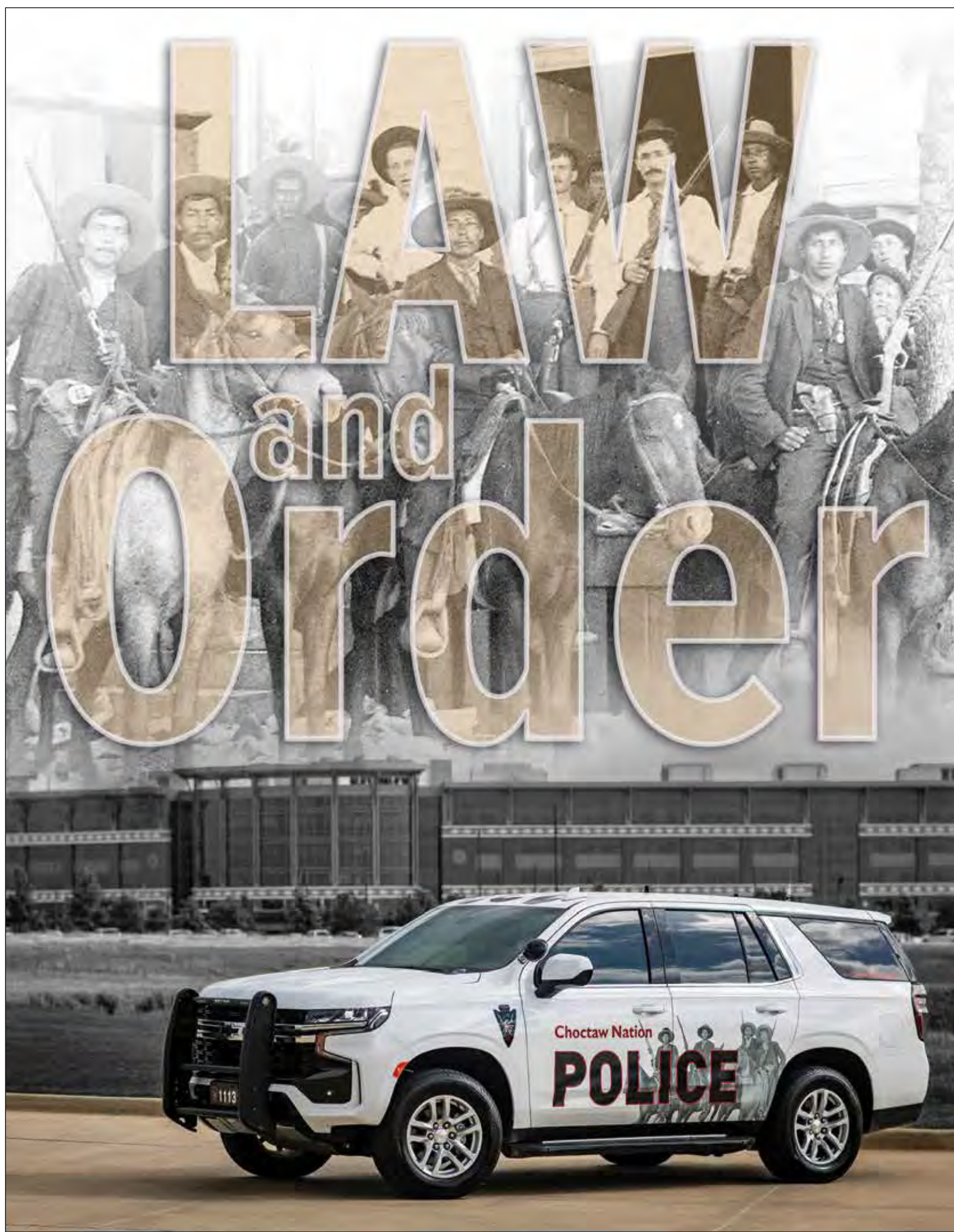




August 2022 Issue



## CNO Judicial Branch continues to strengthen two years after the landmark Supreme Court decision

By Kendra Germany-Wall

Over two years ago, on July 9, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that a large section of eastern Oklahoma remains an American Indian reservation.

The decision meant that Oklahoma prosecutors lacked the authority to pursue criminal cases against American Indian defendants in parts of Oklahoma, where the Five Tribes are based.

### What Started it All

The case, *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, revolved around an appeal by an Indigenous man, 71-year-old Jimcy McGirt.

McGirt claimed state courts had no authority to try him for a crime committed on reservation land that belongs to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

After the announcement, Jimcy McGirt didn't escape punishment.

On August 18, 2020, the federal grand jury in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma returned an indictment against the defendant based on the same facts that had resulted in his 1997 Oklahoma conviction. Less than three months later his federal jury trial began.

In November 2020, The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma announced that Jimcy McGirt was found guilty by a federal jury of two counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse in Indian Country and one count of Abusive Sexual Contact in Indian Country in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1151, 1153, 2241(c) and 2246(2). Each count is punishable by not less than 30 years and not more than life imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000.00, or both. The jury trial began with testimony on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, and concluded on Friday, November 6, 2020, with the guilty verdicts.

You can find more information on *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, by visiting <https://www.choctawnation.com/about/government/mcgirt-vs-oklahoma/>.

### Fighting for Sovereignty

Throughout the past two years, the state of Oklahoma and its governor, Kevin Stitt-R, made numerous attempts to overturn the decision. In his 2022 State of the State speech, Stitt tried to paint a grim picture of lawlessness within the eastern part of the state.

"From the beginning, I've sounded the alarm on the Supreme Court's *McGirt* decision. Because I knew then, and I know now, that even a narrow Supreme Court ruling can fundamentally change a state. Oklahoma has been robbed of the authority to prosecute crimes. Put simply, *McGirt* jeopardizes justice," Stitt said in his speech.

"This isn't about winning and losing. This isn't personal. It's not Kevin Stitt versus the tribes," said Stitt. Tribal leaders immediately refuted the governor's claims.

"The Governor continues to throw himself down kicking and screaming in the path to implement *McGirt*. His fear-mongering and lies serve no one who lives in the State of Oklahoma," Hill said in a statement.

Tribal leaders say they have invested billions of dollars and are committed to providing a safe environment for all Oklahomans.

"It's time for the governor to move forward and work

alongside our tribes," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. "Tribal nations have been crucial to the successes in Oklahoma, contributing to jobs, economic growth, public safety, COVID response, health care and supporting education, communities, roads, and law enforcement."

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Chief Gary Batton said he didn't attend the State of the State address because he thinks the Governor "has no respect for tribal sovereignty."

"As leader of the Choctaw Nation, I am committed to doing what's best for my members, and for our fellow Oklahomans. That's why we remain dedicated to cooperation with officials at all levels of government, especially the Senate and House of Representatives, even when we have disagreements," Batton said.

### Successfully Maintaining Law and Order

In a post-*McGirt* world, CNO has taken strides to protect not only the Choctaw people but everyone living within the boundaries of its reservation.

As reported in May 2022, CNO has spent more than \$24.8 million on direct and indirect expenses responding to *McGirt* to meet new responsibilities and ensure public safety across the reservation for all Oklahomans post-*McGirt*.

In Chief Batton's most recent Conversations with Chief series, he speaks with Judge Amy J. Pierce about the Choctaw Judicial Branch. Watch the videos by visiting [https://www.choctawnation.com/news/search/\\_sft\\_videos\\_categories=conversations-with-chief](https://www.choctawnation.com/news/search/_sft_videos_categories=conversations-with-chief).

One of the biggest efforts has been strengthening the Choctaw Tribal Police force.

Since the last update, CNO has sworn in many new members of the Tribal Police force.

On May 25, one of the largest swearing-in ceremonies was held for 15 new Choctaw Tribal Police officers. Judge Amy J. Pierce conducted the ceremony.

For those currently on the force, this is an opportunity to serve and protect the Choctaw people and local communities.

As of July 19, 2022, there were 91 sworn-in officers. Choctaw Tribal Police currently have 75 cross-deputization agreements with local, state and federal agencies.

For those who join the force, it can be quite the transition.

"Working for the Tribe, it was hard to get used to, at first, having things you need and things that work and being able to work with other officers," said Patrolman Shannon Kirk, who's been with Choctaw Tribal Police since 2021.

Though there is an adjustment period for officers, CNO strives to train its officers to the best of their ability.

"There hasn't been one week that has passed that I haven't seen availability for multiple training opportunities that are being offered for very—either close surrounding areas or the immediate area of Durant," said Patrolman Kirk. Choctaw Tribal Police and CNO's Emergency Management are called upon to assist with cases such as missing persons, manhunts, traffic stops and many other situations.

Recently, Choctaw Tribal Police were involved in "newsworthy" cases such as assisting the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in investigating a fatal stabbing involving a marijuana grow facility outside of Wilburton and locating and arresting a robbery suspect wanted out of Sherman, Texas.

According to an Iti Fabvssa article released in 2017, The Choctaw Lighthorse was established shortly after the Treaty of Doak's Stand to keep the peace and uphold laws within the CNO.

There were approximately 18 Lighthorsemen who served CNO; six for each of the three districts, Apukshunnubbee, Moshulatubbee and Pushmataha.

The Choctaw Lighthorse were legends of their time and worked hard to keep their nation safe.

The modern Tribal Police recently showed respect for the original Lighthorsemen by revealing new patrol cars that combine enhanced safety elements and Choctaw culture throughout the design.

The creative design includes using the Choctaw language, Apohkochi micha Intoksvali (Protect and Serve) and Chihowa II Anukcheto (In God We Trust). It also incorporates a historic photo of original Choctaw Lighthorsemen taken in 1893 in Antlers, Oklahoma.

The decision to make a design change came after the CNTP began having difficulties purchasing police vehicles due to the struggling car market and needed decal wraps that would be transferable to other vehicle models and colors.

"The new design is important as it pays tribute to both culture and history," said CNO Chief of Police Jesse Petty. "The Choctaw Lighthorse of yesteryear paved the way for our current day police officers. Their commitment and experienced hardships to enforce law and protect tribal citizens was nothing short of incredible."

According to Petty, there are currently 17 new patrol units across the Choctaw Territory, and they plan to release 24 more as they become available.

Continued on page 4



Fifteen new tribal officers are sworn in during the May 25 swearing in ceremony.



Judge Amy J. Pierce poses for a photo with newly sworn tribal police officers.

Photos by Choctaw Nation



## Faith, Family, Culture



Chief Gary Batton

### Summer Celebrations

Halito,  
I hope you enjoyed the Fourth of July holiday with your family and friends. Our celebrations continued on July 23, with the 1-year anniversary of the Choctaw Cultural Center!

Our Cultural Center represents more than a decade of research and work and embodies the Chahta Nowvt Aya, or Choctaw Journey.

The festivities began at 10 a.m., and featured an art market, a chocolate-making class taught by one of our Chahtapreneurs Ronnie Watchom, as well as children's and cultural activities at the Living Village.

Our Choctaw culture is the foundation that our ancestors have built for us, and it is what makes us unique and defines who we are as Chahta people.

We have so many unique traditions that have impacted me and are deeply rooted in our history to live out our cultural values.

If you haven't experienced it yourself, I encourage you all to plan a visit. Yakoke and God bless!



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

### Back to School 2022

Time has truly flown by. It's time to start back-to-school shopping for clothes and school supplies. And in fact, if you live in Oklahoma, Texas or Arkansas, you can take advantage of the tax-free days, August 5-7, 2022.

Another thing that I love about this time of the year is how committed the Choctaw Nation is to education for 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. The program expanded to include fourth grade in the Summer Learning Program. I'm proud to share that students showed a 3.8% improvement in reading skills and 6.4% improvement in Math skills.

Our high school students from grades 9-12 can participate in the High School Student Services (HSSS) Program. Through the Chahta Achvffa portal, HSSS added 785 students to its services. The HSSS goal is to assist students with academic information to promote education and/or a career path beyond high school.

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 had an increase of 14% in scholarship applications over the past five years, with 11,767 total scholarships funded for January 1 – December 31, 2021.

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.

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.



Pastor Olin Williams  
Employee Chaplain

### Uses of Words

Words are a gift of God to human beings. It comes in different languages. With words, we can communicate ideas, and by words, we demonstrate what we feel inside. Words are powerful. Words reveal what is in the heart of man.

Jesus spoke of the revealing power of words. Matthew 15:18-19 reads, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

Words can also bring sweetness and health. Solomon states, "Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" in Proverbs 15:24.

In Solomon's day, the honey made by bees from flower nectar was considered very valuable. A jar of honey on the table was a mark of great wealth. The honey contained minerals needed by the human body. It is the only natural sweet that does not need refining. Like honey, pleasant words are healthy

to the inward man. It brings sweetness to the soul. Good words can also bring joy and peace.

Proverbs 15:23 teaches, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!"

When needed, words of encouragement and endearment are spoken to others, bringing them joy and peace. Also, soft words can control anger. We read in Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Sometimes there is friction in relationships at home, with friends and at work. Using soft words could have a calming effect and control the spirit of anger.

It was once said, "Guns are left to do what soft words might have done earlier, properly used." The seed of violence is harsh words. Like anything else, speech can be corrupted.

Words can be abusive, slanderous, deceitful and destructive. In our society today, good Christian testimony is somewhat questioned by our speech. Our speech determines our character.

Titus cautions us in Titus 2: 7 and 8, "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

## Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recognizes 12 small businesses with Chahtapreneur Awards

**DURANT Okla.** – On June 9, Choctaw Nation's Small Business Development Department held their annual Chahtapreneur Award Ceremony at Choctaw Casino & Resort – Durant, where they revealed its Chahtapreneur Award winners. Each year, one Choctaw-owned small business from each district is recognized, and one of those exceptional businesses wins the highest honor, Chahtapreneur of the Year award.



Choctaw Nation Photo

From left to right: Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.; Brittany Rice, Choctaw Nation Small Business Advisor; Choctaw Nation Chahtapreneur of the Year, Carl Brown; Angie Brown; Jess Henry, Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Member and Chief Gary Batton.

This year's Chahtapreneur of the Year award winner is Carl Brown, owner of Cavanal Services, located in Poteau. Cavanal Services offers staffing and fulfillment support to the national real estate transaction industry. With facilities located throughout the Choctaw Nation reservation, their approach is aligned with developing career opportunities for Native Americans and others living in Indian Land communities, providing an alternative to offshore outsourcing and direct fulfillment of mortgage production.

"These Chahtapreneurs have made significant impacts throughout the Choctaw Nation reservation, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them," states Gary Johnson, Choctaw Nation Small Business Development Senior Manager. "It was an honor to award these business owners whose skill, determination and hard work embody the vision that is the Choctaw Nation."

Award nominations are based on the Chahtapreneur business owner's participation within the Choctaw Nation Small Business Development Program, community involvement and community impact. This is the sixth year the Choctaw Nation

has given the award.

Below is a complete list of the Chahtapreneur Award winners by district:

- District 1: Bendette Hardwick: The Red B Restaurant – Idabel, OK
  - District 2: Dan Stovall: Beavers Bend Restaurant – Broken Bow, OK
  - District 3: Bradley Dorsey: Where the Wild Things Grow Daycare – Heavener, OK
  - District 4: Carl Brown: Cavanal Services – Poteau, OK
  - District 5: Brooke Turner: Saw Saw's Snow Balls – Stigler, OK
  - District 6: Katherine Ashby: Little Country Flowers and Gifts – Wilburton, OK
  - District 7: Karen Burgess: Someday Furniture and Décor – Antler, OK
  - District 8: Danny Bias: Cover Your Assets Tool and Safety Supply – Hugo, OK
  - District 9: Greg Phillips: Greg Phillips State Farm Insurance – Durant, OK
  - District 10: Kobi McAdams: KTC Distribution – Atoka, OK
  - District 11: Kelly Hughes: Designer Cakes – McAlester, OK
  - District 12: Lindsay Campbell: S&L Logistics – Centrahoma, OK
- For more information on Choctaw Nation Small Business Development visit, [choctawsmallbusiness.com](http://choctawsmallbusiness.com).

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**Training is provided tuition-free.** Additional assistance may be available.

**For More Information:**

- Contact Rebecca Hawkins at 580-916-0420 or [rhawkins@choctawnation.com](mailto:rhawkins@choctawnation.com) or Bryan Martin at 918-429-3134 or [bmartin@choctawnation.com](mailto:bmartin@choctawnation.com)
- Complete the Career Development application at <https://cdapplication.choctawnation.com>
- Place "Project Iti" on step 2 of 9 in the Career Goal/Certification Seeking Box.
- A+ Certification is a plus.

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# Choctaw student wants others to know about available educational services

By Shelia Kirven

Rachel Herring, a master's degree candidate in Sustainability Management at Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS), is taking advantage of some unique program opportunities. She wants to pass on her knowledge to other Choctaw students who may benefit.

Herring, 28, grew up in Ojai, California. Both her mother and grandmother are both from Oklahoma.

She graduated from NYU in 2016 with an individualized concentration on the arts and sustainability in the fashion industry. She will be entering her second year at MIIS this fall.

Herring said she became aware of some great opportunities after entering graduate school that she had never heard of before, including an internship opportunity with the Sandia National Labor and the Department of Energy for the Indian Energy Program.

"I am a year-round graduate intern for Sandia National Labs under the Indian Energy Program, and this has been a wonderful opportunity to witness Tribal Sovereignty through the lens of clean, renewable energy projects funded by the Department of Energy. I encourage any Choctaw undergraduate/graduate student in STEM or environment-related studies to look at this program as a paid opportunity to pursue research and learn more about renewable energy projects on Tribal nations."

Information about internship opportunities available can be viewed at <https://www.sandia.gov/careers/career-possibilities/students-and-postdocs/>.

The website states that interns work on real-world, challenging projects; they also socialize, travel and explore life in New Mexico and California.

Herring said she has traveled to several tribal locations in New Mexico and California and has upcoming trips in the fall.

"I think the most important part of this internship for me is you can learn about all these things in the classroom and in theory, and try to imagine it, but this program allows me

to travel and be able to see these renewable energy projects in real-time and meet with members of these tribes and see how these projects have benefited them and have conversations with real people. It's just been fantastic."

The other part of the program requires her to develop a research project and use the trips and other resources to present at the end of the year in her final deliverable.

Herring has also studied Japanese at MIIS and recently accepted the Critical Language Scholarship from the US Department of State. Although virtual for Summer 2022, she studies through the US Dept of State Partnership with Okayama University. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The CLS Program offers the opportunity to choose from multiple critical languages for an immersive summer program. Herring attended the immersion school for eight weeks, where she could only speak Japanese.

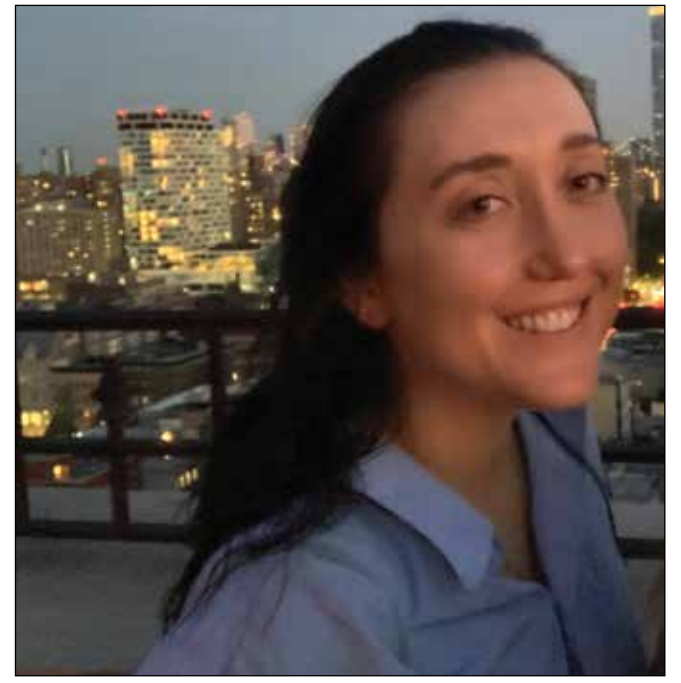
Herring states that she loves Japanese culture and has always been interested in history, so she chose to immerse herself in Japanese for the program term.

"I think learning any other language is always an asset. If there's an opportunity to learn a language, I don't see any reason not to take it." She has always dreamed of living abroad and said she never expected an opportunity like that would be available. She said she wants to use the skills in her future career.

She encourages Choctaw students to pursue this opportunity to travel abroad, learn a new language, and connect with students with similar interests.

Herring says that the programs she has had the opportunity to participate in are great opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

"It would be great to see more Choctaw students take advantage of these programs. I think I'm the first Choctaw student to be in the Indian Energy Program as an intern. It would be great to get some more in there," said Herring. "So many doors open when you're in school, and so many resources become available that I wouldn't have been able to find on my own if I hadn't gotten to school. I think it was on a school job board that I saw a position for the Indian



Submitted Photo

Rachel Herring, a Choctaw tribal member from Ojai, California and a master's degree candidate in sustainability management at Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS), is taking advantage of some great program opportunities. She wants to pass on her knowledge to other Choctaw students who may benefit.

Energy Program. I was really curious about it, so I applied. I hope by sharing these experiences I've been so lucky to receive, more Choctaw students will become aware and take advantage of these opportunities!"

Herring says she hopes to work in the clean energy sector and be able to help Indigenous people and tribes in America become sovereign nations through the clean energy sector.

# Choctaw trumpeter plays in all-Indigenous big band

By Shelia Kirven

An all-Indigenous 16-piece big band had its premiere performance in Olympia, Washington, on May 19 with master trumpeter and Choctaw tribal member Chad Willis. The formation of the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band in the northwest Washington area was possible through a \$40,000 grant from donors and foundations striving to keep the arts alive during the Covid pandemic.

The concept of the project was derived by band leader and director Julia Keefe of the Nez Perce Nation, a jazz vocalist, actor, activist, and educator. Keefe searched for 16 Indigenous musicians to be part of the project, and Willis eagerly answered the call.

Band members spent a week rehearsing in Olympia, Washington, with a grand performance at the Olympia Center for Performing Arts. Willis said he was grateful to have had the chance to give back to the Indigenous community. He valued the experience of working with other Indigenous musicians and sharing each other's cultures and traditions. The band celebrated the Indigenous tradition in music, along with contemporary and traditional works.

Willis said that as a Choctaw tribal member, getting to participate with other Native American and Indigenous musicians from all over the country was very emotional. According to Willis, the musicians smudged before the concert, thanking the ancestors. "It was very fulfilling with my soul to be a part of this."

Since the project took place during the pandemic, Willis stated it was a challenge but was easier due to special musicians' protective masks he used where he could slide his mouthpiece into the mask with his mouth still being covered. To further help, there were coverings for the trumpet's bell as well. He said when he first heard of the coverings, he ordered every type he could find.

The project was just the beginning, according to Willis. After

Keefe was awarded the grant to put together the band and the concert, the musicians decided they wanted to play more together, write more music for the group, and get more people involved.

"I think the whole idea is that we want to show that there is a huge history of Indigenous musicians in the jazz community," Willis said. A documentary is being produced about the band.

No stranger to being a part of a live band, Willis has traveled extensively in 20 countries performing with names such as Lyle Lovett, The Manhattan Transfer, Frankie Valli, and The Platters, only to mention a few performers listed in his biography on [chadwillismusic.com](http://chadwillismusic.com).

Originally from Texas, Willis earned his bachelor's degree in jazz performance at the University of North Texas School of Music and then a master's degree in jazz performance from the University of Southern California. Beginning his career playing on cruise ships, he is now a professor of Brass Studies and Theory and Composition at Fullerton College, Fullerton, California.

He is currently working on some ideas to commission a Choctaw-inspired piece for solo trumpet to a dance in the Choctaw style. He has also been working on trumpet effects, such as with the use of guitar pedals. "Alongside teaching, I have been building a couple of things, and I'm putting together a group and working on new music and am hopeful to start playing with this group and getting videos out and exploring it."

Willis lives in California with his wife, Christine, and their two-year-old daughter, Sadie. Christine says of her husband, "He has this God-given talent, and he has worked so hard his whole life. I am so proud of him. I want him to be able to do everything he can."

For more on the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band, visit <https://www.juliakeefe.com/julia-keefe-indigenous-big-band>.



Submitted Photo

Master trumpeter Chad Willis recently participated in a one-of-a-kind musical project.

# Forty-three Choctaw students participate in internship program

By Christian Toews

This year marks the ninth year that the Choctaw Nation Internship Program has hosted students.

Since 2014, the program has seen significant growth, according to the Employment Manager, Sharon Dodson.

Forty-three interns representing 20 different educational institutions are participating in the summer program.

The program provides opportunities for Choctaw students to gain career fundamentals while earning college credits.

According to Dodson, the program's goal is to allow interns to get real-world experience and hire more tribal members.

"Our goal is to offer them



Photo by Christian Toews

Chief Batton poses for a photo with this year's Choctaw Nation interns. The interns pictured are Bethani Bishop, Carson Branham, Addison McCortney, Alex Thompson, Hunter Harris, David Fishers, Kalier Jones, Santilla Smith, Regan Page and Trinity Needham.

a job after internship," said Dodson.

There are a variety of internship opportunities spanning many departments.

Dodson said the majority of students in 2022 are in the IT, Cultural Services, Legal and Finance departments. This internship opportunity offers temporary, paid positions and is mutually

beneficial for both the intern and the hosting department.

The internship rewards students with academic and professional experience and a possible job opportunity.

If you want to learn more about the internship program, you can Contact Sharon Dodson at [sdodson@choctawnation.com](mailto:sdodson@choctawnation.com) or call 800-522-6170.

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Ron Perry



District 5 Field Rep. Tina Gibson, District 5 Councilman Ron Perry and District 5 Name Tag Creator Cyndi Hoyt.

## District 5

The District 5 Seniors traveled to Durant May 25, 2022, for Elder Appreciation Day. They enjoyed Choctaw Singing, a great lunch and hearing Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. speak.

District 5 Community Center Seniors were honored to receive first place in the Name Tag Contest. They put a lot of thought and hard work into designing their name tag.



Top Row: Susy Adcock, Mary Pilgrim, Cyndi Hoyt, Larry Henry, Danny Hoyt, Councilman Ron Perry, CHR Tanya Leach, Sandy McCoy and Van Williams. Bottom Row: Vernia Kash, Nowassia Denny, Virginia McKibben, Pat Henry, Mildred Davis, Gail Peterson, Topsy Williams and Field Rep. Tina Gibson.

## Oklahoma Ranked #1 regarding State readiness for drone commerce

**OKLAHOMA CITY (June 28, 2022)** – In a Mercatus Special Study released this week, Oklahoma was ranked #1 in the United States regarding state readiness for drone commerce. In “Is Your State Ready for Drone Commerce?” Brent Skorup identified the strengths and improvement markers presented by George Mason University and compiled a state-by-state scorecard.

Currently, the best place for drone commerce to grow is Oklahoma, according to Skorup. “They do a lot of things right,” Skorup told POLITICO, adding that the state already has a drone program office up and running. That office was established in 2021 by the Oklahoma Legislature and placed within the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission through Senate Bill 659. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) has seen an exponential increase in popularity within Oklahoma over the last 10 to 15 years.

“The innovation of this new flying machine has been transformational for the aviation industry in many regards but has also provided benefits to a multitude of non-aviation industries as well. Both the government and private sectors have taken advantage of UAS and will continue to do so as the regulatory environment at the state and federal level permits,” said State Director of Aeronautics Grayson Ardies.

Oklahoma legislators have been forward-thinking about all things unmanned before it was trendy for states to create UAS-friendly policies. An interim study was held in the summer of 2020 where experts from across the country testified regarding current best practices in their states and presented ideas for how Oklahoma could ascend as a leader in the unmanned and advanced air mobility industries.

Those expert presenters showed that Oklahoma could use a single-point entity in state government that can be responsible for creating a cohesive coalition of partners that involve the state’s various UAS assets. The state had been missing that energizing force or organization that merged the entirety of resources of the state (research, education, operations, economic development, regulatory, etc.) ensuring the focus as a state on the next big UAS policy initiative, test site opportunity, federal grant funding, or similar program.

“Oklahoma Aeronautics has emerged as the entity to serve as the state’s knowledge resource to assist fellow state agencies, local municipalities, law enforcement and first responders, educators, and others with current policies and regulations, best operational practices, technology capabilities, acquisitions, and similar items,” said Doug Wood, UAS Program Manager for Oklahoma Aeronautics.

In another policy effort to give UAS a lift in the Sooner state, Senate Bill 1688, which became law in 2020, created the Advanced Mobility Program Advisory Council within the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and directed the Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation to appoint a nine-member council to provide recommendations on policy and regulatory issues related to the adoption of advanced mobility technologies. Ardies serves on the Advanced Mobility Program Advisory Council as well as several other industry leaders including James Grimsley, Executive Director of Advanced Technology Initiatives for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

“To date, many states have approached emerging transportation technologies narrowly through an

economic development lens. Although economic development and viability are important to the adoption of these technologies, it is important to balance economic development interests with broader societal needs and concerns. The Oklahoma Advanced Mobility Pilot Program recognizes the important role of communities and tribal governments in the adoption of emerging transportation technologies and ensures that a diverse set of stakeholders are involved in the critical review and analysis of policy issues,” said Grimsley.

Oklahoma leaders consistently give assurances that their efforts are an opportunity to create unity and organization amongst those that are involved in the UAS industry at the state government level. “We want to be the coalescing force to bring all of the state’s UAS assets together as we can do more as a group than we can individually,” said Ardies. “The Mercatus study is great recognition of what UAS entities in the state have been able to accomplish thus far and we are excited to see all of the possibilities that lie ahead for the state with this new technology.”

Find supportive documents and the article by Brent Skorup, “Is Your State Ready for Drone Commerce? The 2022 State-by-State Scorecard,” Mercatus Special Study, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, June 2022 at [https://www.mercatus.org/publications/is\\_your\\_state\\_ready\\_for\\_drone\\_commerce\\_2022\\_scorecard?fbclid=IwAR0BN1H1Ld\\_oEY-IrbLPpDgV469POVbL58g\\_BMVijlAO-qf6plb7FdnRzSE](https://www.mercatus.org/publications/is_your_state_ready_for_drone_commerce_2022_scorecard?fbclid=IwAR0BN1H1Ld_oEY-IrbLPpDgV469POVbL58g_BMVijlAO-qf6plb7FdnRzSE).

For additional information, contact Government Relations and communications Manager Sandra Shelton at (405) 464-8830, [sshelton@oac.ok.gov](mailto:sshelton@oac.ok.gov) or visit [oac.ok.gov](http://oac.ok.gov).



Jennifer Woods

## District 6

Halito! The hot days of summer have arrived, and we are all feeling the effects of it, but it has not slowed down all the activities that have been going on in District 6.

In April, we made sure that the Choctaw Head Starts in Wilburton and Talihiina, as well as the Choctaw Nation Daycare in Talihiina and the Veterans Center in Talihiina, had visits from the Easter Bunny. They were excited about the visit and the goodies he and our Choctaw princesses brought. We have two new princesses this year and one who retained her crown, our Senior Miss, Riley Isabell. Our Junior Miss is Aiana Holman and our Little Miss is Hatapushik Ramsey. We are excited to have our princesses join us in our many activities and are sure they will represent District 6 well.

We are excited about the new home we added this year to our Choctaw Housing Community. We added ten more Independent Elders and ten Affordable Rentals homes. These beautiful brick homes have been filled up with seniors and families that appreciate their new homes. We are taking LEAP (Lease to Purchase) home applications for Red Oak, Wilburton, Buffalo Valley and Quinton. We are also still accepting our Affordable Rental and Independent Elder housing applications.

The Choctaw Nation Job for the Day Program has been busy putting our tribal members to work. We have put 40 people to work so far in 2022 and we are hopeful that at least that amount being hired for the remainder of the year.

We held our quarterly check presentation on June 29 through our Community Partner Fund. We presented to our city and county over \$28,000 of much-needed assistance.

We had the honor of being able to do a few activities involving our veterans. We hosted a drive-thru parade and hot dog cookout for the veterans at the Veteran Center in Talihiina, Oklahoma, on May 31. We were joined by our Tribal Police, Wilburton Fire Department, Choctaw Princesses, Boys and Girls Club and others who wanted to make our veterans feel appreciated.

We can all say that we survived the heat in many events that we attended this summer, such as participating in the Fourth of July Parade in Red Oak, Oklahoma, Outreach at The Beach at Sardis Lake in July and I had the opportunity to present the first “Choctaw Choice” award at the Rods and Relics Car Show in Wilburton on June 27. The award was given to Gary Samuels for his beautiful Red Warrior Mustang.

We have many activities going on at the Community Center. This summer, we are feeding four days each week through our Kids Summer Meal Program. We encourage parents to bring their children to the Center during these extremely hot days. We want to be sure that no child is without a meal during the summer months. We also have a new Computer Lab Assistant at our center. Ethan Scott has been hired to assist tribal members in teaching them how to use a computer and navigate the Chahta Achvffa Portal to apply for programs through the tribe. He is in District 6 Community Center from Monday to Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. He and other employees are also here to help you verify your addresses for our second round of payments for the ARPA Economic Recovery Program.

Our Veterans Day dinner was held on July 20 at 11:00 a.m. This is our time to honor our veterans and thank them for their service.

With this extreme heat, we are being vigilant in checking on our tribal members, especially our seniors, to ensure that they are getting assistance if they need it. If you know of any tribal members in need, please encourage them to call us at 918-465-2389, so we can assist them.

If you need any assistance, please be sure and call the District 6 Community Center. Our staff would be happy to assist you and my door is always open. We are District 6! The Heart of the Nation!

Yakoke!



Photo Provided

Gary Samuels and his red warrior mustang win the Choctaw Choice award at the 6th annual Relics & Rods Car Show in Wilburton.

## An unexpected turn of events

Continued from page 1

On Wednesday, June 29, in a decision that stunned legal experts and tribal leaders, the Supreme Court ruled that state governments have the authority to prosecute certain cases on tribal lands, effectively undermining centuries of legal precedent by expanding the power of states.

The court’s ruling in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta* is a massive blow to the sovereignty of tribes over their land and governance, federal Indian law experts and tribal leaders said.

Concerns were raised that states would upend the autonomy of tribes to prosecute crimes on their land.

After the decision was released, Stitt and Oklahoma Attorney General John O’Connor said they celebrated the ruling. O’Connor said he was pleased that the nation’s highest court “declined to treat Indian victims as second class citizens.”

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes released a statement, calling the decision shocking and disconcerting, adding that it goes against the basic principles of congressional authority and Indian law.

The statement reads as follows:

“The June 29 decision by the United States Supreme Court in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta* ruling against legal precedent and the basic principles of congressional authority, as well as Indian law, is disconcerting and shocking. This decision will greatly impact tribal nations not just in Oklahoma, but throughout Indian Country. We agree with the dissent in this decision, which noted that the Supreme Court failed in its duty to honor the United States’ legal promises and instead intruded on a matter of tribal sovereignty that has been recognized since the Nation’s founding. Justice Gorsuch said it best in his dissenting opinion, ‘[w]here this Court once stood firm, today it wilts.’

Chief Batton also responded to the Supreme Court’s most recent decision.

“We are extremely disappointed in this ruling, in part because it appears to rely on faulty information provided by the opposition,” he said. “Of course, we respect the authority of the Supreme Court, and we will integrate this into our continued efforts to provide effective criminal justice in our reservation as we work with law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, local and tribal level.”

The Native American Rights Fund and The National Congress of American Indians also responded to the ruling stating, “The Supreme Court’s decision today is an attack on tribal sovereignty and the hard-fought progress of our ancestors to exercise our inherent sovereignty over our own territories,” said National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp. “It was only a few months ago that Congress loudly supported tribal sovereignty and tribal criminal jurisdiction with the passage of the Violence Against Women’s Act, reaffirming the right of Tribal Nations to protect their own people and communities, but make no mistake, today, the Supreme Court has dealt a massive blow to tribal sovereignty and Congress must, again, respond.”

What Lies Ahead

Though there is currently uncertainty about what the Supreme Court will do next, CNO promises to keep the safety of its tribal members and all Oklahomans as a top priority.

“To be clear, this ruling does not affect the main holding of the *McGirt* decision, which affirmed tribal sovereignty and requires the United States to uphold its treaty obligations,” said Chief Batton. “Our focus remains on protecting our members, as well as all four million Oklahoma residents.”

As stated in previous reports, this situation is ever-evolving.

To stay up-to-date on tribal issues, follow CNO on all social media platforms and check out [choctawnation.com](http://choctawnation.com).



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See Associate for details.



## COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

**APPLICATION DATES:**  
FALL FUNDING CYCLE: JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 1  
SPRING FUNDING CYCLE: JANUARY 2 - APRIL 1

[CHAHTAACHVFFA.CHOCTAWNATION.COM](http://CHAHTAACHVFFA.CHOCTAWNATION.COM)

**Choctaw Nation** Education Services



**Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation**

August 2	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 3	Wright City	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 5	Crowder	By Appointment
August 9	Idabel	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 9	Poteau	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 12	Atoka	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
August 12	Coalgate	1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
August 16	Talihina	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 17	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 17	Stigler	By Appointment
August 24	Broken Bow	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 26	Atoka	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
August 26	Coalgate	1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
August 31	Wilburton	10:30 a.m. - 2 a.m.

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

**EVENTS**

**Free Choctaw Traditional Pottery Classes**

August 11 and 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 400 S.W. “O” Street, Antlers, OK.

For more information call Mary Frazier (580) 982-3053 or Dr. Ian Thompson (580) 642-7981.

Reservations are not required. In case of extreme weather, please call one of the above phone numbers to confirm class will be held.

**OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Indian taco sale**

Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. at the American Legion Post 73/VFW Post 9969, located at 5000 SE 24th St, Del City, OK 73115.

Indian tacos will be sold for \$10.00 (show your OCTA membership card for \$1.00 off). Bottled water and soda will be \$1.00. Complimentary tea and brownies. Craft vendor spots for \$25.00, contact: OCTAtreasurer2232@gmail.com for further information.

**TASTE THE TRADITION**  
 Located in the Choctaw Cultural Center  
 Lunch Served Tuesday – Saturday | 10:30am-4:30pm  
 Paid admission is not required.  
 CHAMPULI CAFE

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**CHOCTAW VETERAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM**  
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 TOGETHER WE'RE MORE



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**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 of Oklahoma**

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**

How do you prepare for the school year?

Scan here to share your answer.



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Together, we're more.

**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](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com)

*Gary Batton*  
 Chief

*Jack Austin Jr.*  
 Assistant Chief

The Official Monthly Publication of the

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**Shauna Williams, Executive Director**  
**Kristina Humenesky, Senior Director**  
**Kellie Matherly, Content Development Director**  
**Kendra Wall, Content Development Manager**  
**Chris Jennings, News Reporter**  
**Christian Toews, News Reporter**

P.O. Box 1210  
 Durant, OK 74702  
 580-924-8280 • 800-522-6170  
[www.ChoctawNation.com](http://www.ChoctawNation.com)  
 email: [biskinik@choctawnation.com](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com)

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

**CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL**

**REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

July 9, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER
- OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - Regular Session June 11, 2022
- WELCOME GUESTS/SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
  - Veteran of the Month, District #10 – Willard Harrison
  - First Choctaw Language Speaker, District #10 – Isaac Sexton
  - Choctaw Language Teacher Certification – Lisa Taylor
- PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
- REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- NEW BUSINESS
  - Approve the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 Indian Housing Plan for Year FY2023 Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Application for Head Start Continuation Funds for FY 2022-2023 Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Funds and Budget for the FY21 School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Funds and Budget for Year One of the FY22 Domestic Violence Prevention Grant –Project Sita Homakbi Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Funds and Budget for Year One of the FY22 Behavioral Health Integration Initiative (BH21) Grant – Project Ibafoka Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Funds and Budget for the FY21 Indian Community Development Block Grant –American Rescue Plan (ICDBG – ARP) Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the FY2023 Budgets for the Indian Child Welfare Program and the Family Preservation Program Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Funds and Budget for Year One of the FY22 Domestic Violence Prevention Forensic Healthcare (DVP-FHC) Grant – Project Hopohlychi Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve Application for the FY22 Tribal Climate Resilience Grant Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Equipment Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Vehicles Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
  - Approve a Guaranty and a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity in Favor of Rangers Baseball, LLC and Rangers Stadium Company Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: Passed
- OTHER NEW BUSINESS
- OLD BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT
- CLOSING PRAYER

**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:

Spiro Community Center  
 August 26, 2022  
 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



**Chahta Anumpa Aikkhvna August Language Lesson**

Are you \_\_\_? / Chi \_\_\_ ho?

- na yukpa – happy
- nuktanla – calm
- tasembo - crazy
- lvcha - wet
- laksha – sweat/ing
- hochowa – cold

Chi na yukpa ho?  
 • A, sv na yukpa.  
 • Keyu, sv na yukpa kiyo.  
 Are you happy?  
 • Yes, I am happy.  
 • No, I am not happy.

Chi nuktanla ho?  
 • A, sv nuktanla.  
 • Keyu, sv nuktanla kiyo.  
 Are you calm?  
 • Yes, I am calm.  
 • No, I am not calm.

Chi tasembo ho?  
 • A, sv tasembo.  
 • Keyu, sv tasembo kiyo.  
 Are you crazy?  
 • Yes, I'm crazy.  
 • No, I am not crazy.

Chi laksha ho?  
 • A, sv laksha.  
 • Keyu, sv laksha kiyo.  
 Are you sweating?  
 • Yes, I am sweating.  
 • No, I am not sweating.

Chi lvcha ho?  
 • A, sv lvcha.  
 • Keyu, sv lvcha kiyo.  
 Are you wet?  
 • Yes, I am sweating.  
 • No, I am not sweating.

Chi lvcha ho?  
 • A, sv lvcha.  
 • Keyu, sv lvcha kiyo.  
 Are you wet?  
 • Yes, I am wet.  
 • No, I am not wet.

Chi hochowa ho?  
 • A, sv hochowa.  
 • Keyu, sv hochowa kiyo.  
 Are you cold? (body temp)  
 • Yes, I am cold.  
 • No, I am not cold.

[www.choctawschool.com](http://www.choctawschool.com)



## Absher celebrates 92 years

On May 26 Lucille (Taylor) Absher celebrated her 92nd birthday. Lucille's mother, Beulah Platt Taylor, was an original enrollee into the Choctaw Nation on January 25, 1904.

Lucille grew up on the Taylor Ranch in Rocky Point and attended Moyers School, 1st-12th grades. She celebrated her 17th birthday working as a comptometer operator at Sears Roebuck in Modesto, California. She ended her career retiring as a Librarian at Modesto Junior College.

Lucille has three children Kay Anderson, Mike (Ann) Absher, David (Sandie) Absher, six grandchildren and five great children. She has been a devoted member of the First Baptist Church for 63 years.

Lucille is very proud of her Choctaw-Irish heritage and enjoys the Biskinik each month.

## Blue earns Ph.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Tracy Blue. With the support of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program, we are pleased to introduce another Choctaw Ph.D. graduate.

Dr. Blue has completed a doctoral program in special education and clinical sciences at the University of Oregon and has research and experience that spans topics including wellness programming for all abilities and challenges for youth and young adults focusing on the implementation of cultural and community-driven interventions, especially those that are adaptable from evidence-based or promising practices.

Tracy also works with many types of equine therapeutic interventions and adapts design/builds for working and living spaces that are user-friendly, especially for those with challenged abilities.

His goal is to obtain philanthropic support to design a complete Tribal school program that offers a holistic, adaptive and empowering curriculum for Native American students.



## Family visits Kindred Spirits

The Christie family recently visited the Kindred Spirits monument in Ballick Park in Midleton County Cork, Ireland. Standing left to right are Stephanie Prettyweasel, Cephus Christie, Joe Christie, Gwendolyn (Christie)McCourt and Patrick McCourt. "It's been a dream of ours to visit in Ireland," said Gwendolyn McCourt.



## Choctaw Nation represented at the Atlanta Braves Stadium



Jaggar Smith, a 2022 graduate of Broken Bow and Logan Smith a Junior at Rattan High School represented the Choctaw Nation at the first ever Native American All Star Baseball Showcase hosted by the Atlanta Braves and made possible by the 7G Foundation.

This was an amazing experience for the boys. Not only did they work-out and play a game in a major league ballpark, they were given a tour of

the park, took a picture with the World Series Trophy, and received a World Series replica ring. They also met former major league players and received valuable instruction.



## Strickland graduates from Texas A&M

Kathryn "Kate" Strickland, pictured here with her maternal grandparents, mother and brother, proudly wears her Choctaw Nation stole as she graduated from Texas A&M University on Friday, May 13, 2022, with a bachelor of science degree in marine biology and a minor in dive technology.

Kate is grateful to the Choctaw Nation for all the support she received while in High School and college via the Higher Learning Education Program.

She hopes to be able to someday repay the kindness by helping protect and preserve Native American fishing grounds and rights from unauthorized over-fishing.

She plans to pursue a career with one of the many federal branches of government involved in regulating the catching of marine species.

## Tarica graduates from Cal Poly

Lauren Tarica of Atascadero, California, graduated magna cum laude from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo on June 12, 2022, with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a music minor. Next year, she will attend veterinary school at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.



## Glass Graduates from UCO

My name is Skylee Glass, and I am the daughter of Dion Glass. I graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with cum laude honors.

While attending school I was the public relations chair for the Native American Student Association. This organization allowed me to use passion for advocating for the Native American culture on campus.

I was also the public relations chair for the Peer Health Leadership program. In this program I was

able to offer specialized training in health and wellness to improve overall campus life. I am also the hospitality chair for the Central Council on Family Relations organization.

This program allowed me to participate in the creation and dissemination of the best practices, including professional standards regarding family relations.

I am also a member of the Broncho Buddies organization on campus. Broncho buddies is an intercultural program dedicated to connecting international students with domestic students to provide the best possible cultural experience. I was able to support my buddy's life in America by helping them find resources for daily living.

I also experienced and participated in culture nights dedicated to informing students of numerous cultures from all over the world.

I plan to further my education by attending the University College Cork in Ireland next fall. I will be studying Applied Psychology and researching evidenced-based services within Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities.

My long-term career goal is to return to the Native American boarding school I grew up near with high skill level and knowledge allowing me to effectively implement behavioral therapy.

Specifically, I hope to open a counseling center in my hometown dedicated to work with underserved Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth and families as such resources should be more readily available to this group. Mental health care is a basic human right, not a privilege.

- Skylee Glass

## 60 Years for the Parsons

Joyce and Michael Parsons of Calera, Oklahoma, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on August 18.



## Harrison is July Veteran of the Month

Choctaw Nation's July Veteran of the Month is Willard Harrison.

Harrison was born and raised in Atoka, Oklahoma, and graduated from Atoka High School in 1967. On January 16, 1968, he left Oklahoma and went to MCRD San Diego. He volunteered to join during the draft period. Harrison served one year of active duty as an 0311 rifleman and did one deployment from June 1968 to July 1969. In May 1969, he was injured by shrapnel and awarded the Purple Heart and Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for actions while deployed in Vietnam as Lance Corporal Squad leader. He returned from the hospital with the rank of Corporal.

He was with 27th Marines until October 1968, then transferred to Second Battalion 5th Marines to complete deployment. After returning, he joined the reserves with VMJ-4, a jet squadron unit, for three years. He reenlisted with HMH-777 Heavy Maintenance Helicopter Squadron for another three years.

After moving to Oklahoma in 1980, he joined the National Guard with a transportation unit. After a year and a half, he joined the Army reserve with the 95th unit as a Drill Sergeant. Harrison served in Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Jackson, Fort Sill, and Fort Polk. The first time he trained female soldiers in 1988 at Fort Jackson, he had the highest number of soldiers qualify on the range in the first round. Between 1995 and 1996, the Army shut down the Durant station and Harrison was transferred to the 75th in Dallas, Texas. He retired in December 2000 as an E-7 Sergeant First Class (SFC).

Sgt. Harrison also worked for the Army ammunition plant from 1981 to 2013 and became a minister in 1986.

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

## SOSU NASA holds hygiene product drive

The Southeastern Native American Student Association, Choctaw Nation Adoption and Foster Care and Choctaw Children and Family Services teamed up for a Hygiene Product Drive.

Jayda Janway, president of the Native American Student Association, made it a goal to participate in a large community service project before the semester was over, with a promise to repeat that with a new community service project the following semester.

Jayda and her sister, Sierra Janway, are a foster care family, and Sierra used to work in Indian Child Welfare, so Choctaw Youth is very important to them.

"I brought this idea to my group, and we all voted yes to participation. For the drive, there was a table set up in the lobby of the Student Union building on campus the entire week (March 21st-25th) to take donations," said Jayda. "We do not have a tangible number of how many products, but we do know that it was able to fill about 8 of the humongous tubs from Walmart. It had to be loaded in the back of a Chevy equinox and it filled the entire car up to the top!"

According to Jayda, many Choctaws will benefit from this drive.

"All our Choctaw families benefit from these hygiene products, such as those in Family Violence, Family Preservation, Indian Child Welfare clients, social services, and all of our Choctaw families in between.

SE NASA participants included students Jayda Janway, Shay James, Rebecca Carrol, Josie Frazier, Emma Quintana, Madison Saunders, and Joshua Kitzrow and their advisors, Lauren Rowland and James Sutton.



## I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD RECYCLE ALL THAT!!!



If you are new to recycling or need a refresher on what items can be recycled and where you can drop off your recyclable items, visit our webpage.

You may be surprised at all the items that can be recycled rather than filling our landfills.

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Choctaw Nation Recycling Center

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2022  
CHOCTAW  
LABOR DAY  
FESTIVAL

# QUILT SHOW

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Drop off quilt entries from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
(Tribal Membership building - Tvstika Homma Council Grounds)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Pick up quilt entries at 5:00 pm

Quilt judging will take place on Friday night with ribbons awarded on Saturday in three categories;

Machine-stitch, Hand-stitch | Machine-stitch | Hand-stitch combination

People's Choice award will be voted on Saturday with ribbons awarded on Sunday.

Visit the Quilt Show during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

Friday, September 2 | 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 3 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 4 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 580-642-8011

CHOCTAWNATION.COM/LABOR-DAY



# Exhibit of Native matriarchs to be on display at Choctaw Cultural Center

By Shelia Kirven

Choctaw artist DG Smalling's latest exhibit consists of seven portraits of matriarchal Native American women. Smalling pays homage to women in his life who he says have paved their way through Indian Country and the state at large.

The paintings will be displayed at the Choctaw Cultural Center in Durant from September through November.

"I wanted to document this moment in Indian Country when in reclamation, the rise of matriarchs is also happening. I wanted to create a contemporary record of seven women who embody the 21st-century matriarch and her impact on Oklahoma. Indian Country does not divide or compartmentalize our societies between the spiritual, commercial, or political; rather, it is seen as a whole. These seven matriarchs reflect that complexity," said Smalling. "In Choctaw, Chickasaw, in Southeastern cultures, our tradition is the women were the matriarchs. The women were the leadership."

Smalling said he likes that when people see these pieces, they may not understand what each aspect or vignette is about, but they know that these women are being looked at through the eyes of a Choctaw man, because that is the format, and these women are strong.

"They are elevated, that they have done something of accomplishment, and they need to be regarded," said Smalling.

Smalling's use of the diamond design is a commonality in each of the pieces.

In Choctaw tradition, the diamond pattern shows respect to the rattlesnake. Each painting has a banner that tells of the milestones of each woman.

According to Smalling, The colors reflect tribal affiliation, regalia, choice or home landscape.

The pieces, which Smalling call light and joyful, are of seven dynamic women: Justice Yvonne Kauger, Tara Katuk Sweeney, Sheila Morago, Lisa Billy, Janie Dillard, Nuchi Nashoba and the Rev. Dr. Carol Hampton.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger is a woman whom Smalling says is very much like a godmother to him. Kauger is the founder of the Gallery of the Plains Indian, coordinator of the Sovereignty Symposium, and co-founder of Red Earth. She was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1984 and was adopted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

Tara Katuk Sweeney, an Alaskan Native, was the 13th Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and champion of Operation Lady Justice.

Smalling's original piece of art entitled, "Lady

Justice", was chosen to represent the presidential task force as a symbol for its work.

Sheila Morago is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association. She was previously Executive Director for the Arizona Indian Gaming Association from 2004-2011 and served as the Director of Public Relations for the National Indian Gaming Association, based in Washington, D.C. from 2001-2004. She was raised on and is a member of the Gila River Indian Reservation.

Lisa Johnson Billy, Chickasaw-Choctaw, is a former member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, a Chickasaw Nation legislator, a former educator at the University of Oklahoma, and an appointed member of the board of trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.

Janie Dillard is Choctaw Nation's Senior Executive of Commerce.

"In Indian Gaming, and I am not just talking about Oklahoma or Choctaws, but in all Indian Gaming, Janie is very, very known and revered because she has taken very courageous decisions, lots of moxie over the years. In that vision, she has never been afraid of going after something that no one else would see," said Smalling.

Nuchi Nashoba, Choctaw, is an actress, published author and Presi-



dent of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association.

Smalling smiled when talking about the portrait of Nuchi.

"What's more bright than Nuchi? She's just brightness," said Smalling.

Rev. Dr. Carol Hampton, Caddo and Choctaw, is, according to Smalling, an imminent theologian, and champion of theology in being open-armed whom he quoted as saying, "If we want to be embraced, we need to embrace."

Each painting has a pair of shoes represented within its banner.

Smalling said when he spoke with the women represented in the exhibit, shoes always came up.

The women in the portraits requested their

work boots, moccasins that a mother-in-law made for their wedding, traditional mukluks, favorite shoes or stilettos.

In addition to the portraits, there is also a custom one-of-a-kind hand-painted casino chair that is part of the exhibit.

The wooden chairback became a canvas where Smalling created a variation of Operation Lady Justice.

Smalling said it is a prototype executive red chair and is one-of-a-kind. "The Operation Lady Justice chair is a one-off."

For more information and Choctaw Cultural Center's hours of operation, please visit <https://choctawculturalcenter.com/> or call 833-708-9582.



Photos by Shelia Kirven

Choctaw artist DG Smalling's exhibit of seven matriarchal Native women is set to be on display at the Choctaw Cultural Center in Durant, Oklahoma. This exhibit is just one of the many one-of-a-kind experiences offered at the Choctaw Cultural Center.

## CNO honored during RedBud Awards

**DURANT, Okla. (July 6, 2022)** – The Oklahoma Travel Industry Association (OTIA) held its annual RedBud Awards at the Oklahoma History Center on June 14, where the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) was recognized for the Annual Choctaw Nation PowWow.

Open to all Oklahoma tourism entities, the RedBud Awards represent the highest honor given in the Oklahoma tourism industry. The awards recognize Oklahoma's top tourism attractions, events, programs and organizations for outstanding efforts to serve and promote Oklahoma's tourism industry.

"This year's RedBud Award submissions were highly competitive," said Debra Bailey, OTIA President and CEO. "With travel picking back up, each submission is an example of why Oklahoma is a perfect travel



Choctaw Nation Photo

From left to right: Seth Fairchild, Chahta Foundation Executive Director; Tammy Gwin, Senior Executive Officer of Strategic Development; Kerry Steve, PowWow Director and Executive Assistant for Cultural Services; Chief Gary Batton; Michael Roberts, PowWow Arena Director and World Champion Fancy Dancer and Jo McDaniel, Choctaw Nation Tourism Manager.

destination, and we are thrilled to be honoring these entries."

CNO's Annual Choctaw Nation PowWow earned the Redbud Merit in the Outstanding Event category. The PowWow held in December 2021, was a tremendous success with over 600 registered dancers and over 50 tribes from more than 25 states and three Canadian provinces participating. The event drew hundreds of spectators to Southern Oklahoma and had 640,000 live

stream views across 111 countries, according to [powwows.com](http://powwows.com) reporting.

All entries were evaluated by a slate of tourism professionals on specific criteria including customer service and experience, marketing effectiveness, media relations, variety of audiences reached, value and overall creativity.

CNO's tourism department submits RedBud nominations every year between 15 categories and has won six awards since 2017.

## Statement from IHS Acting Director on the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months - 5 years

**Rockville, Md. (June 22, 2022)** - The Indian Health Service is announcing the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months through 5 years of age at federal, tribal and urban Indian sites. Pediatric vaccine distribution for this age group is underway to federal IHS, tribal, and urban Indian facilities across Indian Country, and many sites have already received them.

Vaccine availability for our young children is a cause for celebration for parents and families and a historic milestone in our fight against COVID-19. The United States is now the first country to protect our youngest children with COVID-19 vaccines, offering safe and highly effective mRNA doses to children. It is also a monumental step forward because, for the first time, virtually every American can access the protections from these lifesaving vaccines, from our youngest to our most senior Americans.

This step to increase COVID-19 vaccine eligibility across the age spectrum is



CDC Photo

Indian Health Services recently announced the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months through 5 years at federal, tribal and urban Indian sites.

critical in Indian Country, where the toll from serious disease, including hospitalization and death, has been more significant than in any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, regardless of age. We know that COVID-19 vaccination is the single best defense against serious illness for every age group.

Through continued safety monitoring, COVID-19 vaccination has been found safe for over 10 million children and teens who have already received at least one vaccine dose. We encourage all parents and families to vaccinate

their young children as soon as possible. Contact your local IHS, tribal, or urban Indian organization facility today, or for sites outside of the Indian health system, visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov) to find a vaccination site near you.

You may also call 1-800-232-0233.

The IHS is also releasing a toolkit for tribal and urban Indian communities that will include fact sheets, social media graphics, and more to help encourage vaccinations for our Native youth. The fact sheet will be posted on our IHS COVID-19 resources page soon.



## STUDENT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY FUND

The Choctaw Nation offers a \$100 grant to Choctaw tribal students who are attending 3-year-old head start through high school. The grant is provided one time each funding year and will be on a Visa card specifically for clothing; it will be declined at ATMs, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, etc.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Students must possess a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal membership card (This is not the CDIB).
- Students must be at least 3-years-old in head start/daycare setting through 12th grade.
- If the student is between ages 19 to 21 attending high school additional school enrollment documentation will be required.

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**Silas Alexander McFarland**



Rev. Silas Alexander McFarland, 98, passed away June 29, 2022.

Silas was born May 24, 1924, in Nashoba, Okla., to Samuel and Mattie (Graham) McFarland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Lawrence McFarland; and first wife Matilda Jane (Lewis) McFarland.

Silas is survived by his wife Shirley; son Daniel McFarland and spouse Crysta; daughter Stacy Stengrem and spouse Troy; grandchildren Stephen Bock, Lauren Brown, Sophia McFarland, Alexandria McFarland, and Meghann O'Neil; stepsons Michael Chapman, and Kenny Graves and spouse Elaine; step-grandchildren Autumn and David Rowton, Lanette and Shane Alverson, Jason and Tamara Chapman, Misty Rains, and Lona Ellison; other family members and friends.

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

**Sarah Annette Jacinto**



Sarah Annette Jacinto, 35, passed away July 3, 2022.

Sarah was born Sept. 24, 1986, in Talihina, Okla., to Betty (Ludlow) and Melvin G. Melton.

She was preceded in death by her brother Harrison Melton; uncle Jerry Melton and grandparents Martson Ludlow, Serena McKinney, and Benjamin and Dorothy Melton.

Sarah is survived by her husband Francisco Jacinto Sr.; daughter Jessenia Marie Jacinto; sons Antonio Nashoba Iskintini and Jacinto Francisco Jacinto Jr.; her parents; sisters Kristele James, Aricia James, and Glenda James; five sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; brothers Melvin Nita, Eskitini Melton and spouse Vanessa Warren.

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

**Belton Williams**



Belton Williams, 97, passed away June 25, 2022.

Belton was born Oct. 14, 1924, in Durant, Oklahoma, to James Stanley Williams and Jessie Mae (Robinson) Williams.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; and brothers Stanley and David Williams.

Belton is survived by his children Martha Williams Flynn and Tom Williams; grandchildren Emily Lipnick and Kevin Flynn; and great-grandchildren Fiona and Paige Lipnick.

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

**Virgil Roy Lewis**



Virgil Roy Lewis, 75, passed away June 28, 2022.

Virgil was born April 26, 1947, in Talihina, Okla., to Randal J. and Emaline Ebahotubbi Lewis.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Rosa Lewis; brothers Marvin Lewis, Cecil Lewis, and Randal Lewis; and sisters Rita Watson, Athaline Lewis, and Rhonda Peters.

Virgil is survived by brothers Nathan Lewis and spouse Evelyn, Daniel Lewis, Matthew Lewis, and Ronald Lewis; sisters Thelma Smith, Regina Flanagan, and Doris Jones and spouse Ken; sister-in-law Marlyn Lewis; brother-in-law Randall Watson; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

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

**Curtis Jeremy Franklin**



Curtis "Curt" Jeremy Franklin, 37, passed away June 25, 2022.

Curt was born Aug. 11, 1984, in Antlers, Okla., to Ramona Ann Wesley.

He was preceded in death by his brother JP Laundry; and grandparents Lenis and Elsie Wesley.

Curt is survived by his mother; daughter Maeci Ann Franklin; brother Todd Franklin and fiancée Rachel McCarty; sister Stacy Wesley Jarrett; along with a host of other family, friends, and loved ones.

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

**Gaylon Odell Ludlow**



Gaylon Odell Ludlow, 68, passed away June 11, 2022.

Gaylon was born May 26, 1954, in Battiest, Okla., to John and Ruth (Hardy) Ludlow.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and daughter Little Stidders.

Gaylon is survived by his wife Rose; children Michael J. Ludlow and fiancée Rachel Rogers, and Rocell J. Ludlow and Aleks; grandchildren Leslie Ludlow, Angela Ludlow, Larry Bird, and Meshiya Bird; two great-grandchildren; siblings Roy Ludlow and spouse Margrete, Bobby Ludlow and spouse Ruby, and Lucille Ludlow; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

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

**Betty Sue Dukes**



Betty Sue Dukes, 79, passed away April 17, 2022.

Betty was born Aug. 1, 1942, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by a son; brother; and her parents.

Betty is survived by her children Henry Charles Dukes III, Michelle Dukes, and Kevin Dukes; sisters Midge Blue and Shirley Owens; grandchildren Christian Dukes, Coby Yandell, Cayenne Yandell, Xanna Curry, Zylar Curry, and Isaiah Curry; extended family and many friends.

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

**Brenda Kay Smith**



Brenda Kay Smith, 82, passed away May 31, 2022.

Brenda was born Oct. 20, 1939, to Nowassa J. and Woodrow W. Folsom.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jesse Martin Smith; her parents; daughter Debra Kay McClelland; sister Beverly Sue Henry; sister Carol Lynn Thompson; and great-granddaughter Makayla Gassman.

Brenda is survived by her son Roy Paul Nowlin; daughter Lisa G. Sharp; grandchildren Alan D. Rhys, Misty D. Gassman, Tiffany K. Glander, and Thomas P. Sharp; great-grandchildren Dillyn Rhys, Jordan Gassman, Jason Flood Jr., Gaven Rhys, Rhiannon Rhys, Liam Glander, and Lillian Glander; great-great-grandsons Braxton Gassman and Grayson Rhys; and two more great-great-grandbabies on the way.

For the full obituary, please visit [Gordon 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:

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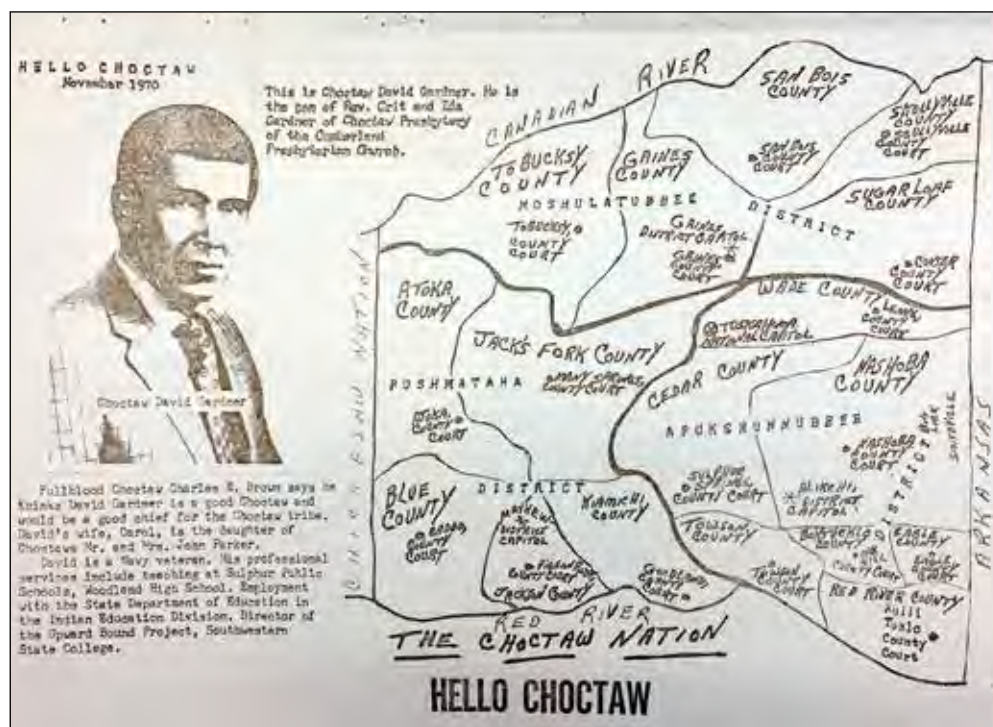
ITI FABVSSA

# A New Chahta Homeland: A History by the Decade, 1970-1980

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 gain a better understanding of Choctaw ancestors' experiences and how they made decisions that have led us into the present. This month covers the 1970-1980 period when Choctaws marked the beginning of contemporary Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma government with the development of a new constitution in 1979.

The anti-termination movement by Choctaws reignited interest in Choctaw government. It also came at a political moment when U.S. federal policy turned towards a policy of self-determination for tribal nations. Self-determination meant that tribes' governments were empowered to act as they thought best according to their own culture, history, and desires of their people. For Choctaws, this included reclaiming the ability to hold our own elections without direct oversight of the U.S. president. Even though Choctaws had chosen their leaders informally through conventions throughout the 20th century, the laws made it seem like the U.S. President selected the chief on his own accord. Although the law passed by Congress named the President to choose the chief, he delegated that responsibility to the Secretary of the Interior who oversaw the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In practice, Choctaws selected who they thought would be the best leader and passed that information on to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1971, Congress passed a law to formally allow the Five Tribes (Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole) to directly elect their leadership again.

The 1971 election for chief proved to be filled with confrontations. Harry "Jimmy" W. Belvin ran for chief alongside leaders of the anti-termination movement that were known for their activism and critique of his actions as chief. A young David Gardner sought to run but quickly found himself disqualified on account of not being the required age minimum of 35 years old. This caused robust back and forth between Belvin and the candidates that sought to change Choctaw politics. Although combative at various moments, these fiery exchanges between Belvin



Cover of the November 1970 'Hello Choctaw' which shared a map of post 1855 Choctaw Nation and advocated for the election of David Gardner as chief. Image courtesy of the Carl Albert Collection, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma.

and his opponents reveal the passion that the Choctaw people had for retaining our sovereignty and the desire to do what was best for them as Native people who had to hold the U.S. government for their actions. On July 30, 1971, Choctaws held their first public election since statehood and elected Jimmy Belvin as chief.

Marking an important new era in Choctaw history, Chief Belvin's direction for the Nation also changed from that of his previous administration. The anti-termination era encouraged Choctaw people to be more involved in Choctaw politics and many of them made their views known. Although Belvin was already known to visit Choctaws by going door to door and speaking with them, he became more attuned to what the Choctaw people wanted in this new era with a stronger government. One of the first things that Belvin did was create a council that represented each of the counties that make up Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw anti-termination movement also produced another important aspect of Choctaw history: a newsletter called Hello Choctaw. Starting in 1969, Hello Choctaw circulated informa-

tion about Choctaw issues to Choctaw people all over the United States. When its creators were organizing against termination, they collected the addresses of Choctaws all over the U.S. They would send this newsletter to Choctaws on their mailing list and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oklahoma Congressmen. The brightly colored newsletter featured photocopies of documents related to Choctaw/Native issues. It often included quotes from local newspapers and reprints of documents from Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These pieces were often accompanied by commentary from newspaper organizers and calls to action like writing letters to relevant government officials. In addition to informing people about current events, they also shared short pieces on Choctaw history, language and local community events like softball tournaments and church singings. Hello Choctaw was a key development that helped to create a sense of Choctaw community by informing people of important issues happening in Oklahoma with the federal government. It was critical to the anti-termination movement and continued to be an important mode of communication among Choctaws.

In 1975, the Choctaw Nation held another election and David Gardner defeated Jimmy Belvin. Once in office, Chief Gardner pushed for the creation of a new constitution and the creation of employment opportunities for Choctaw people who still lived in poor economic conditions. He worked with the federal government and applied for programs that supported the growth of the Choctaw Nation government; this also meant the need for office space. Chief Gardner arranged to use the former Oklahoma Presbyterian College building in Durant as the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters. This building served as the headquarters until the new Headquarters were completed in 2017. Chief Gardner also received federal funds for the restoration of the Choctaw Capitol building as well as to support the re-publication of the Choctaw dictionary, which had been out of print for years.

Before Chief Gardner could finish his four-year term as chief, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. On January 13, 1978, Chief Gardner passed away.

After Gardner's death, Choctaw Nation held a special election for a chief to fulfill the rest of Gardner's term. Hollis Roberts of Holly Creek was elected and stayed in office until 1997.

Roberts picked up on many of the initiatives that Chief Gardner had started but was not able to see all of them fulfilled. Beginning in 1979, Chief Roberts put forward a new constitution for the Choctaw people to vote on. That same year, Roberts announced that he would run for a full term as Chief and was re-elected.

Next month, we will cover the 1980-1990 period in which Choctaw Nation, under Chief Hollis Roberts, made important strides that laid the foundation for economic development and the 1983 Constitution that still guides us today.

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/biskinik/iti-fabvssa/>.

If you have questions or would like more information on the sources, please contact Megan Baker at [meganb@choctawnation.com](mailto:meganb@choctawnation.com).

## Haaland addresses fourth convening of the Trilateral Working Group on violence against Indigenous women and girls

**WASHINGTON (July 14, 2022)** — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today delivered remarks at the fourth convening of the Trilateral Working Group (TWG) on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, which was started by leaders from the United States, Canada and Mexico to address the high rates of violence against women and girls from Indigenous communities as a regional concern. The Department of the Interior hosted this year's TWG convening on behalf of the United States government.

Secretary Haaland's remarks highlighted the importance of international collaboration to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. The Interior Department is working with Tribal governments, law enforcement agencies, survivors, families of the missing, and all communities impacted to coordinate interagency and international collaboration to address this crisis.

Within the first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration, Secretary Haaland created a new Missing and Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS) to pursue justice for missing or murdered Indigenous Peoples. The unit is providing leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Secretary Haaland is also implementing the Not Invisible Act. Together with the Department of Justice, the Interior Department has established a Joint Commission on reducing violent crime against American Indians and Alaska Natives and on Tribal lands. The Commission will hold hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence in order to develop recommendations for the federal government to combat violent crime against Indians and within Tribal lands.



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Choctaw Nation STAR Program

## Housing Headlines

By Bobby Yandell

We are truly experiencing the dog days of summer this year. With that said, how is your HVAC system holding up?

With temperatures as hot as we are experiencing, it's best to set your thermostat a little higher during the day to allow your system not to work as hard in cooling your home. HVAC technicians will tell you to set the thermostat 20 degrees cooler than the outside temperature. Most of us are not going to set our thermostats above 80 degrees, but when heat indexes are over 105, 75-78 degrees is as low as you should set your system to prevent it from freezing up. If a system is not cooling to the temperature set, setting the temperature colder will not help. It's best to set the temperature higher to allow the system to rest and then maintain that temperature.

Another thing you can do to keep your system in top working order is to ensure you change your filter regularly. Most calls technicians answer about a system not working properly involve a clogged filter. Changing your filter monthly is a good rule of thumb, but it should be changed no less than every three months.

Keep your outside unit free of weeds and grass that prevent airflow. It's also best to keep shrubs away as well.

Lastly, it's never a bad idea to get your system looked at by a licensed HVAC technician annually to ensure it works correctly.

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# Sharing the importance of vaccinations during National Immunization Awareness Month

By Chris Jennings

Beginning in 2013, August has been set aside as Immunization Awareness Month. The national observance is used to bring awareness of the importance of vaccines and how families can use them to keep members of all ages safe.

Vaccines have proven to be one of the greatest tools available for preventing diseases in children. On-time vaccination throughout childhood helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.

When you get vaccinated, your immune system makes protective antibodies that fight viruses or bacteria to keep you from getting sick if you are exposed to them in the future. The vaccine trains your immune system to attack the virus or bacteria. For example, if you've been vaccinated against measles and are later exposed to someone with it, your body remembers how to fight it off.

Brandi Burris, BSN, R.N. with the Choctaw Nation, says, "Immunizations prevent the spread of disease; they protect our families and our communities."

Because some vaccines work so well, some parents no longer worry about some of the diseases they were designed to prevent. That's a dangerous attitude.

In 2019, the U.S. saw its largest measles outbreak since 1992. That shows how quickly a disease can spread when children aren't vaccinated.

Whooping cough (pertussis) is another.

In 2012, the most recent peak year, despite being vaccine-preventable, CDC reported 48,277 cases of pertussis in the United States. This is the largest number of cases reported in the United States since 1955 when public health experts reported 62,786 cases.

If you're an expecting mother, vaccines can be used to pass on immunity to your child.

If you get the flu while pregnant, premature labor and delivery risk increases. Changes in the immune system, heart, and lungs during pregnancy also make pregnant women more prone to severe illness if they catch the flu.

"Pregnant women can receive certain immunizations.

Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and flu are recommended. Pregnant women may also receive a COVID vaccine," said Burris.

A flu vaccine during any trimester protects the mother and child and provides the baby with critical protection for the first few months before they can get vaccinated.

Thanks to the Tdap vaccine, few Americans today know what a horrible disease diphtheria is, but at the turn of the 20th century, it was known as "the strangling angel of children."

On top of the required school vaccinations, viruses are currently circulating that could affect your children many years from now.

Starting around adolescence, kids can begin to be vaccinated against is Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Burris says almost everyone will be exposed to HPV at some point in their lifetime but getting vaccinated can prevent infections that could lead to cancer.

The HPV vaccine protects against six kinds of cancer (cervical, anal, back of the throat, penile, vaginal and vulvar) that are caused by infection with HPV.

Burris said the threat from HPV is serious.

"There are more than 42 million Americans that are currently infected with HPV, and every year, we get 13 million new infections, 36,000 of those cause cancer," she said.

Although vaccination rates have been rising since the first HPV vaccine was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says that only 59% of 13- to 17-year-olds were fully vaccinated in 2020.

Because HPV is often thought of as a sexually transmitted infection, many parents don't believe their kids need the vaccine.

"Some of them [parents] already have their mind made up that they're not going to let their kids get the HPV vaccine. Then when we do a little education and give them some information, they'll eventually get the vaccine," said Burris.

There's no test for HPV, so most people with HPV don't know they have the infection. Many people won't know



CDC Photo

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. When you get vaccinated, your immune system makes protective antibodies that fight viruses or bacteria to keep you from getting sick if you are exposed to them in the future.

until years later when they develop cancer. That's why vaccination is essential at an early age.

Some parents cite safety concerns as their reason not to get the HPV vaccine for their kids. According to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a website operated by the CDC and FDA, reports of health issues following HPV vaccination have gone down. From 2015 to 2018, reports of serious health issues after HPV vaccination were consistently rare, around 1.8 per 100,000 HPV vaccine doses or 0.0018%.

Adults need to be aware of their vaccines too. Everyone should get a flu vaccine every year before the end of October, if possible. Adults need a tetanus-diphtheria vaccine every ten years. Healthy adults 50 years and older should get the shingles vaccine. Adults 65 years or older need one dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine followed by one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

Adults younger than 65 with certain health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, cancer or HIV should also get one or both of these vaccines. You may need other vaccines based on health conditions, job, lifestyle or travel habits.

"You can call any of the community health nurses in your area, and we can look up your chart and let you know what you're due for. You can also call your primary care physician's nurse, and she can also look that up and let you know what immunizations you're due for," said Burris.

## Guide to Immunization Requirements in Oklahoma: 2022-23 School Year

All children two months of age and older must present an immunization record or file for an exemption before they are allowed to attend child care or school in Oklahoma. Please read the bulletins below for essential information.

Age/Grade	Required Immunizations with Cumulative Doses required	Recommended Immunizations
<b>Child Care</b> Up to date for age	4 DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) 1-4 PCV (pneumococcal) ◆ 1-4 Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B) ◆ 1 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 1 Varicella (chickenpox)	3 IPV (polio) 2 Hep A (hepatitis A) 3 Hep B (hepatitis B) Seasonal influenza (flu)
<b>Preschool/Pre-K</b>	4 DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) 1 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 1 Varicella (chickenpox)	3 IPV (polio) 2 Hep A (hepatitis A) 3 Hep B (hepatitis B) Seasonal influenza (flu) 2 <sup>nd</sup> varicella at 4 years old Polio on or after 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday
<b>Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup></b>	5 DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) * 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 1 Varicella (chickenpox)	4 IPV (polio) ◆ 2 Hep A (hepatitis A) 3 Hep B (hepatitis B) Seasonal influenza (flu) 2 <sup>nd</sup> varicella at 4 years old Polio on or after 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday
<b>7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) ◆ 5 DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) * 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 1 Varicella (chickenpox)	4 IPV (polio) ◆ 2 Hep A (hepatitis A) 3 Hep B (hepatitis B) ■ Seasonal influenza (flu) 2-3 HPV (human papillomavirus) 1-2 MCV4 (meningococcal ACWY) 2-3 Men B (meningococcal serotype B)

The current childhood immunization schedule may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>.

- Doses administered 4 days or less before the minimum intervals or ages are counted as valid doses. This does not apply to the 28-day minimum interval between doses of live vaccines not administered on the same day.
- If a parent reports their child had varicella disease (chickenpox), the child is not required to receive varicella vaccine. Record the child's history of varicella.
- The first doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), varicella, and hepatitis A vaccines must be administered on or after the child's first birthday (or within 4 days before the birthday), or they will not count toward the immunization requirement and must be repeated.
- It is not necessary to restart the series of any vaccine if a dose was given late or if a dose is past due. Additional doses of a vaccine series that are administered after the due date do not affect final immunity.
- Children may be allowed to attend child care and school if they have received at least one dose of all required vaccines due for their age or grade, and the next doses are not yet due. They must complete the remaining doses of vaccine on schedule. These children are in the process of receiving immunizations.
- Hib and PCV vaccines are not required for students in preschool, pre-kindergarten, or kindergarten programs operated by schools, unless the facility is a licensed child care facility. Hib and PCV vaccines are required for children attending licensed child care facilities.
- \* If the 4<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP is administered on or after the child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, then the 5<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP is not required.
- ◆ The number of doses of PCV and/or Hib may range from 1 to 4 depending on the age of the child, when the first dose was given, and type of vaccine used.
- ▲ If the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of IPV is administered on or after the child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, and at least six months from the previous dose, then the 4<sup>th</sup> dose of IPV is not required.
- Students 11 through 15 years of age who have not received Hep B vaccine may receive a 2-dose series of Merck® Adult Hepatitis B vaccine to comply with this requirement. All other children (younger or older) must receive 3 doses of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a dose of Tdap on or after the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday even if previously received. An inadvertent dose of DTaP on or after the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday may be accepted for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Tdap requirement.

For more information call the Immunization Service at (405) 426-8580 or visit our website at: <http://imm.health.ok.gov>.

## SHOULD I BE SCREENED FOR LUNG CANCER?

The more you smoke, and the longer you smoke, the higher your risk is for lung cancer.

For more information:  
**Choctaw Nation Health Services Low-Dose CT Program**  
(800) 349-7026 ext. 6545

**Choctaw Nation** Health Services

### Choctaw Nation Health Clinic Contact Information

<b>Atoka</b>	(580) 889-1981
<b>Broken Bow</b>	(580) 584-2740
<b>Durant</b>	(580) 920-2100
<b>Hugo</b>	(580) 326-7561
<b>Idabel</b>	(580) 286-2600
<b>McAlester</b>	(918) 423-8440
<b>Poteau</b>	(918) 649-1100
<b>Stigler</b>	(918) 967-9200
<b>Talihina</b>	(918) 567-7000

You may also schedule an appointment via [my.cnhsa.com](http://my.cnhsa.com).

## Mixed Fruit Smoothie

- ½ Cup Apple
- ½ Cup Ice (Crushed or Small Cubes)
- 1 Can Mixed Fruit (Drained)
- ¼ Tsp. Vanilla Extract
- 1 Tbsp. Maple Syrup or Honey (Optional)
- 1 Cup Low Fat Milk

**Preparation**

Add ingredients to blender and blend until smooth.

## DOWNLOAD THE MYCNHSA MOBILE APP NOW

**ACCESS YOUR HEALTHCARE 24/7**

The app is available to anyone who is a patient at any Choctaw Nation Health facility. Available now through the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Use your smartphone to scan the code and download the app.

**Choctaw Nation** Health Services

## EYEGASSES, DENTURES AND HEARING AID PROGRAM (EDH)

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL MEMBERS OF ALL AGES ACROSS THE U.S. ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EYEGASSES, DENTURES AND HEARING AIDS.

**CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
(800) 522-6170 OR (800) 349-7026

**Choctaw Nation** Health Services

### CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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 2022**

All markets open weekdays, August 1-29  
**Closed:** August 30 and 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  
*Food demos August 9*
- BROKEN BOW** 109 Chahta Rd., 580-584-2842  
*Food demos August 16*
- DURANT** 2352 Big Lots Pkwy., 580-924-7773  
*Food demos August 23*
- MCALESTER** 3244 Afullotta Hina, 918-420-5716  
*Food demos August 11*
- POTEAU** 100 Kerr Ave., 918-649-0431  
*Food demos August 18*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## WIC OFFICE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	DAYS	HOURS
<b>Antlers</b> 580-298-3161	Every Tuesday	8:30am - 4:00pm
<b>Atoka</b> 580-889-5825	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Battiest</b> 580-241-5458	1st Tuesday of the Month	8:30am - 4:00pm
<b>Broken Bow</b> 580-584-2746	Monday - Friday (except 1st Tuesday & 2nd Thursday of the Month)	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Durant</b> 580-920-2100 ext 83852	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Heavener</b> 918-974-1820	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Hugo</b> 580-326-9707	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Idabel</b> 580-286-2600 ext 4113	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>McAlester</b> 918-423-6335	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Poteau</b> 918-647-4585	Mon, Wed & Friday Tuesday & Thursday	8am - 4:30pm 8:30am - 5pm
<b>Smithville</b> 580-244-3289	2nd Thursday of the Month	8:30am - 4:00pm
<b>Spiro</b> 918-962-3832	Thursday & Friday (3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays of the month)	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Stigler</b> 918-967-4211	Monday - Tuesday (the first two Wednesdays)	8:30am - 4:00pm
<b>Talihina</b> 918-567-7000 ext 6792	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 4:30pm
<b>Wilburton</b> 580-642-7588	Monday and Wednesday	8:30am - 4:00pm
<b>Mobile Van</b> 580-380-5679	Dates & times vary due to weather & travel (Service in Boswell, Coalgate and Clayton)	

**Choctaw Nation** Health Services



# Visit these Choctaw Country swimming spots to beat this summer heat

By Christian Toews

It's no secret that this summer has been a hot one, as heat waves have gripped most of the United States.

No need to let soaring temperatures put a damper on your outdoor fun. It's time to grab some friends, a cooler full of drinks and a few floaties and go swimming.

If you're looking for a scenic and fun way to beat the heat, look no further than these spectacular swimming spots. Our first stop is a hidden gem near the city of McAlester: Arrowhead State Park.

This 2,200-acre Oklahoma State Park is located on a peninsula of Lake Eufaula, the largest lake in Oklahoma.

Lake Eufaula is a sight to behold, with 105,500 surface acres and 600 miles of stunning shoreline.

Arrowhead State Park is located within one of the most beautiful parts of the lake. You can see the rolling hills covered in trees from the swimming area.

Melissa Faull is the administrative assistant at Arrowhead State Park, and she said the park has seen a rise in visitors over the past two years as more people are exploring Oklahoma's State Parks.

"Since the start of the COVID pandemic, we have seen visitation really pick up," she said. "We are located right off highway 69/75, so people come from all over to camp, swim, hike and use our equestrian area," said Faull.

The swimming area is located at Lake View Circle inside the park, and restrooms and showers are available inside the park, according to Faull.

If you are looking for a fun and exciting place to get a tan, look no further than Arrowhead State Park.

To find out more information, visit [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com).

The next place on our list is Sardis Lake near Talihina, Oklahoma.

This lake has stunning views of the surrounding Potato Hills and the nearby Ouachita Mountains.

The largest swim beach is located at the Potato Hills South campground. Volleyball nets, restrooms, pavilions and other amenities are available near the swim beach.

If you are looking for a secluded feel and beautiful water, pack your swimsuit and head to Sardis Lake.

To find out more information, visit [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com).

Traveling southeast from Sardis Lake, you will find yourself in one of the fastest-growing areas in Choctaw Country.

Broken Bow Lake and the surrounding area have become popular destinations for visitors and locals. And for a good reason. This area offers outdoor adventures while having many upscale restaurants, cabins, shopping and entertainment.

The clear waters of the 14,000-acre Broken Bow Lake are a favorite stop for anglers, boaters, swimmers and even scuba divers.

The lake is located on the Mountain Fork River, and visitors flock to this Oklahoma paradise to enjoy the river's cool currents. Near the center of Beavers Bend State Park, a small inlet creates a perfect swimming hole.

With a mini-golf course, paddle boat and canoe rentals, tasty snacks at the



Photos by Christian Toews

The beach at Arrowhead State Park near McAlester, Oklahoma, is perfect for a day of swimming and games. It has everything you need to relax and enjoy the summer heat, with pavilions, restrooms, and picnic tables.

concession stand and treats from the snow cone shack just a short walk away, this area is sure to please everyone.

To find out more information, visit [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com).

Up next is Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton, Oklahoma.

This park is in the scenic, wooded Sans Bois Mountains of southeast Oklahoma and is known for the Cave that was used as a hideout by outlaws.

A swimming pool is located inside the park, open to everyone trying to cool down in the summer. The fee to enter is \$5 per person.

If you want to earn your pool time, enjoy rock climbing, disc golf, or hiking in the park, you will not run out of ways to enjoy the summer at Robbers Cave State Park.

To find out more information, visit [www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com).

Perhaps you are looking for a more luxurious way to cool down. How does this sound? A lounge chair near cool

water, a swim-up bar where your perfect drink awaits. A restaurant just footsteps away from the pool. If this sounds like your style, Durant, Oklahoma, has a treat for you.

When you book a stay at the Choctaw Casino and Resort this summer, you get access to a world-class tropical escape. Aqua is on three beautiful acres and boasts two pools: one family-friendly and fully equipped with two water-slides, and the other an exclusive, adult-only pool. Aqua is the perfect way to beat the heat luxuriously.

To learn more about Aqua and book your room today, visit [www.choctawcasinos.com](http://www.choctawcasinos.com).

Choctaw country offers a swimming destination for families, couples get-aways and everything in between.

There is something for everyone in southeast Oklahoma, from the naturally formed swimming holes and lakes surrounded by fantastic scenery or world-class aquatic luxury.



Lynzi Bouchard and her daughter, Thea, enjoy the swimming area at Arrowhead State Park.



If you prefer lounge chairs and swim-up bars to sand between your toes, then the tropical surroundings at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant is your type of place.



Guests cool off in the water at Arrowhead State Park.

## Outreach at the Beach



Photos by Chris Jennings

It's more than just swimming at Outreach at the Beach. Games of beach volleyball, important program information, food and fellowship were offered at the 2022 Outreach at the Beach at Sardis Lake in Clayton, Oklahoma.



2022

**CHOCTAW**  
LABOR DAY  
FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
CHOCTAW CAPITOL GROUNDS | TVSHKA HOMMA  
[CHOCTAWNATION.COM](http://CHOCTAWNATION.COM)

**FOR UPDATES TEXT 'LABORDAY' TO 888777**

2022

**CHOCTAW**  
LABOR DAY  
FESTIVAL

**TENT CITY  
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**Mark your tent campsite for the  
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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022**  
GATE OPENS AT 10:00 A.M. | TVSHKA HOMMA CAPITOL GROUNDS

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# Contestants to vie for Choctaw Royalty titles

The Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant will kick off the annual Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma with 30 young ladies taking the stage to vie for the title of Little Miss, Junior Miss or Miss Choctaw Nation 2022-2023. The event will be held Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Tvshka Homma amphitheatre.

## DISTRICT 1

**Kristin Faith Jefferson**, 11, of Idabel is the daughter of Whitney and Paul Jefferson. She attends Idabel Middle School and will be in the seventh grade this fall.

Kristin has served as District 1 Little Miss 2019-2021 and 2021-22 and was first runner-up for Little Miss in the 2018 and 2021 Royalty Pageants. She was also chosen Little Miss Owa Chito Princess in 2018 and 2019.

Kristin has been a Choctaw Nation STAR student for five years, received perfect attendance for 2020-21 school year, and was awarded the State Superintendent Reading Award, AR Reading award, and math and citizenship awards. Kristin has been on the honor roll for six years and was chosen the 2016-17 Masonic Lodge Student of Today.

She enjoys attending church, reading, playing softball, riding her bike, and spending time with her family and friends.

**LeAndra Denise Carter** of Idabel is the 13-year-old daughter of Andrea Fox and the granddaughter of Margaret McKinney.

She has participated in softball, basketball and track. During the summer, she plays with the league on weekends and with a travel team. She would like to further her education to be a coach. LeAndra's leisure time is spent with her two younger sisters. She also enjoys spending time studying the Bible with her uncle and skating.

**Kalli Battiest** of Idabel is the 22-year-old daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Battiest.

Kalli has obtained an electrical engineering certificate and a phlebotomy license from Kiamichi Technology Center.

She enjoys helping others whenever and wherever she can. During her free time, she loves spending time with family and friends and cheering on her nieces and nephews in everything they participate in.

## DISTRICT 2

**Cambree Elaine Colbert** of Broken Bow is the 12-year-old daughter of Katherine and Jeremiah Colbert.

A seventh-grader, Cambree has been on the A/B honor roll since first grade. She has participated in curriculum contests since the third grade, placing three times.

Cambree likes playing sports, especially softball, basketball, and stickball. She loves spending time with her family and has started to learn how to sew and goes fishing with her dad. She also likes to read and play cornhole.

**Melea Habli Jefferson**, the 17-year-old daughter of Annette Jefferson, lives in Broken Bow and is a junior at Broken Bow High School. Among her activities and special recognitions are 2022 American Indian Leaders Youth Council, Broken Bow High School Band 2nd Chair playing the flute, and First Place FCCLA State Interpersonal Communications (level 2). She was also president of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and selected to dance with Choctaw Nation youth dance group in Bakersfield, California. She was the ALLYC Princess last year.

Melea enjoys spending time with family and friends. She loves volunteering her time by serving at the House Upon the Rock with church family, picking up trash on the roadside, raking, and donating to fundraisers. Most of all, she enjoys Choctaw dancing with the ALLYC club, learning more about our culture and taking Choctaw language class. She also beads earrings and donates them for fundraisers.

**Zoe Tisho** of Broken Bow is the 22-year-old daughter of Tracy and Robbie Tisho.

She attended Southeastern Community College in Idabel during the Covid-19 pandemic. She was invited to be a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Also, while at work, without knowing it, she became a blue ticket winner in November.

Her interests are spending time with her dog, Girly, and her family and friends. She also likes to watch family play baseball or softball. She enjoys hiking, traveling, learning new things, volunteering at the Hochatown Rescue Center Petting Zoo and guiding others on learning the Lord's Prayer in sign language and social dancing.

## DISTRICT 3

**Carmen Garcia of Talihina** is the 12-year-old daughter of Nakista Ludlow. Her grandparents are Clifford and Cathy Ludlow and Herb and Marvada Bohanan. She is a seventh-grader at Talihina.

Carmen is a Choctaw STAR student and is on the Principal's Honor Roll. She is a member of the Tvshka Waya Youth stickball team and plays for the Talihina Junior High basketball and softball teams. She is also a member of the Junior High Cheer Squad.

Carmen enjoys hunting, fishing, learning Choctaw hymns, and cooking traditional food. She spends her spare time volunteering at her school's JOM events, District 3 community center events, and spending time with her elders. Carmen is excited to finally be able to take Choctaw I class at her school with Mr. Archie Meashintubby.

**Emma Battiest** of Talihina is the 14-year-old daughter of Jimmy Battiest and Heather Ramsey.

Emma is a ninth-grade student at Talihina Jr. High where she is a member and vice president of FFA. She is also a member of the Youth Advisory Board and Native American Club. She is taking Choctaw language classes and recently won first place in the poster submission category for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. She was Student of the Month and on the Principal's Honor Roll. Emma plays stickball for Yvnnvsh Homma and her position is defense.

She also served as 2021-22 District 3 Little Miss.

**Masheli Watson** of Honobia is the 20-year-old daughter of Agatha Watson and Robert Lewis.

She was awarded Top Salesperson in FFA for three years. She was also awarded Miss Congeniality in Choir for one year, Student of the Quarter, and All Tournament in softball for one year.

Her interests include phlebotomy, traveling, and gardening. During her leisure time, she likes to bake, walk, babysit, and help serve lunch at her community center.

## DISTRICT 4

**Korinthia Rose Mercer** of Poteau is the 9-year-old daughter of Leona Ward and Daniel Mercer.

A fourth-grader, Korinthia is on the honor roll, a Choctaw STAR student, and has been named Student of the Month at Poteau Upper Elementary. Korinthia enjoys reading, drawing, singing, softball, playing drums, and going to cultural events and pow wows. She is wanting to learn Choctaw dances and stickball.

**Ruthie James** of Poteau is the 21-year-old daughter of Kristele James. Ruthie enjoys drawing, painting, and baking. She spends her leisure time playing outside with her nieces, nephew, and little cousin, and cuddling her cat, Chili. She practices stickball, volunteers at the community center during events and holidays, and does traditional dance and stickball demos with the Yvnnvsh Homma Youth stickball team.

**Micah Davidson** is the 15-year-old daughter of Jennifer and Michael Davidson. She is a sophomore at Howe Public School and served as District 4 Junior Miss for 2021-22.

Micah is a 2022 Poteau Regional FFA Speech winner in plant science, and FFA Area Speech qualifier. She is a Choctaw STAR student, JOM academic incentive participant, and on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Micah was a member of the 8th/9th grade academic district runner up team, the 2021 FFA opening/closing ceremony team placing first, and 2021 state qualifier with FFA opening/closing team. She is a member of the Howe Lady Lion softball team, participates in the Gifted and Talented program, and the Howe FFA officer team.

She is a member of Faith Community Church of the Nazarene 356 Youth Group, and a member of the

Yvnnvsh Homma senior division stickball team. Micah enjoys raising her three hens, studying astronomy with her father, and spending time with family and friends. She enjoys sharing her culture and heritage with others as well as participating in stickball, language, and social dancing programs. She serves as the Howe Youth Advisory Board chapter secretary.

## DISTRICT 6

**Hatapushik Ramsey** of Wilburton is the 10-year-old daughter of Heather Ramsey and Curtis Billy and Jimmy and Tracey Battiest.

Hatapushik attends Wilburton Elementary where she is in the fourth grade. She met 100% of her reading goals for first, second, and third nine weeks of the last school year. She is proficient in math and language arts, earning proficient and mastered ratings in both.

She enjoys drawing, watching YouTube drawing tutorials, playing stickball with Yvnnvsh Homma, softball and basketball, social dancing and cultural activities year-round.

She also enjoys Tik Tok dances, cooking with Mama, fishing, pow wows, and traveling to Mississippi to watch her mom and Curtis play in the World Series of Stickball games.

**Aiana Sky Holman** is the 16-year-old daughter of Crystal Holman. She is an 11th-grader at Red Oak Public School.

Aiana is a Choctaw STAR student and former District 6 Little Miss and Jr. Miss. She was a member of the 2020 Class B fastpitch softball state championship team and 2021 Class A slow-pitch softball champions. Riley Paige Isabell is 20 years old and from Wilburton. She is the niece of Sheri Isabell and granddaughter of Geraldine Isabell and Jimmy and Gayla Wingo. She is attending Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Riley held first chair in band for 7 years while also holding superior ratings. She was a part of the 2018 Pride of McAlester that won First Place at the Bixby Tournament of Bands. She had a story titled, "Captain Choctaw" place first at the language fair in Norman. She was also nominated and accepted into the 2022 Oklahoma Student Leadership Forum. In her free time, Riley enjoys spending time with friends and family and volunteering with the District 6 senior citizens.

She has volunteered at several events around District 6. She enjoys singing traditional Choctaw hymns with her grandma and with the District 6 Seniors. She also enjoys making wreaths.

## DISTRICT 7

**Aubree Horn** of Antlers is the daughter of Tosha and Jerry Horn. She is 9 years old and is in the fourth grade. She was awarded Student of the Month for citizenship at Antlers Elementary.

Aubree is very active in the community and in sports. She plays stickball, soccer, softball, and cheer. When she isn't busy with practices or games, Aubree enjoys playing with her little brother and sister or going to her grandma's house. She likes to go to her grandma's house because she takes Aubree places to learn about her culture and her grandpa talks with her in Choctaw.

**Mia Janelle Reich** is the 14-year-old daughter of Jay and Melissa Reich of Wright City. Mia is a freshman at Wright City Junior High.

Mia was chosen Little Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2018-19. She was valedictorian of her sixth-grade class and of her eighth-grade class. She is a Choctaw STAR student, on the Superintendent's Honor Roll, and a Choctaw Youth Advisory Board chapter representative. She has earned the National Girl Scout Bronze Award, the National Girl Scout Silver Award, and was a member of the 2022 Junior High Cross Country State Champions.

Mia enjoys playing basketball and softball. She is a member of the cross-country team, track team, cheer team, competition dance team, and academic quiz bowl team. Mia is learning Choctaw hymns from her grandmother Lillie Ott. She has learned how to make banana and fry bread. Mia has made beaded earrings and her first bracelet was made on a loom. Mia shares her culture at area schools by signing the Lord's Prayer, participating in social dancing and singing Choctaw hymns. She also teaches younger students how to pronounce animal names, colors, and numbers in Choctaw.

Mia's hobbies include fishing, hunting, reading, camping and riding 4-wheelers. She serves her community through the Choctaw Nation YAB and Girl Scouts Troop 7121.

**Aliyah Myers**, 20, of Finley is the daughter of Christy Sapulpa-Myers and Troy Myers.

She was an active member of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board for 2 ½ years. She also graduated from high school with a full year of college composition and plans to attend Southeastern this fall.

Aliyah enjoys spending time with her family as well as weaving traditional Choctaw baskets and playing stickball. Her interests include learning more about her Choctaw culture so she can give back to the children and teach them about who they are and where they came from.

## DISTRICT 8

**Embery Ensej** is the 11-year-old daughter of Hailey and Steven Ensej. She is a sixth-grader at Bennington Public School.

Embery enjoys spending time with friends and family. She plays softball and enjoys arts and crafts, skating, dancing, and camping.

**Mya Elizabeth Thomas** is the 16-year-old daughter of Sammie and Daniel Teague and Lynsey Thomas. She is a junior at Fort Towson High School. Mya is on the Principal and Superintendent Honor Rolls and has won a Chapter FFA Degree award and KTC Health Science program award. She was state finalist for National American Miss two years in a row. Mya also served as 2017-18 Little Miss Choctaw Nation.

She loves being outside, singing, drawing by the creek or reading in a tree. She enjoys spending time with her loud and funny family and friends, whether it is pulling pranks on each other or sitting around and sharing old stories. She also enjoys sewing, baking, and beadwork.

**Jocelyn Rice** of Hugo is the 18-year-old daughter of Stormy and Tamara Rice.

While at Soper High School she maintained A/B honor roll all four years. She was All Conference slow and fast pitch softball, MVP Slow Pitch, and Best Defensive Player Fast Pitch during her freshman year. Jocelyn was also All Conference slow and fast pitch during her sophomore and junior years and captain of the softball team as both a junior and senior. She enjoys playing softball, spending time with family, attending church at Victory Baptist Church where she sings in the choir, and learning the Choctaw language and beadwork.

## DISTRICT 9

**Kinzley Nevaeh Hammond** of Bokchito is the 9-year-old daughter of Jacob Hammond and Cynthia Perez. A fifth-grader at Rock Creek, Kinzley enjoys playing softball and spending time with her friends and family.

Haleigh Diane Gibson of Durant is the 22-year-old daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Gibson. She has also served as District 9 Senior Miss for 2019-21 and 2021-22. Haleigh has been a Choctaw Nation registered artist for eight years and has attended and participated in the Trail of Tears and Labor Day Festival. She is honored to speak and do the Lord's Prayer for meetings, conferences, and funerals. One of her cornhusk dolls was sent to Ireland as a gift from the Choctaw Nation and she is honored to make medallions for the Chief, Councilmembers, and other special projects.

Haleigh is family oriented. Spending time with ones she loves is very important to her. She also spends a lot of her time beading. She loves to ride the motorcycle with her dad. She enjoys attending any pow wows she can make it to. She participates in many charities and fundraisers to help give back to those in need.

## DISTRICT 10

**Skylar Bryant** of Atoka is the 9-year-old daughter of Tiffany and Jeff Bryant. She completed the third grade this spring at Atoka Elementary School. Skylar is a high honor roll student. She has earned awards for citizenship, math, and reading, and was voted most organized.

She enjoys playing softball and track. Her goal is to

## LITTLE MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Kristin Jefferson



Cambree Colbert



Soledad Carmen Garcia-Mejia



Korinthia Mercer



Hata Ramsey



Aubree Horn



Embery Ensej



Kinzley Hammond



Skylar Bryant



Alexandria McFarland

## LITTLE MISS JUNIOR MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Dot Rogers



LeAndra Carter



Melea Jefferson



Emma Battiest



Micha Davidson

## JUNIOR MISS



Aiana Holman



Mia Reich



Mya Thomas



Daryan Eubanks



Raina Meashintubby

## JUNIOR MISS SENIOR MISS CONTESTANTS



Candice Battice-Louis



Kallie Battiest



Zoe Tisho



Masheil Watson



Riley Isabell

## SENIOR MISS



Aliyah Myers



Jocelyn Rice



Haleigh Gibson



Kamryn Baker



Tenaya Perkins

play softball at Oklahoma University and one day to become a lawyer. Skylar also enjoys crafting, making bracelets, and cheering on her siblings at ballgames. She attends church at The Family in Atoka.

Skylar had the opportunity to represent District 10 as Little Miss in 2021.

**Daryan Eubanks** of Durant is the 14-year-old daughter of Wendi Eubanks.

A ninth-grader, Daryan has twice been awarded the Champion of Character Award at Durant Middle School. She has also earned a Green School Excellence in Leadership award, was in the top 10% of her class for two years, a member of the Oklahoma Middle School Honor Society, and on the Superintendent's Honor Roll.

Daryan likes to play softball and basketball. She has played since she was 5 years old. She has participated in both sports for the last two years at Durant Middle School. She is a member of Inten City, a travel softball team based out of Norman, Oklahoma. She is a pitcher and a utility player. She has also participated in youth stickball.

**Kamryn Baker** of Atoka is the 20-year-old daughter of Michelle Holt and Wayne Baker. She is a sophomore at Carl Albert State College. She was chosen to be in the Cultural Center in Durant, was president of the Native American Club at Carl Albert College and helped lead dances during Camp Chahta at Carl Albert. She is an honorary ambassador for College FYI with the Choctaw Nation. Kamryn is also a student representative for student government and a freshman representative for the Oklahoma Aspiring Educators Association.

She enjoys spending quality time with her close friends and many family members. She also enjoys going to church every Sunday and traveling to different churches to hear singings. She likes to spend time outside at the lake kayaking, playing softball, or trying to learn new stickball tricks. She loves to learn more about our culture and telling others about it.

## DISTRICT 11

**Alexandria Jo McFarland** of Hartshorne is the 11-year-old daughter of Crystal and Daniel McFarland. She is in the 6th grade in Hartshorne where she received Student of the Month twice at North Ward Elementary School.

Alexandria loves to sing at church and at home. She enjoys playing with her cat, decorating her room, and designing outfits.

**Raina Cheyenne Meashintubby** of McAlester is the 17-year-old daughter of Whitney Pope and Harold Meashintubby Jr. She attends Pittsburg Public School where she is in the 11th grade.

Raina was a member of the 2020-21 District Champion Fastpitch Softball team and 2021-22 District Champion slow-pitch softball team. She is a two-time recipient of PH 8 All Conference softball award, and member of 2022 District Regional Area Champion basketball and 2022 Class B State Champion basketball teams. Raina was also a member of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball Champion team. It is the first Oklahoma youth stickball team to play and win in Mississippi.

Raina has been accepted to the KTC Teacher Prep/Early Care and Education program.

She enjoys beading, making ribbon skirts, dancing, and learning to play the Native American flute. She likes going to pow wows and other cultural events. Raina enjoys learning the Choctaw language at school and at home. She likes to cook and bake and loves all varieties of music. Most of all, she loves that her family is involved in everything she does because she enjoys spending time with all of them.

## DISTRICT 12

**Dorothy "Dot" Rogers** of Coalgate is the 10-year-

old daughter of David and Lora Rogers. She attends school in Coalgate where she is in the fifth grade.

Dot is an honor roll student and has received a superior rating on piano guild. She enjoys softball, piano, bike riding, and chasing siblings.

**Candis Battice-Louis** of Coalgate is the 16-year-old daughter of Jolee Battice-Louis and Micah Louis. She is a junior at Coalgate High School. She also served as 2021 District 12 Junior Miss.

Candis has received a Choctaw language award, first place for better speaker, and fourth in Senior Sword Drill in the Choctaw/Chickasaw Association Youth Rally.

She enjoys going to church and helping out three times a week. She helps younger girls with Choctaw and the Lord's Prayer. She also enjoys hanging out with her family or running during any of her free time.

**Tenaya Perkins**, 19, of Krebs is the daughter of Montana Perkins. She is the granddaughter of Maudie Stubblefield.

Tenaya is a first-generation college student at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and a recipient of the Billy S. McDaniel scholarship. She placed second in the Oklahoma State Fair for arts and crafts. She is a two-time Pitt 8 All Conference for fast pitch softball and McAlester News Capital All Area fast pitch team. She was on the Principal's Honor Roll throughout high school and is now on the President's Honor Roll in college.

Tenaya works and volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club in Tahlequah. She also works as a lifeguard for the City of McAlester. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to church, spending time in nature and working out.

**CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER**

**LIVING ARTS**

**CHIEFS, CLANS & KIN**  
CHANGING EXHIBIT GALLERY OPENS JULY 23





### VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022**  
 The Capitol Grounds Tvshka Homma, south of the softball fields  
**Registration Deadline August 16, 2022**

- There will be a maximum of 12 Co-Ed Teams.
- Registration will be taken by mail, fax, or online.
- Rules will be emailed to contacts. Schedules will be emailed out.
- This tournament will have its own referees.
- Check-in at 8:00 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In what city do you regularly play with your team: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, fax or email 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

### TOUGH TOUGH CHOCTAW

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

*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 | 580-642-8383 | sfairchild@choctawnation.com

### ELDER VOLLEYBALL FINALS

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | HEALTH TENT**  
**Event: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

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

### FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
**Registration Deadline: August 6, 2022**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | RED WARRIOR PARK**  
**Event begins: 9 a.m.**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Or register online at choctawnation.com/labor-day

### YOUTH FITNESS CHALLENGE

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | COUNCIL LAWN**  
**Registration: 5 p.m. | Event begins: 6 p.m.**

*For more information:*  
 Seth Fairchild | 580-642-8383 | sfairchild@choctawnation.com

### 5K

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | RED WARRIOR PARK**  
**Pre-Race Check-in: Friday, September 2 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Race Check-in: Saturday, September 3 at 7 a.m.**  
*Pre-registration online only Choctawnation.com/labor-day*

### HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | RED WARRIOR PARK**  
**Registration: 8 a.m. | Event begins: 9 a.m.**

### FITTEST WARRIOR

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | 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 | cchenson@cnhsa.com

### DOMINO/CHECKERS TOURNAMENT

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | HEALTH TENT**  
**Registration: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Event begins: 1 p.m.**

### WAR HOOPS 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**  
**Check-in: 8:30 a.m. | Event begins: 10 a.m.**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CATEGORIES/DIVISIONS

**4-Person Roster (Circle One)**

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**





**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

8:00 am - 11:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours

**Thursday, September 1, 2022**

8:00 am - 11:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours  
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm ~ Cafeteria Hours  
 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm ~ Arts & Crafts Vendor check-in

**Friday, September 2, 2022**

7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours  
 8:00 am - 9:00 am ~ Corn Hole Check In, Red Warrior Park  
 8:00 am - 3:00 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours (gift shop closes 30 min. early)  
 8:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Icehouse hours  
 8:00 am - 11:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours  
 9:00 am - 11:00 am ~ Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament, Healthy Living Tent  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Youth Crafts, Playground  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Corn Hole Tournament, Red Warrior Park  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Education Tent hours  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Choptaw Village activities  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ General Store  
 10:00 am ~ Choptaw Social Dance Class, Capitol Lawn  
 10:30 am ~ Choptaw Chanting Class, Capitol Lawn  
 Noon - 5:00 pm ~ Quilt entries  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Information Tent hours  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Voter Registration hours  
 1:00 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent  
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm ~ Chahta Cab  
 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ~ 5K Early Check-In  
 2:00 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn  
 4:00 pm ~ Princess Pageant Reception, Cafeteria  
 4:00 pm ~ Art Show Reception, Museum  
 5:00 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field  
 5:00 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge Registration, Council Lawn  
 5:00 pm ~ Choptaw Nation Official Ceremonies {6:00pm - 10:00pm Princess Pageant}  
 6:00 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Lawn  
 6:00 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn  
 7:00pm ~ Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament, Red Warrior Park

**Saturday, September 3, 2022**

7:00 am ~ 5k Race begins and ends at Capitol Museum  
 7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours  
 8:00 am ~ Fittest Warrior Registration, Council Lawn  
 8:00 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues  
 8:00 am ~ Bow Shoot (Youth), Choptaw Village  
 8:00 am - 8:30 am ~ Co-Ed Volleyball Check-In  
 8:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Icehouse hours  
 8:30 am - 9:30 am ~ War Hoops Check-In  
 9:00 am - 11:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours  
 9:00 am ~ Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament  
 9:00 am ~ Horseshoe Tournament  
 9:00 am ~ Fittest Warrior, Council Lawn  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Youth Crafts, Playground  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Quilt Show  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Education Tent hours  
 9:45 am ~ Terrapin Race Registration, Playground  
 10:00 am ~ War Hoops, 3-on-3 Tournament  
 10:00 am - Noon ~ Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Choptaw Village Activities  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Greenhouse Tours  
 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Information Tent  
 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours (gift shop closes 30 min. early)  
 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Choptaw Nation Art Show, Capitol Museum  
 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours  
 10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Voter Registration (Tribal & State) hours  
 10:00 am - 7:00 pm ~ Healthy Living Expo, Council Lawn  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ General Store  
 10:30 am ~ Terrapin Races, Playground  
 11:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Chahta Children's Games  
 11:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Chahta Cab  
 Noon - Midnight ~ Carnival  
 1:00 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent  
 3:00 pm ~ Tough Tough Registration, Council Lawn  
 4:00 pm ~ Tough Tough Contest, Council Lawn  
 4:00 pm ~ Rock your Native Vote (Mike Bone), Amphitheater  
 5:00 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field  
 6:00 pm ~ Choptaw Artist Jeremy Rowe, Amphitheater  
 7:00 pm ~ Choptaw Artist Braiden Williams, Amphitheater  
 7:00 pm ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament, Red Warrior Park  
 8:00 pm ~ Choptaw Artist Jerry Tims, Amphitheater  
 9:00 pm ~ Clint Black, Amphitheater

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**

7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours  
 8:00 am ~ Bow Shoot (Adult), Choptaw Village  
 8:00 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues  
 8:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Icehouse hours  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Quilt Show (Pick up quilts following show) 10:00 am ~ Worship Services at Chapel  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours  
 10:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours  
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ General Store  
 11:00 am - 12:00pm ~ Domino/Checker Tournament Registration, Healthy Living Tent  
 Noon ~ Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheater (for updates visit www.choctawnation.com)  
 Noon - 3:00 pm ~ Choptaw Village Activities  
 Noon - 2:00 pm ~ Choptaw Nation Art Show, Capitol Museum  
 Noon - 4:00 pm ~ Greenhouse Tours  
 Noon - 4:30 pm ~ Capitol Museum hours (gift shop closes 30 min. early)  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Information Tent hours  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours  
 Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Voter Registration hours  
 Noon - 10:30 pm ~ Carnival  
 1:00 pm ~ Domino/Checker Tournament, Healthy Living Tent  
 1:00 pm ~ School Supply Pick-up, Education Tent (while supplies last)  
 1:00 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent  
 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm ~ Choptaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers  
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm ~ Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum  
 4:00 pm ~ Choptaw Dancers, Capitol Lawn  
 5:00 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field  
 5:00 pm ~ Stickball Exhibition, Capitol Lawn  
 6:00 pm ~ The Lefevre Quartet, Amphitheatre  
 7:00 pm ~ The Martins, Amphitheatre  
 7:00 pm ~ Traditional Choptaw Hymn Singing, Chapel  
 7:30 pm ~ Championship Stickball Game, Stickball Field  
 8:00 pm ~ Jason Crabb, Amphitheatre  
 9:00 pm ~ We The Kingdom, Amphitheatre

FOR UPDATES TEXT 'LABORDAY' TO 888777

**Choptaw Village Labor Day Activities**

The Choptaw Village will display the traditional, historical and cultural lifeways of the Choptaw people. Cultural demonstrators will display, demonstrate, educate and offer hands-on experiences in their traditional art expertise. The traditional Choptaw Food booth will offer samplings of banaha and tanchi lobona, along with an opportunity to experience pounding corn on an authentic Choptaw mortar and pestle known as a kittih.

Other hands-on cultural arts will include pottery, flintknapping, basketry, beadwork, rabbit stick throw and blow gun.

Other demonstrations and instruction will include dressmaking, stickball stick, ball making and primitive weapons. Participants will be invited to participate in ongoing activities throughout the day in Choptaw dancing, stickball skills, Choptaw hymn singing and language activities.

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

Sunday afternoon on the Capitol lawn will consist of Choptaw dancing beginning at 3 p.m. and stickball exhibition games at 4 p.m. for all ages. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

**Choptaw Village Activities**

**Demonstrators at Huts and Arbors:**

Basketry, Textiles, Pottery, Weaponry, Moccasins, Cornhusk dolls. Flintknapping, Choptaw Home Life Greenhouse/Choptaw Gardens, Stickball Stick Making, Stickball ball Making, Rabbit Stick Throw, Choptaw Dressmaking, Beadwork, Choptaw Foods, Corn Grinding (Kittih), Traditional Games

**Friday**

10:00 am - Cornhusk Dolls Make and Take  
 11:00 am - Beaded Corn Make and Take  
 12:00 pm - Beaded Collar  
 1:30 pm - Stickball making  
 2:00 pm - Village closes

**Saturday**

10:00 am - Choptaw Dancing  
 10:30 am - Choptaw Hymns  
 11:00 am - Storytelling  
 11:30 am - Rabbit Stick Throw  
 1:00 pm - Stickball  
 1:30 pm - Language  
 2:15 pm - Choptaw Dancing  
 4:00 pm - Village Closes

**Sunday**

10:00 am - Children's Church  
 12:00 pm - Village Opens  
 1:00 pm - Rabbit Stick Throw  
 1:30 pm - Storytelling  
 2:00 pm - Corn Game  
 3:00 pm - Village Closes



Choptaw Nation of Oklahoma TOGETHER WE'RE MORE

**August 2022**

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**Page 1:**

CNO's Judicial Branch continues to strengthen.



**Page 11:**

A guide to the best swimming spots in Choptaw Country.



**Page 12:**

Labor Day sports sign-ups.

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

**TIMES AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Stay up-to-date by visiting <https://www.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 ATV'S ARE NOT ALLOWED IN FESTIVAL AREA.

All personal Golf Carts/ATV's must remain in camping areas.

ALL drivers must have a valid driving license.

Please use extreme caution and watch out for pedestrians.

NO BOATS are allowed in the camping area

NO PETS are allowed in the Festival area.

Please be courteous and pick up after your pets.

Tvshka Homma Capitol Grounds is a No Drone Zone.

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

Stay Connected to the Nation  
**CHOCTAWNATION.COM**



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