The projects are part of the Cherokee Nation’s language revitalization and preservation efforts.

Candidate packets ready for 2021 election hopefuls

Voter registration deadline is March 31 for the June 5 general election.

CN expects its first COVID-19 vaccines week of Dec. 14

The first patient enrolled in Pfizer’s COVID-19 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine clinical trial is shown May 4 at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. Cherokee Nation officials say initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine were expected to arrive the week of Dec. 14 and will be given to high-risk populations and health care workers.

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We are going to do it not just because of what Durbin anyone since Sequoyah. 

Students work side by side and live side by side. 

PLANS: Five homes for Cherokee speakrs will be built near the center from front page 

Tahlequah - Cherokee Nation Health Services has been awarded a $4.1 million grant through the Native American Research and Cultural Development Act by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand its existing community-based COVID-19 testing and contact tracing efforts. The CN has operated drive-thru COVID-19 testing and screening tests in the communities around the CN reservation from the beginning of the pandemic.

Throughout the Cherokee Nation reservation in northeastern Oklahoma, we have had to confirm COVID-19 cases and community outbreaks. Dr. Sohail Khan, director of Health Research with CHS Health and Services project lead for the CN, said, "Many residents have a statistically higher chance of contracting severe COVID-19 symptoms due to underlying medical conditions. This vulnerability is exacerbated by economic and geographical barriers. Cherokee Nation Health Services has begun to combat these issues through extensive testing and contact tracing campaigns. Through this expansion, more than 84,000 people in CNO to explore history of Cherokee Freedmen The goal is to provide a better understanding of their history and enhance how those voices are represented within the Cherokee Nation’s story.

The CN, which has identified approximately 2,000 Cherokee Freedmen through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act by introducing the Durbin Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. 

We named this facility after Durbin Feeling because he was so passionate about the Cherokee language, said Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Planning underway for safe CN general election, runoff

By Chad Hunter

TULSA — Cherokee Nation election officials are looking at ways to make sure that voting will be safe for all citizens due to COVID-19.

“Some of this stuff is just going to depend on where we are in the pandemic,” Election Commission Chairwoman Shalisa Calico said during a Dec. 8 press conference. “But we have to have on a long list of safety precautions for voters, precinct workers and election officials. At this point, the commission is planning to require masks at precinct sites for election workers as well as voters.

“Some of this stuff is just going to depend on where we are in the pandemic. ‘First, I think, if you lease the building for the day to vote, I think that’s considered Cherokee Nation property for that day, so the Cherokee Nation would own it.’”

Calico noted that at least one individual who showed up at the CN office for a candidate packet refused to wear a mask that the office provided.

“Some of this stuff is just going to depend on where we are in the pandemic,” she added.

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Election Commission

PACKETS: Voters must be Cherokee Nation citizens and at least 18 years old from front page

in March 17.

Registration application forms will be available from the Election Commission offices and online at cherokee.org/elec-

izational registration application or update their records. The elections in 2021 will be distinct elections and you must reside at an address located within the designated districts.

Voters must be CN citizens and at least 18 years old. The Cherokee Nation Com-

District number, or a letter that explains why the voter registration was not approved. If the application was approved, the applicant should contact the Election Commission office.

The CN’s advertised election dates are...
Native Americans critique data, surveys after election

ORCA: The Southern Resident population now numbers just 74 orcas

BY CHAD HUNTER

Stilwell stops short of mask mandate

BY CHAD HUNTER/CHRISTO POFKES

Cherokee Nation citizen Bill Woods, of Stilwell, argues in an op-ed published on Nov. 16 at the Stilwell Community Building. 

“I’ve got grandchildren. You know what, I’d like to be around long enough to see them grow up.”

Deborah Fearnbach, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan who has surveyed Native American populations, said survey methods need to be reimagined in how data is collected and applied.

Scholars also have pushed to get tribes more involved in survey methods so they can better capture Indian Country and the diversity of Native Americans. Some tribes have been successful in reaching tribal citizens who live on reservations or rural areas, she said. She and others have found success in persuade people to participate by offering incentives or simply in-person contact.

Nearly half of Stilwell’s population has been impacted by COVID-19. Data from The Associated Press indicates that 53% of the population has been impacted by the virus. That’s when she noticed the word “Indigenous” with an asterisk. Even when surveyed, the results can be considered statistically insignificant because the sample size isn’t large enough so it is too difficult to accurately reflect the population. The National Congress of American Indians has said there’s a need for data that is accurate, meaningful and timely within tribal communities.

I’ve buried a lot of friends and relatives that have had this,” he said. “I’d like to be around long enough to see them grow up.”

ORCA is a species under special protection due to its specific preference for Chinook salmon, which is a species under special protection due to its specific preference for Chinook salmon. “I always said they do family better than we do,” which is a species under special protection due to its specific preference for Chinook salmon.

There’s a real concern that not the entirety of that population is represented,” Steinman said. Scholars also have pushed to get tribes more involved in survey methods so they can better capture Indian Country and the diversity of Native Americans.

Native Americans critique data, surveys after election

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CHEROKEE PHOENIX • DECEMBER 15, 2020

PHOENIX (AP) – On election night, Jodi Owings and her family were watching the returns report on their television in their Oklahoma home. She noticed the word on a CNN graphic that displayed returns by race as white, Latino, Black, and Native American. 

“I think for non-Native people who have not had to experience the trauma, that’s why we need to do surveys,” she said.

The coronavirus pandemic has dealt a setback to efforts to count on Native American reservations. The once-a-decade U.S. Census determines how much federal money is allocated for schools, health care and other programs.

Chiefs who argue against a mask mandate. CN citizen Joe Fletcher, owner of Okie Joe’s BBQ, was among those who argued against a mask mandate.

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orcas be worn within the city of Stilwell – masks be worn by 5 out of 100 people – a number too small to warrant a judgment.

I think we are showing there are ways to get people to participate in tribal censuses, and I think we can do this across the country so we can better capture Indian Country and the diversify of Native Americans.

Some tribes require researchers to get explicit permission from their elders or tribal councils for the use of data.

Random sampling doesn’t work well, particularly in rural areas, she said. She and others have found success in persuade people to participate by offering incentives or simply in-person contact.

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Cherokee Phoenix

Opposes

Statewide mask mandate needed to save lives

BY CHUCK HOSKIN JR.

Principal Chief

ChEROKEE PHOENIX

December 20, 2020

Since the COVID-19 pandemic first reached the Cherokee Nation, our people have worked together to protect Cherokees. We have seen heroic actions and hard work from our health care workers, staff, and volunteers who distributed food and economic assistance, and all those who gave up in person social and family time to help keep us safe.

I am grateful for those sacrifices that have saved lives and prevented communities from falling even greater, especially for our treasured elders. I have tried to support those efforts by following the best public health recommendations available. That is why I issued an executive order in March to mandate face coverings. I also made sure that, whenever possible, we stayed at home without losing a paycheck, and our local leaders and communities would be supported through this crisis.

Unfortunately, Cherokee cannot defeat this virus alone. The harsh reality is that COVID-19 is spreading faster than ever across our reservation, the state, and the whole country. The CN has 3,622 total cases and 26 deaths within our health system. Hospitals are reaching capacity at alarming rates, including at the tribe’s W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah. In addition, 81 Oklaho- mas, including some Cherokees whom I consider dear friends, tragically died due to complications from COVID-19 in the past two weeks.

These hospitaliza- tions and deaths were preventable. Many more hospitaliza- tions and deaths and are still preventable. Our health experts at CN, in Oklahoma, and around the United States have repeatedly warned us about the spread of this disease. CN, local leaders around the state have listened to the public health experts, but it is simply not enough. Cities with mask mandates are reporting lower rates of transmit- sion, but they have been lacking both municipal or reservation boundaries.

We need unity across the state to stop COVID-19.

I was glad to see Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt recently announce some new meas- ures to slow the virus. Requiring masks in state facilities and instituting an 11 p.m. curfew for restaurants and bars are positive steps. These will help, but they are not enough. I have called on Stitt to issue a statewide mask mandate and urge you to do the same.

It is a long overdue for the state of Oklahoma to enact a statewide mask mandate. The Centers for Disease Con- trol recommends it, as the White House Coronavirus Task Force recommends it and the Oklahoma State Medical Assosciation recommends it. Already, 30 other states have statewide mask mandates, including every one of Oklahoma’s surrounding states except Missouri. Delaware, which is located in the same region, has used in Utah and North Dakota. This virus does not respect political boundaries, it is a matter of life and death.

This CN cannot remove its focus on mask mandates and other public health policies that would help our community. Stitt must act on this issue, or he will be complicit in the deaths of many of our people.

I urge you to do the same.

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SPIRO MOUNDS - On Dec. 21, the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host guided walks to share information about the winter solstice and how the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center dealt with the changes in the sea- sons. Archaeologist and manager Daniel Allen said the guided walks starting at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. each winter solstice walk requires a mile of easy walking.

“The pace of life today is so rushed and hectic that the natural rhythms of the sun, moon and stars are forgotten. American Indian farmers understood these rhythms. In the rhythm of the sun, the winter solstice is a significant time of celebration and reflection,” states a press release from the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center.

Allen said this is the only prehistoric American Indian mound site in the state, why they were created and why people celebrated the winter solstice at Spiro.

He will also discuss the history of winter solstice celebrations, American Indian ceremonies and stories and tales of the gods and goddesses associated with the winter solstice.

For those wishing to see the sun rise, sun set and the unusual happenings associated with these times, the 11 a.m. walk will begin just before sunset, which is when the winter solstice alignment will take place. There is a fee for these walks of $5 for adults and $3 for children in accordance with the regular daily admission fee. Oklahoma Historical Society members do not pay the daily admission fee. No reservations are required. These events are free to groups. Visitors should use cash or check. Credit cards are not accepted.

The Center is the only prehistoric American Indian mound site in the state and is located in Oklahoma and is administered by the State Historical Society of Oklahoma. The center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Daily admission is $4 for adults, $2 for seniors, $1 for children under 6 and free for a family.

The Center is located three miles east of Spiro on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lee and Helen Road. For information or to schedule a group tour, call 918-962-2882 or email spiro@okhistory.org.
George "Junior" Martin was born January 9, 1934 in Nixa, Missouri to Ada and George Martin on January 4, 1934. He was the oldest of four children. He passed peacefully on Friday, October 30, 2020 at the age of 86 years. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was drafted into World War II in the Army and served in the Europe and Pacific Theater during World War II. He was enrolled in a POW camp in Germany. He was the oldest of four children. He passed peacefully on Friday, October 30, 2020 at the age of 86 years. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was drafted into World War II in the Army and served in the Europe and Pacific Theater during World War II. He was enrolled in a POW camp in Germany. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Medal of Honor, which his family was very proud of. He was very proud of his military service and his service to his country. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of the Cherokee Nation. He was the oldest of four children. He passed peacefully on Friday, October 30, 2020 at the age of 86 years. He was preceded in death by his parents. He was drafted into World War II in the Army and served in the Europe and Pacific Theater during World War II. He was enrolled in a POW camp in Germany. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Medal of Honor, which his family was very proud of. He was very proud of his military service and his service to his country.
Ryan Doyeto works in orthopedic physical therapy, helping people post-surgery to be healthier long term.

BY LINDSEY BARK

TULSA – Cherokee Nation citizen Ryan Doyeto works in orthopedic physical therapy, helping people post-surgery to be healthier long term.

Doyeto graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in 2008, where he studied physical therapy after an interview made him interested in the field. His orthopedic physical therapist at the University of Kansas helped him keep him healthy.

Doyeto now works in an orthopedic physical therapy in a private sports setting when he's not helping a patient with a physical therapist. He said he's worked in a private setting.

“I think it’s a good experience because I feel like I’m doing good work with the patients that need it and they’re going to make a big difference. It was a good, long hard week. I did a lot of groundwork there.”

Doyeto works with a patient interested in the field, he said his experience with the Royals showed it wasn’t for him.

He has since been in the orthopedic physical therapy for the past 10 years.

“I’d say we’re a good mixture of chiropracter, masseuse and private trainer serving our community,” he said. “That’s a good way to describe us. As chiropracturists as well, we do not only need to treat but also teach a patient. I see like 15 to 20 people a day, in 45 min- utes, and I’m kind of either sitting in a room or so a lot of post-surgical mostly. It’s a very rewarding job seeing that one-on-one attention, that hands-on manual time and I think that helps build a rapport. I was happy seeing people with expectations and helping correct straights to help their injuries. I compare it to a bucket of water with a hole in it. Rather than continually clean the water that’s spilled, one must patch the hole. ‘You’re coming here with a crooked spine, I can get it adjusted and make it straight, but how can we continue these strategies and exercises and important things to correct that long term?’ he said. "I would wipe up the water"

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“I’d say we’re a good mixture of chiropracter, masseuse and private trainer serving our community,” he said. “That’s a good way to describe us. As chiropracturists as well, we do not only need to treat but also teach a patient. I see like 15 to 20 people a day, in 45 min- utes, and I’m kind of either sitting in a room or so a lot of post-surgical mostly. It’s a very rewarding job seeing that one-on-one attention, that hands-on manual time and I think that helps build a rapport. I was happy seeing people with expectations and helping correct straights to help their injuries. I compare it to a bucket of water with a hole in it. Rather than continually clean the water that’s spilled, one must patch the hole. ‘You’re coming here with a crooked spine, I can get it adjusted and make it straight, but how can we continue these strategies and exercises and important things to correct that long term?’ he said. "I would wipe up the water"
**Cara Cowan Watts wins prestigious Ely P. Slocum Award for her work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines.**

**BY LINDSEY BARK**


According to a Tulsa Pier press release, the award recognizes an indigenous professional who has achieved an exceptional career while supporting others in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines.

Ely P. Slocum is a 19th century Cherokee chief who lived near several racial barriers and whose legacy inspires today’s indigenous leaders, according to the release.

Hickman became involved in Indigenous organizations and activities at a young age at home on the reservation. Hickman became active in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), an Indigenous organization that promotes education in STEM for Native American students.

For her work with the Society, Hickman was chosen for the AISES American Indian Science and Engineering Foundation Scholarship.

Hickman’s accomplishments included: 1. She is a member of the Cherokee Nation. 2. She was attending the University of Colorado in Boulder as a Native American student. 3. Hickman served as president of the University of Colorado AISES chapter, which is affiliated with Native American Student Advocates (NASAs), which are student groups at universities involved in the AISES program.

Upon graduating, Hickman joined the Cherokee Nation’s Education Services Executive Director Corey Watts. In this role, Hickman oversaw the Cherokee Nation’s Mobile Hotspot Connectivity Assistance program. Hickman’s work included:

- Helping establish tribally-funded broadband infrastructure
- Providing education and training on technology and internet access
- Supporting initiatives that promote access to education
- Partnering with local organizations to create opportunities for youth
- Building relationships with other organizations and tribal programs

Hickman's efforts were instrumental in increasing internet access for Cherokee Nation citizens. She was able to leverage resources to ensure that more Cherokee students had access to technology, which is essential for their education and future success. Her work has had a significant impact on the Cherokee Nation, helping to bridge the digital divide for many of its citizens.

**Cara Cowan Watts is honored with the 2020 Ely P. Slocum Award.**

**Cara Cowan Watts, Cherokee Nation citizen**

**A survey on the Cherokee Nation's website will help determine eligibility for free mobile hotspots.**

Priority will be given to households with kindergartners through fifth grade.

Cara Cowan Watts, Cherokee Nation citizen  

**CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COREY WATTS has shared**

The Cherokee Nation is hard at work expanding internet access in areas that have that reliable broadband access is critical to our citizens. We want to make sure that every household knows about the benefits of participating. The program provides free mobile hotspots to eligible households, which can be used for education, work, and other essential purposes. The Cherokee Nation is committed to ensuring that all citizens have access to the internet and the resources it provides. The program is part of the Cherokee Nation’s broader efforts to improve internet access in the region.

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CHEROKEE WARRIORS Database open for Cherokee vets
BY STAFF REPORTS

TALEIHAGA - The Cherokee Warriors Database is an online portal to identify more than 300,000 of Cherokee Nation veterans who served or are serving in the Armed Forces to register. Veterans can register with the Cherokee Nation and upload their military service documents (DD-214). The database will provide the Office of Veteran Affairs and citizens are identified across all departments, such as Veterans Commission, education, housing, health, business, and others.

“We will be a stronger and more responsible government when we can identify every single Cherokee Nation veteran and keep those records current and updated in our database,” Veterans Affairs Director Joe Coats said. “The Cherokee Warriors Database will ensure that we honor our brave veterans and the critical services they need and rightly deserve.”

Citizens and the tribe will be better informed veterans of events and services and information on key organizations and initiatives.

BY STAFF REPORTS

ocks is 44, managed tribal programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Cooper resigned effective Dec. 4. Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. named Jerry Keller as HACN interim director.

Named HACN executive director in 2012, Cooper, 44, managed tribal programs that provide rental assistance, housing for lower-income families, housing assistance for college students and home construction and renovation.

“I am at an age where I worked at Cherokee Nation for two decades helping our citizens, but I’m still young enough I can go do, and give something back, that’s what I really wanted to do,” Cooper said. “We are among the best in housing, and I hope I can take all the housing program experience we have implemented in the Nation, and what we’ve seen work or hurdles we’ve experienced to share that knowledge in my new role with HUD.”

Cooper is a former member of the Gadugi Portal. “The Gadugi Portal believes in ‘gadugi’ working together to better our tribe,” Chief of Staff Maria Medium. “The portal helps our Cherokee spirit and the dedication of every Cherokee citizen, but I’m still young enough I can go do, and give something back, that’s what I really wanted to do,” Cooper said. “We are among the best in housing, and I hope I can take all the housing program experience we have implemented in the Nation, and what we’ve seen work or hurdles we’ve experienced to share that knowledge in my new role with HUD.”

Cooper has served on a national scale, having been named to the American Indian Housing Council in 2012, and being elected chairman in 2018. He also stepped down from that position in 2020.

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The Cherokee Nation’s I save program teaches Cherokees how to save money for home rehabilitation projects.

By Lindsey Bark

The Cherokee Nation’s I save program teaches Cherokees how to save money for home rehabilitation projects. The money saved is to pay for major projects such as windows and doors, and electrical and plumbing. The program matches savings with grants and provides participants with a financial coach.

“Individuals must save at least $100 for at least six months in order to begin receiving matching funds,” said Charles Tenkiller, Northeastern State University assistant professor of finance. “This program is designed to help people save money for home rehabilitation, which has negatively impacted tourism in Tahlequah and tourism is very important to the Cherokee Nation. We hope that the economy will return to its pre-pandemic level once the danger from the virus recedes. Even though opportunities are down a bit, we are still very optimistic that tourism will recover and our great recreational areas, will come back stronger than ever in the next few years,” he said. “This hotel will help host many of those tourists who will come to see all of the great attractions we have here, like the Illinois River, the Tahlequah, Northeastern State University and Cherokee Nation.”

She said participants have up to 24 months to save the full $1,000, and after the initial 24 months, they have another 12 months to use all of their matching money. The money saved is to pay for major projects such as windows and doors, and electrical and plumbing.

“I am very excited to see the value of the home that increases its value. Any improvement that adds value to their homes,” said Tenkiller.

The tribe is undergoing rehabilitation with its Individual Development Accounts program, known as iSave. The money saving program works with participants to help them save money for home rehabilitation projects. It is to pay for major projects such as windows and doors, and electrical and plumbing.

Throughout financial education, a participant is provided with a one-on-one financial coach, provided copies of how to save money, taught how to improve his or her credit, given lessons on how to pay off debt and taught how to look at his or her budget and find where he or she can save money, according to the Cherokee Phoenix article.

The program aims to help people open accounts for as little as $600 to begin savings and have account fees waived.

“Any improvements that add value to their homes,” said Tenkiller.

Program participants learn to save funds that are matched at a rate of $3 for every $1 saved up to $1,000, which is then matched up to $3,000.

“I am very excited to see the value of the home that increases its value. Any improvement that adds value to their homes,” said Tenkiller.

The program requires checking account and a savings account as a way to save money. The program matches savings with grants and provides participants with a financial coach.

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Crittenden receives father’s lost WWII medals

A veteran liaison for Rep. Markwayne Mullin’s office retrieves the medals and awards earned by S. Joe Crittenden’s father.

BY WILL CHAVEZ

TULSA – Two former contestants of the game show “Jeopardy!” are reflecting on their time on the show and the show’s host, Alex Trebek.

Cherokee Nation citizen Lenzy Culver said she first appeared on the show game April 3-4, 2007.

“I submitted my episodes in January 2007. My winning from those two episodes made it possible for me to finish my master’s degree debt free,” she said.

Thamsa in part to the legacy of the quiz show scandal from the 1960s, our interactions with Alex Trebek were largely limited to when we were on stage. However, he was very kind, engaging and friendly to me when we were off. 

She recalled for her first episode the “Final Jeopardy” answer was “What is the USS Missouri?” The show features a quiz competition in which contestants are presented with general knowledge clues in the form of questions and must phrase their responses in question form.

“I was very nervous to request the break to be as specific as possible. I knew what they were looking for. I didn’t want to be blanked on the ship’s name,” she said.

She added that when her granddaughter was part of the security detail that escorted Trebek to the stage, he introduced himself through the Japanese, to which we all shared. I think you can see that the essay was a big part of why I was the only one sitting there when the doc came in. Dad was 51 years old when he died on Sept. 18, 1975. Though he is in possession of his father’s medals and awards, Crittenden said “they belong to his family.” He is considering displaying the shadow box in his office at the Veteran’s Center in Tahlequah while he is a veteran affairs secretary and then later possibly passing the display to one of his younger siblings.

elsen that they (Mullin’s office) helped with this for a deserving warrior, a tribal member, a good country boy from Adair County, who served his country during the time we were engaged in a war we didn’t want to be in. I’m sure the dorks don’t have a meltdown. It was a huge help,” he said. “I also wrote about the experience of being on the show and won the grand prize of $26,000.”

The essay was a big part of why I was the only one sitting there when the doc came in. Dad was 51 years old when he died on Sept. 18, 1975. Though he is in possession of his father’s medals and awards, Crittenden said “they belong to his family.” He is considering displaying the shadow box in his office at the Veteran’s Center in Tahlequah while he is a veteran affairs secretary and then later possibly passing the display to one of his younger siblings.

Crittenden receives father’s lost WWII medals

Crittenden, son of former deputy chief, receives father’s lost WWII medals

BY WILL CHAVEZ

TULSA – Cherokee Nation citizen Greg Buzzard of Tulsa, was a contestant on the game show “Jeopardy!” In August 2013. Here he stands with the show’s late host, Alex Trebek, who died of cancer on Nov. 8, 2020. RIGHT: Cherokee Nation citizen Lenzy Kreblinburg of Tulsa, was a contestant on the popular game show “Jeopardy!” April 2, 2007.

“Jeopardy!” contestant and Cherokee Nation citizen Greg Buzzard, of Tulsa, was a contestant on the game show “Jeopardy!” In August 2013. Here he stands with the show’s late host, Alex Trebek, who died of cancer on Nov. 8, 2020.

“‘Jeopardy!’ contestants obviously tend to be shy, nerdy types – not the kind of people who usually get on TV,” he said. “So the contestant coordinators are very upbeat, very cool. The host is just there to help them being answered. It was a huge help,” he said. “I also wrote about the experience of being on the show and won the grand prize of $26,000.”

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Payton Sarabia wins back BMX title

BY STACEY BOSTON
Multimedia Reporter

BULLHEAD CITY, Ariz. — As she bonus her BMX skills, Cherokee Nation citizen Payton Sarabia poses with her Southwest United States Regionals Gold Cup Final trophy after winning its in Sal Lake City. Sarabia, 10, has been competing in BMX since she was almost 3. This year, Payton won the Arizona State Finals for the sixth consecutive year. "To this day, she has not lost that fire in her, said Priscilla said. "The inspiration comes from when I was boxing myself, and I understand that when I listen to my coach and put in hard work, it works," she said. "The results are really true because I have belts, medals and trophies to show for it. The main thing is you have to build that trust with the kids. They have to trust that you're saying go to work. She also attends Robert University, working towards a bachelor's degree in business management. "There's so much I don't know about running a business. I've just been going off of common sense and it's working," McKinney said. She recently opened a gym to teach children 6 years old and up, as well as beginners, how to box and prepare them to compete. Former amateur boxer Cheyenne McKinney opens her own gym to coach children in the sweet science.

McKinney teaches younger pupils boxing skills

Former amateur boxer Cheyenne McKinney opens her own gym to coach children in the sweet science.

TULSA - After a run in amateur boxing, Cherokee Nation citizen Cheyenne McKinney continues her career by teaching and coaching children the sweet science.

McKinney opened Cheyenne’s Boxing Gym at 102 N. Greenwood Ave., Suite 124A in the Greenwood District. She said working with children and teaching them what she’s learned motivates her.

“My goal is to try and get the kids more active, explained the youth athlete, “She wanted to train harder and be the best she could be,” she said. “For me, that age range is where hormones are going and attitudes are everywhere, and school. There’s so much going on while they’re growing up, so if I can just have a positive and a learning experience for them to go and train and show them discipline and show them a big job is love you and I’m going to be there for you, you can do it.”

McKinney started boxing as a high school senior under Keith Beal of the Beal Foundation. “I started boxing and coming to practice all the time. It was just a sport for me and my parent’s ability to keep up with the guys and just the lifetime of it all, aside from boxing and sport, I think maybe I can go at this,” McKinney said.

She won the 115-pound weight class of the Kansas Golden Gloves at Hutchinson in 2009. She won several other trophies throughout. When she moved to go into professional boxing twice, she turned it down. Then two or three years later I got an offer to go and checked on the well that down as well because the management was just worried about me having a signature purple tutu.

“This year, once I won it…the dad and the daughter came over and the dad started saying her first gold cup regional she placed in the podium. Her first year she ended up with the Southwest United States “a couple of late points based on your standing and the top riders go to the state finals and kind of battle it out to see who's going to win. And the whole southwest United States. She’s even won in multiple regions to compete just to see how she would stand and she’s south central. She’s also won central. She’s also won north central in one of her regions as well since they charged the rules that you can’t compete in multiple regions.

Payton rides with the Tuff Girls Foundation team, all while wearing her Foundation team, all while wearing her signature purple tutu.

“I’m always on a mission in Payton’s blood, as she has been competing in BMX just moving around her BMX skills. “I was actually on a strider bike, which is basically the bike the runs with, with no pedals and they race that race,” said Priscilla. “As they move through the ranks they move on to pedals bikes. By the time she was 3, she was on a pedal bike and at 3 years old she won her first competition ever.”

While she started young, she never lost age factor into her dedication. And

people: 80

December 15, 2020 • Cherokee Phoenix

Shaneses moon: missing since June 24, 2020
Age: 28/5’7’/110 lbs/ brown eyes & hair/ Last seen in Salt Lake City, Utah
If seen, call, 435-691-3946 or 435-327-1390
To sponsor a missing natives spot, call 918-207-3825 or email samantha-cochran@cherokee.org

Sarabia wins back BMX title

BY STACEY BOSTON
Multimedia Reporter

BULLHEAD CITY, Ariz. – As she hones her BMX skills, Cherokee Nation citizen Payton Sarabia poses with her Southwest United States Regionals Gold Cup Final trophy after winning it in Sal Lake City. Sarabia, 10, has been competing in BMX since she was almost 3.

This year, Payton won the Arizona State Finals for the sixth consecutive year. "This year, she has not lost that fire in her," said Priscilla said. "The inspiration comes from when I was boxing myself, and I understand that when I listen to my coach and put in hard work, it works," she said. "The results are really true because I have belts, medals and trophies to show for it. The main thing is you have to build that trust with the kids. They have to trust that you’re saying go to work. She also attends Robert University, working towards a bachelor’s degree in business management. "There’s so much I don’t know about running a business. I’ve just been going off of common sense and it’s working," McKinney said. She recently opened a gym to teach children 6 years old and up, as well as beginners, how to box and prepare them to compete.

McKinney teaches younger pupils boxing skills

Former amateur boxer Cheyenne McKinney opens her own gym to coach children in the sweet science.
Cherokee artist Joseph Erb’s art piece will be part of the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

Erbsaidbytakingpartinthe competitionhe wanted opportunities to show his artwork “in that amazing museum” even if he didn’t win. He said he believes because he has worked with copper before to create art it helped him win.

“I think it’s because I’ve done copper work in the past, and people have seen my work and liked it,” he said. “I’m assuming I look a modern, fresh feel to that genre. Indian Country has no shortage of dancing and talented people, and I was on a very short list selected to compete for that. I was blown away that I even got into the selection group.”

He said working on the piece made him think about the idea that Native people are hindered by western education. For instance, Indigenous people are not given credit, he said, for the fruits and vegetables they cultivated or the medicines they discovered.

This brilliance was passed down from generation to generation, and it’s something we don’t always think about because we’re so pigeonholed into the idea of an oppressed group,” he said. “If you get beyond that limited narrative you realize these are really spectacular people and their creativity with them, and they’re still here and doing amazing things. These thoughts inspired Erb’s submission, and he said he chose his perspective on the Indigenous people who lived in and were forced to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

Erb said he’s more of the designer for the artwork and is working remotely with a manufacturing group that is working on the pieces. He approves the designs as they are completed. People can see his finished art piece when the museum opens in September.

Located at the intersection of three interstates, the museum is expected to attract travelers from all over and serve as a place where people can gather for the study, reflection and celebration of Native culture, museum officials said.

“The museum is really impressive because of the many times people talk about Native representation,” Erb said. “It’s an amazing thing, and you feel that you walk into it. You’re more of a celebration of Indigenous culture than an archetypal of what a Native-ness is.”

ErbsaidthatthepeopleatthefirstAmericansMuseuminOklahomaCityopenSeptember2021,celebratingasharedhistoryof39distincttribalnationsinOklahoma.

In2019,he.metwithacommittee submit ideas for artwork to be placed in a large piece of wall art in the museum. In 2019, he met with a committee that wanted to create a large piece of wall art in the museum that included ideas from artists and students. In 2019, he was selected to create a large piece of wall art in the museum. In 2019, he was selected to create a large piece of wall art in the museum.

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According to a CN press release, the first Cherokee Christmas took place in 1805 when Moravian missionaries were invited by Cherokee James Vann to his home in Georgia. The release states the home was decorated with natural materials and bought candles. Moravian stars were made out of paper and small lights were added on scraps to decorate the first Christmas in the CN, according to the release.

The Christmas exhibit showcases how the Cherokee traditions began, but also shows how quickly they adopted new practices. It also states that in just a few years, Cherokee homes were decorated and home hosted hundreds and featured donated gifts and artwork in both English and Cherokee.

As part of the Christmas exhibit, the museum will host a special segment of Exploring Cherokee History, featuring an interview with the interpreter at the historic Vann home in Georgia.

Beginning Dec. 14, children who visit CN museums will receive a free, take-home craft kit to make their own gourd ornaments. A step-by-step instruction video will be posted to the Visit Cherokee Nation YouTube, Facebook and Instagram pages for those who wish to follow along. Kits will be distributed at the Cherokee National History Museum, Savage Courthouse Museum and Sequoyah’s Cabin Museum on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Cherokee National History Museum is in one of the tribe’s most iconic structures, the Cherokee National Capitol Building. It housed CN’s executive, legislative and judicial offices until 1906 and was most recently home to the tribe’s Supreme Court until fall 2018.

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The CN advisory committee is one of the arts and cultural initiatives announced by CN First Lady January Hoskin in her state of the nation address on Nov. 10. The advisory committee was one of the initial initiatives announced by CN First Lady January Hoskin. "We are incredibly honored to be recognized at LA Skins Fest," Loren said. "This is an incredible honor for the CN office and for Native people throughout North America. By telling our stories, we ensure that our heritage is preserved for future generations. It is important that we own our own story so that our CN people will understand who we are and that our culture is still alive and well."

The committee will meet quarterly, will also identify opportunities to promote Cherokee culture, history and art. The work ahead is an important step in elevating the Native voice, developing Native filmmakers and serves as a cultural and historical consultant on film projects. The committee will meet quarterly, with the first meeting scheduled for Jan. 18. To serve in those positions, Chief Hoskin appointed Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Dawni Squirrel and Tommy Wildcat. The committee includes working with the state and local film offices, the CNFO supports the growth of Oklahoma’s film industry by promoting northeast Oklahoma as a destination for filmmakers and serves as a cultural and historical consultant on film projects. The CNFO funded the animation of the CNFO’s History and Culture established.

The virtual awards ceremony was held in conjunction with the 14th annual LA Skins Fest. The animated pilot episodes for Animas were screened at the virtual 14th annual LA Skins Fest and nominated for the festival’s “Achievement in Animation Award.”

Events and screenings for the virtual film festival began Nov. 18 and ran through Nov. 29.

Los Angeles – The animated pilot episode of “Inaj” (In the Woods) was premiered at the virtual 14th annual LA Skins Fest and nominated for the festival’s “Achievement in Animation Award.”

Events and screenings for the virtual film festival began Nov. 18 and ran through Nov. 29.

The animated episode follows the adventures of four animal friends who live together in the forests of Turtle Island. In day 1, the mischievous rabbit, Juki, the gruff wolf, Tommy, the wise bear, and Kivlohti, the wise bear, are drawn from a rich Cherokee storytelling tradition.

The CNFO funded the animation of “Inaj,” in close collaboration with the tribe’s Cherokee Legacy Master Apprenticeship Program, as well as the pilot episode. Creative Filter brought Cherokee artist Roy Boney Jr. to life while cinematographer Kawan collaborated with Cherokee cinematographer, the Cherokee Youth Choir and vocalist Oora Pulo who wrote and performed the lyrics to the theme song. CN citizens Harry Oosahwee, Betty Frog, Lauren Humphrey and United Keetoowah Band citizen Schon Duncan were cast as voice actors. The tribe’s Cherokee Translation team provided translations for the project. “There needs to be more of that type of work done with the language, where the kids can get involved,” said Oosahwee, who plays Juki. “Kids can identify with the names. They don’t have to just say yona (bear) or waya (wolf). The characters actually have names. It’s neat.”

Duncan said the bear character, Kivlohti, is a medicine keeper. “He has these little roots that do different things for him, and he helps the other characters with guidance to keep them on the right track,” he said.

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WILL YOUR DESIGN BE ON OUR 2021 HOMECOMING T-SHIRT?

The Cherokee Phoenix is looking for artists to submit detailed design concepts for its 2021 Cherokee Homecoming T-shirt. The designs must include space for the words “Cherokee Phoenix” and “Cherokee Homecoming 2021.” As for the concepts, think “Cherokee National Holiday” and include a phoenix. The phoenix does NOT have to be the Cherokee Phoenix logo. Also, the design must fit on a T-shirt and be marketable. Artists must be Cherokee Nation, United Keetoowah Band or Eastern Band citizens.

Design concepts must be submitted by midnight on Jan. 1. We will narrow down submissions until one is chosen. To submit a design, you can email it to travis-snell@cherokee.org, mail it to Cherokee Phoenix, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465 or drop it off at our office in Room 231 of the Annex Building (Old Motel) on the Tribal Complex in Tahlequah. For more information, call 918-453-5308 or email travis-snell@cherokee.org.

The Cherokee Phoenix contracts with the chosen artist for the shirt’s design. Once the contract is finalized, we own the artwork as we consider it a commissioned piece. However, the artist will be allowed to produce and sell 50 prints.

The shirts are available at the Cherokee Phoenix office and Cherokee Phoenix booths during the Cherokee National Holiday over Labor Day weekend. They will also be available at the Cherokee Nation Gift Shop on the Tribal Complex or at http://cherokeegiftshop.com.

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