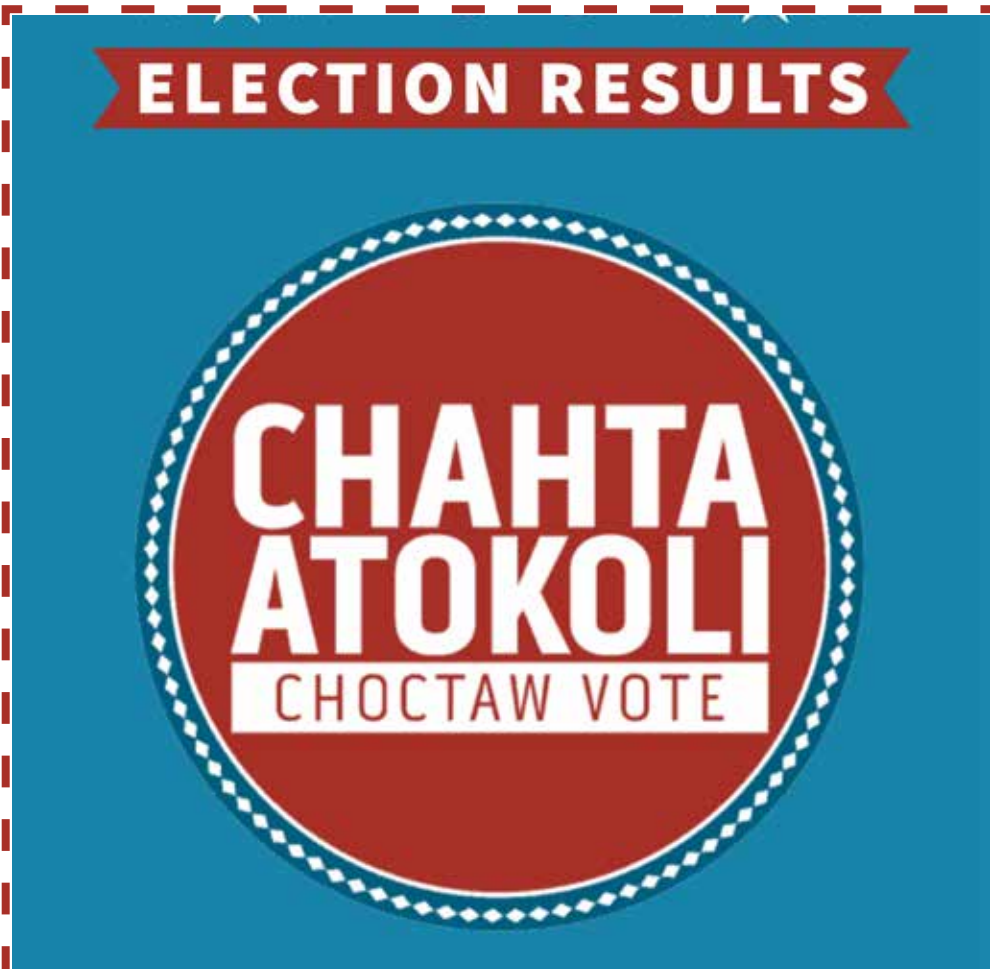




August 2023 Issue



Choctaw Nation announces its 2023 Labor Day Festival plans

TVSHKA HOMMA, Okla. (July 17, 2023) – The 2023 Choctaw Labor Day Festival will offer three days of faith, family, and cultural activities for all ages. The annual event, held at Tvshka Homma on the grounds of the historic Choctaw Capitol, is southeastern Oklahoma’s largest gathering. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) will host the festival on Friday, Sept. 1 through Sunday, Sept. 3.

Choctaw traditions will be honored with the swearing-in of newly elected district councilmen, the crowning of new princesses, an art show, a quilt show, and arts-and-crafts sales by tribal artists. Also, athletic competitions will be held including the Fittest Warrior, a 5K run, archery, cornhole, horse-shoes and more. Tournaments for teams in basketball, softball, and volleyball will fill the sports field complex. Stickball will bring in contestants from across the region and out of state.

Carnival rides and food vendors on the midway will run all three days. Weekend concerts will feature GRAMMY winner Diamond Rio who will headline the festival starting at 9 p.m. Sept. 2, along with platinum recording artist Neal McCoy opening the show at 7 p.m. Diamond Rio announced their new single, “The Kick,” earlier this month, as well as the addition of two new members to the band.

On Sept. 3 at 8 p.m., Dove Award’s New Artist of the Year Zach Williams will take the stage joined by GRAMMY Award-winning Christian artist Jason Crabb at 7 p.m. Also performing that evening will be the Mark Trammel Quartet and the Kingsmen Quartet.

Concert performances will be held in the outdoor Amphitheater. Admission and parking are free and open to the public. The festival schedule will continually update. For the latest information, visit <https://bit.ly/-https://chocta.ws/labor-day> or on Facebook at choctawnation.com/labor-day.

PUBLIC NOTICE of Official Election Results for General Election 2023

To the tribal members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

For Immediate Release (July 13, 2023) – In accordance with the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, adopted by CB-123-22, notice is hereby given.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the period for Contest of Irregularities or Fraud (Article XIX) and Recount (Article XX) ended at 4:30 p.m. on July 12. There were no contests or recount requests, so the Election Board officially ended the General Election cycle with the signing of the final General Election Results.

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

- District 2 Winner: Anthony “Tony” Ward with 544 votes (76.51%).**
- District 3 Winner: Eddie Bohanan with 650 votes (85.41%).**
- District 8 Winner: Perry Thompson with 836 votes (79.17%).**
- District 11 Winner: Robert Karr with 987 votes (77.41%).**

The following incumbents were unchallenged this election cycle and have been duly certified as elected for a new term (Article XXIV, §3):

- Office of Chief: Gary Batton**
- District 1: Thomas Williston**
- District 5: Ronald Perry**

For more information about Choctaw Nation elections, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/elections>.




Photo by Mekayla McClure



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall



Photo by Christian Toews



CHECK OUT PAGE 14 FOR THE FULL LIST OF EVENTS.

VISIT LABORDAY.CHOCTAWNATION.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

FOR UPDATES, TEXT "LABORDAY" TO 888777.

Contestants to vie for Choctaw Royalty titles

The Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant will kick off the annual Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma with 29 young ladies taking the stage to vie for the title of Little Miss, Junior Miss or Miss Choctaw Nation 2023-2024. The event will be held Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. in the Tvshka Homma amphitheatre.

2023-2024 Little Miss Contestants

District 1 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Isabella McDaniel** of Idabel is the 11-year-old daughter of Lindsey Roberts. Isabella enjoys attending church with her Granny, playing with her best dog friend Claire, baking cakes and cookies with her big sister, playing basketball and softball. She loves watching OU softball and going skating with her friends.

District 2 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Kylei Colbert** of Battiest is the 11-year-old daughter of Jeremiah and Katherine Colbert. Kylei enjoys attending Choctaw class, playing basketball and stickball, drawing, fishing, swimming and spending time with her family.

District 3 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Addyson York** of Talihina is the 8-year-old daughter of Samantha York. Addyson enjoys reading, riding her bike and playing with her brother Noah.

District 4 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Tinley Reece** of Poteau is the 12-year-old daughter of Brandon and Patti Reece. Tinley enjoys learning about her culture, basketball, cheer, learning Choctaw hymns, annoying her sister, learning to bead, going on long walks with her mom, cooking traditional Choctaw food, reading playing with cousins, going to her grandmother's house, and playing the piano.

District 5 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Raleigh Watts** of Kinta is the 10-year-old daughter of Kara Wright and Rodney Watts. Raleigh enjoys painting, drawing, cleaning, softball, playing with her dog Roxie, dressing up, math, riding razors and riding horses.

District 6 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Hatapushik Ramsey** of Wilburton is the 11-year-old daughter of Jimmy Battiest and Heather Ramsey. Hatapushik enjoys playing softball, basketball, stickball, football, chair volleyball with her church elders, sewing and fishing.

District 7 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Maliyah Trusty** of Wright City is the 8-year-old daughter of David and Sarah Trusty. Maliyah enjoys drawing, reading books, singing in the variety show at school, reading the Bible, playing with her friends, cousins and nieces, learning about her Choctaw culture, going to church, singing Choctaw hymns with her family, especially hearing her Sissy sing her favorite Choctaw Hymn #11.

District 8 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Acelee Ellis** of Hugo is the 11-year-old daughter of Jerren and Heather Ellis and the great-granddaughter of the late Barbara McKee. Acelee enjoys playing basketball, softball and cheerleading. She spends a lot of time practicing the piano, reading books, hanging out with the Fort Towson Baptist Youth Group.

District 9 Little Miss Choctaw Nation **Audrina Samuels** of Calera is the 12-year-old daughter of Jared and Kailyn Tom and Erica Samuels. Audrina enjoys playing sports and spending time with her family. She also likes engaging with my culture by social dancing and playing stickball. Her favorite past-time is baking cookies to share with her younger siblings.

District 10 Little Miss **Paisley Tenequer** of Atoka is the 8-year-old daughter of Chase Tenequer and Shyanne Laney. Paisley is a cheerleader for Atoka Cubs football team, plays summer league coach pitch for the Chikasaw Nation team Locksie, runs track, plays softball, loves to hangout with friends, going to the movies, playing arcade games at The District and playing on the iPad.

District 11 Little Miss **Sophia McFarland** of Hartshorne is the 12-year-old daughter of Daniel and Crysta McFarland. Sophia enjoys playing basketball, running track, making TikTok videos, volunteering at District 11 Community Center and singing at church.

2023-2024 Junior Miss Contestants

District 1 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Kristin Jefferson** of Idabel is the 13-year-old daughter of Paul and Whitney Jefferson. Kristin enjoys participating in the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageants, playing softball and basketball, spending time with family and friends, and playing with her two dogs, Buddy and Zeus.

District 2 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Brooklyn Frazier** of Broken Bow is the 15-year-old daughter of Micah and Andrea Frazier. Brooklyn spends a lot of time at school for meetings, practices or working concession stands. She enjoys being a member of the Student Council that has prepared meals for the tornado victims in Battiest. She loves spending time at her grandma's house with her family, going shopping and going out to eat. Her favorite Choctaw food is banaha, tanchi labona and her grandma's chicken and rice. Her favorite drink is Dr. Pepper.

District 3 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Miss **Emma Battiest** of Talihina is the 15-year-old daughter of Jimmy and Tracy Battiest and Heather Ramsey. Emma enjoys playing the flute, drawing, painting, playing stickball, reading and teaching her sisters the Choctaw language. Emma loves participating in her Choctaw language class and YAB (Youth Advisory Board).

District 4 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Micah Davidson** of Poteau is the 16-year-old daughter of Michael and Jennifer Davidson. Micah is a member of Faith Community Church of the Nazarene Youth Group, member of the Howe Lady Lion softball team, Howe varsity cheerleading squad, proud member of Ynnvsh Homma Stickball Senior Division team and dance troupe. When not playing sports, Micah enjoys hanging out with friends, family and her best friend, her dog, Dorothy.

District 6 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Bella Muncy** of Red Oak is the 15-year-old daughter of Megan Muncy. Bella enjoys writing, reading, gardening, agronomy, singing, public speaking, livestock showing and FFA.

District 7 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Akeiley Willis** of Wright City is the 15-year-old daughter of Kerry Willis and the late Christina Willis. Akeiley enjoys playing basketball, softball, painting, drawing, Choctaw social dancing, making stickballs, drumming the Choctaw drum. She attends Chihowa-I-Chukka Church, she's a member of Choctaw Nation YAB and her school's WISDOM Club. Akeiley attends many Choctaw Nation summer camps. Her passion is art and Choctaw stickball. She has played with Hiloha Osi stickball team for seven years.

District 8 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Samantha Scott** of Fort Towson is the 17-year-old daughter of Donald and Kathryn Scott. Samantha spends a lot of time reading and enjoys trying new things. She is an active cheerleader, member of 4-H, and in E-Sports. She is currently learning to draw.

District 9 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Kassidy Lee** of Calera is the 14-year-old daughter of Tim and Larissa Lee. Kassidy enjoys playing in the band, choir, church activities, staying outdoors, swimming, camping, and hiking.

District 11 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Jordyn Washington** of McAlester is the 14-year-old daughter of Jacqueline Taylor. Jordyn enjoys playing sports, watching movies, and spending time with friends and family.

District 12 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation **Alyssa Cole** of Coalgate is the 13-year-old daughter of Brandon Cole and Maribel Rosas. Alyssa enjoys spending time with her family and watching her brother and cousin play stickball games.

2023-2024 Senior Miss Contestants

District 1 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Leandra LeForce** of Idabel is the 20-year-old daughter of Jeff and Donette LeForce. Leandra has a deep passion for learning new things, which leads her to engage with video essays discussing offbeat and quirky subjects. She finds immense joy in cooking, creating crafts and practicing yoga. As a proud member of the Choctaw Nation, she dedicates time to learning about and embracing her heritage. Sharing priceless moments with her sorority sisters brings her great happiness as they support and uplift each other. Additionally, she treasures the moments she spend talking with her mom on the phone; she is not only her best friend, but also her biggest blessing and their conversations are endless sources of love, support and inspiration.

District 2 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Zaleigh Grace Tisho** of Broken Bow is the 17-year-old daughter of Robbie and Tracy Tisho. Grace enjoys learning more about the Choctaw culture and traditions, shopping, watching TikTok videos and just hanging out with her family.

LITTLE MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Isabella McDaniel



Kylei Colbert



Addyson York



Tenley Reece



Raleigh Watts



Hatapushik Ramsey



Maliyah Trusty



Acelee Ellis



Audrina Samuels



Paisley Tenequer

LITTLE MISS

JUNIOR MISS CHOCTAW NATION CONTESTANTS



Sophia McFarland



Kristin Jefferson



Brooklyn Frazier



Emma Battiest



Micha Davidson

JUNIOR MISS



Bella Muncy



Akeiley Willis



Samantha Scott



Kassidy Lee



JUNIOR MISS

SENIOR MISS CONTESTANTS



Alyssa Cole



Leandra LeForce



Zaeleigh Tisho



Diamond Henry



Riley Isabell

SENIOR MISS



Aliyah Myers



Kenzie Wilson



Jenessa Dugger



Karyn Maldonado

District 3 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Diamond Henry** of Watson is the 18-year-old daughter of Teresa Ann Watson. Diamond is active in choir, basketball, softball, FCCLA, Choctaw YAB Club. She enjoys working in the cafeteria and contributes to her church and local community center.

District 6 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Riley Isabell** of Wilburton is the 21-year-old niece of Sheri Isabell, granddaughter of Geraldine Isabell and Jimmy and Gayla Wingo, the daughter of J.D. and Kateland Wingo. Riley enjoys spending her free time with her friends and family. She volunteers at the District 6 Community Center, singing with the District 6 Choctaw singers, playing volleyball with the District 6 seniors, attending monthly council meetings, beading, wreath making and singing Choctaw hymns with her grandma.

District 7 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Aliyah Myers** of Finley is 21 years old. Aliyah is interested in the cultural enrichment of the youth. She spends her time teaching cultural crafts, playing and coaching stickball, beading, basket weaving, playing her flute and singing Choctaw hymns.

District 9 Senior Miss **Kenzie Wilson** of Durant is the 19-year-old granddaughter of Pam Wilson. Kenzie loves singing Choctaw Hymns, spending time with her family, friends and her older sister, playing cards, watching movies, church activities, relaxing, beading earrings and giving them to the elders at the community center, volunteering and listening to stories and funny jokes told by the elders at the community center.

District 11 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Jenessa Dugger** of Hartshorne is the 17-year-old daughter of Jerry and Michele Dugger. Jenessa enjoys staying involved with the Choctaw Nation, being active in 4-H, performing at the Liberty Theatre, spending time with friends and family, camping, shopping, and watching her favorite tv series.

District 12 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation **Karyn Maldonado** of Tupelo is the 19 year old daughter of Carlos and Tanya Maldonado. Karyn enjoys spending time with her family, babysitting her niece, reading, playing cards, basketball, and walking her dog.

STAY INFORMED WITH CHOCTAW NATION

To receive breaking news and important updates
TEXT HALITO TO 888777

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROMPTED TO REPLY TO THE WELCOME TEXT WITH THEIR ZIP CODE TO RECEIVE LOCAL ALERTS. MESSAGE AND DATA RATES MAY APPLY.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Faith, Family, Culture



Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation will enforce the law

Local, state, and federal laws apply to everyone, and Choctaw Nation tribal members are not exempt. The idea that our tribe turns a blind eye to laws being broken by tribal members is quite simply false.

Critics of tribal sovereignty are claiming the U.S. Supreme Court's McGirt ruling is a free ride for tribal members to break the law and ignore law enforcement efforts in local communities. That idea is ridiculous, and it could not be further from the truth.

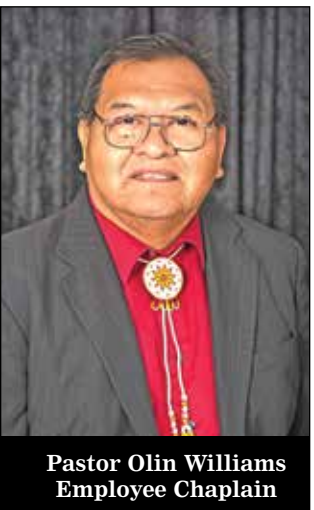
Tribal nations across Oklahoma have worked for many years with local law enforcement agencies and have spent countless dollars to bolster tribal courts to address the increased case load seen after the McGirt ruling. Since 2020, the Choctaw Nation has filed more than 3,500 felony and misdemeanor cases. These cases are processed in a court system which saw over 150 new hires, including two new judges, 47 new police and criminal investigators, seven new prosecutors, and a newly established public defenders' office.

The Choctaw Nation tribal courts hold tribal members accountable. The Nation has filed more than 2,200 traffic violation cases since 2020, with agreements in place that remit a portion of the fines paid back to the municipality where the ticket was issued and reimbursement for mileage and time spent testifying. In addition to increased funding and staffing, tribes have strengthened existing relationships and created new ones with various law enforcement agencies.

Cross-deputization agreements exist between state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers on the reservation to arrest or cite people who violate the law and refer those cases to the correct court systems, including tribal courts. The Choctaw Nation has 77 agreements with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Quarterly meetings are held with representatives from these agencies to discuss issues affecting local communities and strategies to address them. We appreciate the ongoing teamwork with our law enforcement partners.

Exercising jurisdiction over tribal members is instrumental to our tribal sovereignty. The 10th Circuit Court's recent decision in Hooper v. The City of Tulsa reaffirmed tribal governments have criminal jurisdiction over tribal members. The Choctaw Nation understands the importance of law and order in protecting tribal members and non-tribal members in the communities in our reservation.

I urge our partners in law enforcement, the courts, and our municipal leaders to reach out to our Prosecutor's Office at (580) 920-7037 if they have any questions regarding tribal jurisdiction.



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

Judgement

The room is furnished with old magazines, comfortable chairs, and scenic paintings of nature on the walls. The family sits and waits for the report from the surgeon. Moments later, the surgeon appears, still in a surgical gown and cap. The waiting is over as he begins to speak.

Without hesitation, he says, "Everything that can be done had been done. The body is riddled with cancer. It has to run its course. The rest is up to..."

Here he points his index finger upward and shrugs.

The whole room was filled with the darkness of thoughts.

Each soul reached out to eternity for hope in despair. There is quietness except for the humming

of the air conditioning system and the muffled sobs. Amidst all the questions of the mind, a scripture appears.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement." There are two judgements.

The Great white throne judgment and the judgement seat of Christ.

The Great White Throne judgement is the final judgement before the unsaved souls are cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-12, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

The other judgement is the Judgement Seat of Christ. It is also known as the Bema Seat Judgement.

2 Corinthians 5: 10 states, "For we must all appear before the judge seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

This is where the Christians appear before God and give an account of life as a believer. The Bible is clear about all will give account after death. This is a morbid doctrine that people try not to think about it, but it is a factual teaching of the Word of God.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Respect, love and wellness for our Choctaw Veterans

As a sign of respect, most of us will say, "Thank you for your service!" if we are in the company of a military veteran or active-duty soldier. It is a small way, as an American, to thank those who protect this country and fight for our freedoms.

What happens when these veterans come home from their duties and the war memories are too much? The post-traumatic stress disorder they suffer from takes hold and they need extra care, apart from what the Veterans Administration Hospitals can provide, to help former soldiers come to terms with their time in uniform.

The Choctaw Nation is aware of the plight of our veterans, needing extra care when coming home from military duty and reintegrating into normal life. We have come up with

a veteran's help program called Warrior Wellness to try and help combat some of the issues facing veterans.

Warrior Wellness's mission is to reduce Native American veteran suicide. The veteran help mission is to connect veterans to each other, the program, nature, and resources to help. They work closely with the Veterans Advocacy Department at Choctaw Nation headquarters but focus mostly on the veteran's well-being.

Choctaw Nation will be hosting its first Warrior Wellness retreat that will bring together veterans' families to experience nature and activities as a group. The retreat will feature activities that are geared directly towards the veterans, but they also offer fun cultural activities for children as well.

This first year for Warrior Wellness, we will have a presentation from Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, who will offer help to anyone that's experienced or could experience combat. Lt. Col. Grossman's talk will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 12 at the Tvshka Homma Cafeteria (163854 N. 4355 Road, Tuskahoma, OK). There will also be a reveal of the Veterans Hands art installation by Cece. A set of photos were taken in McAlester, and another group was taken in Durant of veterans holding items that are important to them. I had the honor of having my photo taken in McAlester last month, and it will be included in the display.

The Warrior Wellness Retreat will be held from Aug. 11 to Aug. 13 at the Tvshka Homma Tribal Grounds (163854 N. 4355 Road, Tuskahoma, OK). Activities with fellow service members and families at this overnight retreat will include hiking, fishing tours, smores, beading, and natural chronic pain relief strategies.

The National Library of Medicine recently conducted a poll of Native American and Native Alaskan veterans and discovered that age-adjusted suicide rates among Native veterans more than doubled over the 15-year observation period (2002-2017). In the most recent observation period (2014-2018), the age-adjusted suicide rate was 47.0 per 100,000 person-years, with the youngest age group (18-39) exhibiting the highest suicide rate, 66.0 per 100,000 person-years.

The conclusion of the poll found that suicide is an increasing problem among native veterans, and younger native veterans are at particularly high risk and warrant focused prevention efforts. The National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide emphasizes the importance of developing programs to reach all veterans, including selective populations at increased risk.

This year's Warrior Wellness Retreat spots are filling up fast, but once you reach out for information, you will be provided dates and activities for upcoming events. For more information about Choctaw Nation's Warrior Wellness program and to secure your spot, email our staff at warriorwellness@cnhsa.com. We hope to see you soon at the Warrior Wellness retreat.

If you can't find the time to come to the retreat, please get help if you have suicidal thoughts. There is help available if you reach out for it by visiting https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp.

Yakoke and God Bless!

Jake Trujillo, Firefighter

When the unimaginable happens, we look to our first responders to be there with kindness, compassion and practiced hands.

Too often, we meet them on the worst days of our lives, but in those terrible moments, they offer help and hope.

As far back as he can remember, Jake Trujillo wanted to be one of those people. More specifically, he wanted to be a police officer because he believed he could do the most good in the law enforcement field. But life has a funny way of showing us our destinies.

While he was a student at the police academy in Colorado, Jake was introduced to the exciting world of wildland firefighting. As a member of a special response unit, he found himself hiking through the Rocky Mountains to perform river rescues and fight wildfires. It was through this work that Jake found his true calling: firefighting.

But no wildfire could compare to the challenges Jake would soon face in his personal life. Divorce put him in the unfamiliar position of being a single father raising two young children. "It redirected my life into survival mode," he recalls. Fighting wildfires is dangerous and often requires unconventional working hours, so Jake realized his priorities had to change. He had to become a full-time dad, and that meant finding a job that allowed him to do that.

He packed up his family and moved to Oklahoma, where he began working for the Choctaw Nation in August of 2012. At the Choctaw Casino & Resort-Durant, Jake did a little bit of everything. He worked security for a little while, and he worked as a uniform manager, where he helped put the current uniform system in place. He was also part of the team that created The District, the resort's family entertainment center, and he stayed on as manager for several years.

During his time away from firefighting, Jake felt pulled in opposite directions. He was prioritizing his family by working a "normal" nine-to-five job, but he missed the excitement of firefighting and the feeling he got by serving his community.

"You've got those people who like to go running and those people who like to go hiking, and I thrive on that feeling and that experience to get back to firefighting," Jake said.

When Jake and his kids had been in Oklahoma for about five years, a neighbor approached him about joining the Calera Volunteer Fire Department. With his family established in the area and his children a little older, it seemed like a good time to return to the service he loved so much.

The Calera Volunteer Fire Department was a perfect fit for Jake. He brought his knowledge of fighting wildfires and performing rescues to the team, and they helped him learn how to fight structural fires and attend to victims of car accidents. This, and a lifetime love for learning, led Jake to seek certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Learning new things and keeping up with current trends in the industry are particularly important to Jake.

"Everything that we do evolves, especially in today's age with technology and what we can do versus what we could do twenty years ago," he said. This is particularly true with car accidents involving electric and hybrid



Choctaw Nation Photo

As a volunteer firefighter and Emergency Management Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation, Jake Trujillo has had the opportunity to give back to his community.

vehicles. The wiring and lithium batteries used in modern electric cars has required firefighters to rethink the way they perform rescues and put out vehicular fires.

"We have to learn how to overcome or adapt or learn those processes so we can protect ourselves while we're trying to help somebody else," said Jake. "You have to learn or technology will pass you right by, and you'll end up someday not knowing how to do anything. You have to continue to educate yourself."

Above all else, though, Jake believes in the importance of giving back and serving the community.

"As an emergency manager, I'm only there when bad things happen," said Jake. But the good he does for others in those moments makes it worthwhile. "It's a feeling of accomplishment. I was there in somebody else's worst moment, and I was able to bring them just a little bit of peace and joy. Things will get better. You're going to make it; you're going to survive, and I'm going to be there to help you get there."

One motto Jake lives by is, "Not all heroes wear capes." That sentiment is something he is passing on to his own children, along with teaching them how to be givers in their community. The kids help out with special events and chores at the fire station.

Jake remembers taking his son to a grass fire, where the young boy watched from the truck as his father worked with a team to put out the flames. When the fire was extinguished, and he returned to the truck, he told his wide-eyed son, "Heroes are just regular people like you and me. They aren't afraid to put themselves in a situation in order to help somebody else, and you are capable of doing this. Never think that you are weak or you're afraid or that you can't do something because anybody can do it, even your dad, and he's an old guy!"

Eventually, Jake came to work for the Choctaw Nation's Office of Emergency Management, where he has been since July of 2022.

"It is the most personally rewarding field you can get yourself into, but take it as personally rewarding and give it back out," Jake said. "If it's a field you are seriously thinking about getting into, know that it comes with pain, it comes with tears, but at the end of the day when you look at what you've been able to do and accomplish, it feels good. It's not for the faint of heart."

Fighting fires is only one of so many ways to help make the world better, and Jake wants to encourage everyone to volunteer and give back to their communities in any way they can.

UPDATE REQUIRED FOR THOSE WITH SOONERCARE COVERAGE



The Oklahoma Healthcare Authority is now requiring all SoonerCare recipients to update their information to continue coverage. Contact a Patient Benefit Coordinator at your local Choctaw Nation Health Clinic to update your information and avoid termination or lapse in coverage.



Choctaw Nation Health Services



Jennifer Woods

District 6

Halito from District 6, “The Heart of the Nation.” Summer has flown by and now it’s back to school time. Our JOM School Supply Giveaway will be held on August 7 at the Community Center.

Applications are now being accepted on the Chahta Achvffa Portal for the Student Activity Fund, which provides \$100 for clothes and school supplies. Please be sure and attend the JOM event and apply for these student funds so you can get your students their school supplies for a successful start to their new year.

Eastern Oklahoma State College’s Camp Chahta’ program will be held on August 17. We look forward to seeing the students at the Community Center, and our seniors will be making Indian tacos for them as part of their cultural activities. This camp is a great way for students to

connect with other Choctaw students and get to know the freshmen college counselors. We wish all our students and teacher a successful year.

On August 3, we will have tribal prosecutor Kara Bacon at our center at 2:00 p.m. Kara will be bringing information regarding the recent court rulings of Hooper vs. City of Tulsa and how they affect tribal citizens in Oklahoma. Law enforcement and community leaders are welcome. We encourage you to come and hear the truth about this issue.

In June, we held our Princess Pageant. We have a new Junior Miss Princess, Isabella Muncy. She will join Senior Miss Riley Isabell and Little Miss Hatapushik Ramsey, who retained their crowns for another year. We are confident these three young ladies will do an outstanding job representing District 6. Come support our princesses and watch all the princesses during the Princess Pageant during our Labor Day Festival.

Our seniors enjoyed the Elder Appreciation Day event that was held in Durant on May 10. We want to congratulate the District 6 Choctaw seniors who won first place in the singing contest. We are very proud of them all for their outstanding performance. We have other programs and activities in place for our seniors to enjoy, such as our trips, cultural activities and beading classes. The CHRs are preparing for Fall Fest, which will be held on September 13 at the McAlester Expo Center. Be sure to put that date on your calendar and join us. We also want to remind our seniors and disabled about the available lawn care service. Applications can be picked up at the Community Center. Also, the Food Security program that provides \$200 a month to our seniors over 55 is still taking applications. Please contact the staff at the Center if you need help applying; they will be happy to help you.

At our Chahtapreneur Awards Banquet that was held in June in Durant, a District 6 business, “Hey There, Honey,” was awarded as the 2023 District 6 Chahtapreneur of the Year. We are very excited for business owners Melissa Juarez and her two daughters, Kaley Woten and Marra Davis and wish them much success in the future with their business.

Summer camps for our young people were a great success. Many of our youth participated in sports camps as well as culture and wildlife camps. The kids came away from the camps with new knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for our culture and upcoming year of sports activities. Another youth program and camp that is coming up in the near future is Wakaya: Rising Up For Health. Wakaya is a partnership study between the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI) at the University of Washington and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to examine how cultural outdoor activities best improve health for Choctaw youth living within the districts. Wakaya will help youth learn about the land and health, Choctaw games and activities, Fitbit tracking of physical activity, healthy, traditional food and plants and living a healthy life as a Choctaw. Participants must be in high school between the ages of 14-19 and an enrolled Choctaw tribal member living within the CNO tribal region. For more information, please call 833-265-4289 or email wakaya@uw.edu.

I had the privilege of meeting Richard Herndon while visiting with another Choctaw veteran, Darren Overbey at his business, Empty Pockets Sewing Machine Repair in Buffalo Valley. Both Richard and Darren are proud tribal members. I enjoyed visiting with both of these men. If there are any veterans in District 6 who have not given us their service information, please do so as soon as possible so that you will be included in our veteran activities and receiving of gifts. We want to be sure that all our veterans are recognized for their service to our Nation. We also want to add a picture of our District 6 veterans to our wall, so please contact us for details. We will be scheduling another Tvshka Coffee Club at our center soon, where veterans can come and have a cup of coffee and enjoy good conversation.

We will have ten new Affordable Rental homes ready for their tenants in Wilburton this fall, and five new LEAP homes are to be built in Red Oak in the spring of 2024. We are still taking applications, so please get your application in as soon as possible.

Our Job For The Day program as well as Summer Youth and Employment Training Services, has been working hard to put people to work. Be sure and contact these programs if you are looking for employment. We are also looking forward to new jobs coming in through the call center that we will be located in our new community center. We are making a lot of progress on remodeling our building and hope to give everyone a date for our grand opening real soon. We have a lot of talented Choctaws, and we enjoy seeing those talents being shared with others. If you are or know of a District 6 Choctaw artist, please contact Mary Williams at 580-924-8280 as we are working on or Choctaw Artist Registry and artwork for our building.

In May, we held our quarterly check presentation for the City of Wilburton and Latimer County. So far in 2023, we have given a total of \$66,200, having presented to the County for \$14,600 and to the City for \$18,500, a total of \$33,100 per quarter. Our community children are also enjoying the new splash pad built by the contributions of local businesses and clubs as well as from the Choctaw Nation Economic Development program. The Choctaw Nation is proud to serve not just District 6 but the whole reservation, giving money quarterly to our communities. We have grown over all the Reservation and are moving forward, serving our people and putting programs and dollars in place.

Labor Day Festival is right around the corner. The seniors will have their food concession trailer set up and ready to serve you their amazing Indian Tacos. Be sure to drop by and support our District 6 seniors. My heart is full of gratitude and thankfulness to God and District 6. It is my privilege to represent and serve our tribal members. My door is always open, and I enjoy visiting with you. See you all at Labor Day 2023!

Chi Pisa La Chike! (I will see you later)



Councilmember Jennifer Woods poses for a picture with Choctaw veteran Richard Herndon. The pair ran into each other at fellow Choctaw veteran Darren Overbey’s business, Empty Pockets Sewing Machine Repair, in Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma.

Four doctors graduate from CNO’s Residency Program

DURANT, Okla. (July 11, 2023) – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma celebrates four graduates from the Family Medicine Residency Program this summer.

Doctors Robert Bowman, Ethan Linscott, Saranah Linscott, and Rashad Riazuddin finish their three-year residency with Choctaw Nation and are moving all over the United States.

“Witnessing the graduates’ growth and transformation throughout their residency journey has been truly inspiring,” says Dr. Ashton Clayborn, Residency Program Director. “It is with great pride that the faculty sends them off into the world as competent and compassionate physicians, ready to make a positive impact in the lives of their patients and the healthcare community as a whole.”

Robert Bowman, D.O., comes from Ozark, Arkansas. He graduated in 2014 from Arkansas Tech University with his Bachelor of Biochemistry. He completed his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Ark. Having completed his residency requirements, he will be moving back to the Arkansas area to work for Mercy Health System’s Emergency Department at the Critical Access Hospitals.

Ethan Linscott, D.O., grew up in Atoka, Okla. In 2013, he graduated with his Bachelor of Science in physics from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. He graduated in 2020 with his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. Dr. Linscott and his wife are headed to Maine to work as locum tenens.

Saranah Linscott, D.O., grew up in Norman, Okla. She graduated in 2016

from Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. with a degree in cellular/molecular biology. She continued her education at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine where she graduated in 2020. She will be headed to Maine with her husband, Dr. Ethan Linscott.

Dr. Rashad Mohamed Riazuddin is from Hyderabad, India. He earned his M.D. from Al-Ameen Medical College, a part of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Bengaluru, India in 2013. He will be joining Baylor Scott & White at their clinic in Dallas, Texas.

The residents completed the program on June 30, 2023, and are eligible for board certification in family medicine. They gathered with family and friends for a graduation ceremony recently to celebrate.

Clayborn remarked, “These graduating seniors demonstrated resiliency beyond any other graduating class from our program. Beginning their training during the crescendo of the COVID-19 pandemic and navigated through many changes in the program, medical training, and the world as a whole in its approach to healthcare.”

Members of the graduating class traveled to the state and national capitols to advocate for their patients and representing Choctaw Nation while striving to facilitate better outcomes for the tribal population and rural Oklahoma.

The ceremony included recognition for the faculty that give their time to teach the residents throughout their three years of the program.

This year’s Faculty Member of the Year is Greg Claiborn, D.O. He was unable to attend the ceremony, but Dr. Dee Baughman accepted the award on his behalf saying, “Dr. Claiborn is a humble man and will be truly honored to accept the award.”



Robert Bowman, D.O.



Ethan Linscott, D.O.



Saranah Linscott, D.O.



Rashad Mohamed Riazuddin, M.D.

VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE

The Vocational Development Program can offer financial assistance and incentive for education/training programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 866.933.2260

Choctaw Nation Vocational Development CHOCTAWNATION.COM

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma CHOCTAWNATION.COM

WHEELOCK ACADEMY

HISTORIC SITE

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED IF SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY ATTENDED WHEELOCK ACADEMY?

To find out, simply complete our lineage intake form. Scan the QR code to access the Wheelock Lineage Intake Form.

1377 WHEELOCK ROAD, GARVIN, OK | 580.746.2139
MUSEUM HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(GROUNDS CLOSE AT 5:00 PM)

Choctaw Nation Wheelock Academy

CAROLE AYERS EXHIBIT

APRIL 11 - OCTOBER 14

KEEPING OUR HERITAGE:
CHOCTAW PEOPLE, LIFE, AND ANIMAL KINSHIP

CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER



HONOR GUARD

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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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

Biskinik

Announcement Guidelines

We accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 and above.

Couples may send announcements of silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries. We do not post wedding announcements.

News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows.

We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer's full name and city will be published.

All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.

Mail to: Biskinik

P.O. Box 1210

Durant, OK 74702

or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the

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

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK or your address needs to be changed, our Circulation Department would appreciate hearing from you at ext. 4028.

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

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

NOTES

FALL CRAFT, FOOD & GIFT BAZAAR

Friday, August 25 - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 26 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 2608 West Kenosha Street, #120 Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012.

We have 75 Oklahoma "mom & pop" vendors, Oklahoma non-profit organizations, Oklahoma Food Trucks and small Oklahoma businesses in our 2-day FALL CRAFT, FOOD & GIFT BAZAAR:

Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26.

This AIR CONDITIONED, INDOOR AUGUST show at the Central Park Community Center, 1500 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012 has NO ENTRANCE FEE, lots of FREE parking and FREE Face Painting for the Kids. Tables and chairs will be available in the Community Center for visitors who want to sit down.

Food Vendors sell: Bundt cakes, decorated sugar cookies, gluten-free desserts, fudge, etc.

Craft Vendors sell: birdhouses, Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls, baby quilts, jewelry, soap, etc.

Gift Vendors sell: Scentsy, children's books, collectible Santa's, kitchen towels, vintage patches, etc.

These are just a few things you will see at the show, it might be a good time to shop for the Holidays. If you want more information please feel free to contact me. Gretchen, organizer (918) 964 9191, gnternational2603@gmail.com.

Cake and Pie Auction

Sponsored by the Goodland Cemetery Association October 7, 2023 - 6:00 at the Kiamichi Area Vo-Tech, 107 South 15th, Hugo, Oklahma. The fundraiser is for the upkeep of the Goodland Cemetery. If you have family or friends buried at the cemetery or if you would like to support the cemetery, please join us at the auction.

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

July 7, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER/ FLAG SALUTE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Regular Session June 10, 2023
5. WELCOME GUESTS/SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
 - a. Veteran of the Month, District #10 – Donald McBrayer b) First Choctaw Language Speaker, District #10 – Delores Kay Jacob
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None
7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Approve the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 Indian Housing Plan for FY2024
 - b. Approve Application for FY2024 Community Services Block Grant Funding from the United States Department of Health & Human Services
 - c. Approve Application for Head Start Continuation Funds for FY 2023-2024
 - d. Approve Application for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program FY24 Funding from the United States Department of Health & Human Services
 - e. Amend the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Civil Procedure Code
 - f. Amend the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Children's Code
 - g. Approve a Pipeline Easement in Favor of Explorer Pipeline Company on Land Held by the USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Love County, Oklahoma
 - h. Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Vehicles
 - i. Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Equipment
 - j. Resolution Supporting the Nomination of Kara Bacon to Serve on the United States Sentencing Commission Tribal Issues Advisory Group
9. OTHER NEW BUSINESS
10. OLD BUSINESS
11. ADJOURNMENT
12. CLOSING PRAYER

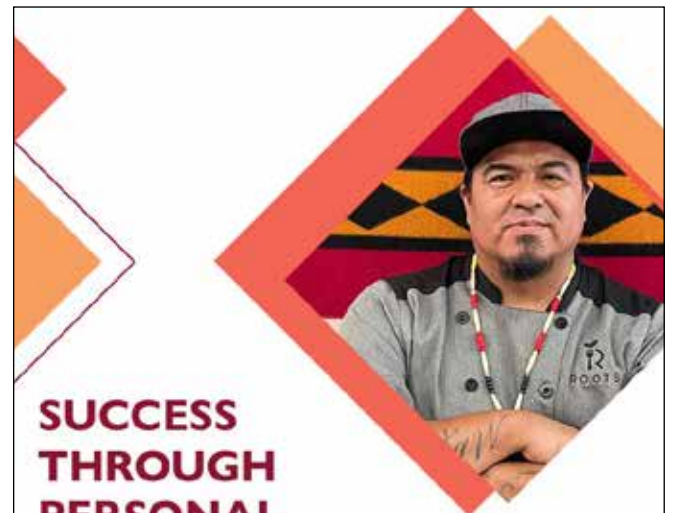
All council bills passed unanimously

Chahta Anumpa Aikkhvna - July Language Lesson

Hohchvffo - Hungry

hohchvffo v. to starve, to be hungry	
Chi hohchvffo hq?	Are you hungry?
Ofi mvt hohchvffo.	That dog is starving.
hohchaffoh – nasal form; to be in a state of hunger	
Sv hohchaffo hosh vla li tuk.	I came hungry.
Chi hohchaffo moma hq?	Are you still hungry?
hohchvffo fehna a. very hungry	
Wak vlhehvt hohchvffo fehna.	The cows are very hungry.
Hohchvffo fehna hosh okla aiyvla tuk.	They arrived very hungry.
hohchvffochi v. to make him/her/it hungry	
Chishke yvt chi hohchvffochi tuk o?	Did your mother starve you?
Okla tushpvt ik hopono na pi hohchvffochi tuk.	They didn't hurry and cook and made us starve.
hohchvffo chito – famine; starvation	
Yakni inla yvt hohchvffo chito okla pihisa.	Other countries are facing famine.
Hopak chash hohchvffo chito okla hlopulli tuk	A long time ago they went through a famine.

www.choctawschool.com



SUCCESS THROUGH PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

Our mission is to assist Choctaw tribal members who have felony offenses in becoming productive citizens.

The program's purpose is to assist in removing barriers preventing our members from reintegrating into the communities in which they live.

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- Treatment planning
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- Mental health consultation and referral
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Please contact our office for prescreening to determine eligibility for services.

For more information, call 800.522.6170 or 580.642.8538

email us at Reintegration@choctawnation.com, or visit our [website at choctawnation.com/services/reintegration/](http://website.choctawnation.com/services/reintegration/)

P.O. Box 1210 | 1802 Chukka Hina Durant, OK 74701

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

2023 CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL TENT SCRAMBLE

Beginning Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 10:00 am the gates at Tvsika Homma Capitol Grounds will open for in person tent campsite marking to begin

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



CHOCTAW VETERAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Are You a Choctaw Veteran?

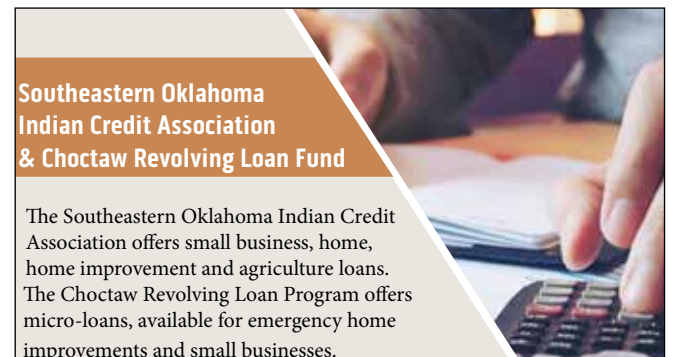
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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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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:

Wilburton Community Center
August 25, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.



ITI FABVSSA

Architectural History of the Choctaw Nation Headquarters, 1975-Present

In May and June, Iti Fabvssa looked at the architectural history of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's early capitol buildings at Nvnihi Waiya, Armstrong Academy, and the Tvshka Homma Capitol. This month, we would like to continue this journey and look at the former Oklahoma Presbyterian College, known today as the Old Tribal Complex.

By 1975, much of the Choctaw Nation offices and services moved out of Tuska-homa. At that time, the Choctaw Nation had 74 employees and the Chief's office had moved to the Montgomery Building in Durant. The passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 enabled the Choctaw Nation to take over additional duties from the Federal Government. This led to a need for more space, the Tribal government then moved to the Oklahoma Presbyterian College, 601 N. 16th Street in Durant.



Noftsgger & Lawrence, AIA Architects, Oklahoma City, Alteration and Reconstruction architectural drawings, 4 June 1941.

Originally, the building opened in 1910 as the Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls at a cost of \$100,000 and it operated until 1966.

In 1975, it reopened and served as a daycare, welfare service offices, and the Three Valley Museum. Choctaw Nation joined the tenants that same year. Tribal offices, including Finance, Membership, and Bishinik Newspaper, continued to expand and the spaces were renovated.

In 1978, an open house was held, marking "the first time since statehood that facilities have been available to place all departments of the Choctaw Nation under one roof."

From the 1980's to the present the College has been modified to fit the needs of the growing tribal government. Over the years the old College went through several renovations to create more offices and public spaces.

In personal communication with Judy Allen and Jim Salle, we learned the following changes were made to the building.

Prior to the 80s, the two swimming pools were filled-in to make room for more space in the basement. After the Three Valley Museum moved out of the building, the basement was renovated into offices for Tribal programs.

In 1998 an addition between the North and South buildings, was built to house Finance and other programs. In the rear of the building (west side) the old kitchens were converted into a Head Start and Daycare until they moved, and the space was converted into offices that housed the Bishinik, Marketing and Communications programs.

The carport above and behind the old Oklahoma Presbyterian College kitchen was enclosed and converted into the mail room; it was connected to the old kitchens by a long, inclined concrete ramp.

In the early 2000s the second addition was added to the rear of the building, just south of the old kitchens, to provide office space for CDIB and Membership program.

The old Durant Community Center was built just west of the headquarters. It was converted to house the expanding HeadStart and Daycare and later was modified into the employee cafeteria with offices for Public Safety and other services.

The auditorium in the south part of the original building was converted into conference rooms by removing the stage and leveling the floor.

The structure is a two-story brick building on a tall, raised foundation designed in a simplified Collegiate Gothic style as well as elements of the Classical Revival style. Features of the Collegic Gothic style are apparent in its tall mass, red brick with contrasting white trim, column caps, panels, and other ornaments, its flat-arch window crowns, and projecting central entrance section.

A good portion of the building's architectural style – including the crenelated corner parapets – was lost in 1941 when the roof burned. Noftsgger & Lawrence, AIA Architects, from Oklahoma City drew the plans for Alteration and Reconstruction for the college. While the third floor was not reconstructed, the building retains much of its historical exterior appearance.

In 2021, the building was re-designated the Gregory E. Pyle Tribal Complex and in May 2022, the dedication ceremony was held.

By 2015, Choctaw Nation leased approximately 30 different Durant properties in addition to completely filling the Oklahoma Presbyterian College building. Outgrowing the former college building and additions, Choctaw Nation again began planning



Photo of the "new" Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Headquarters in Durant, Oklahoma from Frankfurt Short Bruza Architects + Engineer's website, <https://fsb-ae.com/project/choctaw-nation-headquarters-building/>

a new headquarters near the Durant Choctaw Casino and Resort.

Choctaw gaming was a very large source of employment, income, and financial leverage. The first bingo hall was constructed in 1982 and gaming facilities and other commercial endeavors sprung up across Choctaw Nation.

Tribal Council hired FSB architects and engineers of Oklahoma City in 2014 to design the current building at 1802 Chukka Hina Drive. FSB's Native American Market Principal and Architect Jason Holuby transformed the Council's needs and ideas into a highly functional design with beautiful Choctaw detail and decoration.

The Nation moved into the new building in 2018.

The five-story complex contains 488,000 square feet with a central courtyard, and enclosed corridor leading north to the Roots Café, Conference Center, and two-story parking structure.

The modular office design currently accommodates 1,330 employees with room for expansion.

The exterior features hundreds of windows, red brick, and bands of light stone diamond-shape accent.

Two office wings project at an angle from the central curved entrance. The main driveway to the front of the buildings includes three statues of the Iti Fabvssa showing the continuation of our journey.

Inside, visitors find a two-story rotunda, Choctaw Nation Seal ceiling medallion. The first and second floors are dedicated to meet the needs of our tribal members at one location. Access includes Chief and Assistant Chief office and to tribal member programs and services.

Designs and artwork throughout the building pay tribute to Choctaw tradition, culture, and history.

Additionally, the basement contains a storm shelter for staff and visitors. Manhattan Construction Group of Tulsa was the contractor, Barker Engineering was the civil engineer, Howard-Fairbairn Site Design Inc. was the landscape designer, Hesman Group of Tulsa designed Roots Café, and the cost for the building was approximately \$200 million.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place in 2016.

Upon completion in 2018, The Oklahoman reported, "The headquarters is more than a workplace, though, it's a showcase of tribal history, culture, art — and people, past and present. Large photos of everyday Choctaw people are incorporated into the design, as well historic images."

Sprinkled into these previous Iti Fabvssa articles are the architectural histories and brief descriptions of each of the Choctaw capitols and headquarters.

This history is gathered and archived at the Historic Preservation Department for Choctaw Nation as part of our staff's mission. Buildings that demonstrate historical significance and look original to their construction may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register was created by Congress in 1966 and continues today along with its sister the National Historic Landmark program. Tens of thousands of buildings and archeological sites across the United States are listed in the National Register, while the National Historic Landmark program tallies approximately 2,500 properties.

In order for a property to be listed, the owner nominates it in a format similar to a high school term paper.

The Historic Preservation Department staff assists with research ideas, edits, a building description, maps, and photographs for National Register nominations, both for properties owned by Choctaw Nation and when private owners request assistance with a nomination. Ideally, the owner will present the nomination to the professional Review Board for consideration.

The final listing decision is made by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, DC. The Historic Preservation Department is happy to report that the Oklahoma Presbyterian College was listed in 1976, and the National Register nomination was used in writing this article.

For additional information about the National Register, what properties may qualify, and the implications of listing, please contact the Choctaw Historic Preservation Department Architectural Historian Rolene Schliesman 580-642-2024.

WILDLIFE & OUTDOORS

By Matt Gamble

Hunting and fishing traditions run deep within the Choctaw Nation. Keeping this tradition alive is something that is near and dear to me. I grew up in an outdoors family and always had people around that were willing to let me tag along and teach me about fishing and hunting. My Uncle Derrel would always invite me along when he went pond hopping after a long day of baling hay. Now that I have two boys of my own, I have made exposing them to the outdoors and all that it has to offer very important.

Here are some of the things that I've learned that'll hopefully help you get your youngsters involved.

1. Bring plenty of snacks. This is huge. Kids love snacks and it can be a great distraction as well. I have bought myself many an hour in a deer blind or in the turkey woods with a PB&J sandwich. Kids are always hungry, so be prepared! If you think you have enough, double it.
2. Let them ask silly questions. Answer their questions even if they seem tedious. Ask them questions about what is going on around them. Explain things to them in a way they will understand. Tell them why you set the blind where you did. Point out things that will interest them. That turtle shell may not mean much to you, but to a kid, it's like finding gold.
3. Don't be too serious. I took my oldest son hunting with me at two years old. We went "turkey hunting." We sat out a decoy (in a spot I was pretty sure there were no turkeys). He used all my calls and was ready to go home in 15 minutes. So, we went home. He loved it. Eventually, those hunts got longer and longer and now he hunts longer than I prefer sometimes.
4. Make it fun. Kids aren't likely to seek an activity they had bad experiences with. If the game isn't moving or the fish aren't biting, let them play in that creek. Let them experiment with your game calls. Don't freak out if they make too much noise or move too much. It can test your patience but remember they're having the time of their life just being with mom or dad on such a big adventure.

You will never regret spending time and introducing your kids to the outdoors.

Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation

Housing Headlines

By Bobby Yandell

One of the most successful programs Housing now has is our voucher program for home rehabilitation. There are two types of vouchers, the Rehab Voucher and SHIP Voucher. These vouchers allow the homeowner the ability to have repairs made on their home themselves by utilizing a voucher provided by the Tribe.

The Homeowners Rehabilitation Services Rehab Voucher provides assistance to homeowners for home repairs and ADA accessibility items to single-family homes. Eligible repairs are based on a priority list provided through a home inspection conducted by the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation. Homeowners must meet eligibility requirements based on income, age, disability and family size. Voucher amounts are up to \$10,000.00 and up to \$15,000 for disabled persons (if ADA work is needed) or veterans. You can apply and qualify for three consecutive years up to \$30,000.00 in total assistance or \$45,000.00 for veterans/ADA repairs. The homeowner receiving the voucher is responsible for contacting contractors for bids and entering into a contract with the contractor for the completion of the work according to the priority list. Once the work is complete, the signed approved voucher is submitted for payment and work is confirmed through an inspection. This program is available within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation and does NOT require a lien to be filed on your property.

The Homeowners Rehabilitation Services SHIP Voucher provides assistance to participants that do not meet the requirements for the Rehab Voucher. This program assists tribal members who may have higher income, live in a family home or participants who are non-tribal homeowners but have custody of a tribal child. Participants must still meet eligible requirements based on income, age, disability, and family size. Voucher amounts are up to \$5,000.00, \$7,500.00, 10,000.00 or \$15,000.00 depending on the situation. You can apply and qualify for three consecutive years. The homeowner receiving the voucher is responsible for contacting contractors for bids and entering into a contract with the contractor for the completion of the work according to the priority list. Once the work is complete, the signed approved voucher is submitted for payment and work is confirmed through an inspection. This program is available within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation and does NOT require a lien to be filed on your property.

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

Choctaw Nation

Stay Connected

CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Housing Authority



Charlotte Rethelia Bowers

Charlotte Rethelia Bowers, 82, passed away April 29, 2023.

Charlotte was born April 2, 1941, in Idabel, Okla., to Sam and Opal (Denison) Montgomery.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Charlotte is survived by her husband Jerry Wayne Bowers; children and spouses Laura and Tim Taylor, and Mike and Denise Bowers; twin granddaughters Julia and Caroline Taylor; and brother and sister-in-law Jim and Wanda Montgomery.

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

**Margaret Ann Richardson**

Margaret Ann (Workman) Richardson, 91, passed away Feb. 17, 2023.

Margaret was born Sept. 21, 1931, in Tuskahoma, Okla., to John and Goldie Workman.

She was preceded in death by son Benny Fred; her parents; and brothers Bob Workman and PJ Workman.

Margaret is survived by son John and spouse Louann; grandsons PJ and Jacob; great-grandchildren Wren, Issic, and Syllas; sister Johnny Fite; many nieces and nephews; and many friends in both Virginia and Oklahoma.

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

Shauenray E. Cambron

Shauenray "Shauen" E. Cambron, 36, passed away June 4, 2023.

Shauen was born Sept. 29, 1986, in Kansas City, Kansas, to Pascual Herrera III and Mechelle Cambron.

He was preceded in death by his father; and brother Pascual Herrera IV.

Shauen is survived by his mother and Mark; children Kayden R. Cambron, Pascual Herrera V, and Mia-Lee M. Cambron; siblings Markie Harris and Brianna, Chasity Bullard and Andrew, and Amanda Cambron; nephews Troy-Angelo Vasquez, Antonio Bullard, and Emillio Bullard; along with many more nieces and nephews.

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

**David Stewart**

David "Davey" Stewart, 61, passed away April 24, 2023.

Davey was born in 1961, in Pueblo, CO.

He is survived by his mother Sally Ferguson; sons Jason Stewart and Becca, and Abram Stewart and Sixtine; stepson Laine Bradford; sister Tammy Stewart; grandchildren Caleb, April, Emmett, and Soren; along with countless other family members and friends.

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

**Cheryl Lynn Hurd**

Cheryl Lynn Hurd, 48, passed away Oct. 25, 2022.

Cheryl was born Sept. 21, 1974, in Phoenix, Ariz.

She is survived by her husband Andy; daughters Makenna (Tanner) and Kylie; sisters Ginger and Kristen; brothers Kirk and Seth; her parents Jim and Sandra; nieces and nephews; and grandson Jace.

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

**Mary Helen Burlison**

Mary Helen Burlison, 93, passed away June 22, 2023.

Mary was born Oct. 2, 1929, in Stigler, Okla., to Hubert and Bazada (Hancock) Martin.

She was preceded in death by husband Bob Burlison; her parents; granddaughter Rachel Sue Wily; and siblings Orvilla Martin, Ysleta Scantlen, Hubert "Choc" Martin Jr., and Preston "Bub" Martin.

Mary is survived by her children Bob Burlison Jr., Sue Ann Burlison, and Nancy K. Jones and spouse Kenneth; siblings William "Bill" Martin and Maude Hagan; grandchildren Jake Wily; Faith Ann Sharp and spouse Daniel, Brian Carter, and Christian Carter; and nine great-grandchildren.

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

**Ruby C. Stockton**

Ruby Charlene (Ferrante) Thompson-Stockton, 84, passed away April 14, 2023.

Ruby was born Sept. 18, 1938, in Lawton, Okla., to Charlie C. and Ruby (Edwards) Ferrante.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Troy Lee Thompson Sr.; brothers John, George, Mike, Don, and infant Robert; and sister Patsy Rushing.

Ruby is survived by her daughter Susan Marie Cozza and spouse Wayne; sons Troy Thompson Jr., Robert Thompson Jr., Robert Thompson, Charles Thompson, Lawrence Thompson and spouse Jodie Ann, and Craig Allen Thompson; grandchildren Lawrence Thompson Jr. and Alicia Marie Bleau; sister Narcissus Ann Gragg and spouse Michael; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

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

**Larry Joe Brownfield**

Larry Joe Brownfield, 70, passed away June 26, 2023.

Larry was born May 26, 1953, in Talihina, Okla., to Oscar and Betsy Jo (Nabors) Brownfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents; foster parents Arvey and Ollie Drinkard; his wife Mayola Kay Brownfield; son Joseph Todd Brownfield; and baby Brownfield.

Larry is survived by sons Jason Brownfield and spouse Elizabeth, and Nathan Brownfield; granddaughters Zandria, Charis, and Celia Brownfield; aunt Reita Campbell; and numerous extended family members.

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

**Wilma June Edwards**

Wilma June Edwards, 90, passed away June 25, 2023.

Wilma was born Oct. 18, 1932, in Broken Bow, Okla., to James and Ora McClure.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Monroe Edwards; daughters Betty (Steve) Stecher and Peggy (Clint) Smith; her parents; sister Susan (Jim) Fuller; and brothers-in-law Vernon Potter and Earl Campbell.

Wilma is survived by daughters Stella Dillenbeck and spouse Lloyd, and Ann Csergei and spouse Giuy; sisters Mary Ann Potter, and Fern Campbell; brother Steve McClure and spouse Valerie; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [O'Hair-Wards Funeral Home](#).

**Anita J. Barton**

Anita J. Barton, 87, passed away June 23, 2023.

Anita was born Sept. 9, 1935, in Rattan, Okla., to Teddy Lee and Etta Victoria (Dillard) Lane.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Glendale Barton; and great-grandson Jared Pierce.

Anita is survived by her sons Glen Barton, and Darren Barton and spouse Cari; daughter Carrie McClure and spouse Robert; grandchildren Angela Pierce, Serena Foster and spouse Jason, Glen Barton II, Lindsay Hall and spouse John, Robert McClure Jr., and spouse Nicoleta, and Mason McClure and spouse Kaci; and great-grandchildren Brooke Barton, Jensen Pierce, and Dallas McClure.

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

**Max Bryan Robinson**

Max Bryan "Turk" Robinson, 91, passed away July 5, 2023.

Turk was born Dec. 8, 1931, in Messer, Okla., to Dudley and Vannie Elizabeth (Fennel) Robinson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and son Roman Todd.

Turk is survived by his wife Verna; nieces and nephews Lisa Leslie and spouse Donald Jack, Billy Chappell, Buckley Chappell and spouse Tammie, Trina Harvey and spouse Charlie, Kobi McAdams and spouse Jay, Trey Chappell and spouse Brenda, Kay Weston and spouse Craig, Debbie Bills and spouse Les, Terri Jester and spouse Terry, Mark Hall and spouse Kim; 23 great-nieces and great-nephews; a host of cousins, bonus family and countless special friends.

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

**Sue Carline McCaslin**

Sue Carline McCaslin, 84, passed away June 28, 2023.

Sue was born Aug. 25, 1938, to Logan T. and Glossie C. Harris.

She was preceded in death by her husband Darrell E. McCaslin, her parents; brothers LT Harris, Richard A. Harris, and Glen E. Harris; and sister Joann Harris Burns.

Sue is survived by her children Leslie Toler and spouse Ret. Lt. Col. James Toler, Allen McCaslin and spouse Vicky, Hilary Dorsett and spouse David, and Courtney McCaslin; grandchildren Danielle, John, Caitlin, Kurtis, Kalie, Ryan, Ashley, and Logan; great-grandchildren Kayden, Konner, Kristian, and Colton; sisters Rose Ricketts and spouse Harold, and Wanda Carter; and brothers David Harris and spouse Linda, and Bill Harris.

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

**Jason Michael Reece**

Jason Michael Reece, 52, passed away June 21, 2023.

Jason was born Jan. 18, 1971, to Michael LeRoy Reece and Mary Ann (Barrows) Reece.

He was preceded in death by his mother; maternal great-grandparents Joseph and Mary (Jackson) Cricklin; maternal grandparents Annie (Cricklin) and James Barrows; aunt Michelene (Barrows) Pesantubbee; and paternal grandparent Leroy Reece.

Jason is survived by his son Sabian Reece; granddaughter Skylar Reece; sister Amy Reece-Lynn; aunts Carolyn Moses, Catherine Bolin (Darrell), Cheryl Hensley; Valerie Orcutt (Mike), and Lona Reece-Carmen; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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

**Clifford Lee Sanders**

Clifford Lee Sanders, 45, passed away May 19, 2023.

Clifford was born Jan. 23, 1978, in Talihina, Okla., to Henry Donald Sanders and Peggy Ann (Stevens) Sanders.

He was preceded in death by his father; and brother Michael Ray Stevens.

Clifford is survived by his sons Shea Donald Sanders and fiance Mali, and Aiden Braddock Sanders; his mother; brother Henry Sanders and spouse Sue; sisters Pamela Hayes and spouse Brad, Kathy Ballard and spouse Thomas, and Barbara Cameron and spouse David; nieces Catelyn, Josie, and Karlie; great-nieces Aubree and Zoelle; great-nephew Storm; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

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

**David Ray Nelson**

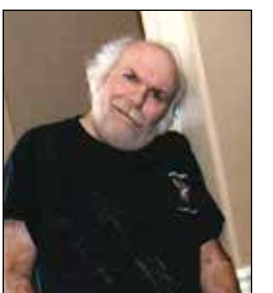
David Ray "Butch" Nelson, 67, passed away July 10, 2023.

Butch was born Aug. 27, 1955, in Carmi, IL., to Herold Elwood Nelson and Geraldine "Benny" (Robb) Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Butch is survived by his sisters Peggy Nelson, Jimmie Mallette and spouse Steve, and Susie Stewart and spouse Dale; nieces Jymme Moody and spouse Curtis, Laurissa Pesavento and spouse Jonathan, and Gracie Denney; nephews Tim Stewart, Doug Mallette, Camren Metcalf, Trent Denney, and Tyson Pesavento; aunts June Walker, JoAnn Beason, and Betty Nelson; and numerous cousins.

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

**Rosie Jane Lara**

Rosie Jana Lara, 81, passed away July 1, 2023.

Rosie was born Feb. 10, 1942, in Pickets, Okla., to Emaline Williams.

She was preceded in death by her mother; her children's father Charles Watson; husband Daniel Lara; daughter Carroll Watts; sister Louise Williams; and grandchildren William Watts and Ella Louise Arevalo.

Rosie is survived by son Charles Watson and spouse Jennifer; daughters Katharine Newman and spouse James, and Elaine Arevalo; sister Lula and Toney Robison; 18 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

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

**Vonetta Louise Busse**

Vonetta Louise (Cass) Busse, 85, passed away June 23, 2023.

Vonetta was born Oct. 30, 1937, in Stigler, Okla., to Sidney and Gladys (Garland) Cass.

She was preceded in death by her husband Donald Busse Sr.; infant son William Claude Busse; her parents; sister Jean Smith; and brother Wallace Cass.

Vonetta is survived by sons Philip Busse and spouse Sabrina, and Donald Busse and spouse Rachel; granddaughters Emily Busse, Sarah Busse, and Vivian Busse; sister Sophina Dunn and spouse Dean; step-brother Dennis Howard; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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

**Rosabell Hicks**

Rosabell "Rose" Hicks, 90, passed away July 7, 2023.

Rose was born March 4, 2023, in Eagletown, Okla., to Hickman and Serena (Battiest) Fobb.

She was preceded in death by sons Leon Hicks and Roy Hicks; grandson Kirby Sanders; son-in-law Randy Sanders; brothers Hickman Jr., Houston, and Ernest Fobb; and sisters Josephine, Mary, Lily, Vivian, and Lucille.

Rose is survived by sons Ricky Hicks and spouse Felicia, Joe Hicks Jr. and spouse Kelly, Jerry Hicks and spouse Anke, Gary Hicks and spouse Sylvia, and Keith Hicks; daughter Joyce Sanders; daughter-in-law Katherine Hicks; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchildren and two more on the way.

For the full obituary, please visit [Orr Gray Gish Funeral Home](#).

**Obituary Policy**

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

The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes.

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

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

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

Send official obituary notices to:

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

Martin receives Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from USF

Carla S. Martin received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of San Francisco on May 18, 2023.

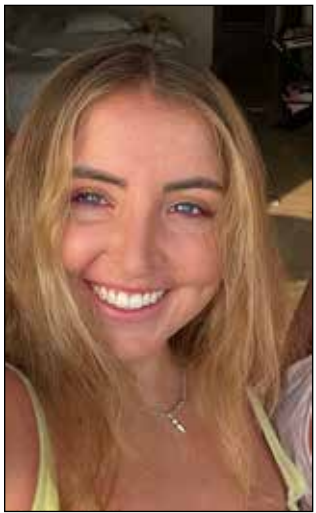
Carla is the daughter of Bill and Sandra Parish of Durant, Oklahoma.



Griffith earns bachelor's from Lamar University

Amber Griffith recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in university studies from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Preparations are underway to secure a classroom teaching position for the upcoming 23-24 school year.



Draper graduates from Cornell

Anna Draper graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in May 2023. Draper earned a Bachelor of Arts in information science, double concentrating in UI/UX design and digital culture and production, and a minor in fashion design studies.

Draper's GPA was 3.445/4.0, and was on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.



Bush graduates from Tulane

Ava Bush, third great-granddaughter of original enrollee Rebecca McCurtain Darden, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ava, a triple major graduate, obtained degrees in Asian studies, anthropology and art history (minor in Japanese). She received awards, including the prestigious Tulane 34 Award.

In the Annual Blessing Ceremony for Graduating Indigenous Tulane Students, she received a stole to be worn during graduation. Ava proudly represented the Choctaw Nation as the only Choctaw participant. Ava worked for the New Orleans Museum of Art and was a tutor captain and a teaching assistant for a class in Mandarin.

Ava will be completing a fellowship to curate a virtual exhibit on terracotta sculpture at the Center for Art and Archaeology in Delhi, India, before pursuing a master's degree at Harvard University for East Asian Regional Studies, where she has been awarded the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Fellowship. Ava wishes to thank the Choctaw Nation for its support.



Smith earns masters from OU

Benton Walker Smith of Flower Mound, Texas, recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma, earning a Master of Science in computer science. He is employed at Boeing in Oklahoma City. He wishes to thank Choctaw Nation for supporting his education.



Olvera earns bachelor's from USAO

Brittany Olvera graduated from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in science business administration and minors

in Spanish and photography. She plans on finding a job in her degree. She is the daughter of Dawn Avila (Horne) and her family is proud of her.



Ditzler is elected mayor of Chandler

Cy Ditzler, a proud Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma member, was elected Mayor of Chandler, Texas, on May 6, 2023.

Ditzler was born in Yuma, Arizona, in 1961 to Paul Henry Ditzler of Clayton, Oklahoma, and Betty Lee Ditzler, of

Artesia, New Mexico.

Ditzler grew up in Arizona and attended school in Yuma and Casa Grande.

He joined the army at 17, was honorably discharged and is a service-connected disabled veteran. After his time in the service, he attended Arizona Western College, where he received an associate's of applied science. He then moved to Durant, Oklahoma, and attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in accounting with a dual major in informed systems. After graduation, he worked as a tax accountant and auditor in Oklahoma. He went on to work as a premium auditor for Hartford Insurance.

He moved on to Texas, where he started and operated Sandman's Matters Centers in Bedford, Texas and North Richland Hills, Texas.

In late 2007, he decided to retire and spent several years doing all of the things he dreamed of doing while retired. He came out of retirement, moved to Chandler and opened a small car dealership in Tyler, Texas.

In 2022, he decided to run for City Council, with the goal of running for mayor the following year.

"God blessed me with a solid plan, and put the right people in my path, that pushed me forward, so I may be of service to the people of my city that felt, like they were unheard, and left behind. Along my journey, aka campaign, I met so many amazing and wonderful people here in Chandler, Texas, and promised to never forget that as the mayor, I was their employee, and would always be available to help and serve in anyway possible. The victory of this campaign goes first to God, and secondly to the many people that trusted me to serve this city," said Ditzler.



David Redenius Jr turns 16

"Happy 16th birthday David Jr! We are very proud of you and love you! Hope you have a great year!" – Love, Dad, Mom, Serenity, Devin, Grandma, Neanie and all your aunts, uncles and cousins.



Wafford earns bachelor's

Emma Wafford received her Bachelor of Science in speech language pathology with summa cum laude honors. She will continue with her Master of Arts in speech language pathology from the University of Oklahoma. She would like to thank Choctaw Nation for all of their support.



Williams twins receive Whole Quest Scholarship

Jacie and Jalyn Williams, the 17-year-old twin daughters of Jason and Lora Williams, have been awarded an Oral Roberts University (ORU) Whole Quest Scholarship.

Since its debut in 2009, more than 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students have benefited from the Quest Whole Leader Scholarship Program at Oral Roberts University, which seeks to assist and recognize exceptional students who are on a quest for wholeness.

Recipients are committed to developing a healthy, character-driven lifestyle that sets the standard in society and enables them to thrive in life. Our students demonstrate spiritual integrity, personal resilience, intellectual pursuit, global engagement and bold vision.

Jacie and Jalyn will each receive \$80,000.00 for four years or \$20,000.00 annually.

They will be attending ORU full-time in the fall of 2023.

Jacie is pursuing a BSN degree, and after graduating, she plans to work as an RN while attending law school.

Jalyn is pursuing an accounting degree and plans to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Both graduated with honors one year earlier from Epic Charter School and were valedictorians. While attending Epic, they completed 29 college hours at Oral Roberts University (ORU).

Both students are in the Gifted and Talented program, were inducted into the Junior and High School National Honor Society, are members of the Oklahoma Indian Student Honors Society (OISHS), and are members of the ORU's Honor Program.

In 2022, both ladies competed and placed at the AAU Gymnastics National Championship in Springfield, Illinois. Jacie and Jalyn Williams appreciate the financial assistance from the Choctaw Nation while attending concurrently at ORU and for assisting with navigating additional resources through the Tribe.



Rep. Rick West recognizes CNO physician assistant

Oklahoma City Rep. Rick West, R-Heavener, recognized Jessica Hall, a physician assistant from Poteau, with a citation in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Hall, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Okla-

homa, has worked for the nation at the Rubin White Health Clinic in Poteau for almost 11 years as a family practice certified physician assistant. She recently completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and her graduate work at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

"Physicians assistants plug a lot of holes in our health care system, particularly in rural Oklahoma, and I so appreciate Jessica's service and her dedication to the people of Oklahoma in her chosen career," West said. "It was an honor to recognize her in the House Chamber for her contributions to her community and her state."

Hall served as a page in 2003 for former Rep. Neil Brannon. She was accompanied in the House this week by her mother, Teresa Mode, and sons, Logan and Rylan.



Lachenmyer celebrates 98th birthday

June Moore Lachenmyer recently celebrated her 98th birthday. Born in Tupelo, Oklahoma, she is the daughter of Ruby Callaway Moore and Willard Moore. June is

the granddaughter of Elizabeth Harkins Callaway and her ancestor was George Washington Harkins, a Choctaw Chief.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

[FCC.GOV/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/acp)

This program was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provides eligible households on tribal lands with a discount towards broadband service in the form of a monthly stipend of up to \$75.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPLICATION NOW OPEN

The application for the 2023 Fall semester is now open. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2023.

Scan to learn more about the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY NOW AT [CHOCTAWNATION.COM/SERVICES/HIGHER-EDUCATION/](https://choctawnation.com/services/higher-education/)

Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program

STUDENT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY FUND APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN JUNE 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31

Offers an annual \$100 grant to purchase school supplies and clothing for Choctaw students possessing a tribal membership card.

ELIGIBILITY

- Choctaw tribal members who attend school. The SSAF Program will verify each student's membership status.
- Must be enrolled at an accredited school or daycare to receive funds.
- Home school students are eligible to receive the grant.
- Must be at least 3 years old at the time an application is submitted
- Students attending a day care, head start, or home school are eligible.
- If the student is between ages 19 to 21 attending high school, additional school enrollment documentation will be required.
- High school students do not qualify after graduation.

APPLY IN THE CHAHTA ACHVFFA MEMBER PORTAL

Choctaw Nation Student School & Activity Fund

Gilreath reflects on the MLB Develops Trailblazer Series

DALLAS (April 21, 2023) – Jordan Gilreath, a Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy eighth grader, was one of two Rangers Academy athletes at last weekend's MLB Develops Trailblazer Series.

Held at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Fla., the four-day series, established in 2017, annually brings together nearly 100 female baseball players in conjunction with MLB's Jackie Robinson Day celebration.

Gilreath's selection for the invitation-only Trailblazer Series, alongside Rangers Academy athlete Aaliyah Marquez, is the most recent milestone in her young playing career.

After joining the Texas Rangers Youth Academy this spring to develop her baseball and softball skills, Gilreath has made a quick name for herself by regularly attending programming and participating in special events such as the MLB GRIT: Girls ID Tour and Lauren Chamberlain's National Girls and Women in Sports Day camp.

"[Being selected for the Trailblazers Series] meant so much to me," she said. "To me, it means that the baseball world appreciates females in the sport of baseball, not just softball. The takeaway was there are many girls who are true ballers and want to go far in baseball. It's like a whole new world was opened up to me."

In her Trailblazer Series debut, Gilreath was thrilled to share the experience with young women from across North America connected by their love for baseball, made possible by the sport's most notable trailblazer, Jackie Robinson.

"As both African American and Indigenous, I understand that barriers were put in place so that people like me would not succeed, but Jackie Robinson showed that we shouldn't let anything stand in our way. He went through so much so that we don't have to," said Gilreath.

"We watched the movie 42 at Trailblazers, and I can't imagine going through what he did, but I'm thankful for the sacrifice he made."

While in Fla., athletes worked with notable women across baseball, including Mo'ne Davis, Veronica Alvarez, Kelsie Whitmore, Ila Borders, and Bianca Smith, as well as members of the Women's National Team like Rachelle Henley and Alex Hugo.

"Coach Alex Hugo was my favorite coach. I met her at the GRIT tour in Dallas," said Gilreath. "She's a great teacher, funny and down



to earth. She called me 'J Money' at Trailblazers and I thought that was cool. She keeps the game fun but makes sure we are learning the right way."

During on-field training, Gilreath recalled working with Hugo on defensive drills to help improve balance and quickness, both tools she can use while playing first base and outfield, her two positions on the diamond.

"Coach Alex also told me in the cage to be violent when I swing. That's not a word girls use a lot, but it made me feel strong, like, 'Yes, I can swing hard.' I went four for five at the plate in two scrimmages," she added.

Lessons learned off the field were just as impactful for Gilreath, who emphasizes being a great person and student above all else.

She said some of the key takeaways were, "Stay focused. Do things the Robinson Way. Keep your priorities right."

Gilreath pushed herself to new heights last weekend and is excited to use the lessons learned when she plays Nike RBI Baseball this summer.

"I'm excited and nervous [to play baseball], I will have to use a heavier bat and play with all boys," she said. "I started playing baseball with my brothers but have since played softball. It will be a cool experience to play baseball, and I think it will help me continue to be a well-rounded student-athlete."

The four-day Trailblazer Series was eye-opening for Gilreath. She developed on and off the field, made new friends, including her roommate from New Jersey—the first New Jerseyite she'd ever met and ultimately got to "play baseball with a lot of great girls."

When reflecting on her Trailblazer Series experience, Gilreath said, "We are showing the boys and the adults that girl baseball players just want to be able to compete and have fun, just like any other kid."

"What I've learned is that being a trailblazer doesn't mean you get to enjoy the trail you blaze sometimes, but you make the trail easier for the people that come behind you."

Forbit wins 2023 MLB JR Home Run Derby

Recently, 14-year-old Choctaw tribal member Amira Forbit of Wylie, Texas, participated in the MLB Regional Homerun Derby during the Texas Rangers Youth Academy.

Forbit won her region, earning her the opportunity to compete for the National Title Friday, July 7, in Seattle, Washington, at the MLB All-Star Weekend.

With 11 home runs in the opening round of the 14U softball division on July 7, Forbit secured her spot in round two, where she went head-to-head with fellow softballer Tessa Trippy.

In the championship swing off, Forbit topped her round one total, hitting 13 over the fence to secure the Jr. Home Run Derby National Championship and All-Star Game victory chain over Trippy's 11 home runs.

Forbit is the second Texas Rangers Youth Academy athlete to win the Jr. Home Run



MLB Photo

Derby National Championship, following Braylon Hubbard, who won the 12U baseball division at the 2022 finals at Dodger Stadium.

"This was a really cool experience, and I'm just glad I got the opportunity to come here," said Forbit. "As soon as I started hitting those five home runs in a row, I definitely knew I had it there."

Stonewall FFA are State Champs

Stonewall FFA is the current State Champion in the Vet Science CDE. There were 41 teams competing for the coveted title across all school classes. Kolten Romines was the second-highest individual in the state, Levi Hays was the fourth-highest individual, and Kayden Alford also placed well.



Stonewall vet science had a competitive season winning five out of the seven competitions across the state. Stonewall's ag teacher, Micah Alford, is a Choctaw tribal member.

Khloe Pearl Heitt

Briton Heitt and Ramona (Hale) Heitt announce the birth of their fourth child, Khloe Pearl Heitt.

Khloe arrived Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at OU Children's Hospital in OKC, OK. She weighed 7 lb. 15 oz. and measured 19.75 inches long.



Her siblings are Brielle, age 10, Robert, age 8 and Kaden, age 21 months.

Her living grandparents include Ramona Hale, Martin Heitt, and Paige Martin. Her deceased, beloved grandfather (and fellow tribal Choctaw member) was Robert Hale. Great-grandparents include Mary Doyle, Geneva Pearl Simmons and Benjamin Espinosa. Her deceased great-grandparents include (fellow Choctaw member) Louis Hale, Dorothy Pearl Koons, Gary and Sally Warner and James Heitt.

Bull Jennings earns doctorate

Lacy Bull Jennings just graduated last week from the University of Oklahoma's Law School with a degree in Juris Doctorate with a special certification in American Indian Law.

She will be working in the Robben Law PLLC located in Oklahoma City. This firm specializes in estate planning, business transactions, and contracts.



Lacy is so grateful to the CHOCTAW NATION for their help and support in her education and could not be more proud to represent the CHOCTAW NATION.

She resides with her husband and little girl in Edmond. "Congratulations, Lacy for a JOB WELL DONE!"

Wilhelmi celebrates 60th birthday

Lisa Hughes Wilhelmi turned 60 on July 12, 2023. Her great-grandmother, Susan Bacon, and great-great-grandmother, Sallie Bacon, were original enrollees by Choctaw blood.

Her grandmother, Irene Bacon man was a full-blood Choctaw.

Wilhelmi hopes to one day stand on the land that was allotted to her family.

She enjoys gardening and working with natural textiles to create art. She is currently growing corn, squash and peas from seeds from the Choctaw Nation's Growing Hope program.

"I appreciate all the Choctaw Nation does for our tribe and I hope to give back one I come home to Oklahoma," said Wilhelmi.



Liptrap receives Evelyne Villines Award

Matthew Liptrap, PCSI, Colorado Springs, Colorado, recently received the Evelyne Villines Award for Advancement into Management.

Matthew Liptrap is a United States Army Infantry Combat Veteran who sustained injuries while serving multiple combat deployments. An employee of Professional Contract Services based in Austin, Texas, Matthew quickly rose from being a Grounds Maintenance Worker to a Quality Control Manager at Schriever Space Force Base located in Colorado Springs, Colorado due to his strong leadership skills, team mentoring, and determination. In his new career, Matthew has said that finding the brotherhood he came to know in the military has been his biggest motivation. He loves being a hands-on manager and says he will never let his disability hold him back from reaching for what he wants in life. For his achievement, Matthew was awarded the Evelyne Villines Award at the National Ability One XForce Convention in Anaheim, California on May 24, 2023.



Wagenseller helps felines in OKC

Hattie Wagenseller of Oklahoma City is a fierce advocate for her feline friends.

Wagenseller fosters cats through the organization Free To Live OK in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Wagenseller does Trap, Neuter and Release (Return) on cats in the OKC area and started trapping cats in 2016.

She encourages others to help our furry friends in need.

"All we have to do is look around and see all the dogs and cats that need to be helped and this is one way that I can help control the population. However, just one person cannot do it all. We have to work together," said Wagenseller. "Some cats

that I trap are feral, some are community cats that are semi-friendly, and some were once in a home and left to survive on their own."

According to Wagenseller, she has helped around seven cats find homes, and is on her sixty-second "trapped and fixed" cat.

"That is 62 cats that will not have babies or be able to contribute to the overpopulation," Wagenseller said.

Wagenseller uses her own funds to neuter the trapped cats and return them to where she found them once they recover.

"I have been able to get a couple of sponsored spay and neuter appointments from All Paws Rescue and Free To Live Animal Sanctuary," she said.

The cats get fixed through OK Humane Society.

In March 2021, Wagenseller began volunteering at Free To Live Animal Sanctuary.

Through this organization, she met a little kitten named Denali who needed a foster.

"I wanted to try fostering and I thought, 'why not him!' Denali went everywhere with me. He walked on a harness leash and he even did tricks," said Wagenseller.

Denali was adopted and is living a happy life.

You can keep up with Wagenseller's journey by following @hattiefosterfelines on Instagram.





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Friday, September 1, 2023
Drop off entries 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Tribal Membership Building
Tvshka Homma Council Grounds

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 580.642.8011

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

CHOCTAW RANCHES

ALL NAMES TELL A STORY

The name *Choctaw* tells a story of faith in providence: care for our Tribe, our families, and our communities. Keeping our cultural traditions alive. A name that garners respect. As such, the beef which shares the name – the beef which comes from our land – must follow that example. We strive for our label to be seen as a symbol of trust, inspired by intelligent, compassionate, and sustainable ranching practices.

In a world where more and more consumers are opening their eyes to the reality of where their food comes from, it becomes increasingly evident what is paramount is quality. The beef on your table is simply the end result. The story of how it got to your table is what really matters.



SCAN HERE TO ORDER



In the end, *Choctaw Beef* is a promise of intelligent care and sustainability.
A promise to live up to the story our name has told to generations.

2023
CHOCTAW NATION LABOR DAY 5K

SEPTEMBER 2, 2023
7:00 AM

Registrations **only** available online at <https://chocta.ws/ld-5k>

No on-site registrations will be taken.

The first 400 to complete the run will receive a commemorative t-shirt.



WE'LL SEE YOU AT TVSHKA HOMMA!

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw chef and restaurant owner on a mission to educate diners on Indigenous foods

By Shelia Kirven

David Skinner's immersive restaurant, eculent, opened in Kemah, Texas, in 2014 and has been described as "one of the best restaurants in the world." (Houstonia Magazine) He has been called "a mad genius" and the "Willy Wonka of food."

He is a master chef, winemaker, distiller and author. He consulted with NASA on how to make foods taste better in space, worked with Ruth and Angie McCartney (stepsister and stepmother of Paul McCartney) on fundraising events at his restaurant and even met Julia Child.

Skinner didn't know what store-bought canned foods were growing up. The family canned their own foods weekly from fresh garden produce during harvest times and got their meat straight from ranches.

His grandmother, a pastry chef, gave Skinner a French chef's knife and Julia Child's cookbook set, "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," when he was twelve after he told her he wanted to become a chef.

Every Sunday, he would prepare family dinners from recipes in the cookbooks, even having fresh fish flown in for the dishes.

Skinner worked his way through the two-volume cookbook set, then told his grandmother he would like to open his own restaurant.

She gave him her store's back room in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to start his French restaurant, La Vie en Rose, at sixteen.

Skinner attended school during the day and opened the restaurant from Thursday to Saturday.

Though La Vie En Rose did very well, Skinner's mother insisted he attend college.

He went to Oklahoma State University (OSU) and decided while there to open his second restaurant, "Christopher's on Washington," on the famous Stillwater strip. He went to school in the mornings and prepped in the afternoons for the evening dinner crowds. Fraternity brothers worked as waiters and prep cooks at the farm-to-table establishment.

Skinner said he didn't use food service companies to supply the business, but instead bought ingredients from farmers and ranchers. He had fish and shellfish flown into Oklahoma City and Tulsa airports.

"That's just what I did. It's kind of the way I was taught to cook," Skinner said.

At age 19, Skinner finally met Julia Child at the International Gourmet Food and Wine Show in San Francisco.

Upon graduation from OSU, Skinner decided to use his degrees and left the restaurant business to work in oil and gas, where he spent over a decade at Conoco.

He moved to Houston in 1995 and built a large oil and gas consulting firm, which he sold in 2010.

His international travels allowed him to learn the history and culture of over fifty countries. In 2014, he decided to get back into the restaurant business.

Eculent was opened shortly before Skinner's 50th birthday. The idea for the restaurant came to him on a business trip to Beijing.

He wondered what type of restaurant had not been done and came up with serving different kinds of foods that could be served while changing the environment simultaneously.

Skinner heavily researched how colors, sounds and smells impact the understanding of food and studied academics who had done work in that area.

According to Skinner, it took a while to get word of mouth

out, but things changed quickly. A reviewer from Houstonia magazine said he would love to do a review. That review became a month-and-a-half-long interviewing exercise and a multi-page published magazine story.

The piece stated, "This is the best restaurant in the world that nobody has heard of."

The review led to a Washington Post video shoot for a series about the hardest restaurants in the U.S. to get into, "The Secret Table." The following day a restaurant critic from the Washington Post came in and wrote a four-page review article.

According to Skinner, that's when things began to get a little crazy. Before, they would sell out an entire month's reservations in a day. After the Washington Post story, they sold out three months of reservations in 30 seconds.

People from all over the world began coming in. "Our wait list started to blossom to the point where at one time it was a two-to-three-year wait to get in and get a table," Skinner said.

Eculent serves a 30-course tasting menu and seats only 20 people per night, three nights a week. It takes seven nights to prep for three nights of service.

For over six years, the restaurant has never had an empty seat.

"We've tried really hard to give people an experience that they can't really get anywhere else, and I think we've succeeded at that," Skinner said. "For me, the food has to be good, number one, and then it has to be kind of fun and interesting for the guest."

In 2019, Skinner created a record-breaking event, "Around the World in 10,000 Bites," which featured 43 chefs from 10 countries presenting a 101-course dinner to 100 diners at Houston's Museum of Natural Sciences.

His latest business venture is the opening of a Thai and Choctaw pre-colonial Indigenous restaurant, also in Kemah, called th_prsrv (pronounced "the preserve"), along with Chef Jabthong "G" Benchawan Painter, and her husband Graham Painter.

The Painters also own Houston's Street to Kitchen Thai restaurant, and G is the James Beard Best Chef Texas Award winner for 2023.

Skinner's idea for the th_prsrv came about during the pandemic.

He met the Painters during a city cooking event. They hit it off, and Skinner was "blown away" by their authentic Thai food.

Chef Benchawan began cooking at age six with her grandmother in their restaurant in Nakhon Sawan.

She worked in Bangkok restaurants, met her husband, Graham Painter, and moved with him to Houston and opened Street to Kitchen, which has been awarded several coveted awards.

Being no stranger to his Indigenous roots, Skinner calls upon that knowledge for much of his inspiration.

His great-grandmother, Lona Bell, came to Indian Territory on the Trail of Tears.

"My thought was, I would really like to explore my background, and I would really like to do something that's true to that," said Skinner.

Th_prsrv opened in May 2023, allowing customers to dine while being educated about Indigenous Native American and Thai foods that have spanned time for thousands of years.

"The idea was, can we do a restaurant that is just truly Indigenous, where we use all Indigenous ingredients, it's all true historical recipes and kind of teaches people about things



Photo Provided

Pictured is restaurant owner and chef David Skinner.

they had completely forgotten or didn't even know," explained Skinner.

The menu begins at 2400 BC with preservation techniques (fermentation, drying, curing, smoking, etc.) and moves forward to present day. He said there is a Choctaw line and a Thai line, and when telling the story, they explain how the ingredients moved from one side of the world to the other and how that influenced cooking methods.

"We go out and talk to the guests. We want to tell the story," Skinner said.

"We have laid this out to where we can tell two stories from two cultures and how they intertwined; what was the same, what was different, and how they influenced each other over time."

The restaurant even has an Indigenous wine list with selections purchased from Indigenous winemakers.

"On my side of the menu, all of our ingredients are either foraged or bought from Indigenous producers," said Skinner.

Some of the Choctaw foods on the menu are Tanchi Labona, a version of a Three Sisters recipe called Day and Night, bison with fermented sauce, pickles with wild and forged ingredients and blue corn banana.

Skinner worked with the Choctaw School of Language for traditional names and the Choctaw Cultural Center and Choctaw artists for chef's coats and baskets for the one-of-a-kind restaurant.

"That's our mission with this, to educate people or re-educate them on what Native American really is, and what it means."

Skinner hopes also to begin mentoring Choctaws who are interested in culinary arts.

On August 11, Skinner will be at the Choctaw Cultural Center in Durant in collaboration with the center's Champuli Café for the 2023 Choctaw Nation Art Show reception.

For more information, contact the Choctaw Cultural Center Art Department at (833) 708-9582.

You can keep up with David Skinner by visiting Instagram, Facebook and <https://www.eculent.com/> and <https://www.thprsrv.com/>.

Choctaw Nation recognized for workplace efforts

DURANT, Okla. – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) recently received the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award from the National Safety Council and the U.S. Best-in-Class Employer by Gallagher for their exceptional efforts in the workplace.

The Choctaw Nation became the first tribe to achieve the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award, which recognizes organizations with injury and illness records that are better than or equal to 50% of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for their North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

CNO's facilities worked more than 20.2 million hours in the 2022 calendar year and had zero fatalities and 66 incidents with injuries and illness that involved days away from work. These statistics resulted in a "Facility Total Lost Workday Case Incident Rate" of 0.65, significantly below the NAICS Code 92 industry standard of 2.0.

"I'm proud that the Choctaw Nation is the first tribe to receive this

recognition from the National Safety Council, but I'm not surprised at the results this award highlights," Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief Gary Batton says. "Our associates understand the importance of safety and the essential role of having a safe workplace at the Choctaw Nation. This has been a collaborative effort between our Choctaw Nation Occupational Safety and Health team and all of our teams, departments, and divisions."

CNO also participated in Gallagher's 2022 U.S. Benefits Strategy & Benchmarking Survey and was identified as an organization that excelled in optimizing employee and organizational wellbeing. The Choctaw Nation was recognized for its comprehensive framework for strategically investing in benefits, compensation and employee communication to support the health, financial security and career growth of its employees at a sustainable cost structure.

"The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was recognized as a U.S. Best-in-



Choctaw Nation Photo

(Left to Right) Andreasen Matson, Sr. Director Occupational Safety and Health; Daron Sharp, Executive Director of Risk Management; Chief Gary Batton; District 9 Tribal Council Member James Dry, and Brian Danker, Senior Executive Officer, Legal and Compliance.

Class Employer because of how they approach organizational priorities with a long-term outlook; provide high-quality, high-value benefits; and build and solidify a strong organizational culture through their communications," said William F. Ziebell, CEO of Gallagher's Benefits & HR Consult-

ing Division. "In doing so, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma invests in the whole employee by providing distinct and relevant wellbeing resources that will attract and retain talent."

To learn more about Choctaw employment opportunities, benefits and resources, visit Choctaw Careers.

BUSINESS
CHAHTAPRENEUR
CHIT ♦ CHAT

What are your channels for communicating with customers?



By Gary Johnson

Communication with customers is crucial to the success of small businesses. It's almost impossible to do business if no one knows your business exists. There are various means to interact with customers whether you're trying to acquire new customers, retain customers, or grow your customer's knowledge of products. It is important to know where to reach your customers and what channels to use.

For more information on this training, please scan QR Code.

Direct Channels:

- Pinterest | Website
- Facebook | Twitter
- Sponsorships | Instagram
- Posters | Apps
- Constant Contact | Mailchimp


Indirect Channels:

- Other businesses | Partnerships
- Product Reviews | Influencers
- Friends and Family | celebrities or well-known people



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Choctaw Nation Small Business Development




REAL PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
FEE-TO-TRUST

The Land and Title Department's Real Property Management team is introducing a new Fee-to-Trust program for CDIB cardholders across the reservation. Applications are available at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Real Property Management office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
CHOCTAWNATION.COM/SERVICES/REAL-PROPERTY-MANAGEMENT

Scan to learn more about the program.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



CHOCTAW
CULTURAL CENTER

NEW EXHIBIT

BOK ABAIYA:
PRACTICED HANDS AND THE
ARTS OF CHOCTAW BASKETRY

SCAN OR GO TO:
[BIT.LY/CCC-EXHIBITIONS](https://bit.ly/ccc-exhibitions)

JULY 22, 2023 - MARCH 30, 2024

Hepatitis C vaccine could stop the suffering of many

By Chris Jennings

In 2020, nearly 15,000 death certificates listed hepatitis C (HCV) as an underlying or contributing cause of death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC estimates that 2.4 million people live with HCV in the U.S.

HCV is a contagious viral infection that causes liver inflammation. When your liver becomes inflamed, it cannot process nutrients, filter blood or fight infections. This reduction in the liver's ability to do its job can lead to liver disease, cancer and even death.

Statistics show that Native Americans are almost twice as likely to contract HCV when compared to Caucasians.

Weston Lovell, a Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority pharmacist, says the Nation is working to help bring those numbers down.

"The HCV Program was started to treat all HCV-positive patients in the Choctaw Nation. Through the success of this program, we've been able to add HCV medications to our formulary and treat patients in our own facilities," said Lovell.

Being able to treat HCV in CNHSA facilities is a cost-saving measure for tribal members. Some insurers restrict eligibility for HCV treatment based on the severity of liver damage or because the patient hasn't been sober long enough.

CDC data show that only about 1 in 3 people with insurance get treatment for HCV within a year of diagnosis, and this is even lower among people with Medicaid insurance.

HCV is not something to shrug off with an "okay boomer" attitude. While baby boomers, those born between 1945 and 1965, were previously the most common generation to have HCV, millennials have taken

people think they can't get HCV because they don't use drugs or share needles.

There are several other risk factors for getting HCV that non-drug users are at risk for. Some of those risk factors are:

Healthcare exposures. Although uncommon, people can become infected when healthcare professionals do not follow the proper steps needed to prevent the spread of bloodborne infections.

Sex with an infected person. While uncommon, HCV can spread during sex, though it has been reported more often among men who have sex with men.

Unregulated tattoos or body piercings. HCV can spread when getting tattoos or body piercings in unlicensed facilities, informal settings or with non-sterile instruments.

Sharing personal items. People can get infected by sharing glucose monitors, razors, nail clippers, toothbrushes and other things that may have come into contact with infected blood, even in amounts too small to see.

The good news is that HCV is treatable; knowing you have it is the first step.

According to the CDC, approximately 4 in 10 people with HCV in the United States don't know they have it.

Getting tested is easy.

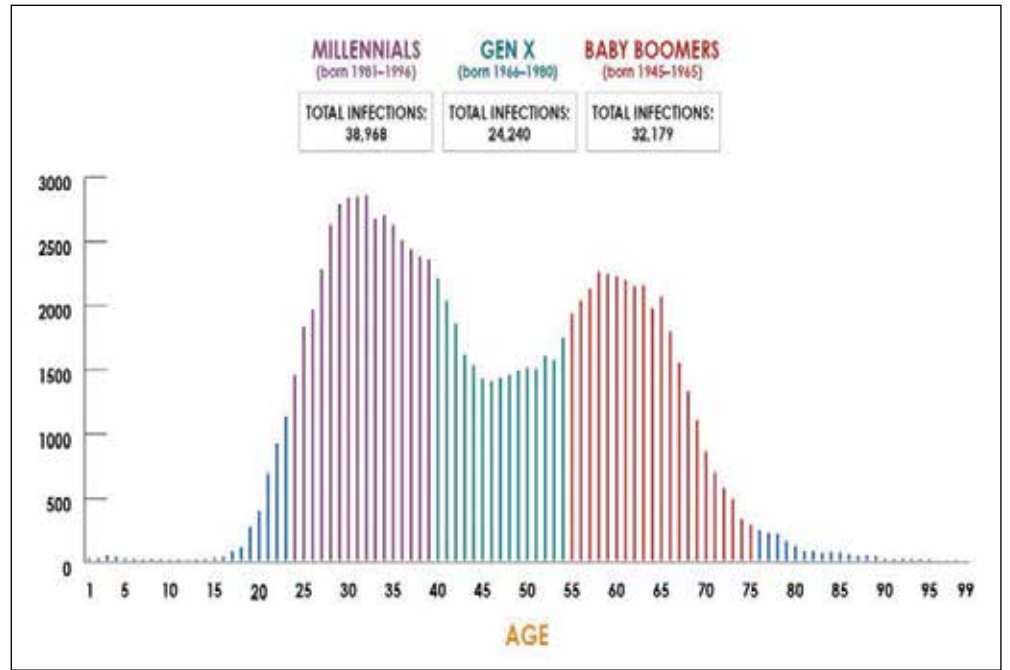
"A simple lab test which can be performed at all CNHSA facilities will first check to see if HCV antibodies are present in your system," said Lovell. "If so, the test will reflex to not only check for the presence of the virus but will also give a viral load. Then the provider will run a few more labs to determine which therapy is best suited for the patient based on HCV Treatment Guidelines."

Because many people with chronic hepatitis C will not have symptoms for 20 years or more, every adult over 18 needs to get tested for HCV.

Even without symptoms, severe damage to your liver can occur and there's the possibility of unknowingly spreading it to a loved one.

"It's recommended that everyone over the age of 18 be tested at least once, and more often if the patient has risk factors or participates in activities that increase your risk," Lovell said.

Today's HCV treatments are improved over older treatments. Treatments are pills instead of in-



Source: Centers for Disease Control

Hepatitis-C isn't a disease for just the elderly. HCV has been on the rise across all age groups, with millennial's were leading the pack with 38,968 total infections in 2020.

jections, have fewer side effects, and can be taken with birth control or medication-assisted therapy for opioid use. According to clinical studies, treatments for HCV have a 95% or greater cure rate.

"It's estimated that around 50% of the people positive for HCV don't know they have it. People can live without symptoms or feeling sick, so testing is the only way to know if you have hepatitis C," said Lovell

Testing is available at all CNHSA facilities. If you live outside of the Choctaw Nation reservation, you can get more information on getting tested for HCV at <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>.

4 in 10
People in the U.S. don't know they have HCV

their spot. Those born between 1981 and 1996 had a higher infection rate in 2020. A total of 38,968 millennials were infected compared to 32,179 baby boomers.

Generation X, those born between 1965 and 1980, had the lowest infection rate of 24,240.

Many reports point to an increase in opioid use that coincides with the rise in HCV rates.

"The age most affected by HCV runs hand in hand with the opioid epidemic. There's a lot of data tying the two together. The most common age for newly diagnosed HCV cases is 18-45," Lovell said.

Hepatitis C is usually spread when someone comes into contact with blood from an infected person through sharing needles, birth, sex with an infected person, unregulated tattoos, body piercings, blood transfusions or organ transplants.

"There are several different risk factors for HCV, from blood transfusions before 1992, unregulated tattoos or body piercings, and sharing of needles through IV drug abuse," said Lovell.

Because of these common risk factors, many

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

Choctaw Nation Health Services

HEPATITIS C PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.CDC.GOV/KNOWMOREHEPATITIS

Choctaw Nation Health Services

HEALTH FAIRS IN 2023

Learn about health services offered by Choctaw Nation.

Scan the QR code, or visit chocta.ws/health-fair for dates and locations throughout the year.

Choctaw Nation Health Services

CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER

IBAIAYA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

IBAIAYA — "TO JOURNEY WITH"

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON CULTURE AND COMMUNITY? DO YOU ENJOY PROMOTING THE CHOCTAW CULTURE? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE?

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY

Mixed Fruit Smoothie

- ½ cup Apple Cherry Juice
- 1 Can Mixed Fruit (drained)
- 1 cup Low Fat Milk
- ½ cup Ice (Crushed or small cubes)
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 Tbsp. maple syrup or honey

Preparation

Add ingredients to blender, blend until smooth.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 2	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 4	Atoka	8:30 p.m. - 12 p.m.
August 4	Coalgate	12:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
August 8	Talihina	10 am - 2 pm
August 11	Crowder	By Appointment
August 15	Wright City	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 16	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 16	Stigler	By Appointment
August 18	Atoka	8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
August 18	Coalgate	12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
August 22	Broken Bow	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
August 23	Poteau	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 29	Idabel	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 30	Wilburton	10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Durant: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Call 580-642-6007 for an Appointment

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

MARKET HOURS

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

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

Markets will be closed the last two days of each month for inventory.

August 2023

All markets open weekdays, August 9-26
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 demo August 10

BROKEN BOW 109 Chahta Rd., 580-584-2842
Food demo August 17

DURANT 2352 Big Lots Pkwy., 580-924-7773
Food demo August 24

MCALESTER 3244 Afullota Hina, 918-420-5716
Food demo August 15

POTEAU 106 B St., 918-649-0431
Food demo August 22

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Potts preserves heirloom crops thanks to passion for healthy living

By Christian Toews

Despite being successful in many fields, 77-year-old Jim Potts is more driven than ever to impact the world around him.

He is passionate about helping people live healthier lives, from getting them on bicycles to growing their food in gardens.

Potts hopes to preserve heirloom seeds, including seeds from his Choctaw heritage, while promoting a healthy diet.

He is doing this partly through his family-owned company, Heartsgood Farms.

Potts grew up near Ada, Oklahoma, then lived in Anadarko, Oklahoma, where he said his Native American heritage heavily influenced him.

After getting married, he moved to Arkansas, where he still resides.

Potts has been successful in several businesses, including consulting and retail.

In 1999 he saw the need to help people live a healthy lifestyle, and he opened Lewis and Clark Outfitters, which according to Potts, became one of the largest bicycle retailers in northwest Arkansas.

After he grew his stores locally, he partnered with Wal-Mart and began developing the outdoor department of Sam's Club.

His company was involved with their outdoor department for about ten years, and according to Potts, Lewis and Clark Outfitters remains one of the largest bicycle retailers in northwest Arkansas.

About six years ago, Potts was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.

His doctor knew Potts and knew that his wife had a garden.

"My doctor told me to eat what she grows," he remembered.

Potts began eating primarily fresh produce grown from the garden, and his health had drastically improved within a year.

This was a significant turning point in his life that inspired him to want to help others have similar success with their health.

Around the same time, he picked up a copy of the Biskinik and read a story about the Choctaw Nation's Growing Hope program.

The Growing Hope seed bank allows tribal members to participate in the revitalization of heirloom seeds from the Choctaw Nation.

The term "heirloom" refers to traditional, non-genetically modified seeds with a documented history passed down from generation to generation. The Choctaw

Nation's Historical Preservation team curates the Growing Hope program. It even offers workshops to learn more about the history of these plants and prepare the food once harvested.

Potts said the Growing Hope program inspired him further to preserve his cultural heritage, so he immediately contacted Jacqueline Putman.

"She told me, 'We really have a need for people to grow and preserve our seeds,' and she sent me some seeds," said Potts.

He now uses traditional methods to grow these Choctaw heirloom seeds and has even begun working on getting these seeds into the hands of the 4-H clubs across the country.

Potts said that as a Choctaw who has suffered from Type 2 diabetes, his goal is to help others understand the importance of diet to their overall health.

"You know we suffer more from this thing called diabetes, five times more or five times higher, depending on your source, than other people in the nation. There are probably many causes for that but diet, mostly likely, is one of the biggest contributors. I can't change people's lifestyle. I can't go out there and get them to start growing their own vegetables," said Potts. "What we can do is give them the tools and inspiration to do that."

According to Potts, much of this mission is expressed in its name.

"Heartsgood" came from a getaway he took with his wife many years ago, where they stayed at a bed and breakfast by that name.

It always stuck with him, and when he developed his heirloom seeds company, he wanted to incorporate the name somehow.

"What we want to do is do good for our hearts physically, spiritually and emotionally," he said.

Another reason Potts feels compelled to give back is the example set by the Choctaw Nation when they helped the people of Ireland by sending 170 dollars during the great famine.

Potts discovered that he is both Choctaw and Irish. The story of the Choctaws' generosity despite their own need has inspired him.

"The moment I learned about the Kindred Spirit Sculpture, I got the vision of what's possible by carrying the universal message of the story that even in the face of adversity, the lasting impact of the extension of compassion, kindness, empathy and aid to those perhaps less fortunate than ourselves," Potts said. "It



Photos Provided

Above: Will and Stockton Potts, along with their grandfather, Jim Potts, work in the garden in Arkansas.

Below: Jim Potts and his wife of 57 years, Beth Potts, pose for a photo in their backyard.

is a great example that I believe serves as an example of being 'light and salt' to the world and in keeping with the spirit and heart of our Creator."

Even though he now lives in Arkansas, Potts said Oklahoma has shaped him.

"I'll always be an Okie. I think we are resilient. I think we are overcomers and going through the toughest times of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression," said Potts. "We learned so many great lessons from our ancestors and those generations before us that we might do well to think about today."

To find out more about Heartsgood Farms, visit <https://heartsgoodfarms.com>.

For more information on the Choctaw Nation's Growing Hope program, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/services/growing-hope/>.



Jacob is July First Language Speaker of the Month



Delores Kay Jacob of District 10 was honored as the July 2023 First Language Speaker of the Month. Pictured are Councilman Anthony Dillard, Delores Kay Jacob, Choctaw School of Language staff and Jacob's family.

Regan is July Veteran of the Month

Charles Regan was born in Houston, Texas and graduated high school in San Antonio. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1962 and received his oath from his father, a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and commanding officer of the San Antonio recruiting office. Regan attended the Naval Training Center in San Diego, Calif., was transferred to the Naval Air Station in Miramar and attached to Fighter Squadron VA-91 as a plane captain. He later transferred with VF-91, a F8U Crusader squadron supplying air support in the Gulf of Vietnam and Laos, to aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ranger CVA61, and sailed out of San Francisco patrolling off the west coast. Regan served as a plane captain on F8U Crusader aircraft on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, a job for the "Roof Rats," the "most dangerous job on earth."

He traveled to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Subic Bay, Philippines; Hong Kong, China; Yasuko, Japan; and the South China Sea. He transferred to Memphis, Tenn., to attend "A" school in aircraft engine mechanics. After graduation, he transferred to the Naval Air Training Center in New Iberia, Louisiana where he was assigned to VT-27 as a TS2A aircraft mechanic, a training squadron for multi-engine propeller aircraft pilots. Regan moved to Corpus Christi, Texas when the base closed until his discharge in 1968. In 1974, he enlisted in the SEABEES Reserve in McAlester. He was an equipment operator and learned to operate heavy equipment. He made drills at the Navy Base, McAlester, and Gulf Port, Mississippi. He was honorably discharged in 1980 and says his favorite assignment was New Iberia, Louisiana.

Regan resides in McAlester, where he has worked on a pipeline, in a funeral home, and in the Kibois organization. His family is Dr. Jason Regan and spouse Stacie (PharmD), granddaughter Reese, and grandson Rhett. His full-blood Choctaw grandmother was an original enrollee who lived in Stigler.

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

COLLEGE FYI INVITES YOU TO
CAMP CHAHTA

The camp is designed to orient first-year students to college life and create a close-knit community of Choctaw students.

For more information on the 2023 Camp Chahta scan the QR code

Logos for Carl Albert State College, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Eastern Oklahoma State University.

Choctaw Nation College Freshman Year Initiative

I AM CHOCTAW PROUD

SCAN CODE TO VIEW STORIES

TOGETHER, WE'RE MORE!

UPDATE YOUR CHOCTAW NATION MAILING SUBSCRIPTION

At Choctaw Nation, we constantly try to improve our services and look for better ways to serve you, our Tribal Member.

To choose your Circulation subscriptions, scan the QR code or visit the website above to select which of these items you wish to continue receiving through the mail.

- Biskinik
- Christmas Ornament
- Birthday Card
- Member Letter
- Calendar

choctawnation.com/subscribe/

Please allow time for changes to be effective. You will continue to receive your items during this process. Subscribers must be 18+ years of age, or the only member in the household.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma TOGETHER WE'RE MORE

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Grab & go meals for all children ages 1-17

LOCATION	SERVE DAYS	SERVE TIMES
CHOCTAW ANTLERS COMMUNITY CENTER	TUESDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
302 SW O ST ANTLERS, OK	5/22/23 - 8/1/23	
CHOCTAW ATOKA COMMUNITY CENTER	MONDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
1625 W LIBERTY RD, ATOKA, OK	5/22/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW COALGATE COMMUNITY CENTER	THURSDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
103 E CALIFORNIA AVE, COALGATE, OK	5/15/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW DURANT COMMUNITY CENTER	TUESDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
2746 BIG LETS PKWY DURANT, OK	5/30/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW HUGO COMMUNITY CENTER	TUESDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
1304 W VICTOR ST, HUGO, OK	5/22/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW LABEL COMMUNITY CENTER	MONDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
2409 E LINCOLN RD, LABEL, OK	5/22/23 - 8/14/23	
CHOCTAW POTEAU COMMUNITY CENTER	TUESDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
208 W ST, POTEAU, OK	5/22/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW SMITHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER	THURSDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
39618 N US HWY 75R, SMITHVILLE, OK	5/18/23-8/01/23	
CHOCTAW STIGLER COMMUNITY CENTER	THURSDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
2209 E MAIN ST, STIGLER, OK	5/17/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW TALIHINA COMMUNITY CENTER	TUESDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
100 RAILROAD ST, TALIHINA, OK	5/16/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW WILBURTON COMMUNITY CENTER	THURSDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
516 CENTER POINT DR, WILBURTON, OK	5/18/23 - 8/01/23	
CHOCTAW LEFLORE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB	DAILY	LUNCH: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM SNACK: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
301 CLAYTON AVE, POTEAU, OK		
CHOCTAW TALIHINA YOUTH CENTER	DAILY	LUNCH: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM SNACK: 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
13835 SE 202ND RD, TALIHINA, OK	SATURDAY	

Choctaw Nation Nutrition Services



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
THE CAPITOL GROUNDS TVSHKA HOMMA, SOUTH OF THE SOFTBALL FIELDS

Games begin at 9 AM - 9:15 AM

- 12 Co-Ed Teams maximum
- Online registration only
- Rules will be emailed to contacts
- Schedules will be emailed
- Tournament will have its own referees

Captains sign in teams at 8:00 AM and meet with referees at 8:30 AM
(All captains must attend)

Registration Deadline August 8, 2023

Questions?

Call or email Crystal Thompson | Labor Day Commissioner
580-642-7205 work | 580-916-2920 mobile
cdthompson@choctawnation.com

Sign up online: laborday.choctawnation.com/registrations

DOMINO/CHECKERS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | HEALTH TENT

Registration: 11 AM - 12 PM | Event begins: 1 PM

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | RED WARRIOR PARK

Registration: 8 AM | Event begins: 9 AM

YOUTH FITNESS CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | RED WARRIOR PARK

Registration: 4 PM | Event begins: 5 PM

For more information:

Chase Henson | 580-916-9140 | cchenson@cnhsa.com

FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Registration Deadline: August 4, 2023

Sign up online: laborday.choctawnation.com/registrations

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 WOMEN'S TEAMS AND 26 MEN'S TEAMS

For more information:

Hoss Ward | 918-567-5313 | hdward@cnhsa.com

TOUGH TOUGH CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | RED WARRIOR PARK

Registration: 3 PM | Event begins: 4 PM

Male and female divisions | Prizes awarded for first and second places

Free t-shirts for participants

For more information:

Chase Henson | 580-916-9140 | cchenson@cnhsa.com

FITTEST WARRIOR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | RED WARRIOR PARK

Registration: 8 AM | Event begins: 9 AM

Male and female divisions | Prizes awarded for first - third place

Free t-shirt for participants

For more information:

Chase Henson | 580-916-9140 | cchenson@cnhsa.com

ELDER VOLLEYBALL FINALS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | HEALTH TENT

Event: 9 AM - 11 AM

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

For more information:

Chase Henson | 580-916-9140 | cchenson@cnhsa.com

5K

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

THE CORNER OF NASHOBA AND COUNCIL HOUSE ROAD

Race check-in: 6 - 6:15 AM

Sign up online: laborday.choctawnation.com/registrations

Pre-race check: Friday, September 1 | 7 AM

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 | RED WARRIOR PARK

Check in: 8 AM | Event begins: 9 AM

Sign up online: laborday.choctawnation.com/registrations

WAR HOOPS 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

Sign up online: laborday.choctawnation.com/registrations

CATEGORIES/DIVISIONS

5-Person Roster

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



Friday, September 1, 2023

7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours
8:00 am - 9:00 am ~ Corn Hole Check In, Red Warrior Park
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 - 3:00 pm ~ Youth Crafts, Playground
9:00 am - 3:00 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 ~ Choctaw Village Activities
10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours
10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Information Tent hours
10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours
10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ General Store
10:00 am ~ Choctaw Social Dance Class, Choctaw Village
10:30 am ~ Choctaw Chanting Class, Choctaw Village
10:30 - 2:00 pm ~ Chahta Cab
Noon ~ Choctaw Nation Official Ceremonies, Capitol Museum Steps
Noon - 5:00 pm ~ Quilt entries
Noon - 6:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours
Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Voter Registration hours
1:00 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ~ 5K Early Check-In
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn
1:00 - Midnight ~ Carnival hours
4:00 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge Registration, Red Warrior Park
5:00 pm - 8:30 pm ~ Chahta Cab
5:00 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field
5:00 pm ~ Youth Physical Fitness Challenge, Red Warrior Park
6:00pm ~ Princess Pageant, Amphitheater
6:00 pm ~ Gourd Dancing, Capitol Lawn
7:00pm ~ Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament, Red Warrior Park

Saturday, September 2, 2022

7:00 am ~ 5k Race begins and ends at Council House Road and Nashoba crossing
7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours
8:00 am ~ Fittest Warrior Registration, Red Warrior Park
8:00 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
8:00 am ~ Bow Shoot (Youth) Registration, Choctaw 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, Red Warrior Park
9:00 am ~ Bow Shoot (Youth), Choctaw Village
9:00 am - Noon ~ Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
9:00 am - 3:00 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 - 4:00 pm ~ Choctaw 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 hours
10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours
10:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Voter Registration 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 hours
10:30 am ~ Terrapin Races, Playground
10:30 am - 2:00 pm ~ Chahta Cab
11:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Chahta Children's Games
Noon - Midnight ~ Carnival
1:00 pm ~ Wristband Drawing, Education Tent
3:00 pm ~ Tough Tough Registration, Red Warrior Park
4:00 pm ~ Tough Tough Contest, Red Warrior Park
5:00 pm ~ Stickball Tournament, Stickball Field
6:00 pm ~ Audio Crush, Amphitheater
6:45 pm ~ The Close, Amphitheater
7:30 pm ~ Neal McCoy, Amphitheater
9:00 pm ~ Diamond Rio, Amphitheater

Sunday, September 3, 2022

7:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Cafeteria hours
8:00 am ~ Bow Shoot Registration (Adult), Choctaw Village
8:00 am ~ Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
8:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ Icehouse hours
9:00 am - 3:00 pm ~ Mobile Library, Playground
9:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Quilt Show (Pick up quilts following show)
10:00 am ~ Worship Services, Chapel
10:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Going Green Tent hours
10:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ RV/Tent Gate hours
10:00 am - 8:00 pm ~ Arts and Crafts Building hours
10:00 am - 10:00 pm ~ General Store hours
11:00 am - 12:00pm ~ Domino/Checker Tournament Registration, Healthy Living Tent
Noon ~ Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheater
Noon - 3:00 pm ~ Choctaw Village Activities
Noon - 4:00 pm ~ Greenhouse Tours
Noon - 4:00 pm ~ CDIB/Membership hours
Noon - 6:00 pm ~ Information Tent 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 ~ Choctaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers
2:00 pm ~ Choctaw Dancers, Capitol Lawn
5:00 pm ~ Stickball Exhibition, Capitol Lawn
6:00 pm ~ Mark Trammel Quartet, Amphitheater
6:30 pm Women's Championship Stickball Game, Stickball Field
7:00 pm ~ Kingsman Quartet, Amphitheater
7:00 pm ~ Traditional Choctaw Hymn Singing, Chapel
7:45 pm ~ Men's Championship Stickball Game, Stickball Field
8:00 pm ~ Jason Crabb, Amphitheater
9:00 pm ~ Zach Williams, Amphitheater

Choctaw Village Activities

Friday
10:00 am ~ Corn Husk 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 ~ Choctaw Dancing
10:30 am ~ Choctaw Hymns
11:00 am ~ Storytelling
11:30 am ~ Rabbit Stick Throw
1:00 pm ~ Stickball
1:30 pm ~ Language
2:15 pm ~ Choctaw Dancing
4:00 pm ~ Village Closes

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

Capitol Museum Hours

Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday Noon - 6:00 pm

RV/Tent Gate Hours:

Wednesday 8:00 am - 11:00 pm | Thursday 8:00 am - 11:00 pm | Friday 8:00 am - 11:00 pm | Saturday 8:00 am - 11:00 pm | Sunday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

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 Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department.

BISKINIK
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma TOGETHER WE'RE MORE

August 2023
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13 Labor Day Sign-Ups
Page 1: Choctaw Nation announces 2023 Labor Day plans.
Page 10: World-renowned Choctaw chef David Skinner breaks the barriers between food and art.
Page 12: Jim Potts is passionate about helping people live healthier lives.
Biskinik Mission Statement: To serve as the source of information for Choctaw Nation tribal members by delivering community news through a variety of communication channels.

2023 CHOCTAW NATION LABOR DAY ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
NEAL MCCOY DIAMOND RIO
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
KINGSMEN QUARTET MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET ZACH WILLIAMS JASON CRABB
STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE FESTIVAL NEWS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT LABORDAY.CHOCTAWNATION.COM.
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma CHOCTAWNATION.COM

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