy students scored among the highest in recent testing by the Bureau of Indian Education and the Northwest Evaluation Association, ranking 4th in math and 6th in reading out of 147 schools across the nation.

Celebrating the past and future

By David Sanchez - Jones Academy

When Jones Academy opens its doors in August, the boarding school will celebrate 130 years of serving and enriching the lives of generations of Native American youth. Since its establishment in 1891, the facility has been under the oversight of the Choctaw Nation.

All of these years serve as a testament to the perseverance and commitment of the Choctaw people to education, independence, and self-determination. The singular mindset to improve the lives of Indian children has endured and flourished in this tiny enclave nestled on the rural pastures of southeastern Oklahoma.

The longevity of the school speaks volumes of the people who have stayed true to this mission. There are the administrators, educators, residential and support staff, and facility keepers who have labored selflessly, tirelessly for years, and without display.

Jones Academy's success can be measured in the character of the students it has produced. There are generations of former students who have finished their studies at the school and have been empowered by the values

of a good day's work, honesty, and integrity. Not only have they lived productive lives, but at times, heroic.

There are small memorials scattered throughout the campus grounds honoring the sacrifices of the young men and women who served in our country's conflicts. There are the Code Talkers of both World Wars. Davis Pickens was killed in Sicily in 1944. Andrew Perry's remains rest in a cemetery in France. Henry Ellis Nolatubby died during the attack at Pearl Harbor. His body is entombed in the hull of the USS Arizona. Scores of others served and returned home to live quiet and fruitful lives.

Thirty young men from Jones Academy made the supreme sacrifice during World War II.

Jones Academy can also boast of former students who became educators, men and women of industry, writers, activists, and tribal leaders.

Now a new generation of staff and students live on the very grounds that the former occupants inhabited over a century ago. The Choctaw Nation is even more committed to the success of this new crop of students. The tribe is providing more resources and has expanded its services to Indian families.

The Nation invested in building an elementary school for grades 1-6 in 2008. It remains in pristine condition and is updated with the latest information technology. This year the elementary school will open enrollment for day students from the immedi-



A former Jones Academy student stands in uniform.

ate community. Jones Academy students grades 7-12, will return to in-person classes at the Hartshorne Public Schools and resume all their extra-curricular activities.

In the evenings, students will receive academic assistance from coaches at the Student Success Center. Staff will also monitor the students' progress and achievements in the classroom. After hours, the students will also be able to participate in the award-winning 4-H hog show program as well as the Pelichi Grant-sponsored STEAM and robotics activities.

The Nation also offers free medical care and counseling services to students living on campus. All of these services are an endeavor of the Choctaw Nation to improve and to cultivate the lives of Indian children and their future. God has blessed Jones Academy and its outreach, 130 years strong. May its ministry to young people continue and prosper for years to come.



Photos Courtesy of Jones Academy

Jones Academy, was established and named after a Choctaw Chief born in Mississippi, who traveled with his family to Oklahoma over the Trail of Tears. Chief Wilson N. Jones had little formal education but believed strongly that education would help his tribe.

Interns get a glimpse of the Nation

By Chris Jennings

Thanks to the Choctaw Nation internship program, 34 young adults are getting the opportunity to learn what it's like to work in several different Choctaw Nation departments.

Sharon Dodson with Employment Services said, "I think this is just a great opportunity for us to showcase our tribal members, to bring them to the [different] departments we have them to show them what opportunities are available."

With 17 interns in Health, and 17 interns in government, many are getting an idea of what the Nation has to offer them for their future.

Marshall Purvis, from Lyndale, Texas, is working with the Learning and Development program during his internship. Currently working on his Masters in Native American Leadership, Purvis said, "It's already helped me a lot with learning about the past and trying to preserve the past with what I'm learning and what I'm studying, so it ties together really nicely."

Noah Link, from Dayton, Ohio, is interning with the Growing Hope Program. While at the program, Link is helping revitalize Choctaw plants and develop a seed base that can be distributed to tribal members. "I studied industrial design and would like to be able to combine that with some type of conservation work in support of the Choctaw Nation and other indigenous communities," said Link.

Christian Chaney, from Durant, Oklahoma, recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma and is working as an intern with the



Photo by Chris Jennings

Several of the 2021 Choctaw Nation interns pose for a photo on the headquarters steps. Their are currently 34 interns from across the country working in different departments throughout the Nation.

Learning and Development Department while she completes her MBA. Chaney said, "I strive to continue working on my mental health initiative as a professional speaker to raise awareness for suicide awareness and cyberbullying. I hope to incorporate my platform into a job here at the Choctaw Nation."

It's not unheard of that interns are hired on full-time; in fact, it's a goal. "Hopefully, most of them will come back and work with us to help grow the Choctaw Nation," Said Dodson.

Several current Choctaw Nation employees started as interns and went on to work full-time in different departments such as Information Technology, Risk Management, Human Resources, Accounting, and Marketing.

Mallory Phelps, a Social Media Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation, is one such person. Phelps said that her overall goal while in college was to work full-time for the Choctaw Nation eventually.

"The Internship Program allowed me to get my foot in the door and shadow different positions within my desired field. I was grateful enough to be given the opportunity to become a full-time associate by the end of my internship, and now I am able to put my degree to use and serve my Tribe," said Phelps.

Regardless of whether their career leads back to the Choctaw Nation, the internship program ensures that these young men and women are ready to make an impact wherever they land.



Photos Courtesy of Jones Academy

Jones Academy student, Henry Ellis Nolatubby, died in WWII aboard the USS Arizona in during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Henry's stickball sticks are on exhibit at Jones Academy.

Secretary of the Interior Haaland announces Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

WASHINGTON – June 22, 2021 – In remarks to the National Congress of American Indians 2021 Mid Year Conference today, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies.

Today's announcement is accompanied by a secretarial memo in which Secretary Haaland directs the Department to prepare a report detailing available historical records, with an emphasis on cemeteries or potential burial sites, relating to the federal boarding school program in preparation for a future site work. This work will occur under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

"The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no matter how hard it will be," said Secretary Haaland. "I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace."

Secretary Haaland recently reflected on the inter-generational trauma created by these policies in an op-ed.

"We must shed light on what happened at federal Boarding Schools," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, who also delivered remarks outlining implementation of this effort. "As we move forward in this work, we will engage in Tribal consultation on how best to use this information, protect burial sites, and respect families and communities."

Beginning with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the United States enacted laws and implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the nation. The purpose of Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating

them from their families and communities to distant residential facilities where their American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian identities, languages, and beliefs were to be forcibly suppressed. For over 150 years, hundreds of thousands of Indigenous children were taken from their communities.

The Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative will serve as an investigation about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools. The primary goal will be to identify boarding school facilities and sites; the location of known and possible student burial sites located at or near school facilities; and the identities and Tribal affiliations of children interred at such locations.

The recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves by Canada's Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc First Nation at the Kamloops Indian Residential School prompted the Department to undertake this new initiative with the goal of shedding light on these past traumas.

The work will proceed in several phases and include the identification and collection of records and information related to the Department of Interior's own oversight and implementation of the Indian boarding school program; formal consultations with Tribal Nations, Alaska Native corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to clarify the processes and procedures for protecting identified burial sites and associated information; and the submission of a final written report on the investigation to the Secretary by April 1, 2022.

The Interior Department continues to operate residential boarding schools through the Bureau of Indian Education. In sharp contrast to the policies of the past, these schools aim to provide a quality education to students from across Indian Country and to empower Indigenous youth to better themselves and their communities as they seek to practice their spirituality, learn their language, and carry their culture forward.

Casino Expansion provides opportunity to explore Bryan County

By Christian Toews

Durant, Oklahoma, “The Magnolia Capital of Oklahoma,” has much more to offer than magnolia trees. Durant boasts a unique combination of small-town charm and luxurious amenities. Holding the title of the largest city in Choctaw Country, it is the home to Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the Headquarters of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. From outdoor activities, excellent food and shopping, the Choctaw Casino Resort, and the Choctaw Cultural Center, you are sure to find something great to eat, somewhere amazing to stay, and something fun to do.

Just 90 minutes north of Dallas, Texas, on highway 75, Durant sits close to the Red River, which feeds Lake Texoma. The

lake is one of the largest in the state of Oklahoma and offers numerous recreational activities. From fishing, boat rentals, horse trails, kayaking, swimming, and restaurants on the water’s edge, Lake Texoma has something to offer for everyone. You can find out more information about what Lake Texoma State Park holds at <https://www.laketexoma.com>.

Choctaw Casino & Resort has plenty of ways to relax and recharge if you are craving a luxurious getaway. This world-class resort has a relaxing spa, Jacuzzis, pools with cabanas and swim-up bars, excellent restaurants and a concert venue that brings some of the biggest names in entertainment to Durant. Now is the perfect time to visit the newly expanded property, which features a new 21-story luxury Sky Tower Hotel, an expanded

gaming experience, elevated amenities, restaurants, lounges, and entertainment options. If you want more information on what Choctaw Casino Resort has to offer, you can visit <https://www.choctawcasinos.com>.

There are many new and exciting things in Durant, and the Choctaw Cultural Center is no exception. With over 100,000 square feet of immersive exhibitions, a vast Living Village, classrooms, a theater, a café and retail, the Cultural Center is a fascinating experience. According to its website, the Choctaw Cultural Center is dedicated to exploring, preserving, and showcasing the culture and history of the Choctaw people. The exhibits are immersive and told from the Choctaw perspective – honoring the physical and spiritual journey of the Choctaw



Photo Provided

The new 21-story Sky Tower features 1,000 luxury rooms (traditional king and double beds) and suites, plus hospitality suites. Guestrooms feature modern decor, lavish bedding and spa-like amenities.



Photo by Christian Toews

Rich in culture and arts, locals and visitors alike are drawn to Downtown Durant, Oklahoma, for unique shopping, dining and entertainment.

people. This makes it an excellent place for kids and adults to explore and learn about the Choctaw people. For more information about The Choctaw Cultural Center, you can visit <https://choctawculturalcenter.com>.

Durant has a robust and growing downtown with shopping, unique art, museums and more. Kara Byrd is the Executive Director of Imagine Durant. Byrd says that Durant has a lot to offer.

“There’s truly something for everyone. From the fascinating history to uncover at Fort Washita and Three Valley Museum to the great theatre to be discovered at the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival and Durant’s emerging South Ninth Avenue Arts District,” said Byrd.

According to Byrd, local artists have painted several of the murals around downtown. These photo-worthy locations are a unique addition to your time spent in Downtown Durant.

In addition to art and culture, downtown has unique restaurants and treats.

Pick up some pastries and ice-cream at Caked Up, build-your-own pizza at Craft Pies or grab a drink at the Old Icehouse. All of these downtown destinations are conveniently located for visitors.

If it’s shopping you want, Durant has you covered with several boutique options to find that perfect outfit. Pink Door Boutique, Bliss Boutique, Cactus Gypsies and the Trippie Hippie Co. all have a unique and ever-changing selection of fashion.

Byrd invites everyone to come to visit the area.

“Durant is the best of both worlds! We offer the charm of small-town life, with the bright lights and amenities of a bigger city. There’s something for everyone in Durant,” explained Byrd.

With all that Durant offers, now is the time to plan your next trip to this unique Choctaw Country destination. If you would like more information on Durant and the surrounding area, visit <https://www.discoverdurant.com>.



Jennifer Woods

District 6

Halito from District 6!

The summer has flown by and now back to school for our students, the Student Activity Fund application is live. Be sure to apply for help to get students ready for the school year. I want to wish all students a safe and amazing 2021-2022 school year.

We have new Princess Royalty representing District 6, Senior Miss Riley Isabell, and Junior Miss Greenlee McClain, and Little Miss Omba Ramsey. We are looking forward to seeing our royalty at our Dist. 6 events. Yakoke and good luck to our princesses.

With the impact of the McGirt ruling, we have added additional tribal police to cover many of the areas within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Please join me in welcoming our new tribal police covering Latimer

County. These officers are, Patrolmen Jeremie Green, Cody Donoley, Shi Rigsby, Clayton Wynn, Kendon Watkins and Lieutenant Jesse James. They work to protect our communities for the safety of all. Yakoke.

On July 7, the community centers reopened to serve our Choctaw seniors weekly meal, we are unable to provide curbside meals since we are open dining room currently, but we do still provide homebound meals. The application to apply is available at the community center field office. Weekly meals are provided from Senior Nutrition funds, and the guidelines are available on the application.

Dist. 6 seniors chair volleyball practices are on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 a.m. It’s great exercise and social activity.

We have been very busy in District 6. Our new affordable rental homes and independent elderly homes are being built. If you have not turned in your application, please do so. These homes will provide our tribal members safe and affordable shelter.

The new community center plans continue to move forward, designs and adding the kitchen and office spaces is coming along nicely in the planning meetings. It will be so nice to have a large center to provide more services to our district. We are very excited and grateful.

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Jack Austin Jr. and Choctaw Tribal Council have been working with our SEO’s and committees to be able to assist our tribal members with the American Rescue Plan programs. Hopefully, the applications will come out in August and payments in September. We are waiting on final approval on federal guidelines from the federal government. Stay up-to-date by

visiting <https://www.choctawnation.com/covidrelief>.

Labor Day is coming up, and we look forward to seeing you all at Tvska Homma for the Princess Pageant and the many cultural activities.

It is always my privilege to serve all people of District 6. I’m truly grateful for four more years to represent the Choctaw Nation in Latimer County. We have more work to do. My door is always open and look forward to seeing everyone at Labor Day. We are truly blessed. If I can help you in any way please drop by for a visit or call.

God Bless and yakoke.



Photo provided

Pictured are District 6 Tribal Police Officers; Partolman Shi Rigsby, Patrolman Jeremie Green, Lieutenant Jesse James and Patrolman Cody Donoley.

CASTING CALL

We are looking for people who are Choctaw Proud to participate in upcoming commercials, radio spots and video projects.
HAVE QUESTIONS? EMAIL [MULTIMEDIA@CHOCTAWNATION.COM](mailto:multimedia@choctawnation.com)

TO COMPLETE THE CASTING CALL FORM, VISIT WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM/CASTING-CALL

MEALS TO-GO PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE USDA

The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority's initiative is to serve free meals to all kids under the age of 18; CDIB is not required. Recipients will drive-through the relative locations to pickup their meal and/or snack. The Meals To-Go program is offered at 11 sites throughout the Choctaw Nation.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

NOW OPEN

CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER

CHOCTAWCULTURALCENTER.COM

2021 LABOR DAY TENT CITY SCRAMBLE


Mark your tent campsite for the 2021 Labor Day festival in person.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021
GATE OPENS AT 10:00 A.M.
TVSHKA HOMMA CAPITOL GROUNDS

580-924-8280 EXT 2704 | JJJEFFREYS@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

CHOCTAWNATION.COM/LABOR-DAY

SEPTEMBER 3 - 5, 2021
#CHAHTALABORDAY



JUROR SUMMONS

Choctaw Nation tribal members, spouses of tribal members, and any Choctaw Nation associate residing within Choctaw Nation territory may be summoned to jury duty with the Choctaw Nation court system.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 3	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 4	Talihina	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 6	Coalgate	1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
August 10	Wright City	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 11	Poteau	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 13	Atoka	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
August 17	Idabel	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 18	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 18	Stigler	By Appointment
August 20	Crowder	By Appointment
August 24	Broken Bow	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 25	Wilburton	10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

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

<p><i>Gary Batton</i> Chief</p>	<p><i>Jack Austin Jr.</i> Assistant Chief</p>
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The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for space, proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double-spaced. You must include an address 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. 4028.

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.

YAKOKE

Thank You Chief Gary Batton, Jack Austin Jr. and District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson for selecting me for Veteran of The Month of May.
I Am Very Blessed.

RD Payne

Three days before my high school graduation ceremony I discovered that the Choctaw nation was giving out cords to tribe graduates and I desperately wanted to get one. Unfortunately, I live in California which is miles from Oklahoma. In high hopes I called the Nation and got in contact with a representative from the office of high school affairs. They were more than willing to send one my way and EVEN paid to overnight it in order for me to have it in time to walk! I want to send a huge thank you to the Tribe and express how much it meant to me to be able to walk with the Great Choctaw seal on my shoulders.

Josh Tarica

REUNION

The Wilson Family Reunion is set for Saturday, September 4 at 23514 695th Street, Smithville, OK.

We will have a potluck dinner followed by a short business meeting and then the auction. Sunday's cookout will be at 1:00 at Beech Creek. Bring your lawn chairs and let's continue to enjoy this weekend as our family comes together.

Any questions? Call Jody Hendrickson at 918-413-2084.

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA June 18, 2021

- CALL TO ORDER
- OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
- ROLL CALL
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Rescind CB-81-20 and Approve an Application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Funding to Improve Tribal Food Distribution Centers within the Choctaw Nation in Response to the Global Pandemic. Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous (11-0); Vote Result: Bill passed - CB-73-21 OTHER NEW BUSINESS
- OTHER NEW BUSINESS
- OLD BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT
- CLOSING PRAYER

All Council Members present for the special session with the exception of James Frazier

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION AGENDA July 10, 2021

- CALL TO ORDER
- OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - Regular Session June 12, 2021
 - Special Session June 18, 2021
- WELCOME GUESTS/SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
 - Veteran of the Month—Theodore “Ted” LeFlore, District #10
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - Marilyn Kay Haering – Freedmen and Public Comment Rules
 - Lin Ogg - Health
- REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Approve the Creation of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Conservation District. Vote Counts: TABLED – Unanimous; Vote Result: Item tabled.
 - Approve the Application for the Family Violence Prevention Grant for FY2022. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-74-21
 - Approve the Application for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for FY2022. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-75-21
 - Authorize the Chief of the Choctaw Nation to Place Property in LeFlore County in Trust Status with the United States of America. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-76-21
 - Authorize the Chief of the Choctaw Nation to Place Property in Coal County in Trust Status with the United States of America. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-77-21
 - Approve Funding for Construction Costs of McAlester and Idabel Child Care Centers Additions. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-78-21
 - Approve Business Lease No. G09-1988 in Favor of Lake Eufaula Rod & Gun Club on Land Held by the USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma (Rifle, Pistol & Archery Range). Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-79-21
 - Approve Business Lease No. G09-1997 in Favor of Lake Eufaula Rod & Gun Club on Land Held by the USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma (Firing Range). Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-80-21
 - Approve Application for FY2021 Funding through the Department of Health & Human Services for the Community Services Block Grant. Vote Counts: YEAs – Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill passed. - CB-81-21

OTHER NEW BUSINESS
OLD BUSINESS
ADJOURNMENT
CLOSING PRAYER

All Council Members present either in person or online.

Correction

It was brought to our attention that information published in the article titled “COVID-19: Stories of loss and survival” on page 11 of the July issue of the Biskinik was incorrect.

According to the Lowmans' daughter, Karen Hackney, Mr. Lowman was hospitalized at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, when he passed away and had been there since September. Mrs. Lowman was hospitalized in the Mena Regional Hospital in Mena, Arkansas, when she passed away. Also, according to Hackney, Mr. Lowman's sister Jackie passed away from a heart attack.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association & Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

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

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

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


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

Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund
To Be Eligible to Apply:

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

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

Stigler Community Center
August 6, 2021
10:00 – 12:00




Where to Hike in Choctaw Country

Take a stroll through Broken Bow,
Robbers Cave, and more.

CHOCTAWCOUNTRY.COM

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna June Language Lesson

Choctaw Verbs to Nouns

In Choctaw, the meanings of verbs can change by adding suffixes. In this lesson, we will add the suffix 'chi' to verbs. When 'chi' is added at the end of the verb it changes the meaning 'to cause, to make'.

Ex. nusi – to sleep	nusi – Bebe yvt nusi.	The baby is sleeping.
	nusichi – to cause or make sleep	
	nusichi – Pokni yvt bebe nusichi.	Grandmother put the baby to sleep.
foha – v. to rest	Chekosikma foha la chi	I will rest soon.
fohachi – v. to cause or make rest	Okla pi fohachi tuk.	They gave us a break.
yupi - v. to bathe	Onnahinlikash yupi li tuk.	I bathed this morning.
yupechi – v. to cause or make	Vm ofi ya yupechi li tuk.	I bathed my dog..
shema -v. to adorn or decorate	Aboha mvt shema abvna.	That room needs decorating.
shemvchi -v. to cause or make	Svshke yvt vm aboha shemvchi tuk.	My mother decorated my room.
toksvli – v. to work	Pilashash toksvli li tuk.	I worked yesterday.
toksvlichi – v. to cause to work	Chiki yvt sv toksvlechi tuk.	Your dad made me work.

www.choctawschool.com

Janalee Christine Rice

Janalee "Jan" Christine Rice, 64, passed away April 18, 2021. Jan was born in 1957, in Washington, to Janetta and Harold Rice.

She was preceded in death by her mother.

Jan is survived by her sister Debbie Vasinda and spouse Ray Jr.; nephew R.J. Vasinda and his children Isabella and Maddox; brother Chris Rice and spouse Trisha; and many friends.

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

**Jerry Lowman**

Jerry Lowman, 75, passed away Oct. 31, 2020.

Jerry was born Jan. 12, 1945, in Talihina, Okla., to LeRoy and Minnie (Simmons) Lowman.

He was preceded in death by his wife Shirley; sister Jackie Lowman; brothers Larry Lowman and James Lowman; and his parents.

Jerry is survived by daughter Karen Hackney and spouse Tommy; son Dewayne Lowman; sister Darlene Noahubi and spouse Alton; and brothers Jimmy Lowman, and LeRoy Lowman and spouse Pat.

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

**Norma Haskin**

Norma Haskin, 84, passed away June 7, 2021.

Norma was born June 1, 1937, to Roy and Cleta Cook.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Dell Cook; and daughters Debra Boehm Browning and Linda Boehm Campbell.

Norma is survived by her husband George "Bo" Haskin; children Cindy Boehm Helm, Teddy Boehm, and Annette Boehm Chambliss; half-sisters Lanel Prince and Shirleen O'Neal; eleven grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

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

**Gerald Dwight Ward**

Gerald "Jerry" Dwight Ward, 83, passed away Feb. 22, 2021.

Jerry was born Oct. 21, 1937, in Oakland, Calif., to Nona Swanson Boyd and Troy C. Ward.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and granddaughter Lindsey Rogers.

Jerry is survived by his wife Ruth; daughter Susan Jine and spouse Gene; stepson Eric Torans and spouse Kim; stepdaughter Darnell Sooter and spouse Vernon III; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister Phyllis Squires; brother Mike Ward; and many nieces and nephews.

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

**Alyssa Danielle Horne**

Alyssa Danielle Horne, 18, passed away June 1, 2020.

Alyssa was born May 16, 2002, in Durant, Okla., to Robert Horne and Tamera Smith.

She is survived by her parents; brother Tyler Horne; sister Jaci Horne; maternal grandparents Ronny and Terri Frost; paternal grandparents Robert and Deborah Lindamood; great-grandmother "Granny JoAnn"; and a host of other family and friends.

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

**Jerry Wayne Anderson**

Jerry "Wayne" Anderson, 66, passed away May 28, 2021.

Wayne was born Oct. 8, 1954, in Talihina, Okla., to Tom and Rhoda Anderson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepdaughter Tara Michelle Kirk; and numerous aunts, uncles and family members.

Wayne is survived by his wife Martha; daughter Mandy Lawson and spouse Hank; grandchildren Shane Tisdale and Callie Jo Armstrong; brother Robert Anderson; aunt Linda Addis; uncle Sherman Bo Miller; brothers-in-laws John Riddles and spouse Lyna, Oliver Riddles and spouse Shirley, Dale Riddles and spouse Wendy, and Ronnie Riddles and spouse Rayleen; sister-in-law Patricia Flynn and spouse Tom; and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

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

**Wesley Karr**

Wesley "Sonny" Karr, 86, passed away April 13, 2021.

Sonny was born Oct. 26, 1934 to James and Rosie (Roberts) Karr.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and nine siblings.

Sonny is survived by his only remaining sibling Dathney Greeno; nephew Joe Karr; great-niece Heather Karr; and many other nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

For the full obituary, please visit [Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home](#).

**Jeffery Patton**

Jeffery Patton, 67, passed away May 29, 2021.

Jeffery was born May 25, 1954.

He is survived by his wife Colene; children Leslie, Dawn, and Loren; six grandchildren; siblings Jackie Witt, Jerome Patton, Jeanne Patton; and numerous extended family and friends.

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

**Oscar Lee Gardner**

Oscar Lee Gardner, 81, passed away Feb. 22, 2021.

Oscar was born July 28, 1939, to Beatrice and H.E. Gardner Sr.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers Jerry Joe and Rodger Lavern Gardner; and sisters Juanita Gardner and Gussie Strong.

Oscar is survived by wife Gloria; children Nadia Gardner, La Veta Gardner; stepson Eric Strickland Sr.; stepdaughter Rondalyn Henly; grandchildren Jerrille, Jerron, Rudolph, Eric Jr., Lexus, Tionne, Taya, Tia and Eriues; siblings Rev. Ernest Gardner, Henderson Gardner Jr., Era Bell Gardner, Carlene G. Gardner, and Maude E. Gardner; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home](#).

**Damond Willie Baker**

Damond Willie "Walks Softly" Baker, 39, passed away June 11, 2021.

Damond was born Nov. 7, 1981, in Ada, Okla., to Dana Earl Baker and Patricia Gayle Farquer.

He was preceded in death by his father Dana "Sonny" Baker; grandparents Rev. Johnson and Betty Baker; aunt Diana Austin; and cousins Ben Austin and Felicia Austin.

Damond is survived by long-time companion Cara Dawn Davies; mother Patty Farquer; children Sylvia Ruthann Gail, Cylas Christian Damond, and Trinity Julene Three Feathers; two brothers; four sisters; aunt Nancy K. Taylor; uncles Robert J. Baker and Raymond Dwight Austin; along with numerous friends and relatives.

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

**Clinton Brian James**

Clinton Brian James, 52, passed away June 12, 2021.

Clinton was born Sept. 29, 1968, in Talihina, Okla., to Joseph and Shirley (Dwight) James.

He was preceded in death by his parents; paternal grandparents Frank and Florence James; and maternal grandparents Norman Dwight and Marilyn Colbert.

Clinton is survived by his daughter Alyssa James; sisters Annette Wilson and spouse Ron, Angela James and Ryan Ward, and Cheryl Wright and spouse Cody; nephews Dickie Bond, Tristan Meier, Marcos Noah, Philip Noah, and Brinton Hudson; nieces Andrea James and Arianna Hudson; great-nieces Erin Noah and Alexandria James; great-great-niece Haven Luster; and best friend Angie Williston.

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

**Kollin Mac Edge**

Kollin Mac Edge, 18, passed away June 19, 2021.

Kollin was born July 26, 2002, in Durant, Okla., to Keith and Kylee Edge.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents Rayburn Smith, Delvin and Delores Schulz, Jinks and Ruth Edge, Dorothy Barnes, and L.B. Kelley.

Kollin is survived by his parents; brothers Kamden and Kolson Edge; grandparents Mac and Sharon Edge, Pat Ballard, Curtis and Brenda Schulz, and Karen and Mike Griffith; great-grandmother Glenna Smith; girlfriend Shaylin Midgley; uncle Marty Edge and aunt Tracy, uncle Caleb and aunt Amy, aunt Kishla and uncle Charles, and aunt Kalynn Lester; along with a host of cousins, extended family and friends.

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

**Floyd Dean Payne**

Floyd Dean Payne, 66, passed away June 16, 2021.

Floyd was born Dec. 30, 1954, in Bartlesville, Okla., to Joshway and Frances (Beam) Payne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Sharon Hunter; brother Lloyd "Butchie" Payne; in-laws Henry, Helen, and Imogene Fennell; and great-grandson Cody Lane Sims.

Floyd is survived by his wife Sharon; son Michael Fuller and spouse Rayetta; daughter DaRhon Payne and Brian Witty; brothers Boyd Payne and Doyle Payne; sister Carolyn Townsend and spouse John; brother-in-law Richard Fennell; grandchildren Angela and Kenneth Sims, Misty Tatum and Michael Dugin, Benny and Karli Tatum, David and Amber Tatum, Aquilla Terry, Bradley and Lily Archer, Deandra Price, Rebekkah Reimer, Monica Shomo, and Pacey Sanders; 13 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

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

**Mulsie Battiest**

Mulsie "Lena" Battiest, 71, passed away April 24, 2021.

Lena was born July 7, 1949, in Hugo, Okla., to Victor and Ida (Morris) Tims.

She was preceded in death by her husband Esau; her parents; daughters Yolanda Battiest and Katie Baker; son Cordell Battiest; granddaughter Ataya Battiest; sisters Rebecca Samuels, Ethal Tims, Geraldine Tims, and Vera Tims; and mother-in-law and father-in-law Helen and Isaac Battiest.

Lena is survived by her children Reggie Baker, Amanda and Robert Rios, and Anita and Wally Jefferson; brothers Silas Tims and Lester Tims; grandchildren Tia Battiest, Leo Battiest, Robert Rios, Desiree Noah, and Krystal Mussett; great-grandchildren Paityn Battiest, Lilah Gibson, Izabella Battiest, Kee'ana Martinez, Na'Omi Martinez, and Ja'tavis Hodge; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and many friends.

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

**Jim G. Gibson**

Jim G. Gibson, 93, passed away Nov. 20, 2020.

Jim was born Sept. 4, 1927, on Coal Creek in the Haywood area, to Adam and Winnie Katherine (Pope) Gibson.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marie; son James David Gibson; grandson Christopher Lampkin; his parents; sisters Ada Lusk, Viola Blevins, and Clara Blevins; his parents-in-law J.D. and Millie Selman; and many other family members and special friends.

Jim is survived by daughters Janie Gibson Lampkin, Debbie Workman and spouse Fred, and Althea Johnson and spouse Doug; grandchildren Jim D. Gibson and spouse Kim, Jana Oliver, Angela McElhane and spouse Dave, Randy Lampkin and spouse Gareth, Casey Price and spouse John Robert, Dana Workman, Laticia Workman and J.R. Hightower, Tabatha McGee and spouse Shaun, Dixie Reagan, Daniel Johnson and spouse Lori, and Melissa Coffman and John; 27 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sisters Caldonia Choate and Ann Smith.

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

**Lucilla June Gibson**

Lucilla June Gibson, 59, passed away June 21, 2021.

Lucilla was born Aug. 4, 1961, in Talihina, Okla., to Joel Samuel Aaron and Marian Magdalene (Wickson) Aaron.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son Alan Dale Gibson; and brother Joel Samuel "Cubby" Aaron II.

Lucilla is survived by her husband Audie; son Adam Dakota Gibson and spouse Alicia Joy; daughters Stephanie Renae Gibson and Geneva Gail Gibson; sisters Sandra Franklin, Cynthia Shomo, and Jeanetta Aaron; 11 grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and a host of other family, friends, and loved ones.

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

**Dorothy Jean Glenn**

Dorothy "Dot" Jean Glenn, 85, passed away June 29, 2021.

Dot was born April 1, 1936, in Hugo, Okla., to Henry Grady and Wanetta (Siddle) Glenn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and siblings Billy Steve Glenn, Fayette Glenn West, Mary Glenn, and Parker Glenn.

Dot is survived by her brother Larry Jack Glenn and spouse Ruth; sister Kay Glenn McIntyre and spouse Vanard; nieces and nephews Shelley Russell, Vandy Lujan, Aurelia McIntyre, Henry West, Kenny West, Gina Self, Amber Glenn, Alicia Mitchell, Avery Amos, Ambree Ramirez, and Anica Ramirez; along with a host of other family and friends, including special friends Jeanne Rorie and Michelle Frazier.

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

**Racheal Elaine Shomo**

Racheal Elaine Shomo, 54, passed away June 26, 2021.

Racheal was born Aug. 12, 1966, in Talihina, Okla., to Delbert and Juanita Belle (Tonihka) Shomo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Belinda Willis; sister Priscilla Tonihka; brother Shawn Shomo; grandchildren Aiden Willis and Nathan Willis; and father to her children Michael Glen Willis Sr.

Racheal is survived by her children Nikisha Ford and spouse Walter, Laquanta Willis, Amy Bond and spouse Rohn, Michael Willis Jr., Jimmerson Willis and spouse Jessica, Chimon Willis, Martka Willis, Embrocio Shomo, and Amber Shomo; siblings Geneva Shomo and spouse Fausto Coyote, Anna Shomo, Daniel Shomo, and Brian Shomo; 31 grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and special friend Carmelo Martinez.

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

**James Glen Horton**

James Glen Horton, 54, passed away April 27, 2021.

James was born May 20, 1966, in Perryton, TX, to L.P. "Cotton" and Janet C. (Casey) Horton.

He was preceded in death by his father; and brother Gary Dale Horton.

James is survived by his mother Janet McClellan; children Sierra Atherton, James Horton II, Joseph Horton, Reanne Garcia, and Rainey Whitt; sister Kimla Casey and spouse John; brothers Don Horton and spouse Valerie, and Darryl Horton and spouse Zonia; 12 grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

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

**Obituary Policy**

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw Nation tribal members only and are free of charge.

The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes.

Family members/individuals may submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspaper through a funeral home service.

Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws. Therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice.

Due to space limitations, there is a 150 word limit for obituaries. The online issue of the Biskinik will contain links to the full obituaries.

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702
or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

ITI FABVSSA

A New Chahta Homeland: A History by the Decade, 1890-1900

Iti Fabvssa is currently running a series that covers the span of Oklahoma Choctaw history. By examining each decade since the Choctaw government arrived in our new homelands using Choctaw-created documents, we will get a better understanding of Choctaw ancestors' experiences and how they made decisions that have led us into the present. This month, we will be covering 1890-1900, a decade that was dominated by negotiations about Choctaw allotment and U.S. interference in Choctaw governance.

As the Choctaw Nation continued to grow, our financial needs also increased. The royalties and leases from coal mines operating within the Choctaw Nation were a critical source of money. By 1890, the Choctaw government had massive expenses from operating schools, a court system, and the salaries of critical government officials such as attorneys, mining trustees, school superintendents, auditors, delegates to Washington and Lighthorsemen. Increasingly, Choctaw tribal government expenses were paid from funds from mining rather than treaty annuities, which had been the primary sources of funding during Choctaw Nation's early years in Indian Territory. This made the Choctaw government particularly affected by strikes in their coal mines.

In 1894, coal miners working in mines in the Choctaw Nation went on strike to protest the mine owners lowering their wages. These mines, primarily run and operated by non-Choctaw companies, were not under the control of the Choctaw government. In fact, the Choctaw Nation filed multiple lawsuits against the companies and brought issues with them to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the unauthorized seizure of tribal resources, land, and numerous other issues. Choctaw Nation had difficulty regulating the mines. Worker protection regulations that existed elsewhere in the U.S. did not apply in Indian Territory. Dangerous working conditions combined with lower wages caused miners to strike. Peter Hanraty, who would later become a major labor organizer in Oklahoma politics, was one of the central leaders in these strikes. Strikes became an immediate problem as the mines were not in operation and failed to provide Choctaw Nation with needed funds for operating its government and schools. The miners' work permits allowed them to live in Choctaw Nation only if they worked and followed the laws. Since the striking miners were not working, they became in violation of their work permits and were considered trespassers. This led Chief Wilson Jones to call on the Secretary of Interior to send in federal troops to remove the miners. A handful were removed, and eventually, the strikers went back to work. This nevertheless did not solve miners' problems with working conditions and wages. There was another major strike in 1899, and that was ultimately resolved in 1903. Increasingly, non-citizens challenged Choctaw sovereignty.

Since 1870, members of U.S. Congress had continually tried to pass bills that would turn Indian Territory into a U.S. state. The Five Tribes' treaties secured their sovereignty over their lands and protected them. Delegates like Peter Pitchlynn constantly pushed back against such overreaches of U.S. authority by circulating memorials and speaking to officials in Washington D.C. American settlers often saw tribal sovereignty as preventing U.S. companies from operating in new markets and therefore blocking commerce. But this was not the case. Choctaw citizens traded with Americans outside of Indian Territory and exported major crops like cotton. Coal from Choctaw mines was exported across the country. Nevertheless, U.S. imperialism that drove much of U.S. foreign policy in the 1800s pushed settlers to try to take Indigenous people's lands across the

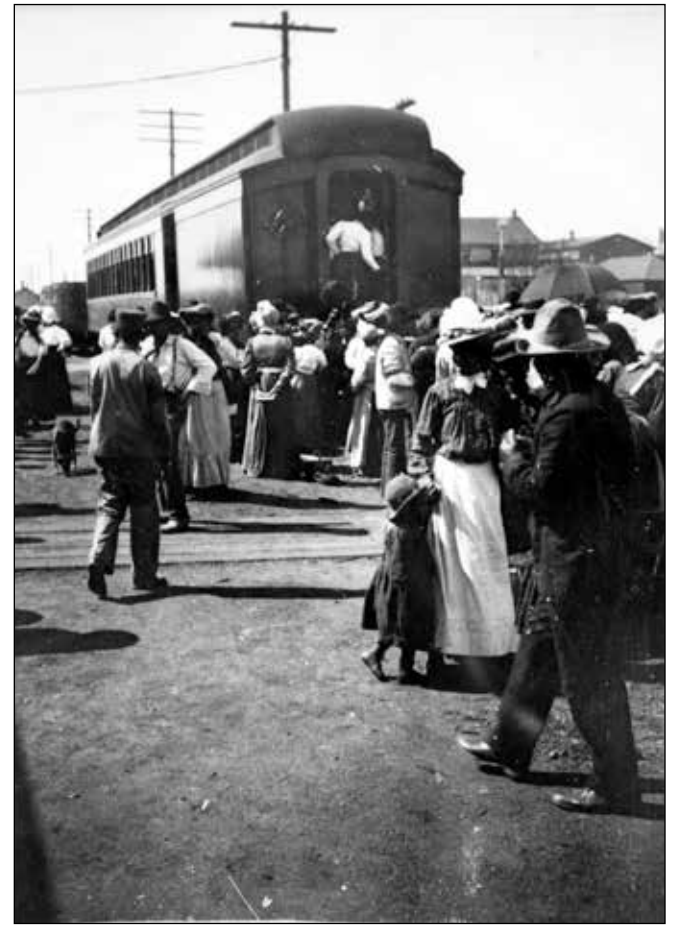
continent and incorporate them into the U.S. By 1890, Indian Territory was seen as one of the last frontiers where land had not been claimed by U.S. settlers. This desire for open access to Indian Territory's lands and markets was a key motivation for the U.S.'s push for allotment among the Five Tribes. Although Choctaws and the rest of the Five Tribes were exempt from the 1887 General Allotment Act, that did not stop Congress from pressuring them with allotment.

In 1893, Congress used the annual appropriation bill that allocated money to Indigenous nations to sneak in an authorization for the President to create a three-person commission to negotiate with the Five Tribes regarding "the extinguishment of the national or tribal title" of their lands. Known as the Commission of the Five Tribes, they were led by Henry Dawes, the author of the 1887 General Allotment Act. This commission, later known as the Dawes Commission, was sent to Indian Territory to negotiate allotment with the Five Tribes. After receiving notice of the creation of the commission and an upcoming visit, Choctaw citizens and leaders gathered to discuss the possibility of allotment. The majority opposed the proposed allotment plan. After a March 1894 special session, General Council passed a resolution stating that Choctaw Nation did not consent to any changes to their lands. As the Dawes Commission traveled throughout Indian Territory, they found that other Five Tribes also opposed allotment and had to return to Washington with no agreements. The Commission visited Choctaw Nation and the Five Tribes again in 1895 but still only found opposition from the governments. While individual citizens and non-citizens were vocal about their desire for allotment, they remained a minority and it became clear that many had personal interests and would benefit financially from allotment.

Despite tribal opposition, the Dawes Commission made a third visit to Indian Territory in 1896 to try and convince the Five Tribes to allot their lands. For this visit, the U.S. Congress had authorized the commission to create citizenship rolls for the Five Tribes. Although the Choctaw Nation had been conducting a census every six years since 1858, the Dawes Commission considered the Choctaw Nation's meticulous records to be inferior. Examination of those surviving records has proven otherwise, and they are, in fact, some of the most comprehensive tribally maintained records. The Commission arrived in Choctaw Nation after advertising the creation of their citizenship rolls and began creating new citizenship rolls.

Citizenship rolls became increasingly important throughout this period because they determined whom the Choctaw government had the authority to govern. Choctaw citizenship rolls and the prospect of allotment got the attention of non-Choctaw settlers, who saw it as an opportunity for them to acquire land at the expense of Choctaw citizens who had already lost their ancestral homelands. Although such non-Choctaw intruders often came into Choctaw Nation and were removed when federal authorities upheld their treaty obligations, many came during this period and tried to enroll as Choctaw citizens. It became the responsibility of the Choctaw National Attorney to fight these fraudulent cases in court to prevent their inclusion on Choctaw citizen rolls. This battle against fraud would continue throughout the rest of the allotment period and come at a great financial cost for Choctaw Nation.

In 1896, the Choctaw Nation held a highly contested election in which Green McCurtain, a pro-allotment candidate, won. Responding to hostile U.S. legislation being passed that tried to allot the Five Tribes lands without their consent, Choctaw leaders decided to get ahead of the issue by setting



Choctaws and Chickasaws register for their land allotments with the Dawes Commission in a railroad car. Image circa 1900 and courtesy of the W.P. Chaney Photo Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries.

the terms of Choctaw allotment. Under continued pressure from the Dawes Commission, Choctaw and Chickasaw delegates signed the Atoka Agreement on April 23, 1897. Since the Treaty of 1855 made it so that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations jointly held title to their lands, they signed the agreement together. It was ratified by Choctaw General Council and then passed into U.S. law as the 1898 Curtis Act. The Curtis Act applied allotment to all the Five Tribes. With this law in place, the Dawes Commission could begin the allotment process in earnest. As part of the allotment process, General Council created a three-person commission to accompany and assist in creating a roll of Choctaw citizens in 1899. One commissioner would represent each district and would ensure that orphans and those otherwise unable to represent themselves would be placed on the rolls.

Next month, we will cover the period of 1900-1910, which includes more on the allotment process, Oklahoma statehood and U.S. interference with Choctaw government that greatly limited its ability to operate as a formal government.

Additional reading resources on this period are available on the Choctaw Nation Cultural Service webpage <https://choctawnationculture.com/choctaw-culture/additional-resources.aspx>.

Follow along with this Iti Fabvssa series in print and online at <https://www.choctawnation.com/history-culture/history/iti-fabvssa>.

If you have questions or would like more information on the sources, please contact Megan Baker at meganb@choctawnation.com.

Wheelock Academy Reunion

Wheelock Academy was founded in 1832 by Christian missionaries Alfred and Harriet Wright. Wheelock served as a boarding school for Choctaw youth from 1832 until it was ultimately closed in 1955. Located in McCurtain County, Wheelock Academy is a testament to the Choctaw Nation's commitment to education. Wheelock Academy was built as a missionary school in 1832. Ten years later, the site became Wheelock Female Seminary, an all-girls school.

Students were exposed to English, history, geography and science, home economics and Bible studies. Upon the Civil War in 1861, the academy was closed. A fire destroyed every building on campus in 1869, and Wheelock Academy was reconstructed in the 1880s just northeast of its original location. Between 1884 and 1955, Wheelock Academy was once again a thriving learning environment.

After Wheelock Academy's closure in 1955, the campus underwent several

changes. What had grown to 17 buildings dwindled down to just six, including an old seminary, dining hall, barn, chapel, a domestic science building and an arts and crafts building.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Choctaw Nation made efforts to restore some of the buildings. In 1998 the Nation's officials initiated another effort to restore the surviving buildings for reuse. Wheelock Academy received the National Historic Landmark designation in 1965, and in 1966 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2000, Wheelock was listed as one of America's "eleven most endangered historic places" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and was included in the federal "Save America's Treasures" program.

Events are usually held throughout the year on the campus, including an annual reunion of alumni, youth camps, and school field trips. A Museum is located on the grounds in the refurbished LeFlore

Hall. Its exhibits about the school and its students' lives include many historic photographs, personal items, and unique artifacts. Tours of the museum and grounds are available upon request.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a reunion was not possible in 2020. This year, four former Wheelock students, Margie Pollard, Mary Watson, Lydia McClure and Lucille Olive, gathered together on June 26 and shared memories of their time at the school.



Photos by Dawn Standridge

Wheelock Academy, is a former Native American girl's boarding school originally founded in 1832 and is also the home of Oklahoma's oldest church.



Alumni and guests were welcomed to the Wheelock Academy grounds for a reunion.



Former student, Margie Pollard, hugs Wheelock Historic Site Director, Wanda Howard.



Pat Miller (left) and Shanna Steele (right), pinning corsages on their mothers, Mary Watson and Lydia McClure. Mary and Lydia are both former Wheelock students.

Housing Headlines

By Bobby Yandell

One of the most successful programs Housing now has is our voucher program for home rehabilitation. It allows the homeowner the ability to have repairs made on their home themselves by utilizing a voucher provided by the Tribe.

The Homeowners Rehabilitation Voucher Program through Housing provides assistance to homeowners for home repairs and 504 ADA accessibility items to single-family homes. Eligible repairs are based on a priority list provided through a home inspection conducted by the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation. Homeowners must meet the eligible priority score of at least 40 points based on income, age, and family size. If you are disabled, you will receive disability points. Voucher amounts are up to \$10,000.00 and up to \$15,000 for disabled persons or veterans. For those scoring under 40 points, you may be eligible for emergency services and high-priority repairs. Please call Housing for additional details. You can apply and qualify for three consecutive years up to \$30,000.00. The homeowner receiving the voucher is responsible for contacting contractors for bids and entering into a contract with the contractor for completion of the work according to the priority list. Once the work is complete, the signed approved voucher is submitted for payment, and work is confirmed through an inspection. This program is available within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation and does require a lien to be filed on your property.

Applications can be obtained online, at community centers or at the Housing office.



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Choctaw Nation

Housing Authority

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Samantha Manuel receives Doctorate of Juris Prudence



Samantha Manuel graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law with her Doctorate of Juris Prudence. Samantha is the daughter of Gerald and Sabrina Gibbs. Samantha says she couldn't have done it without the love and support from her family, friends and the Choctaw Nation.

Promotion for Ward

U.S. Army Chaplain David Ward was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

David has served in the Army as both a Non-Commissioned and Commissioned officer.

Chaplain Ward currently serves on active duty at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

His prior assignments as a chaplain include medical, military intelligence, and cavalry units. He deployed to Iraq in 2007 as the chaplain to a Stryker Cavalry squadron that deployed as part of the "Surge."

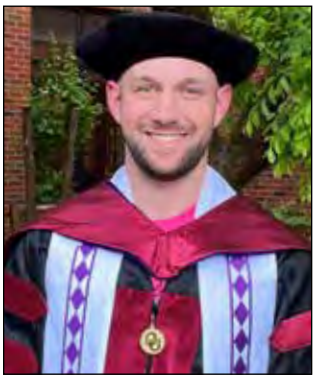
He and his wife Debra and children are currently residing in Kensington, Maryland.

Posing with David is his father, retired Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Ward of Leflore, Oklahoma. Johnny Ward retired from the Air Force in 1977, after a 20-year career as a pilot.

After retirement, Johnny Ward taught aviation at the University of Oklahoma and American Airlines.

Johnny Ward currently resides in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

Blake Allen receives Doctorate of Juris Prudence



Blake Allen from Oklahoma City graduated in May 2021 with a Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. "I proudly wore the Choctaw sash during graduation to show my heritage and honor the Choctaw Nation for all the help they have given me as I pursued my dream of obtaining a law degree. I would like to thank the

Higher Education and Career Development departments for all of their help over the past 7 years." Yakoke!

Young graduates from Dartmouth

Claire Green Young is a proud Chahta ohoyo from Wright City, Oklahoma.

She is the daughter of Ellen Green Young and the granddaughter of R.C. Green and Sharon Green.

Young grew up in the heart of the Choctaw Nation and graduated from Wright City High School in 2017. After attending Dartmouth College's Indigenous Fly-In Program, she applied to this prestigious Ivy League institution and was soon admitted to Dartmouth.

At Dartmouth College, Claire was involved in Native Americans at Dartmouth, the Dartmouth Center for Social Impact, and served as a Senior Fellow for the Undergraduate Office of Admissions, where she worked to recruit prospective Native American students.

On June 13, 2021, Claire graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and History with a modification in Native American Studies.

In the future, she plans to obtain her Ph.D. in Choctaw tribal history and religion.

Tvshka Homma Ohoyo make history

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Tvshka Homma Ohoyo Women's Stickball team made history with their first-ever win at the World Series of Stickball in Choctaw, Mississippi. The Tvshka Homma Ohoyo took on Tucker Alhŋha on July 10, winning with a score of 4 to 0.

They put up a hard fight during the semifinal game on July 13 against Bok Cito Ohoyo but ultimately came up just short of a win with a score of 2 to 1.

Members of the Tvshka Homma Ohoyos include Taryn Carey, Rozlind Smith, Ladonna Ward, Chasity Aaron, Alissa French, Amy Tackett, Alyssa Willis, Kristin Scott, Tabitha Scott, Yelizaveta Zhugin, Kailyn Ward, Alex Ward, Shyla Ludlow, Nichasie Smith, Gennavie Tom, Talia Miller, Alishia Williams, Kyra Hornbuckle, Myeka Bluford, Sarah Williamson, Summer John, Sherri Miller, Larissa Parker, Angel Edwards, Tara Bradley, Chelci Moore, Maria Noahubbi, Peggy Nichols, Beckah Boykin, Amber Willis, Shelly Louis, Crystal Jefferson, Heather Salines, Briana Tehauno, Audrey



Photo by Mark Williams

Tvshka Homma Ohoyo made history with their first ever win at the Stickball World Series in Mississippi.

Jacob, Courtney Cox, Heather Ramsey, Nicole Narcomey, Ruthie James, Stormey Golden, Felicia Scott, Jennifer Roberts, Betty Tom, Ashley Wallace, Destiny Moore, Angela Lyles, Yasmine Myers, Aliyah Myers, Shelbey Factor, Kimberly Ludlow, Margo Tom, Valerie Watson, Masheli Watson, Keosha Ludlow, Heather Romse, Rylene Jones, Samantha Loper and Stephanie Thompson. Coaches of the team are Jared Tom, Brad Willis, Dewey Willis, Kyle Anderson, Kelly Anderson, Demetrius Williams and Amanda Bell.



Adams's graduate together

Rebekah Adams and her daughter Deanne Adams both graduated on May 8, 2021.

Rebekah Adams graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Northwest Nazarene University. She is the pastor of Wister Church of the Nazarene in Wister, Oklahoma.

Deanne Adams graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. Deanne will be teaching in the Putnam City School District in Oklahoma City starting in the fall of 2021.

Rebekah and Deanne wish to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Ed program for supporting their pursuits in higher education.

Sanders graduates Southwest Tech

Martin Sanders received his Automotive Service Technician Certificate from Southwest Automotive Technology Center, May 20, 2021.



Dillingham turns 40

Alan Shane Dillingham celebrated his 40th birthday on July 15.

Dillingham teaches Native American and Latin American history at Albright College.



He lives with his wife, Frida, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Alan Edward Dillingham of California, Maryland, and the grandson of the late John Howard Dillingham, who was born near Purcell, Oklahoma. His fourth great-grandmother is Nancy Folsom Stewart, an original enrollee.

Honors for John Franklin James, Jr.

John Franklin James, Jr. (Jack) of Union, South Carolina, graduated with honors from Clemson University May 6, 2021, with a Bachelor's degree in history.

Jack is currently a student at the University of Oklahoma working on a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law.

He plans to attend law school to pursue his Juris Doctor degree.

He is the 20-year-old son of John and Michelle Moore of Union, South Carolina, and grandson of former Sulphur, Oklahoma residents Billy Jack and Kathryn Moore, who now reside in Union, South Carolina.

Jack would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education program for their assistance.



Outreach at the Beach



Photos by Christian Toews

The Coley Family finds some shade to each lunch.



The volunteers had a great time at the event. From left to right - Amy Johnson, Andy Finch, Kara Byars, Carson Hammons, Brandi Smallwood, Jennifer Davidson.

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services held its annual Outreach at the Beach event on July 14 at Sardis Lake. Attendees enjoyed food and fun in the sun. Representatives from various tribal services were also there to share information about available program.



Heather Stacey works the grill, preparing hot dogs.



Roman Wright slides into some fun on the water slide.



Emma Gersbach plays a game of beach volleyball.

Johnson graduates from University of Kansas

Levi D. Johnson graduated from the University Of Kansas (KU) with a degree in Finance in May.

During his time at KU, he held multiple leadership roles and served as President of his fraternity during his sophomore year. He was successful in raising the pledge class to a cumulative GPA record of 3.87. He served as the President of the largest student-run philanthropy on campus, a total raised over 2.5 million to date.

Levi was also involved in the multicultural Business scholarship, a unique scholarship and mentoring program that seeks to create opportunities for diverse students to excel academically, professionally and personally. Levi was one of 17 students chosen for the selective UV finance Scholars Program, also. After graduation, Levi will be moving to Dallas, Texas, to work as an Investment Banking Analyst for Stephens, Inc.

Levi would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education program and the Choctaw as a whole for making all of his goals possible! He hopes to give back one day to help other students like him.



Sparks graduates from OU



Cheyenne Sparks graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, May 17, 2021, with a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law.

She is the Operations and Communications Manager for the Oklahoma Ag Mediation Program and serves as the President-Elect for the Oklahoma CattleWomen.

As a registered artist with the Choctaw Nation, Cheyenne uses her bead-

work to educate and uplift her community.

Cheyenne lives in Blanchard, Okla., with her husband, Landon, and their two children, Laramie and Clay.

Cheyenne would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their support of her cultural and educational ambitions.

LeFlore July Vet of the Month

Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt LeFlore of Atoka, Oklahoma, is the Choctaw Nation Veteran of the Month for July 2021.

LeFlore served in the United States Navy from Jan. 13, 1954, to Feb. 20, 1962, where he achieved the rank of CP Construction Apprentice.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving on vessels and at stations in San Diego, California, the Public Works Center, Guam, and in the Philippines.

The Choctaw Nation holds our Veterans in the highest esteem and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions they have made to preserve our freedoms and the way of life we hold dear.

Simpson joins Hall of Fame board



Alan Simpson, far right, is shown with his family after being inducted into the Oklahoma Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame in February 2019.

Simpson recently joined the seven-member board of directors for the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. Simpson served for 35 years at Byng Public Schools.



Floyd Johnson celebrates 60 years

Floyd Johnson is celebrating his 60th birthday. Mr. Johnson is a resident of Hughes County.

FALL FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

9:30 a.m.	Sign-in / Breakfast snack
10:00 a.m.	Information booths open Flu vaccinations
10:30 a.m.	Gospel and Choctaw performers
11:00 a.m.	Prayer; Olin Williams Welcome: Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. Storyteller; Peggy Nichols Choctaw Princess (Lord's Prayer) Address to Audience; Chief Gary Batton
Noon	Prayer; Jennifer Woods Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Gospel and Choctaw performers Door prizes / Closing remarks

Choctaw Nation will run scheduled buses for this event from the multiple Choctaw Nation Community Centers. Check with your local Choctaw Nation community center for details.

800-522-6170 | OCLAY@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation Community Health Representative Program

CNO Summer camps teach more than just sports skills

By Chris Jennings

For approximately 20 years, the Choctaw Nation has been keeping kids active while teaching them skills they can use for the rest of their lives through a variety of Summer Camps.

In 2021, around 1000 different kids registered for several camps, resulting in 3500 total registrations.

Some of the camps available to young tribal members and employees' children range from the more typical summer camps offerings such as football, basketball, baseball, and cheer camp to more unique offerings like cultural camp and wildlife camp.

Javen White, director of youth events and activities, said, "Our goal is really to offer kids an extracurricular activity outside of their schools that they can come and be a part of. To learn skills and fundamentals...at that particular camp."

During this year's camp, one new skill taught is traditional Choctaw foods as part of the cultural camp.

"They get to see how it's made, [the food] and how some of our elders produce these meals," said White.

According to White, the cultural camps also gave kids the opportunity to learn about traditional beading, basket weaving and traditional bow shooting.

"We want to continue to see our kids learning at a young age to keep those traditions alive," explained White.

When it comes to youth summer camps, football is often one of the more popular camps.

Football camps were conducted by Day of Champions run by Coach Ken Heupel. Heupel is a former NCAA coach and the father of 2000 Heisman Trophy runner-up Josh Heupel.

Day of Champions also brings in coaches and players from various colleges, universities, and the National Football League, all focusing on skills that are not only useful across all sports but can be utilized in everyday life.

"Once we get them here, we're teaching them not only the fundamentals of football, but we're also teaching them the fundamentals of life: discipline, respect, trust, and hard work," said Coach Heupel.

Introducing the kids to a strict timetable and using the college and professional athletes and coaches demonstrates what can be achieved. These role models provide a glimpse into their potential futures.

Hard work and discipline can pay off.



Photos by Chris Jennings

Kids work on drills during the football summer camp at Tvshka Homma. This year around 1000 different kids registered for several of the camps, resulting in 3500 total registrations.

"What you really see is the positive and the discipline. The respect and trust in hard work when they're done with the camp," said Heupel.

"It's just such a wonderful experience for them to get to socialize outside of their comfort zones, but also learn from professionals in whatever particular topic it is that we're working on that week. We've just had a wonderful year. It's just been so good to see the kids' faces again and get to actually be out here and interacting with them. I know that they definitely feel the same because they've been so excited that we're back in action this year," said White.

Choctaw Nation Optometrist Receives Distinguished Service Award

DURANT, Okla. (June 14, 2021) – Dr. Regan Michelle Welch, an optometrist in the Choctaw Nation Idabel Health Clinic, has won the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Welch was nominated by the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians (OAOP) for her local concern and national impact and competed with submissions from across the country.

"I've never met anyone as giving as she is. She sets a tremendous example, whether it's in the clinic, the classroom, for everybody," says Nathan Lighthizer, OD, Associate Dean, Oklahoma College of Optometry. "Community has been at the heart of Dr. Welch's work."

Each year, the award is given to an optometrist who has impacted not only the patients treated but the community and profession itself. Dr. Welch joined the Choctaw Nation in 2014. Before joining the Choctaw Nation team, she held several roles at the Northeastern State University College of Optometry. She has also served as president of the OAOP and on several committees with the Cherokee Nation. In addition to taking care of her patients, Dr. Welch shares her knowledge as a teacher nationally by providing continuing medical education courses to help elevate their work and advance the profession.

"Leading us ... was awe-inspiring, and the profession of optometry today would not be where it is without her," says Selina McGee, OD, Past President OAOP of Dr. Michelle Welch.

"When I see patients, I want them to know that they're not just a chart, or a number, or even a pair of eyeballs. These are people in my community, my friends, and family. I love that I can make such an immediate and positive impact in their lives by improving their visual health – sometimes dramatically," says Dr. Welch of her passion for her practice.



Submitted Photo

Dr. Michelle Welch receiving her award from Dr. Reynolds during the June conference.

"Dr. Welch is so deserving of this award. She is an amazing asset to our team. It's remarkable to see her continue to help her colleagues across the nation and move the optometry profession forward," says Dr. Ben Thompson, OD, Global Optometry Manager for Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority.



DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon., Wed., Thur., & Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st Tue. of Every Month	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Tue. & Thur. (except for Battiest & Smithville days)	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Durant 580-920-2100 x-83582	Daily Mon. - Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-9707	Daily Mon. - Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2600 x-41113	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 Thur. of Every Month	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thur., & Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Daily Mon. - Fri.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Mon. & Fri.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mobile Clinic	Tues., Wed., & Thurs.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Building Healthy Families Through Good Nutrition

WIC van travel has been postponed. If you need assistance, please call 580-380-3628 or 580-380-9895 Ext. 83582.



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Choctaw Nation Adult Education

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WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Open 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

August 2021
All markets open weekdays, August 2-27
Closed: August 30-31.
Nutrition Ed & Food Programs subject to cancellation
Participants can request a calendar at their location.

ANTLERS 400 S.W. "O" ST., 580-298-6443
Nutrition Ed. & Food Demo August 2 & 18 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW 109 Chahta Rd., 580-584-2842
Nutrition Ed. & Food Demo August 5 & 24 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DURANT 2352 Big Lots Pkwy., 580-924-7773
Nutrition Ed. & Food Demo August 4 & 17 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MCALESTER 3244 Afullota Hina, 918-420-5716
Nutrition Ed. & Food Demo August 3 & 19 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

POTEAU 100 Kerr Ave., 918-649-0431
Nutrition Ed. & Food Demo August 6 & 25 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Fruit Cooler

- 1 Can Mixed Fruit
- 2 Cups Frozen Blueberries
- 1 Cup Apple Cherry Juice
- 1 Cup Ice
- 1 Tbsp Lime Juice

Preparation

- Place all ingredients in blender in the order listed.
- Turn on blender and blend until cooler reaches your desired consistency.
- Recipe make approximately 4-5 cups



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2021

CHOCTAWNATION.COM/LABOR-DAY

Wednesday, Sept. 1

8 am – 11 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

Thursday, Sept. 2

8 am – 11 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

4 pm – 10 pm ~ Arts & Crafts Vendor

Friday, Sept. 3

7 am – 9 pm ~ Cafeteria hours

8 am – 3 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours & Museum Gift Shop hours

8 am – 10 pm ~ Ice House hours

8 am – 11 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

9 am – 3 pm ~ Youth Crafts, Playground

9 am – 4 pm ~ Corn Hole Tournament, Red Warrior Park

9 am – 4 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground

9 am – 5 pm ~ Education Tent hours

9 am – 11 am ~ Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament, Information Tent

10 am – 4 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours

10 am – 10 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours

10 am – 10 pm ~ General Store hours

10 am – 10:30 am ~ Choctaw Social Dance Class, Capitol Lawn

10:30 am – 11 am ~ Choctaw Chanting Class, Capitol Lawn

10 am – 6 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ Voter Registration hours

Noon – 6 pm ~ Information Tent hours

1 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent

1 pm – 4 pm ~ Chahta Cab

1 pm – 5 pm ~ 5K Early Check-In

2 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn

5 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field

5 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge Registration, Council Chambers Lawn

5 pm ~ Choctaw Nation Official Ceremonies

(5 pm – 6 pm Swearing in Ceremony)

(6 pm – 10 pm Princess Pageant)

6 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers Lawn

6 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn

7 pm ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament, Red Warrior Park

Saturday, Sept. 4

7 am ~ 5k Race begins and ends at Capitol Museum

7 am – 9 pm ~ Cafeteria hours

8 am – 11 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

8 am ~ Fittest Warrior Registration, Council Chambers Lawn

8 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues

8 am ~ Bow Shoot (Youth), Choctaw Village

8 am – 8:30 am ~ Co-Ed Volleyball Check-In

8 am – 10 pm ~ Ice House hours

8:30 am – 9:30 am ~ War Hoops Check-In

9 am ~ Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

9 am ~ Horseshoe Tournament

9 am ~ Fittest Warrior, Council Lawn

9 am – 3 pm ~ Youth Crafts, Playground

9 am – 4 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground

9 am – 5 pm ~ Education Tent hours

9:45 am ~ Terrapin Race Registration, Playground

10 am ~ War Hoops, 3-on-3 Tournament

10 am ~ Noon ~ Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum

10 am – 3:30 pm ~ Choctaw Village Activities (see schedule)

10 am – 4 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours

10 am – 4 pm ~ Greenhouse Tours

10 am – 5:30 pm ~ Museum Gift Shop hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ Information Tent

10 am – 6 pm ~ 17th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show, Capitol Museum

10 am – 6 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ Voter Registration hours

10 am – 7 pm ~ Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers

10 am – 10 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours

10 am – 10 pm ~ General Store hours

10:30 am ~ Terrapin Races, Playground

11 am – 2 pm ~ Chahta Children's Games

11 am – 6 pm ~ Chahta Cab

1 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent

3 pm ~ Tough Tough Registration, Council Chambers Lawn

4 pm ~ Tough Tough Contest, Council Chambers Lawn

5 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field

6 pm ~ Jeremy Rowe (Choctaw Performing Artist), Amphitheatre

6:30 pm – 8 pm ~ Chahta at the Movies

7 pm ~ Braiden Williams (Choctaw Performing Artist), Amphitheatre

8 pm ~ Jerry Tims Band (Choctaw Performing Artist), Amphitheatre

9 pm ~ Neal McCoy, Amphitheatre

Sunday, Sept. 5

7 am – 9 pm ~ Cafeteria hours

8 am ~ Bow Shoot (Adult), Choctaw Village

8 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues

8 am – 10 pm ~ Ice House hours

9 am – 4 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground

10 am ~ Worship Services at Chapel

10 am – 4 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours

10 am – 6 pm ~ Voter Registration hours

10 am – 8 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

10 am – 10 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours

10 am – 10 pm ~ General Store hours

11 am – 12 pm ~ Domino/Checker Tournament Registration, Information Tent

Noon ~ Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheater (visit www.choctawnation.com)

Noon – 2 pm ~ 17th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show, Capitol Museum

Noon – 4 pm ~ Choctaw Village Activities (see schedule)

Noon – 4 pm ~ Greenhouse Tours

Noon – 4 pm ~ Museum Gift Shop hours

Noon – 4:30 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours

1 pm ~ Domino/Checker Tournament, Information Tent

1 pm ~ School Supply Pick-up, Education Tent (while supplies last)

1 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent

1:30 pm – 3 pm ~ Choctaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers

2 pm – 4 pm ~ Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum

4 pm ~ Choctaw Dancers, Capitol Lawn

5 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field

5 pm ~ Stickball Exhibition, Capitol Lawn

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm ~ The Browders, Amphitheatre

7 pm ~ Traditional Choctaw Hymn Singing, Chapel

7:30 pm ~ Championship Stickball Game, Stickball Field

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm ~ The Kingsmen, Amphitheatre

9 pm ~ Jason Crabb, Amphitheatre

TIMES AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Stay up-to-date by visiting choctawnation.com/labor-day

Alcohol, drugs (to include medical marijuana), guns, and weapons are NOT permitted on the Festival grounds.

Due to limited space, only ONE vehicle will be permitted per campsite.

Additional vehicles must be parked in the General Parking area.

All roadways must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

Do not park in: NO PARKING Zones, VENDOR Parking Zones or Reserved RV/Trailer Parking Zones

Vehicles blocking roadways, RV/Trailers, or other vehicles subject to tow at the owner's expense.

Pavilions are for PUBLIC use only.

Tent campers are permitted one plug per tent.

Campers may not use SPLITTERS in electrical outlets.

All extension cords must be 12-gauge, less than 100', and not installed across roadways.

UNAUTHORIZED GOLF CARTS and ATVS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN FESTIVAL AREA.

All personal Golf Carts/ATVs must remain in camping areas.

ALL drivers must have a valid driving license.

Please use extreme caution and watch out for pedestrians.

NO BOATS are allowed in the camping area

NO PETS are allowed in the Festival area.

Please be courteous and pick up after your pets.

Tvshka Homma Capitol Grounds is a No Drone Zone.

Any use of a Drone (UAS) must be requested and authorized by the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department.

Choctaw Village Labor Day Activities

The Choctaw Village will display traditional, historical and cultural lifeways of the Choctaw people. Cultural demonstrators will display, demonstrate, educate or offer hands-on experiences in their traditional art expertise. The traditional Choctaw food booth will offer a sampling of banaha and tanchi lobona along with an opportunity to experience pounding corn on an authentic Choctaw mortar and pestle known as a 'kittih'. Other hands-on cultural arts will include pottery, flintknapping, basketry, beadwork, rabbit stick throw and blow gun. Artisans will demonstrate and share their knowledge of dressmaking, stickball sticks and ball making, greenhouse/Choctaw gardens, textiles and primitive weapons throughout the day. Participants will be invited to participate in ongoing activities in Choctaw dancing, stickball skills, Choctaw hymn singing and language activity.

Children will participate in a fun, engaging rabbit stick throw activity and in a robust, competitive corn game. Choctaw storytellers will entertain with wit, wisdom and sharing of oral traditions.

Sunday afternoon on the Capitol lawn will consist of Choctaw dancing beginning at 4 p.m. and stickball exhibition games at 5 p.m. for all ages. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Saturday, September 4

Choctaw Village Activities

10:00 am – 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors

10:00 am – 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors

10:00 am – 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors

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10:00 am – 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors

Sunday, September 5

10:00 am ~ Sunday School Kids Program

12 pm ~ 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors.

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12 pm ~ 4:00 pm ~ Demonstrations: Located at Huts and Arbors.



TRIBAL BLOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
AUGUST 1, 2021 - JANUARY 31, 2022

Visit choctawnation.com
for more information





VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021
 The Capitol Grounds Tvshka Homma, south of the softball fields
 Registration Deadline August 16, 2021

- There is a maximum of 12 Co-Ed Teams
- Registration will be taken online and by mail
- Rules will be emailed to contacts. Schedules will be emailed out.
- This tournament will have its own referees.
- Check-in at 8 a.m., Captains must meet with referees at 8:30 a.m.
- Games begin at 9 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

For more information:
 Crystal Thompson | 580-924-8280 ext. 4649 | 580-916-2920 |
 cdthompson@choctawnation.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Team Name: _____

Contract: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Alt Phone: _____

In what city do you regularly play with your team: _____

Mail or scan entries to CN Labor Day Volleyball Tournament c/o
 Crystal Thompson PO Box 1210, Durant OK, 74702, fax 580-
 920-4963, cdthompson@choctawnation.com, or sign up online at
 choctawnation.com/labor-day.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | RED WARRIOR PARK
 Event begins: 9 a.m.

Team Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

YOUTH FITNESS CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | COUNCIL LAWN
 Registration: 5 p.m. | Event begins: 6 p.m.

For more information:
 Seth Fairchild | 580-924-8280 ext. 2639 | sfairchild@choctawnation.com

5K

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | CAPITOL MUSEUM
 Friday, September 3rd 7 a.m.
 Race Check in 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Pre-registration online only Choctawnation.com/labor-day
 Pre-race check in

HORSESHOES TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | RED WARRIOR PARK
 Registration: 8 a.m. | Event begins: 9 a.m.

TOUGH TOUGH CHOCTAW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | COUNCIL LAWN
 Registration: 3 p.m. | Event begins: 4 pm.

There will be male and female divisions.
 Prizes awarded for first and second places.
 Free t-shirts for all participants.

For more information:
 Seth Fairchild | 580-924-8280 ext. 2639 | sfairchild@choctawnation.com

FITTEST WARRIOR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | COUNCIL LAWN
 Registration: 8 a.m. | Event begins: 9 a.m.

There will be male and female divisions.
 Prizes awarded for first and second places.
 Free t-shirt for all participants.

For more information:
 Chase Henson | (580) 916-9140 | chenson@cnhsa.com

ELDER VOLLEYBALL FINALS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | INFORMATION TENT
 Event: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(This is the end-of-the-year tournament for Elder Chair Volleyball.)

DOMINO/CHECKERS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | INFORMATION TENT
 Registration: 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. | Event begins: 1 p.m.

FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
 Registration Deadline: August 6, 2021.

Mail entries to:
 Hugo Community Center, Attn: Larry Wade,
 1304 W. Victor, Hugo, OK 74743
 or sign up online at choctawnation.com/labor-day.
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 12 CO-ED TEAMS

Team Name: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

WAR HOOPS 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
 Check-in 8:30 a.m. | Event begins: 10 a.m.

Team Name: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

GENDER	DIVISION	AGE
WOMEN	ALL STARS	18 & UP
MEN	YOUNG GUNS	19-35
MEN	OLD TIMERS	36 & UP
CO-ED	MINIS	9-11
CO-ED	TWEENS	12-14
CO-ED	TEENS	15-18

Mail entries to:
 Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball,
 ATTN: Marlo Hill,
 PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702,
 or sign up online at
 choctawnation.com/labor-day.
 All the co-ed divisions only 5-person roster
 (3 boys and 2 girls)
**Teen players who are 18
 must still be in high school**
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 TEAMS

Contestants to vie for Choctaw Royalty titles

The Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant will kick off the annual Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma with 25 young ladies taking the stage to vie for the title of Little Miss, Junior Miss, or Miss Choctaw Nation 2021-22. The event will be held Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. in the Tvshka Homma amphitheatre.

DISTRICT 1

Little Miss Kristin Faith Jefferson of Idabel is the 11-year-old daughter of Paul and Whitney Jefferson. Kristin is a sixth-grader at Idabel Middle School. She has been on the Honor Roll for five years, a Choctaw Star student for four years and earned perfect attendance in 2020-21. She won the State Superintendent Reading Award, Math Award, AR Reading Award for two years, and Citizenship Award for five years. She also received the 2016-17 Masonic Lodge Student of Today Award. Her hobbies include attending church, reading, playing softball, riding her bike, and spending time with her family.

DISTRICT 2

Little Miss Milena Amos of Broken Bow is the 9-year-old daughter of Dayla Amos and Joshua Riley. She is in the fourth grade at Lukfata Elementary School, where she has been on the Superintendent's Honor Roll for three years. Milena has earned awards for AR points, reading, math, and spelling achievement. She is a Choctaw STAR student with all A's and perfect attendance, a Native American Indian Club member, and was named to the 2021 Broken Bow 10U All-Star Softball team. Milena has been a Broken Bow School of Dance member for five years and studies ballet, tap, jazz, clogging, acrobatics, and baton twirling. She enjoys learning how to play the piano, singing, and playing softball and basketball. Each Spring, Milena plants a garden with her great-grandmother, and they share their vegetables with elders in the community. Milena attends White Sands United Methodist Church in Valliant. She enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with her family and friends.

Junior Miss Kayla Ward of Broken Bow is the 17-year-old daughter of Tony and Amy Ward. She is a senior at Broken Bow High School, where she is on the honor roll and a Choctaw STAR student. Kayla is a Kiamichi Technology Center honor society member and a two-year member of Broken Bow High School's softball and basketball teams. Kayla likes to spend time with her family, sing traditional Choctaw hymns, go to all-night Choctaw singings, speak her Choctaw language, and help in her community. She also likes to play softball and hang out with her friends.

Senior Miss Chasity Aaron of Broken Bow is the 19-year-old daughter of Bobby and Cynthia Shomo. Chasity is a 2020 graduate of Broken Bow High School. She was the 2020 AILYC Senior Class Princess and in 2021, assisted Katie Baker in helping AILYC learn the Lord's Prayer. Chasity was also first runner-up Owa Chito Choctaw Senior Princess in 2019. She enjoys listening to music, playing stickball, listening and learning to speak and sing hymns in the Choctaw language, participating in Choctaw social dances and Choctaw stickball exhibitions, and spending time with her family and friends.

DISTRICT 3

Little Miss Emma Ray Battiest of Talihina is 13 years old and the daughter of Jimmy Battiest and Heather Ramsey. An eighth-grader at Talihina Junior High, she received Student of the Month for April 2021. Among her favorite ways to spend leisure time are painting and drawing. She has been drawing since she was four years old. Emma also enjoys playing stickball with Yvnnvsh Homma, learning to fastpitch from her Dad, and playing basketball.

DISTRICT 4

Little Miss Dalani Hornbuckle is the 13-year-old daughter of Jimi Hornbuckle and Dan Davies. She is a 7th-grader at Poteau where she is a Choctaw Star, on the Superintendent's Honor Roll, and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Dalani enjoys playing stickball for Yvnnvsh Homma, Poteau youth wrestling, and spending time with family.

Junior Miss Graiclyn Rain Dorsey is the 15-year-old daughter of Brad and Krista Dorsey. She lives in Howe and is in 10th grade at Howe High School. Graiclyn is a Principal's Honor Roll student, varsity cheerleader co-captain, and has won numerous dance competition awards. Graiclyn enjoys dance lessons and is a youth dance instructor. She is involved in FCS, tumbling classes, and is a youth sponsor for a children's church camp.

Senior Miss Madison Jade Cossey of Spiro is the 19-year-old daughter of Karla McGee. She is a junior at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, where she is majoring in psychology. Jade is also employed at Mazzio's.

DISTRICT 6

Little Miss Omba Lynn Ramsey of Wilburton is the 8-year-old daughter of Michael and Heather Ramsey. She is a second-grader at Grace Russell Elementary. Omba was a contestant in the Spelling Bee for second grade. Omba spends her time on her laptop and looking through drawing tutorials. She loves playing with her siblings, basketball and stickball for Yvnnvsh Homma. Her mom is a shooter for Tvshka Homma Ohoyo. Omba likes reading to her baby sister, Kitsey, and playing with her of, Shoop.

Junior Miss Greenlee McClain of Wilburton is the 17-year-old daughter of Heather Pugh and stepdad Justin Pugh and the granddaughter of Delona Jones. She is a senior at Wilburton High School. Greenlee loves to spend most of her time playing basketball, hanging out with friends, and going swimming. She also attends the Labor Day Festival every year and enjoys cultural events. She loves to watch her brother, Kayd, play baseball and her other brother, Korbin, play football. Greenlee volunteers her time helping people and babysits in her spare time.

Senior Miss Riley Isabell of Wilburton is 19 years old and a 2021 graduate of McAlester High School. She held first chair in band from 6th through 12th grade, during which she held superior ratings. Riley also placed in the Top 10 at the Bixby 5A Golf Tournament during her sophomore year and had a story place first at the Native American language fair. Riley spends her free time with friends and family, especially playing and running around with her 5-year-old cousin.

DISTRICT 7

Little Miss Akeiley Francis Willis of Wright City is 13 years old and the daughter of Kerry Willis and the late Christina Willis. She is a student at Wright City Junior High. Akeiley is an honor roll student, named most improved student by JOM, has earned multiple patches in Girl Scouts, and has medaled in track. She enjoys playing sports, especially softball, basketball, and stickball. She enjoys going to Choctaw Nation summer camps and meeting new people. She likes art and to draw and paint. She is in drama and likes to sing, dance, and act. Akeiley likes to sew, bead, and make rubber band bracelets. She also likes to bake cakes with her grandma and play with her niece, Lilly.

Senior Miss Mika Taylor is the 19-year-old daughter of Martha and Hobie Taylor, born and raised in Sobol. She is a 2020 graduate of Rattan High School and is currently employed at the Choctaw Nation Casino in Idabel. She was an A and B honor roll student. While at Rattan High School, she played softball all four years. Her team won two state rings back-to-back in 2017 and 2018. She plans to pursue a career in therapy or nursing because she enjoys assisting others in times of need. Mike likes to spend time with family and friends. She loves to hang out with her boyfriend and his mom and work at the casino in Idabel.

DISTRICT 8

Little Miss Embery Faith Ensey of Soper is the 9-year-old daughter of Hailey and Steven Ensey. Embery goes to school at Bennington Elementary, where she will be in the fifth grade this fall. During the past year, Embery received an award for all A's and several participation awards in school activities, including gymnastics, dance, piano, rodeo, basketball and softball. She is an honor roll student, Super Speller, and participated in community nutrition education. Embery loves to dance, play softball, and spend time with her family and friends. She also enjoys swimming,

camping, and occasionally hunting. Embery is the granddaughter of the late Roy and Lorelei Ensey, and Ann and Jimmy Minyard. She is the great-granddaughter of Joyce Tran. She has one sister, Aria, and two brothers, Styles and Rhett.

Senior Miss Josie Elaine Frazier of Hugo is the 20-year-old daughter of Michele and Darren Frazier. Josie is a Junior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where she is majoring in English Education. She is the Content Specialist/Editor for the SOSU Magazine "Campus Note." Her honors and recognitions include being a presenter at the 2020 Humanities Education and Research Association Conference, two-time Cobell Scholar recipient, SOSU President's Leadership Class, 2019-20 SOSU Top 10 Freshmen, a Dorothy Wilson Jefferson Scholarship recipient, Vice President of Finance for Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, member of Southeastern Alumni Legacy Leaders, Choctaw Nation FYI, Camp Chahta, and College Freshman Success. Josie is the only youth member of the Oklahoma Suicide Prevention Council. She volunteers with the Southeastern Peer Education Support Group for Stress Management and J127. She loves reading and can usually be found with a book in her hands. She loves animals, Mexican food, traveling to new places and experiencing other cultures. She is also passionate about teaching and Native American issues and advocacy.

DISTRICT 9

Little Miss Kiree Louis of Calera is the 9-year-old daughter of Shelly Louis. She is a fourth-grader at Durant Intermediate School and a member of the Principal's Honor Roll. Kiree has also received the Northwest Heights Principal Paw Award for good character and the Kiwanis Terrific Kids Award for a positive attitude, good character, and responsible citizenship. She is a Choctaw STAR and attends Choctaw language class. She likes to play softball, basketball and stickball. Kiree also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending Choctaw summer camps, and softball training throughout the year. She attends Victory Life Church in Durant, volunteers time to St. William Catholic Church for food distribution, and volunteers to serve meals to the homeless in her community.

Junior Miss Kenzie Wilson of Durant is the 17-year-old daughter of Pam Wilson. She is a senior at Durant High School. She made All District honor band and received 1st chair honors, sweet states award, 1sts at solo and ensemble in district and state, and has received the outstanding band kid award and super attendance. She was selected to travel to Europe with the Durant High School Band. Kenzie enjoys painting, singing, sleeping, and hanging out with her friends and family.

Senior Miss Haleigh Gibson, 19, of Durant is the daughter of Jennifer and Jeff Gibson. She graduated from Durant High School this year, was a member of the Principal's Honor Roll and had four years with FCCLA. She served as an FCCLA chapter officer for two years. She placed first in State and solo ensembles. Haleigh enjoys spending her leisure time with her family. Haleigh had the opportunity to assist with making cornhusk dolls to be taken to Ireland as gifts from the Choctaw Nation. She is very family-oriented. While relaxing, she is always beading or searching for a new project to bead.

DISTRICT 10

Little Miss Skylar Bryant of Atoka is the 8-year-old daughter of Tiffany and Jeff Bryant. She will be in the third grade this fall at Atoka Elementary School. Skylar has received the citizenship award and was on the honor roll. In track, she placed first in her division in each area she competed – the 50-meter dash, relay, 400-meter and softball throw. She plays 8U softball and enjoys playing with her friends along with hanging out with family. If Skylar isn't playing, she loves to cheer on her siblings.

Junior Miss Adelyn Ciani Brown of Caddo is the 14-year-old daughter of Sherri Lynn Brown and Kristin Lee Brown. She completed the eighth grade this spring at Caney Public School. Adelyn is Southeast District 1 FCCLA Vice President, a local FCCLA officer, has participated in STAR events at district and state level, a member of the Principal's Honor Roll all during middle school and elementary, and awarded Spotlight on Projects second place at state. She volunteered during the pandemic handing out and delivering meals to students. One of Adelyn's favorite things to do is to be outside. She loves being in nature and playing with her dogs, Bandit, Boots, and Cowboy or her cat, Toothless. She also enjoys playing basketball during her free time. She loves spending time with her cousins from Texas and Kansas at her Nana and Papa's house.

Senior Miss Kamryn Baker of Atoka is the 19-year-old daughter of Michelle Holt and Wayne Baker. She is a 2021 graduate of Atoka High School, where she placed first at regionals for choir and received a graduation card for being a blood donor. Kamryn was also chosen to attend the annual Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCLCA) conference in Oklahoma City and Dallas. She had the privilege of being chosen to be in a sculpture for the new Choctaw Nation Cultural Center. Kamryn enjoys spending time playing with her dog. She loves to play volleyball, stickball, and cornhole with her family. Before the pandemic, she enjoyed traveling to different states. Most importantly, she loves to spend time with her family creating new memories. She spends a lot of her days singing Choctaw hymns.

DISTRICT 11

Little Miss Sophia Danielle McFarland of Hartshorne is the 10-year-old daughter of Crystal and Daniel McFarland. She is in the fifth grade at Hartshorne North Ward. Sophia was voted "best listener" in her class last school year. She was also selected Student of the Week and Student of the Month. Sophia excels in reading and math in school. Sophia sings in church and has appeared in many church plays. Sophia is always on the move. She enjoys playing sports like softball and basketball. Sophia spends a lot of time outdoors. She rides four-wheelers with her sister, plants flowers and vegetables with her dad, and goes on family hikes. Her very favorite thing to do is spend time with her family.

Junior Miss Jenessa Faith Dugger of Hartshorne is the 15-year-old daughter of Michele and Jerry Dugger. She is in the 11th grade at Haileyville School. Jenessa has received 6th grade Student of the Year, Junior High School Student of the Year, Oklahoma Junior Honor Society, Junior High Honor Escort, first place in Southeast District Speech Contest, and Eastern Oklahoma State College America Meteorologist Society award. She was eighth-grade valedictorian, a representative for her freshman and sophomore classes, 4-H county ambassador, 4-H state ambassador, Pittsburg County fourth annual 4-H banquet decoration chairman, 4-H club president for four years, county 4-H officer for two years, and the Pittsburg County Outstanding 4-Her. She enjoys cheerleading, working her pig for stock shows, choreographing dances to perform at Hartshorne Liberty Theatre, participating in lots of 4-H events, including puppet shows for kids and instructional videos, and volunteers for Vacation Bible School. Jenessa also enjoys the Native American Club, learning about Choctaw culture, and learning the Choctaw language. She loves to go camping with her dad and spending time with her siblings. Farmers Market, watching Netflix, visiting with friends, and painting.

Senior Miss Madison Ward of McAlester is the 19-year-old daughter of Amanda and Jason Holt and the late Jamie Ward. She is a 2020 graduate of McAlester High School and is currently a sophomore at the University of Central Oklahoma. She is majoring in art education. Madison was McAlester High School's Art Club Vice President and had two merit art pieces in the Oklahoma State Fair. When she isn't doing schoolwork, Madison is painting and drawing, hanging out with friends, spending time with family, or watching movies.

DISTRICT 12

Junior Miss Candis Battice-Louis of Coalgate is the 14-year-old daughter of Jolee and Micah Louis. She is a 9th-grade student at Coalgate. She has been on the A&B honor roll, MVP in 2018 for softball, received first place for best pro-game in her youth. She also received first place for a better speaker for church. Candis spends time studying and playing stickball, softball, basketball, track, cross country, and cheer. She attends church and enjoys her Bible studies. When she isn't doing these things, she spends time with friends and family and helps her mom with her brother.

LITTLE MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Kristin Jefferson



Milena Amos



Emma Battiest



Dalani Hornbuckle



Omba Ramsey



Akeiley Willis



Embery Ensey



Kiree Louis



Skylar Bryant



Sophia McFarland

JUNIOR MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Kayla Ward



Graiclyn Dorsey



Greenlee McClain



Kenzie Wilson



Adelyn Brown

JUNIOR MISS



Jenessa Dugger



Candis Battice-Louis



Chasity Aaron



Jade Cossey



Riley Isabell

MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS

MISS CHOCTAW NATION



Mika Taylor



Josie Frazier



Haleigh Gibson



Kamryn Baker



Madison Ward



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma ♦ TOGETHER WE'RE MORE ♦

August 2021

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