When visiting the Tahlequah area for the 65th Cherokee National Holiday, there are a slew of places for people to eat, rest and explore. Melissa Harris, formerly the Tour Tahlequah director, said there are various places to eat, including food vendors at the holiday as well as local favorites.

"Outside of the Cherokee National Holiday, Tahlequah has some pretty cool eateries," she said. "Just a few to highlight, Sam and Ella’s is always the top of the list. They've created a seat worth traveling for and people travel every week from all over the state and across state lines to eat at Sam and Ella's Chicken Palace. Outside of deep-dish, wonderful style pizza we have Vidalia’s (Café) with their beautiful and wonderful sandwiches and their desserts. We have Cajun food with Linney Breaux's (Cajun Kountry). We have Del Rancho. The coolest thing about Del Rancho's is it's a unique experience for the kiddos. They get to order through a phone. We have these one-of-a-kind restaurants all around us to eat at and to enjoy."

Harris said while traveling between holiday venues, stop by a restaurant with a name or building you don’t recognize because you will most likely be “wowed.”

Harris suggests when visitors are in town they should also explore Tahlequah.

"Cherokee National Holiday brings so many individuals to town that aren’t use to Tahlequah," she said. "We are the home of the Cherokee Nation first and foremost, but there’s a few other things that we have home to. We’re home to the Illinois River, one of a few scenic protected rivers left in the nation. So it’s a very beautiful scenic view, from that feeds south, which is Tenkiller Lake. That offers a few unique pieces... If you can squeeze away or add a day then find a body of water, find some recreation opportunity."

Harris said when planning a holiday trip it is best to book a hotel room months in advance. She said if visitors prefer to bring a RV, there are options for that as well as opportunities for other sleeping arrangements such as camping.

"Tahlequah lodging is awesome. We have anything that somebody is looking for, especially for the Cherokee National Holiday because we extend city lines. We go out into the county and we look for different lodging options because most everything will fill up for the holiday," she said. "We have about 350 traditional hotel rooms in the city. About a month out we will have about 50 available. The weekend of we will certainly have zero. Outside of that we have half a dozen different bed and breakfasts ranging from in town, close to the action, to out at the lake to out in the river, and we are partners with each one of those entities. Additionally to that, our lake and our river offer options for RV, primitive camping. There are some yards out in our river area. So truly when I say there’s lodging for everybody, it’s a true statement."

To view a list of eateries, attractions and places to stay, visit tourtahlequah.com.

"As you're visiting for the Cherokee National Holiday get connected, look at tourtahlequah.com, find us on social media," she said. "We are supporting all of the resources that come from the Cherokee National Holiday so it can be a stop there, but also if you're looking for items outside of the holiday we can support you in that way, too."
Cherokee artist Dino “Oogoloot” Kingfisher, who’s had a booth at the CHC during the holiday for nearly 24 years, said he has art ranging from small feather earrings to large painted canvases. He said he and his family hand make everything at his booth.

“I love it. There’s no greater feeling than to see your kids actually doing what you’re doing. They kind of pitch in, help make things,” he said.

Cherokee author Karen Coody Cooper said her books typically focus on history. She’s sold her books at the CHC during holiday for about six years. While having a booth, she said she can’t take part in the downtown Tahlequah holiday festivities but knows that selling books is a priority for her to keep writing.

“arina write and publish, you’ve got to sell. It’s all a part of the bundle,” she said. “So if you’re shy you have to get over it, and you have to talk to people because the more books you sell, the more books you can go write and publish again.”

Art and craft vendor prices at the One Fire Field, west of the Tribal Complex, are $75 for Cherokees, $100 for citizens of federally recognized tribes, $140 for non-Natives and $390 for commercial. For food/concession vendors, the prices are $350 for Cherokees (110 voltage) and $450 for other tribal citizens and non-Natives (110 voltage). At the Cultural Grounds, Cherokees pay $75 for arts and crafts booths while other tribal citizens and non-Natives pay $150. For food/concession booths, Cherokees pay $325 (110 voltages) and $725 (220 voltages). Other tribal citizens and non-Natives pay $425 (110 voltages) and $825 (220 voltages).

At the Capitol Square, Cherokee vendors pay $50 for arts and crafts booths while other tribal citizens pay $80. Non-Natives pay $105 and commercial vendors pay $300. Food/concession booths are not set up at the Capitol Square.

At the CHC, Cherokee vendors pay $75 for arts and crafts booths while other tribal citizens and non-Natives pay $150. For food/concession booths, Cherokees pay $325 (110 voltages) and $725 (220 voltages). Other tribal citizens and non-Natives pay $425 (110 voltages) and $825 (220 voltages).
HOLIDAY GUIDE • CHEROKEE PHOENIX

CHEROKEE national holiday

sixty-five

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2017
TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA

Arts & Crafts | Children’s Events | Parade | Powwow
Sports Tournaments | Traditional Activities, Food & Games

HOME. HEALTH. HOPE.
EVENTS

WHAT, WHEN

AUGUST 12
• Little Cherokee Ambassadors Competition: 1 p.m., Armyory Municipal Center

AUGUST 19
• Junior Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition: 6:30 p.m., Armyory Municipal Center

AUGUST 23
• Homecoming Art Show Reception: 6 p.m., Armyory Municipal Center
• Softball Fast Pitch & Co-ed Tournament: 6 p.m., Sequoyah Softball Fields

AUGUST 25
• Softball Fast Pitch & Co-ed Tournament: 6 p.m., Sequoyah Softball Fields
• Meet a Brickfield Tournament: 10 a.m., Sequoyah Football Field

• Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition: 6 p.m., Cornerstone Fellowship Church

AUGUST 27
• Softball Fast Pitch & Co-ed Tournament: 9 a.m., Sequoyah Softball Fields
• Golf Tournament: 9 a.m., Cherokee Springs Golf Course

SEPTEMBER 1
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., One Fire Field
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Springs Golf Course
• Homecoming Art Show & Sale: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Shake: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sequoyah Old Gym
• Cherokee Nation Gift Shop Art Show: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., CN Gift Shop Lobby
• Cherokee Nation Museums: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., free admission
• Plants and Cherokee Culture: 12 p.m.–5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• One Big Family Reunion: 1 p.m.–6 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Cherokee National Holiday Art Show: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., Armory Municipal Center
• Tribal Film Festival: 1 p.m.–10 p.m., Nichols Auditorium
• Arts & Crafts: 4 p.m.–10 p.m., One Fire Field
• Arts & Crafts: 4 p.m.–12 a.m., Cultural Grounds
• POWWOW GROUNDS ENCLOSING: 5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• 4 on 4 Basketball Tournament: 11 a.m., Male Seminary Recreation Center
• Silent Auction: 1 p.m., Male Seminary Recreation Center
• Bingo: 1 p.m., One Fire Field
• Gospel Singing: 1 p.m., One Fire Field
• Cherokee Heritage Center
• Children’s Fun Day: 12 p.m.–10 p.m., One Fire Field
• Elders Fun Day: 12:30 p.m.–5 p.m., The Cornerstone Fellowship Church
• Arts & Crafts: 1 p.m.–12 a.m., Cultural Grounds
• Fiddler’s Contest: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., Talking Leaves Pub
• Traditional Indian Food Cooking: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., One Fire Field
• Live Music: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., One Fire Field
• Rose Family Reunion: 1:30 p.m., American Legion Post 125
• Cherokee Nation Youth Choir: 2 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Powwow Grand Entry: 1 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Tribal Film Festival: 2 p.m.–10 p.m., NCT Center of Performing Arts
• Nancy Ward Reception: 2 p.m.–5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Veterans Reception: 4 p.m.–5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Gospel Singing: 4 p.m.–6 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Cherokee Nation Museums: 4 p.m.–6 p.m., free admission
• Traditional Indian Food Cooking: 4 p.m.–6 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Powwow Grand Entry: 5 p.m., Cultural Grounds
• Tribal Film Festival: 5 p.m.–10 p.m., Nichols Auditorium
• Fireworks Show: 9:30 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center

SEPTEMBER 2
• Cornstalk Shoot: 7 a.m., Joe Thornton Archery Range
• Holiday Butt: 7 a.m., East of Complex
• Junes Cherokee Kids Fishing Day: 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m., Pond East of Complex
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Capitol
• Horseshoe Pitching Competition: 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Capitol
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–10 p.m., One Fire Field
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Golf Tournament: 9 a.m., Cherokee Springs Golf Course
• Homecoming Art Show & Sale: 9 am–5 p.m., Sequoyah Softball Fields
• Powwow Grand Entry: 7 p.m., Cultural Grounds

SEPTEMBER 3
• Cornstalk Shoot: 7 a.m., Joe Thornton Archery Range
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., One Fire Field
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Car Show: 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Cherokee Casino Tahlequah
• Homecoming Art Show & Sale: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Cherokee Heritage Center
• Slowpitch Softball Tournament: 9 a.m.–10 p.m., Sequoyah Softball Fields
• Cherokee National Holiday Art Show: 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Armory Municipal Center
• Cherokee Nation Museums: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., free admission
• Tribal Film Festival: 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Nichols Auditorium
• Bingo: 11 a.m., One Fire Field
• Youth Horseshoe Pitching: 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Sequoyah Schools
• Bingo: 11 a.m., One Fire Field
• Five Foot: 12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Sequoyah Schools

WHEELS OF FORTUNE!
Join in the fun and games and check out the 2017 Cherokee Holiday Car Show on September 3. Registration is from 9AM to 11AM. Judging takes place from 11AM to 1PM.

2017 CHEROKEE PHOENIX HOMECOMING T-SHIRT
NOW AVAILABLE!
GET THEM AT OUR BOOTHS AT THE CAPITOL SQUARE AND TRIBAL COMPLEX, VISIT THE CHEROKEE NATION GIFT SHOP, OR ORDER ONLINE AT CHEROKEEGIFTSHOP.COM. $20 + TAX. SIZES SMALL TO 3XLR.

CHEROKEE TRADITIONAL & CULTURAL EVENTS
• Arts & Crafts: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., One Fire Field
• Traditional Indian Food Cooking: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., One Fire Field
• Powwow Grand Entry: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., One Fire Field
• Fireworks Show: 9:30 p.m., Cherokee Casino Tahlequah

Events, times and locations are subject to change. Check cherokee.org closer if in the event for changes. The Cherokee Nation, including all Cherokee National Holiday events, is a smoke-free environment.

To reach the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service, call 911 or 903-685-3030 or email marshal-service@cherokee.org. For emergencies, dial 911.
DEl Rancho
456-0757
4800 S. Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah
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One Block off Hwy 62 Bypass

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AND WHERE

Events

• Cherokee Nation Complex
  1736 5th St.
• Cornerstone Fellowship
  Church 114 Division St.
• American Legion Post
  1190 N. Eglin St.
• Cherokee Springs Golf Course
  100 S. Cherokee Rd.
• Cherokee Male Seminary
  Recreational Center
  1951 Tenth Ave.
• NJL Nat’l Lab
  2472 N. Muskogee Ave.
• NIU Performing Arts Ctr
  1001 N. Grand Ave.
• Armory Municipal Center
  110 N. Water Ave.
• Chapel Square
  911 S. Muskogee Ave.
• Cherokee National
  Museum 2102 S. Keeler Dr.
• Sitting Gallery
  215 S. Muskogee Ave.
• Cherokee National Prison
  Penitentiary 134 E. Cherokee
• Cherokee National Supreme Court
  1322 E. Keeler St.
• Cherokee Heritage Center
  21122 S. Keeler Dr. Park Hill
• East of Complex
  S. Gold Hill Road
• Cherokee Nation Gift Shop
  Lobby 17725 S. Muskogee Ave.
• Garden Area and Dining
  Behind Cherokee Nation Gift Shop
• Wing Interchange Center
  2200 S. Catoosa and Parkhill Rd.
• Talking Leaves Job Corps
  S. Gold Hill Rd
• Joe Thornton Archery Range
  Behind One Fire Field
• One Fire Field
  South of Campus
• Sequoyah School
  1501 S. Muskogee Ave.
• The Plaza Where They Play
  1391 S. Muskogee Ave.
• Sequoyah Old Gym
  Behind Fire Dept.
• Sequoyah Football Field
  South Side of Campus
• Cherokee Cultural Grounds
  10001-10099 S. 81st Rd.
• Sequoyah Softball Fields
  East of the Cherokee Casino
• Sequoyah Softball Fields
  East of the Cherokee Casino
• Cherokee Casino Tahlequah
  14949 S-62, Tahlequah

Events
Each year thousands of visitors flock to Tahlequah on Labor Day weekend for the Cherokee National Holiday, with many lining downtown streets to watch the holiday parade.

With more than 100 float entries, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work done in organizing the parade from coordinators and contestants.

Debra Lack, CN Career Services finance director, has spent the past seven years volunteering her time as parade coordinator.

“To really start the process, the first thing in the beginning is to develop the actual parade form, and from that point once the form is developed it’s sent out to everybody. There’s no cost. There’s no entry fee. In fact, we don’t award prize money. We award trophies for first, second and third place for the different categories and also for best float in the entire parade,” Lack said.

She said the parade’s main rule is safety, and there is no limit on how people can decorate floats.

“As far as any rules, there’s really not any because the sky’s the limit on the float that they want to do,” Lack said.

The 2016 Cherokee National Holiday theme was “Stewards of Our Land.” Those who entered the parade had the option of using the theme on their floats.

ICW staff found decorations such as stuffed animals, a canoe, plants and other materials that helped them achieve their ideal float.

Baker-Limore said they also used the float to inform the public about ICW and spread awareness about foster children needing foster homes.

“This is our opportunity...to reach out, give out the flyer about being a foster home or adoptive placement. That’s our way to let the public know we’ve got some foster homes available,” Baker-Limore said.

Kiesew Tribe citizen Goldie Kaulaity, who is also a president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1013 in Anadarko, and her dance group the Hairspray Girls entered a float in the 2016 parade to represent veterans.

“We do not promote any drugs or alcohol. We promote health,” Kaulaity said. “We’ve done a lot of local work with the vets in our area, in our town and around.”

The VFW Post 1013 float consisted of flags from every branch of the U.S. military and the American flag.

Kaulaity said it took many volunteers to get the float ready on parade day. The Hairspray Girls dressed up in 1950s attire such as poodle skirts and saddle shoes and walked alongside the float, dancing to music and handing out candy.

“It’s just really a lot of volunteer work on our end trying to promote the vets and trying to promote sobriety and trying to promote...goodwill for everybody,” Kaulaity said.

Lack said she depends on volunteers, as well as contestants, to ensure the parade runs as smooth as possible from beginning to end.

“We want to keep the best interest of downtown Tahlequah at heart. That the main street means a lot to us,” she said.
When it comes to the Cherokee National Holiday there are various behind-the-scene efforts that take place involving Cherokee Nation employees and employees from the city of Tahlequah.

One of those employees was Dee Dee Harding Hensley, the city’s former events and facilities coordinator. Harding Hensley said the department is responsible for setting out the barricades for the holiday’s parade and other events that call for street closures.

“There will be about 40 barricades for the parade itself. We’ll start on Crafton Street for the parade and they will go down Muskogee (avenue)/Grand (avenue) all the way until the end of the parade at Choctaw (street),” she said.

She said the tribe provides volunteers to assemble the barricades, man them and take them down.

“Our department, we have four gentlemen that they put them on the sides of the roads. The Cherokee Nation volunteers are responsible for assembling the barricades before and after and manning them while they’re up,” she said.

After the parade, Street Commissioner Wayne Ryal orders a street sweeper to clean the street and get it in working order.

“They (CN parade officials) try and place the horses at the very back of the parade, and we’ll be behind them cleaning up,” he said. “There’s immediately going to be pedestrians and traffic in the streets so we try and get it all cleaned up prior to people getting dirtied up.”

Ryal said it’s important the city work with the tribe and other entities in Tahlequah.

“I think it’s important that the city helps out with whatever we can. The cleanup after the parade is one area where we can pitch in and help,” he said. “We have always tried to be good neighbors with the tribe and Northeaster Band, with NSU (Northeastern State University), with UKB (United Keetoowah Band), with all of the different entities around. We like to help out whenever we can just because it’s good for Tahlequah and for all of the different entities to get along and to help each other out.”

CN citizen Denton Hopkins, who works for the city’s Recreation Department, said his group in 2016 worked near the Cherokee Casino Tahlequah to set up a stage for activities that took place during the holiday.

“We were asked to deliver a stage for entertainment for the Cherokee National Holiday. We got here, set it up,” he said.

Hopkins said it’s essential for the city to help during the holiday because it shows “unity.”

“I think it’s important for the city to help because it just shows unity. We’re all a team and get things done a lot faster and a lot more efficiently,” he said.

STACIE GUTHRIE
Reporter

Tahlequah Recreation Department employees make sure a stage is level after setting it up near the Cherokee Casino Tahlequah for the 2016 Cherokee National Holiday.
A HOLIDAY TRADITION

Enjoy Fun, Food and Culture During Labor Day Weekend

DILIGWA 1710 CHEROKEE VILLAGE

Discover a place where authentic Cherokee fashion never goes out of style at Diligwa — a Cherokee village depicting life during the early 18th Century.

HOMECOMING FAIR

Enjoy a wide variety of Native American arts and crafts, live entertainment and food trucks on the grounds of the Cherokee Heritage Center.

22ND ANNUAL CHEROKEE HOME COMING ART SHOW & SALE

Beat the heat during Cherokee National Holiday inside the Cherokee Heritage Center where you will discover nearly 150 pieces of traditional and contemporary Cherokee artworks, all available for purchase.

CHEROKEE STORIES AT DILIGWA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
7:30 PM

Renowned Cherokee National Treasure and storyteller Robert Lewis shares great Cherokee stories, old and new.

Free for children 5 and under. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket.