



October 2022 Issue

CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL SPECIAL EDITION



Chief Gary Batton delivers 2022 State of the Nation Address virtually

By Kendra Germany-Wall

On Sept. 5, 2022, Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) once again delivered his State of the Nation Address digitally.

Chief Batton updated viewers on tribal initiatives, programs and services highlights, and Choctaw success stories in his address.

Batton began by acknowledging the faith, values and compassion of the Choctaw people.

"The Choctaw people are a people of faith. We believe we are part of a larger plan, and we trust in the wisdom of the past to guide us in the present. Today, that spirit of community and faith endures. Choctaws also value family. The bonds we form in love and kinship are precious to us. When families break bread together or share memories and stories, we strengthen those ties and become happier, healthier people," said Batton. "Finally, we celebrate our culture. We are proud of our history and our heritage. When we know our stories and we practice our customs we shorten the distance between the past and present. The responsibility we have to each other is great, but we are grounded in generations of compassion, kindness, and service to others."

One thing Batton highlighted in his address was the successes of Choctaw's tribal services.

The first service he discussed was CNO Housing. "Our Housing Department offers a wide variety of programs and services that can help keep your home safe and comfortable with necessary upgrades and repairs, or we can help you find the right home loan to fit your needs," explained Batton.

According to Batton, in 2022, the total of LEAP homes climbed to over 300 across the reservation.

Several new Independent Elder homes were built this year, totaling over 200. CNO also has over 300 affordable rental units.

Batton also announced that the tribe is growing, with over 200,000 tribal members living worldwide.

A steady and unfortunate constant throughout the last three years has been the impact of COVID-19.

The American Rescue Plan Act allotted funding for the Choctaw Nation to support its tribal members during the ongoing pandemic. The Tribe has used those funds to expand programs and services to even more tribal members.

"Through our Economic Impact Recovery, Food Security, and Small Business programs, we have processed thousands of relief applications," said Batton.

According to Batton, the Choctaw Nation Health System is one of CNO's most comprehensive services.

"I'm proud to report that we've had over 800,000 health encounters this year and filled over a million prescriptions in our pharmacies. Whether you call or visit one of our clinics, pharmacies, behavioral health facilities or our hospital in Tahliha, our Health Services staff go above and beyond every day to make sure you get the best possible care," Batton said.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2019, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 19.86% of adults experienced a mental illness, equivalent to nearly 50 million Americans.

In his address, Batton stated that the Choctaw Nation believes in removing barriers to treatment and getting its people the help they need and deserve. "You are not alone. The Choctaw Nation is here to help you. Please reach out to our Behavioral Health professionals if you need support," said Batton.

Over the past few years, CNO has found itself at the forefront of innovation and technology. According to Batton, the Connect Home Initiative has brought internet access to hundreds of homes since it began in 2015.

CNO has also begun partnerships with NASA and the Federal Aviation Administration to explore and expand the use of unmanned aircraft systems. In April 2022, CNO hosted its third Emerging Aviation Technology Conference, discussing ways to move its technology initiatives forward.

"Our hope is to offer a tribal perspective on the unmanned aerial infrastructure plans from the ground up," Batton said. "But even though we have our sights set on the exciting future of technology, our local communities remain our top priority."

The Career Development program offers various services, helping CNO tribal members on their workforce journey.

According to Batton, CNO has invested over \$4 million in financial assistance into the Career Development program.

In the address, Batton highlighted the success of CNO as an employer, emphasizing the competitive health and wellness benefits as well as education perks like tuition reimbursement and internships.

"We've set a goal to be the employer of choice in Southeastern Oklahoma, and that means providing employment opportunities and benefits that are competitive in the job market," said Batton. "I'm proud to say that both Forbes magazine and the online journal Human Resources Director have yet again recognized the Choctaw Nation as an exceptional place to work."

Sovereignty has been at the forefront of the Choctaw Nation's mind since the Supreme Court's 2020 McGirt Decision. According to Batton, the past year has been filled with both victories and challenges regarding the issue of sovereignty.

"Although we've had several sovereignty wins this year, we've also had our fair share of challenges. This is especially true for our judicial branch and Department of Public Safety," said Batton. "At every turn, however, we've met those challenges by expanding the Department of Public Safety, establishing a Public Defender's Office, and hiring our first full-time District Court judge."

CNO has continued working with local law enforcement to strengthen its partnerships and keep its communities safe.

Additional sovereignty highlights mentioned by Batton in his address included language preservation, gaming, entertainment and tourism.

In his address, Batton also discussed the responsibilities the Nation has to take care of its people and communities.

"Our ancestors knew the value of a good neighbor, and we try to live up to their example," said Batton.

CNO has helped 19 small businesses this year through forgivable loans, and eight local communities received awards totaling over \$400,000 from the Community Development Fund.

"The Choctaw Nation also sends community partnership funds directly to cities and towns so our dollars are staying local," Batton said.

According to Batton, CNO is also taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint and be "better stewards of our natural resources," all while reducing energy costs.

CNO has partnered with OG&E to expand solar energy use in Southeastern Oklahoma.

"In addition to taking better care of our environment, we also strive to improve our tribal members' quality of life and ensure prosperity for the Choctaw Nation for generations to come," said Batton. "In order to meet those goals, we operate a wide variety of businesses, including food and beverage, gaming and retail. We also receive revenue from federal and state grants, as well as health insurance, Medicare and housing sources."

In his address, Batton stated that CNO takes pride in its childcare programs and services.

"Today's children will grow up to be the tribal leaders of tomorrow, and they will pass down our culture and traditions to future generations. Investing in their education from an early age secures the strength of the Choctaw people for the future," said Batton.

CNO currently serves hundreds of children in its childcare centers, with over 200 staff positions.

The Nation serves thousands of Choctaw students of all ages through scholarships, college prep, training and workshops.

In his closing remarks, Batton shared words from a poem that he has hanging in his office.

"We are tvshka—warriors—who have fought alongside our neighbors for the freedoms of this country. We have been scattered like seeds on the wind to every state and even to other countries, but we remain connected by our roots—our culture—passed down from generations of ancestors before us. We are here, in the present, just as we were in the past and will be in the future. We are Okla Achukma—good people—and I am honored to serve as your Chief."

The State of the Nation Address is still available online. For more, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/news/>.



The food was on point at the 2022 Labor Day Festival. Festival goers had options like corndogs, funnel cakes and frybread. Photo by Chris Jennings



Stickball is serious business for players of all ages. Children hustle for the towa during the children's exhibition game. Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall



There was a ton of family fun at this year's Labor Day Festival. The carnival is always a favorite among visitors of all ages. Photo by Mekayla Monroe

Faith, Family, Culture



Chief Gary Batton

Focusing on healthy lifestyles

Halito,
I enjoyed seeing everyone in person at this year's Labor Day Festival! It was a good opportunity to fellowship and engage in physical activities, which aligns with Healthy Aging Month.
September was designated for Healthy Aging Month to encourage people to focus on their health and take precautions to help them face the challenges that come with aging.
The idea is to adopt a healthier lifestyle, regardless of age, so that you can mature gracefully physically and mentally.
I encourage everyone to focus on adopting a healthier lifestyle so that we can truly enjoy our latter years.
Yakoke and God bless!



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

Who is my neighbor

This question was asked by a lawyer to Jesus in Luke 10:29, "But he willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?" Webster's dictionary defines it as "One living or located near another."

Jesus tells a story that will define the biblical definition of who a neighbor is in Luke 10: 25-37.

A Jewish man was riding through a mountainous, remote area when he was robbed, beaten and left for dead on the road. A certain priest came by and saw but passed by on the other side. Then, a Levite came by and saw the man but also passed by on the other side.

The priest seemed to have a good reason for not stopping and helping. In Leviticus 21: 1-17, a priest is to keep clean and to not touch a dead body.

The Levite also had a reason for not stopping. The Levite's main role was to assist the priest in the tabernacle service.

The Levite was responsible for the mantling, dismantling, and transporting of the tabernacle. Also, they were responsible for the offering of the tabernacle (Numbers 18).

Then, a Samaritan came by and saw the man. Now the Jews and the Samaritans were bitter enemies. The Jews saw the Samaritans as racial "half breeds" and religious heretics. There was great animosity between them. If there was to be a reason for not helping this man, the Samaritan had the greatest reason.

Yet the Samaritan was moved with compassion. He braved the danger of the elements to allow love to dictate his motive. He gave him medical aid, then transported him to an inn. He then paid the innkeeper to care for the man until he had fully recuperated, which would have been a substantial expense.

Jesus was giving a radical answer to a question from a law expert attempting to limit the implications of the command to love. Meeting the material, physical and economic needs of the vulnerable by deeds is the fulfillment of true justice. We are not limited to how we love but also who we love. We typically think of our neighbors as people of the same social class and means. We tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves.

By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus defines who our neighbor is, that anyone at all in need is our neighbor, regardless of race, politics, class and religion.

Gospel Singing



Photo by Rylee Tollett

Visitors congregate in the chapel for the Labor Day Gospel Singing.



Photo by Rylee Tollett

The Bertram Bobb Chapel has served as a place of solace and worship since its opening in 2014.



Photo by Mekayla Monroe

All ages enjoyed the variety of carnival games.



Photo by Rylee Tollett

The buffalo tours are always popular during the Labor Day Festival..

Breast cancer awareness



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

It's October, fall is in the air, and this month the children will be looking forward to Fall Break and Halloween.

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to reflect, give back, or even celebrate those affected by breast cancer.

Since 1985, breast cancer awareness month has been an annual campaign to raise awareness of this disease and fund research into its causes, treatment, and cure.

According to Breastcancer.org, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women. About 13 percent of women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetime.

The Choctaw Nation is doing its part to help fight breast cancer by offering Magseed® and Magtrace® technology as an innovative and less invasive option to remove breast lesions or cancer cells in the breast tissue and lymphatic system.

"The advantage of being able to do the Magseed and Magtrace here at Choctaw Nation is that we will be able to localize tumors that are not palpable, meaning you can't feel them in the breast or other soft tissues," noted Dr. Amanda Chisum-Price, breast surgeon.

The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center (CNHCC) is the first in Oklahoma to offer the procedures. For more information, call the Choctaw Nation Breast Care Clinic at (800) 349-7026.

We are trying to do our part to help combat this disease. I encourage all women and tribal members to do their part and have an annual checkup for early diagnosis.
God bless.

Choctaw Cultural Center produces first book

DURANT, Okla. (Sept. 14, 2022) – The Choctaw Cultural Center is taking a new path beyond its facility walls to educate about tribal culture. The Center has published its first book, *Stories by Choctaw Women*.

The 200-page paperback, released earlier this month, will be available at the Center's Hvshi Gift Store. The anthology features original writings by 10 contemporary Choctaw women.

A book signing with the authors is also planned for the Sept. 24 Art Market at the Choctaw Cultural Center, said Leslie Stall-Widener and Celia Stall-Meadows, editors and contributors to the book.

In addition to Meadows and Widener, works are featured by Francine Locke Bray, Jennifer P. Byram, Marianne Locke, Sandra Riley, Margaret Riley Santhanam, Lynda Kay Sawyer, Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, and Stacy Wells. The authors reside in Oklahoma, Texas, and California.

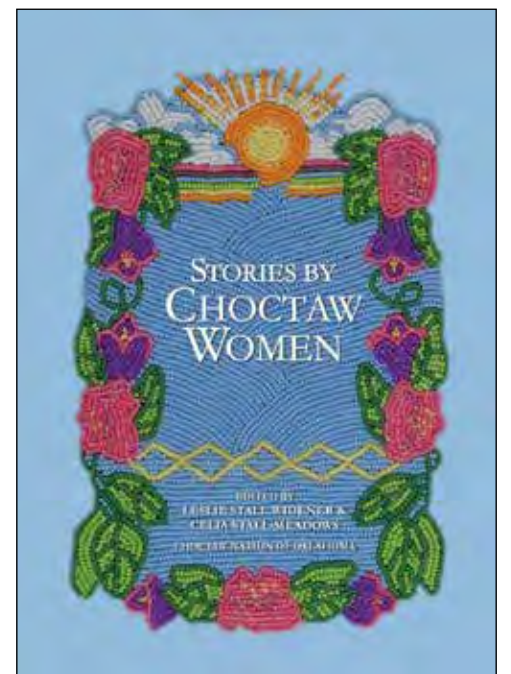
Stories by Choctaw Women contains a range of genres, including fiction, both historical and contemporary; nonfiction essays; family letters, and poetry. A glimpse at the variety includes:

"Influenza!" is a short story told from the points of view of the oldest sister in two households separated by a century. Their fates are shown when the two families are afflicted by the contagious flu viruses of their eras, the Spanish Flu in 1919 and COVID in 2020.

"Pageant Papers" tells a mother's story of a forgotten pageant, held at Wheelock Academy in 1932, and a 10-year search to find a record of the event.

"To Susan and Her Sisters," is a glimpse into a young Choctaw girl's coming of age in the late 1800s in Indian Territory. Told through a collection of letters, a nostalgic and heart-warming time is captured.

To follow updates on *Stories by Choctaw Women*, visit Choctaw social media and www.choctawculturalcenter.com.



2022 Labor Day Highlights



Photo by Mekayla Monroe

Sometimes terrifying, sometimes not, the Fun Slide was usually a hit.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Kendyl Lytle hooks a fish in one of the many carnival games.

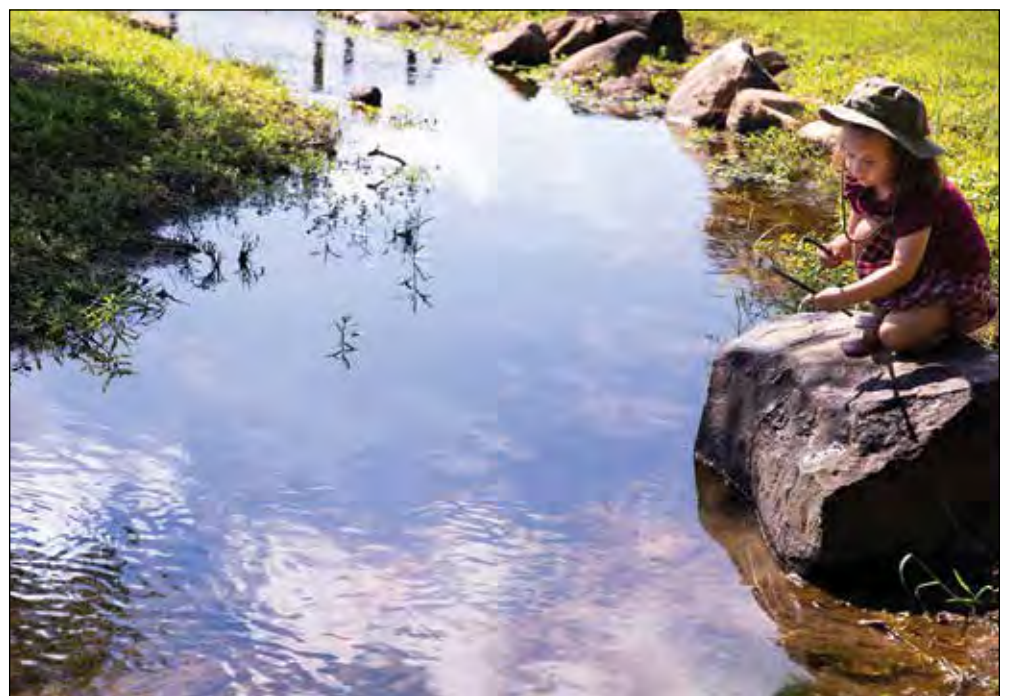


Photo by Chris Jennings

Gyda Maxwell plays in the creek in the Choctaw Village.

2022 OK SENIOR GAMES

Presented By **ArchWell HEALTH** and **Cigna**

FACEBOOK | WEBSITE | SCAN ME

Track and Field	Oct 1	Shawnee High School, Shawnee
1500 M Race and Power Walks	Oct 1	Shawnee High School, Shawnee
Golf	Oct 1	Muskogee Golf Club, Muskogee
Triathlon	Oct 2	Lake El Reno, El Reno
Cycling	Oct 8	Fort Sill, Lawton
Tennis	Oct 12, 13, 14	RH 91, Tulsa
Table Tennis	Oct 15	Moore Community Center, Moore
Pickleball	Oct 21, 22, 23	Life Time Athletic, OKC
Shuffleboard	Oct 22	Bixby Community Center, Bixby
Volleyball	Oct 22	Moore Community Center, Moore
Weight Lifting	Oct 29	Kaizen Performance Center, Norman
Badminton	Oct 29	Irving Recreation Center, Norman
Fitness	Various Dates	Many Locations: see OKSeniorGames.com
Racquetball	TBA	TBA
Celebration of Athletes	Nov 5	The White House Mansion, Tulsa

www.okseniorgames.com | (405) 821-1500 | info@okseniorgames

Basketball



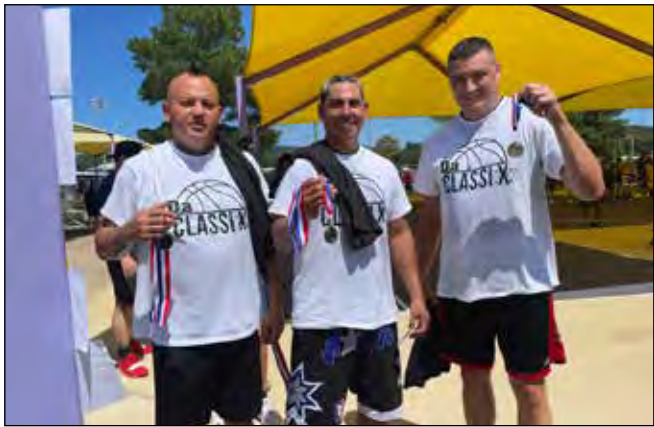
Co-Ed Mini Ballers 9-11, First Place: Latta from Fitzhugh, Oklahoma.



Co-Ed Mini Ballers 9-11, Second Place: Hitman from Hugo, Oklahoma.



Women's All-stars, First Place: Tushka Ohoyos from Durant, Oklahoma.



Old Timers Men's Division, Second Place: Da Classixx from Wister, Oklahoma.



Old Timers Men's Division, First Place: Team RS from Rattan Oklahoma.



Women's All-stars, Second Place: Scrub Nation from Wister, Oklahoma.



Women's All-Stars, Third Place: Hung Jurors from Calera, Oklahoma.

Labor Day 5k



Overall Male winner, Thomas Brennan from Poteau, Oklahoma.



Photo by Chris Jenning

Thomas Brennan ran the majority of the 5k, swapping between second and third place until the end when he powered away for the win.



Photo by Christian Toews

Cooper Gordon, from Oklahoma City, surged to an early lead out of the gate and led most of the race but faded at the end, finishing second overall and first in the 16-19 age group.



Overall female winner, Alexis Kotoucek of Norman, Oklahoma, with Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Gary Batton.

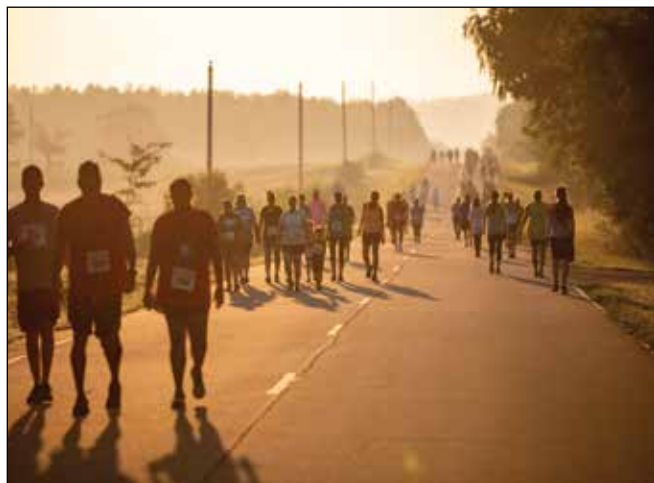


Photo by Christian Toews

The early morning sun warmed runners and walkers as they made their way along the 5k course Saturday morning.

Softball



Softball, First Place Men's Division: Brazos.



Softball, First Place Women's Division: Chitto Harjo.



Photo by Mallory Jackson

Players were happy to be back on the diamond for the first Choctaw Labor Day Festival Softball Tournament since 2019.

INDIGENOUS ARCHAEOLOGY DAY
OCT 22, 2022

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME
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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



District 3

Halito District 3,
The Choctaw Labor Day Festival was a super success with jam-packed crowds and activities for all ages over a 3-day event during Labor Day weekend. Many were excited to celebrate together after two years' cancellation due to the pandemic. There was much to do, to see and cultural events to enjoy, such as Princess Pageant, stickball, gourd dancing, arts and crafts, and much more. It was a fun-filled special time to celebrate family, fellowship together and honor Choctaw traditions. Our seniors are back to taking trips! The Smithville group traveled to Branson in August. Both groups, Smithville and Talihina enjoyed a trip to Kentucky to see a full-sized replica of Noah's Ark. It was a fun time of shopping, sightseeing and good food.

My good news highlight for District 3, is that Smithville will be the home of 10 affordable rent houses. The building process will be completed within year 2023.

At the September Tribal Council session, a \$2.1 billion comprehensive expense budget was approved for fiscal year 2023. Our Tribal Council focuses on meeting the needs of our people while planning toward the future.

A personal "Welcome" to District 3 community centers. Stop by for a visit, stay for lunch, and check out what's going on with the Tribe.

Yakoke,
Councilman Eddie Bohanan



District 4

Halito from District 4.
School is back in session, and everyone is getting back into a routine. We enjoyed the Superintendents' Luncheon in July, and in August, I attended the Choctaw Nation Freshman Year Initiative Dinner at CASC. Forty freshmen are ready to further their education! It is great to see all the support the Choctaw Nation provides to our schools.

August was an exciting time for 30 Choctaw families in Poteau. They received the keys to their new homes! Twenty were LEAP homes (lease to purchase) and 10 were affordable rentals. It was heartwarming to see the children playing in their yards and see the excitement on their faces. Congratulations to all on your new homes. Yakoke to Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr., the Tribal Council and the City of Poteau for working together to make this happen.

Congratulations to District 4's new Chahtapreneurs, Jill's Corner Shoppe, Red Beard Custom Works, Morning Star Creations, Salt Prairie Taxidermy and Green Country Nutrition. I encourage you to support our Chahtapreneurs and help them grow their businesses.

Congratulations to the Poteau Seniors for winning the Chair Volleyball Championship at the Labor Day Festival and to Tvshka Homma Ohoyo stickball champions! Congratulations to both teams! The festival was a great time to come together. Yakoke to all the volunteers who made it a success.

The first Friday of each month the Poteau Seniors sell Indian Tacos at the Poteau Community Center. Make plans to come out for lunch and support our seniors.

The holidays are fast approaching! I wish each of you a safe and blessed holiday season.

As always, if I can be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yakoke,
Jess Henry



Thirty families in Poteau received keys to their new homes on August 4, 2022.

Carney is First Language Speaker of the Month



District 12 first language speaker, Paula Carney, was honored at the September 9 Choctaw Tribal Council meeting. Paula is a well respected Choctaw Elder who is a champion of preserving Choctaw language and culture.



Phelps is Veteran of the Month

Choctaw Nation's Veteran of the Month is Walter Phelps.

Phelps was born Jan. 16, 1947, in Wilburton, Oklahoma, attended Wilburton Public Schools, and graduated in 1966. After completing high school, he voluntarily joined the U.S. Air Force, enlisting on July 5, 1966.

He attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and then attended technical school as a jet engine mechanic at Shepard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas. Upon completion of the training, Phelps reported to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona where he was assigned to Strategic Air Command. He then became Change of Duty to the support branch and was eventually given a medical discharge in November 1967.

Phelps married Betty Kirk on Dec. 27, 1969. He went on to attend Eastern Okla. State College and graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial maintenance in 1976. He was an auto mechanics instructor for Kiamichi Vocational Technical School, retiring after many years in 1992.

He has three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. After retirement, Phelps volunteered at the Crowder Community Center and became an employee in 2010. He is a community volunteer, delivers meals to the elderly, and drives the shuttle bus for elder trips. He is a profound influence around the area and helps as much as he can.

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

CNO Tribal Council approves FY 2023 budget

TVSHKA HOMMA, Okla. (Sept. 12, 2022) – The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council unanimously approved a \$2.1 billion comprehensive expense budget for fiscal year 2023 during the Tribal Council session on Sept. 10. The expense budget is a 15 percent increase over 2022. The new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2022.

"Our Tribal Council has again shown support for our leadership teams and our strategies to meet the needs of our people while focusing on the future," said Chief Gary Batton. "The Choctaw Nation continues to expand services such as building 300 more homes, covering costs for dental crowns and a \$300 increase in helping families with burial expenses, just to name a few. The increased budget even during this time of inflation highlights our Nation's financial stability."

Approved capital expenses are just over \$229.4 million, up from \$71 million last year, primarily due to the new Choctaw Landing resort project in Hochatown, Okla.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal membership has increased to over 212,000.

The Choctaw Nation is planning to hire an additional 489 employees in fiscal year 2023 increasing total associates to over 12,000.

CNO revenue for fiscal year 2023 is projected to be nearly 21 percent higher than the prior year, driven primarily by increases in commerce and healthcare. Choctaw Casino and Resort – Durant's new Sky Tower addition is a key factor in the expected increase in commerce revenue for 2023.

Choctaw Development Fund awards more than \$49,000 to the City of Wilburton to install new splash pad

WILBURTON, Okla. (Sept. 12, 2022) – On August 24, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) and the Choctaw Development Fund (CDF) awarded the city of Wilburton \$49,900 that will be used in partnership with the Wilburton's Lion Club and the City of Wilburton to install a new Splash Pad at Rosebure Park in Wilburton, Okla.

The 2,415 square-foot, animal themed splash pad will enhance the community by offering interactive recreational space and opportunities for children's sensory and mental growth while also allowing families to come together and socialize.

"We are ecstatic to have this new amenity for our residents at Rosebure Park," states Teresa Brady, Wilburton Lions Club Representative. "The partnership we have with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and installing this Splash Pad is just one of our many continued efforts to provide our community with meaningful and enjoyable recreational activities."

The CDF supports economic viability and sustainability by partnering with Choctaw small business owners, cities and municipalities to create long-term growth and job creation within the territories of CNO.

"Splash Pads and parks bring people together and build a community," states Jennifer Woods, Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Member District 6. "We are pleased to support and provide resources for this project through our Choctaw Development Fund, not only for our Choctaw Tribal members but for our community. We look forward to the Rosebure Park Splash Pad to open in the summer of 2023 for kids and families to enjoy."



Choctaw Nation Photo

Front: Jonathan Wynn, Wilburton Chamber of Commerce; Teresa Brady, Wilburton Lions Club, Jennifer Woods, Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Member District 6; Karsyn Brigrance, City of Wilburton Representative; Mike Elder, City of Wilburton Representative; Angel Rowland, Choctaw Nation Choctaw Development Fund Manager; Terri Ramirez, Choctaw Nation Wilburton Community Center Clerk; Sue Hardcastle, Cindy Dye, Shawna Busby, Nancy Wood, and Neal Wood, Wilburton Lions Club. **Back:** Jara James, Choctaw Nation Small Business Development Advisor; Rachel Mathis and Bubba Mathis, Wilburton Chamber of Commerce Representatives and Walter Hammers, Wilburton Lions Club.



UPDATE REQUIRED FOR SOONERCARE CASES

The Oklahoma Healthcare Authority will soon require 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 to avoid termination or lapse in coverage.

Choctaw Nation Health Services



#VoteYourValuesOK

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

October 4	Antlers	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
October 5	Talihina	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 7	Crowder	By Appointment
October 11	Idabel	1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
October 12	Poteau	10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.
October 14	Atoka	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
October 14	Coalgate	1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
October 18	Broken Bow	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 19	McAlester	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 19	Stigler	By Appointment
October 21	Wright City	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
October 25	Wilburton	10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 28	Atoka	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
October 28	Coalgate	1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.


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



CHOCTAW VETERAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Are You a Choctaw Veteran?

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
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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

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 Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
 Assistant Chief

The Official
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Kristina Humenesky, Senior Director
Kellie Matherly, Content Development Director
Kendra Wall, Content Development Manager
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Christian Toews, News Reporter

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

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

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

YAKOKE

Dear Biskinik Staff,

I enjoy reading Biskinik articles on Choctaw history, in particular the series "A New Chahta Homeland." I am writing to share a story that relates to a recent Biskinik article on the Choctaw Nation's generosity. Earlier this month my husband and I participated in a week-long trip in Ireland. Our Inroads Ireland tour guide Hugh introduced our group to Irish history and culture as we traveled around southern Ireland. When speaking about the devastating Irish potato famine, Hugh told us how the Choctaw Nation raised money for the Irish people and how grateful the Irish people were for this kindness. Others in our group had not heard this story, but my husband and I were aware of it because of the Biskinik article. I told Hugh that I was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and thanked him for sharing this story. Keep up the good work!

- Ann Marie Hayes-Hawkinson

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

August 13, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER
 - OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
 - ROLL CALL
 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - Regular Session August 13, 2022
 - Special Session August 18, 2022
 - WELCOME GUESTS/SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
 - Veteran of the Month, District #12 – Walter Phelps
 - First Choctaw Language Speaker, District #12 – Paula Carney
 - PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - Donnie Glass – Individual Speaker – Unfair Practices to Tribal Citizens
 - REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CHOCTAW NATION SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
 - ELECTION OF SPEAKER, SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE, SECRETARY, AND CHAPLAIN OF CHOCTAW NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
 - APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, PARLIAMENTARIAN, AND RECORDING SECRETARY OF CHOCTAW NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL
 - APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS
 - NEW BUSINESS
 - Rescind CB-64-22 and Approve a Service Line Agreement in Favor of Kiamichi Electric Cooperative, on Land Held by the USA in Trust for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Chickasaw Nation in Latimer County, Oklahoma
 - Approve an Amendment to the Tower and Ground Space Lease – Business Lease No. 4200028664 (G09-1889), between the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and United States Cellular Operating Company of Greater Oklahoma, LLC
 - Approve Application for the FY22 Indian Housing Block Grant Program Competitive Grant Application
 - Approve Application for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Funding Grant
 - Approve Application for the FY23 Special Diabetes Program for Indians
 - Approve Application for the FY2922 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)
 - Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Equipment
 - Approve the Disposal of Surplus Capital Assets – Vehicles
 - Approve the Funds and Budget for Year One of the FY21 University of Florida Medication Adherence and CardioMetabolic Control Indicators among American Indians Receiving Tribal Health Services Subaward
 - Approve Funds and Budget for Year One of the FY22 Zero Suicide Initiative Grant – Project Iksho
 - Enter into a Tribal Transportation Program Agreement with the United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Approve the FY/2023 Annual Tribal Budget of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
 - Amend the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Fish, Game and Animals Code
 - OTHER NEW BUSINESS
 - OLD BUSINESS
 - ADJOURNMENT
 - CLOSING PRAYER
- All Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: All Passed

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

August 22, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER
 - OPENING PRAYER/FLAG SALUTE
 - ROLL CALL
 - NEW BUSINESS
 - Approve a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity in Favor of SA American Dream Vacation LLC
 - OTHER NEW BUSINESS
 - OLD BUSINESS
 - ADJOURNMENT
 - CLOSING PRAYER
- All Vote Counts: YEAs - Unanimous; Vote Result: All Passed

EVENTS

Choctaw Veterans Association Recruiting New Members

Meetings are second Saturday of the month at Spiro Community Center at 8:00 a.m.

For more information contact Ed Hendrix 918-962-5524.

Join the Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association

The Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association (ONIA) is searching for new members. ONIA is a chapter of the Oklahoma Nurses Association. ONIA hosts meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. All nurses serving Oklahoma Indigenous community are invited to join the ONIA circle of healing at <https://ona.nursingnetwork.com> or like us on Facebook at Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association. To receive emails about these specific meetings, join ONA by going to www.oknurses.com.

Nanah Chito Annual Singing Wright City, Oklahoma

October 22, 2022, with Supper at 5:00 p.m. Singing will be from 6:00 p.m. until approximately 12:00 a.m. Roger Scott from Durant, Okla. will be the emcee. There will be specials and congregational singing. Concession stand will be available. For more information, contact Solomon Tonihka at (580) 236-0525 or Michael Davis (580) 320-7985

Chahta Feast of the Dead

The Feast of the Dead is a time of celebration for families and the community to give remembrance to those who have passed on. Join us in this traditional Choctaw burial custom to honor and remember our loved ones.

November 1, 2022 | 6pm - 10pm
Choctaw KOA
3650 Enterprise Dr,
Durant, OK 74701

Potluck Style Meal: 6pm-7pm
 (Bring a dish to share)

Family Heritage Crafts: 7pm-8pm
 (Bring family photos to scan and copy)

Memorial Reflection & Ceremony: 8pm- 10pm
 (Share stories about loved ones)

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:

Crowder Community Center
October 7, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Chahta Anumpa Aikkhvna
October Language Lesson

Chukfoloha – Dizzy

Sv chukfoloha chiyoyhmi!	I'm really dizzy!
Chi chukfoloha ho?	Are you dizzy?
Sv chukfoloha kiyo.	I'm not dizzy.
Vlla mvt chukfoloha.	That child is dizzy.
Ohoyo mvt chukfoloha cha binili tuk.	That woman got dizzy and sat down.
Chi chukfoloha hokma ish bininlikma.	(You) Sit down if you're dizzy.
Chi chukfoloha hokma pa ish binila hinla	You can sit here if you're dizzy.
Chi chukfoloha beka tuk o?	Do you usually get dizzy?
Kanimikma chi chukfoloha ka alikchi ish im anoli ha?	Did you tell the doctor that you sometimes get dizzy?
Chi chukfoloha cho chi taseumbo ho?	Are you dizzy or crazy
chukfolohachi – suffix 'chi' - to cause or make something or someone dizzy.	
Nanta hosh chi chukfolohachi tuk?	What made you dizzy?
Nana hosh sv chukfolohachi ka ak ikhano.	I don't know what is making me dizzy.
Nana hokato chi chukfolohachi.	Something is making you dizzy.
Nana hokato sv chukfolohachi.	Something is making me dizzy.
Okhish makosh chukfolohachi sv yimmi.	I believe it is the medicine making her dizzy.
Oka homi yvt chi chukfolohachi hinla.	Whiskey can make you dizzy.
Okhish mvt chi chukfolohachi he bano.	That medicine will surely make you dizzy.
Hattak mvt balit folokakachi tuk osh ile chukfolohachit tahli	That man ran in circles until he made himself dizzy.



Oklushi has successful season

Team Oklushi placed third in the Durant Spring 10 and Under Softball league. The team rebounded and made it to the Oklahoma State Tournament, falling to an undefeated team by only one run. The team finished the year with a 12-4 record. The team is a close group of girls who love to play and work hard every game. Oklushi means “tribe” or “a race of one people” in Choctaw. According to coach Baker, the team has developed a tribe-like atmosphere of everyone being there for each other and is ready for the next season to start. The majority of girls on the team are members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, while all but two of the remaining players are the children of CNO associates. The team is coached by full-blood Choctaw tribal member and CNO language teacher Casey Baker and his wife, Becca, CNO associate James Love and other CNO associates.



Shelton earns bachelors from OU

Ambree Shelton, a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology from the University of Oklahoma on May 14, 2022. She was accepted and has begun classes at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Ambree is from Broken Bow, Oklahoma and is the daughter of Susan Shelton and Jarrod Shelton. She is the granddaughter of Kim Johnson of Wickes, Arkansas, and the late Bertha Battiest Hutchison, formerly of Eagletown, Oklahoma.

Dunn Celebrates 94 Years

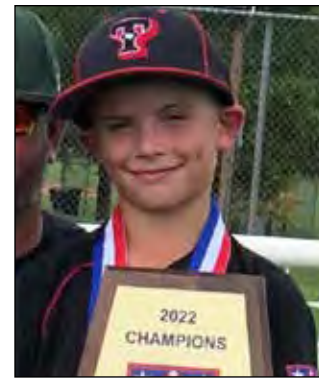


Charlene Dunn of Rock Island, Oklahoma, will turn 94 on October 20, 2023. She is the former owner of Poteau Beauty College. Since her retirement, Charlene keeps busy by quilting, gardening and traveling. She is proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.



Marris graduates from NAU

Leandra Marris (Choctaw/Navajo) recently graduated from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Leandra received a Bachelor of Science in psychology, criminology and criminal justice. She is pursuing a career in the psychology field in Phoenix, Arizona. “I am very proud of my daughter,” said Leandra’s father, Harold Marris. “Wish her all the best.”



Cheek and team win World Series

In August, Zane Cheek and his 10 and under Buffalo Dixie teammates from Buffalo, Texas, traveled to Anderson, South Carolina, to compete in the 2022 Dixie Youth Little League World Series. Cheek and his teammates won the skills competition for base running with the fastest time around the bases. The team also won the home run derby competition. On August 3, Cheek’s won the 2022 Division II 10 and Under Dixie Youth Little League World Series Championship.

Sparks named 2023 Oklahoma Future Little Miss United States Agriculture

Laramie Sparks is the 2023 Oklahoma Future Little Miss United States Agriculture. Laramie competed in the Arklaoma Miss United States Agriculture Pageant in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, on August 6, where she won all areas of competition in her age division. She also placed Top 5 in all age divisions for her agriculture advocacy. Laramie is the 5-year-old daughter of Landon and Cheyenne Sparks of Oklahoma. She enjoys helping on her family ranch, mutton busting, creating beadwork and baking delicious treats for her friends and family. When Laramie grows up, she wants to be an “animal protector” so she can help animals of all shapes and sizes. In July, Laramie will represent Oklahoma at the 2023 Miss United States Agriculture Pageant in Enterprise, Alabama.



Sean Elliott Knight



Tracy, Troy and brothers David, Killian, Owen and Liam Knight welcomed a baby boy, Sean Elliott Knight, on August 24, 2022, in Stewartstown, Pennsylvania. He weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. Sean is a great-great-grandson of Willie Mae Henderson, an original enrollee, and Clinton Whitehead. Sean is the grandson of Bobby and Debbie Dotson and great-grandson of Patricia Stout of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Moreno and Austin place in top 20 at National APA 8-ball Tournament

Tribal members Devon Moreno and Starla Austin of Dallas recently attended The Women’s World American Pool Association National 8-ball Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 7 - 10, 2022. Their team, Hustlin Vixens, placed seventeenth out of 253 teams. Placing in the top 20 was a huge accomplishment for the team, as it was their first time competing. “It was an honor and exciting experience playing with competitive Ladies from around the world,” said Austin.



Choctaw Musical Artists



Photos by Kellie Matherly
Choctaw musical artists open the show for the Clint Black concert on the second day of the festival. The fans love seeing Choctaws represented on the main stage.
Top Left: Braiden Williams of Achille, Oklahoma.
Top Right: Jerry Tims and the Jerry Tims Band of Idabel, Oklahoma.
Left: Jeremy Rowe of Oklahoma City.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Antlers: November 9 - Noon	McAlester: November 16 – 11:30 a.m. (Seniors)
Atoka: November 9 – 11 am.	November 17 – 6 p.m. (Community)
Battiest: November 2 – 11 a.m. (Seniors)	Poteau: November 9 – Noon
November 10 – 6 p.m. (Community)	Smithville: November 16 – Noon (Community)
Broken Bow: November 9 – 11 a.m. (Seniors)	Spiro: November 16– 11 a.m.
November 17 – 6 p.m. (Community)	Stigler: November 16 – 11 a.m.
Coalgate: November 9 – Noon	Talihina: November 15 – 11 a.m.
Crowder: November 16 – 11:30 a.m.	Tushkahomma: November 3 – 6 p.m.
Durant: November 8 – 6 p.m. (Community)	Wilburton: November 16 – 11 a.m.
Hugo: November 9 – 11:30 a.m.	Wright City: November 16 - Noon
Idabel: November 9 – 6 p.m. (Community)	

Times and dates are subject to change. Contact your local Choctaw Community Center for more information.

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Choctaw Nation Health Services

Horseshoes



Anita Ishcomer, Women's Ringers Champion.



Youth Ringers Champion, Kamdan Wilson.



Men's Singles Winners: First Place, Mike Mings, Second Place, Bunky Impson and Third Place, Donald Blackbird.



Men's Doubles Champions: Charles Elk and Donald Blackbird.



Mike Mings, Men's Ringers Champion.



Horseshoes have long been among the most competitive sports tournaments at Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festivals. It's a fun event for competitors of all ages.



Women's Singles Winners: First Place, Stephanie Bohannan, Second Place, Sequina Hunter and Third Place, Phyllis Bohannan.



Women's Doubles Winners: First Place, Phyllis Bohannan and Kisha Bohannan, Second Place, Stephanie Bohannan and Sequina Hunter and Third Place Samantha Sennett and Felisha Doyle.



Youth Singles winners First Place Kamdan Wilson, Second Place, Braxton Bacon and Third Place, Ruger Sennett.

Quilt Show



First Place Machine Quilted, Joy Henry of Pocola.



This year, there was a tie in the People's Choice category of the Quilt Show. Above is Joy Henry's quilt and below is Lois Thomas' quilt.



First Place Machine and Hand Quilted, Rose Neal of Hugo.



First Place Hand Stitched, Lois Thomas of Talihina.

Dominoes & Checkers



Second Place, Albert Jones and First Place, Archey Crosby.



First Place, Quint Hodges and Second Place, Shirley Blackman.



Games can get pretty intense during the Labor Day Festival Checkers Tournament. Competitors of all ages compete for the coveted bragging rights and a prize.

Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall



Players battle it out during the Dominoes Tournament on the last day of the Labor Day Festival.

Photo by Rylee Tollett

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Applications open October 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023

LIHWAP PROGRAM
(ASSISTANCE WITH HOUSEHOLD WATER BILLS)
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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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ITI FABVSSA

A New Chahta Homeland: A History by the Decade, 1990-2000s

This month marks the end of our Iti Fabvssa series “A New Chahta Homeland: A History by the Decade,” which covers the span of Oklahoma Choctaw history. By examining each decade since the Choctaw government arrived in our new homelands using Choctaw-created documents, we have gained a better understanding of Choctaw ancestors’ experiences and how they made decisions that have led us into the present.

This month concludes the series with the years 1990-2000s, which saw the resolutions of lawsuits filed by Choctaw Nation against the U.S. government, the development of compacts with the state of Oklahoma, and the rise of casino gaming and its role in the expansion of the Nation’s economic development program that has brought us into the present.

Choctaw Nation’s success with bingo throughout the 1990s helped to jump-start many of the business ventures that we operate today. Bingo operations expanded into Idabel, Pocola and McAlester. The funds that bingo provided helped open other businesses like the Choctaw Inn and Three Arrows Restaurant across from the bingo palace, as well as the travel plazas, which began with the Hugo Travel Plaza. It even opened its own construction company in 1999 to build these Choctaw Nation businesses. While Choctaw Nation operated other enterprises like the Arrowhead Lodge and Resort at the same time, bingo highlighted the power and great potential of gaming. Casino gaming, already popular in other Native communities, was the next big step for Choctaw Nation.

In 2004, Choctaw Nation worked on state legislation that would help Oklahoma tribal nations upgrade their gaming machines to the Vegas-style slot machines and other Class III games that had been limited by the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulation Act. This led Choctaw Nation and others to enter gaming compacts that shared some of the earnings with the state of Oklahoma. Over the next year, Choctaw Nation massively expanded its gaming operations, and it quickly became its most lucrative business. In 2006, Choctaw Nation opened their first casino in Durant, Oklahoma. Located just across the street from the Bingo Palace, the new Choctaw Casino and Resort proved to be an immediate success. Plans for expansion were drawn up not long after opening. The Grand Tower was added in 2010, the Spa Tower in 2016, and the Sky Tower in 2022.

As Choctaw Nation expanded its gaming enterprises and increased the types of businesses that it operated, it also massively expanded the services for tribal members, which improved their quality of life and provided them with more opportunities. The Na-



Choctaw dancers at Labor Day Festival. Image courtesy of Choctaw Cultural Center, Durant, Oklahoma, Biskinik Collection 004.

tion took on more governmental responsibilities that the federal government had been managing. It also applied for numerous grants to increase the kinds of services it could provide, especially the elderly and the youth. It massively expanded its Health Services and funded public infrastructure projects like the improvement of highways and roads.

Since statehood, taxation has been a longstanding point of contention between the state of Oklahoma and tribal nations, and that became even more public with the rise of Indian gaming. With the resurgence in tribal nations’ power throughout Indian Country, states took a more adversarial approach to engaging tribes. The state of Oklahoma was no exception. Unlike previous times in history, tribal nations had a lot more power to stand up for themselves and figure out the best course. Two important cases that resulted in a compact between the Choctaw Nation and the state of Oklahoma were regarding tobacco and motor fuels which divided part of the profit that Choctaw Nation gained from operating this business with the state.

In June 1997, Assistant Chief Gregory E. Pyle was sworn in as Chief of the Choctaw Nation. In 2007, Chief Pyle appointed Gary Batton as Assistant Chief. After serving as Chief for 17 years, Assistant Chief for 13 years and in numerous positions for nine years before that, Chief Pyle retired at the age of 65. This left Assistant Chief Gary Batton to finish out his term. In 2015, Choctaw citizens elected Gary Batton as Chief and re-elected him in 2019.

The 2000s marked the resolution of several lawsuits that Choctaw Nation filed to protect Choctaw sovereignty. As mentioned in last month’s article, a key lawsuit was regarding the Choctaw-Chickasaw timberlands. The Choctaw-Chickasaw timberlands

lawsuit began in 2005. Located in today’s McCurtain, LeFlore, Latimer, Pushmataha and Choctaw counties, the Choctaw timberlands were exempted from the allotment process in the early 1900s and were managed by the U.S. government. Research into the old land records revealed that approximately 1.3 million acres of these forest lands were sold to local timber companies that took the valuable timber without compensating Choctaw Nation. There was also evidence of U.S. officials working with timber companies for the sale of Choctaw-Chickasaw lands. The litigation for this case went back and forth for 9-10 years before the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and the U.S. government reached a settlement of \$181 million in 2015. Another major lawsuit was regarding Choctaw-Chickasaw water rights at Sardis Lake. This lawsuit was settled in 2016 and resulted in an agreement regarding to protect those water resources and their sustainability.

From the 1990s onward, Choctaw Nation made great strides in governmental operations to provide for the Choctaw people by engaging in a robust economic development program. Since arriving in our new homelands in the 1830s on the Trail of Tears, Choctaw people maintained resiliency and learned much from the past to bring us where we are today. Learning from centuries and decades of interaction with European and American traders and settlers, our ancestors learned and developed what they thought were the best strategies for counteracting settle their infringement on Choctaw lands. They secured powerful treaties that still protect many of our rights and lands – even if those treaties were not perfect and were also undermined by the U.S. government. When faced with major challenges like the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War and debates regarding allotment, Choctaw leaders chose what they thought gave the nation the most autonomy at the time. And while those decisions might not have played out as Choctaw leaders had hoped, they have had a lasting impact. Despite the great difficulties that Choctaw people faced, we have persevered through it all and remain today.

This concludes our series, “A New Chahta Homeland: A History by the Decade.” Additional reading resources are available on the Choctaw Nation Cultural Service webpage (<https://choctawnationculture.com/choctaw-culture/additional-resources.aspx>).

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

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



FIND COLLEGE SUCCESS

Through the College Freshman Year Initiative, we look to unify the community of Choctaw students and empower them to make informed decisions about their academic futures. With the assistance of First Year Experience Counselor and partnerships with various campuses across the state, Choctaw students will find the appropriate tools to achieve their goals through graduation.

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

CONTACT

800-522-6170 | COLLEGEFYI@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation College Freshman Year Initiative CHOCTAWNATION.COM

2022 Art Show Winners

Painting

First Place: Paul King, Choctaw Spirit
 Second Place: Nancy Rhoades, Killihota, You Have Two Hearts
 Third Place: Carole Ayers, Joseph Hears a Pig Tale
 Honorable Mention: Kevin Hardin, Three Princesses in Bakersfield

Graphics

First Place: Ross Ridge, Ancestors
 Second Place: Gwen Coleman Lester, Buffalo Valley No. 5
 Third Place: Jeanette Ozee, Kiti
 Honorable Mention: Ross Ridge, Words of Warriors

Sculpture

First Place: Lyman Choate, Big Onssi
 Second Place: Lyman Choate, Bull of the Woods
 Third Place: Lyman Choate, Mother’s Love
 Honorable Mention: John White, Tiger Mountain

Basketry

First Place: Lizabeth Mitchell, Double Bull Nose (Hanging Basket)
 Second Place: Susan Locke Charlesworth, Colors of the Earth (Elbow Basket)
 Third Place: Susan Locke Charlesworth, Southeast Native American Fish Trap
 Honorable Mention: Susan Locke Charlesworth, Oklahoma Blue Sky After a Storm (Storage Basket)

Cultural

First Place: Deana Ward, Intikba “Heritage” (Beadwork)
 Second Place: Margaret Riley Santhanam, Tvmaha Itiachi “They are going to town” (Dolls)
 Third Place: Roger Amerman, Traditional Ceremonial Choctaw Baldric
 Honorable Mention: Edmon Perkins, Jr., Rattle-headed Bat Bowl (Pottery)

Jewelry

First Place: Roger Amerman, Taloa Mahli “Wind Chanter” (Beaded Medallion)
 Second Place: Cliff Wilson, Jr., Choctaws Love the Blue Stone (Sterling Silver Set)
 Third Place: Chester Cowen, Searching for Ukraine’s Bright Path (Beaded Collar & Earrings)
 Honorable Mention: Cliff Wilson, Jr., Beautiful People (Sterling Silver Bracelet)

Overall Winners

Best of Show
 Janie Semple Umsted, In the time of Migration – Parting of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Brothers (Sculpture)

Choctaw Heritage Award
 Roger Amerman, Traditional Ceremonial Choctaw Baldric

People’s Choice
 Paul King, Choctaw Spirit (Painting)



Best of Show: Janie Semple Umsted, In the time of Migration – Parting of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Brothers (Sculpture).



People’s Choice: Paul King, Choctaw Spirit (Painting).

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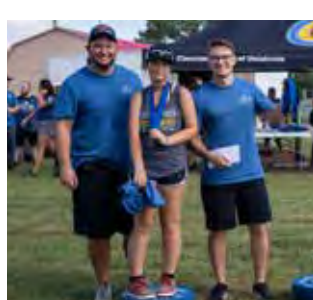
Women's Legend, Kay Ellison.



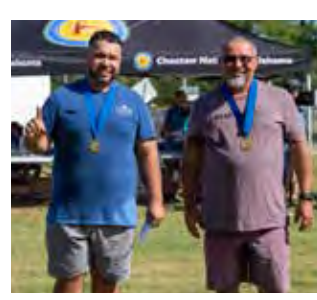
Competitors take their turn on the rowing machines. Photo by Mallory Jackson



Women's Open Winner, Tiffanie Burchfield.



From left to right, Chase Henson, Women Teen Second Place Winner, Annalina Leos, Justin Jernigan.



Left: Male Master's First Place, Paul Crow. Right: Male Master's third place winner, Councilman Anthony Dillard.



Left: Women's Second Place, Denise Stewart. Center: Women's First Place, Anna Skelton. Right: Women's Third Place, Crystal Heckle.



Left: Male Open Second Place, Justin Boyd. Center: Male Open First Place, Jordan Benson. Right: Male Open Third Place, Eric Pope.



Left: Male Legend, Mark Ellison. Right: Male Master's Third Place, Melvin Sack.



Left: Male Teen Second Place, Alex Elrod. Center: Male Teen First Place, Skyler Beasley. Right: Male Teen Third Place, Isaish Elrod.

Tough Tough



Second Place, Women's Division, Rhiannon Bean. First Place Women's Division, Tiffanie Burchfield.



Second Place, Men's Division, Micheal Burch Jr. First Place Men's Division, Justin Boyd.



Male Fighting Heart Winner, Jeffrey Ludlow.



Female Fighting Heart Winner, Ruby Murphy.

Chair Volleyball



The District 4 Elder Chair Volleyball team took home the win during the Elder Chair Volleyball Tournament on Friday.



Trevor McWilliams competes in the Fittest Choctaw competition. Photo by Christian Toews

Chief Batton's Youth Fitness Challenge



Photo by Christian Toews
Maddox Abney tests his vertical jump.



Photo by Christian Toews
David Tvshka hops into action.



Photo by Christian Toews
Jones Academy students have a blast during Chief Batton's Youth Physical Fitness Challenge.

Cornhole



First Place: The Boys, Jace Fuentes and Chipper Jones. Second Place: Grand Cornhole Couple, Scotty Barnes and Emalie Barnes. Third Place: Bade Guys, Floyd WhiteEagle and Kelsey Ludlow.



Players are focused on winning the first ever Choctaw Nation Labor Day Cornhole Tournament.

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 FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

October 2022
All markets open weekdays, October 3-27
Closed: October 28 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 October 6

BROKEN BOW 109 Chahtha Rd., 580-584-2842
Food demo October 11

DURANT 2352 Big Lots Pkwy., 580-924-7773
Food demo October 20

MCALESTER 3244 Afullotha Hina, 918-420-5716
Food demo October 13

POTEAU 100 Kerr Ave., 918-649-0431
Food demo October 18

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FLU VACCINE CLINICS			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10/10/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	SARAHNA
10/13/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	HARTSHORNE
10/19/2022	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	CHOCTAW NATION DURANT INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	CHALBA
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	SALAHNA
10/19/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	TALAHNA
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	MCALISTER
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	DURANT
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	BREKINS BOW
10/19/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	BREKINS BOW
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	WILBURTON
10/19/2022	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	ATOKA
10/19/2022	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	COALGATE
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	CROWDER
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	ATOKA
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	SPIRO
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	BATTIEST
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	IDABEL
10/19/2022	8:00AM - 12:00 PM	MAINT THE TOWN PARK - TALAHNA COMMUNITY CENTER	TALAHNA
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 11:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	WILBURTON
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	COALGATE
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	STIGLER
10/19/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	STIGLER
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	IDABEL
10/19/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	ANTLERS
10/19/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	ANTLERS
10/26/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	POTEAU
10/26/2022	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	POTEAU
10/26/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	SMITHVILLE
10/26/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	SMITHVILLE
10/26/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	WRIGHT CITY
11/2/2022	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER	HUGO
11/2/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	CHOCTAW NATION INDEPENDENT ELDER HOUSING	HUGO

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Health Services

Social Dancing



Photo by Chris Jennings

As social dancing gets underway, green grass, long dresses and plenty of smiles are on display.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Stacy Shepherd smiles as she participates in the social dancing at the Choctaw Village.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall

All ages were encouraged to participate in the Choctaw Social Dancing, an event that is a crowd favorite.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall

Social dancing has long been a tradition of the Choctaw people. During the Labor Day Festival, dancers invite spectators to join in on the fun and participate in dances like the Snake Dance.

Choctaw Village



Photos by Kellie Matherly

Above and Right: Karen Downen, with Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation, demonstrates traditional Choctaw pottery making.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Newly crowned Miss Choctaw Nation, Haleigh Gibson, gets stolen and twirled during the Stealing Partners dance at the Choctaw Village. In the past, the Stealing Partners Dance was important in courtship. Today the dance still allows younger generations to get to know one another.



Bowshoot



Mia Reich, age 14, Wright City, won first place in the girl's 13-17 division



Ross Green helps Taylor Komalty 8 of Mill Creek, Oklahoma, who won first place in her age group.



Isaac Clark age 14 of Antlers, won first place and Titus Daughtry age 14 of Carthage, Texas, won second place in the boys 13-17 division.



Marissa Island age 10 of Lawton (center) won first place; Elijah Tushka, age 11 of Idabel (left), won second place and Luke Parker age 12 of Carthage, Texas, won third place in the 9-12 division.



Pictured are the winners of the women's bow shoot. First place, Naomi Willhite (center), Second Place, Valerie Underwood (right) and Third Place, Ruth Willhite (left).



Pictured are the winners of the men's bowshoot. First place, Scott Spears (center), Second Place, Chris Charboneau (left) and Third Place, Shawn Walls (right).

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Which small businesses do you love to support?

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Together, we're more.



Photo by Kellie Matherly

Top: Paula Carney and family have fun together at the Choctaw Village. Right: Visitors learn traditional Choctaw pottery at the Choctaw Village. Bottom: Visitors learn more about the history and preservation of Choctaw heirloom crops.



Photo by Rylee Tollett



Photo by Rylee Tollett

Princess Pageant



The sun shines bright as Mika Davidson speaks to the crowd.



Kallie Battiest performs sign language during her talent portion of the Labor Day Princess Pageant.



Princess pageant contestants discuss strategy and techniques while waiting to be called to the stage.



Alex Mcfarland helps Raina Meashintubby with her hair backstage.



Jace Reich escorts Hatapushik Ramsey onto the stage.



Korinthia Mercer fans her face as she waits backstage.



Suzanne Heard, the first Miss Choctaw Nation, watches the pageant from the audience.

Photos by Chris Jennings



Top left: Friends react as Candis Battice-Louis is crowned Junior Miss Choctaw Nation. **Top Right:** Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. put the Little Miss Choctaw crown on Dorothy Rogers. **Bottom:** Haleigh Gibson reacts to being named Senior Miss Choctaw Nation.



Aubree Horn practices some poses backstage at the Princess Pageant.



Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation, Candis Battice-Louis.



Little Miss Choctaw Nation, Dorothy Rogers.



Senior Miss Choctaw Nation, Haleigh Gibson.

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One voucher per household.

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services

Tvshka Homma Ohoyo win their first ever Choctaw Nation Labor Day Championship title

TVSHKA HOMMA, Okla. – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s women’s stickball team, Tvshka Homma Ohoyo, won their first ever Choctaw Nation Labor Day Championship on Sunday, September 4, by defeating Chickasha Toli Ihoo (Chickasaw) 6-3.

The team fought hard throughout the tournament to win the championship title.

Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. were in attendance to cheer the team on and deliver the championship trophy.

Though everyone on the team played their hearts out, only one could be named MVP, with that award going to Alissa French of Durant.

After battling their way to the finals, the men’s team earned second place. Bok Chito (Mississippi Choctaw) took home the men’s stickball championship title, defeating Tvshka Homma 8-1.

To learn more about the game of stickball and its history, visit <https://www.choctawnation.com/about/culture/traditions/stickball/>.



Chief Batton presents Tvshka Homma Ohoyo with their championship trophy after the team defeated Chickasha Toli Ihoo 6-3, winning their first Choctaw Nation Labor Day Championship title. Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Tvshka Homma Ohoyo hold up the championship trophy after their 6-3 win.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Alissa French of Durant was awarded MVP of the Women’s championship game.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Tvshka Homma Ohoyo pose for a victory photo with the championship trophy after dominating the women’s bracket of the Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Bok Chito and family and friends pose for a victory photo with the championship trophy after dominating the men’s bracket of the Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Coach Jared Tom gives his team a post-game speech after their victory.



Photo by Christian Toews
Bok Chito and Chickasha Toli players fight for the ball during their game on Friday.



Photo by Kendra Germany-Wall
Tvshka Homma poses for a photo with the second place trophy after the Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament Championship game.



Photo by Kelsey Brown
Choctaw youth participate in the Youth Stickball Exhibition game.



Photo by Christian Toews
Tvshka Homma Ohoyo and Ohoyo Ittibih players hustle on the field.



Photo by Kelsey Brown
Stickball is a game for all ages. Pictured are young players participating in the Youth Stickball Exhibition game on the Capitol Lawn.



Photo by Christian Toews
Drums are the heartbeat of the game of stickball. Drummers lead players onto the field.



Photo by Christian Toews
Tvshka Homma players hold their sticks in the air.

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Choctaw Nation Youth Events & Activities

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Choctaw Nation Environmental Protection Service



Photo by Mekayla Monroe

Families enjoy one of the many rides available at the Labor Day carnival.



Photo by Mekayla Monroe
Jeffrey Ludlow lifts weights during the fan-favorite Tough Tough competition.



Photo by Mallory Jackson
Councilman Anthony Dillard competes in the Fittest Choctaw competition.



Photo by Christian Toews

One of the main events at the Labor Day Festival is the stickball tournament.



Photo by Mekayla Monroe

For many, fair food is a main attraction of the Labor Day Festival.



Photo by Christian Toews

Mariah Bloomer jumps on the box during Chief Batton's Youth Fitness Challenge.



Photo by Mekayla Monroe

Kids play in the sand at the volleyball courts.



Photo by Christian Toews

Newly crowned Choctaw Princesses lead the way onto the field for the Tvshka Homma team during the 2022 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Tournament.

IT'S A SCORCHER OUT THERE

THE CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER IS COOL

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October 2022

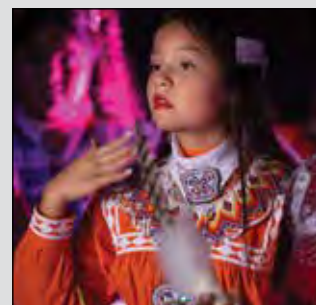
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Chief Batton delivers the 2022 State of the Nation.



Page 12:

The annual Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant was held on September 5.



Page 13:

Tvshka Homma Ohoyo wins their first-ever Choctaw Nation Labor Day Stickball Championship.

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.

CHOCTAW POWWOW 2022

NOVEMBER 4 - 6

SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS

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