Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said.

Cherokee Nation. There is not another their ancestors who endured some of the learn the history and honor the legacy of program for our Cherokee youth to
deals with the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021, CN officials said on May 14.

“The ‘Remember the Removal’ Bike Ride. When the pandemic forced closures 2020 “Remember the Removal” Bike Ride
announced in March and had been canceled, this year’s cyclists will have first
American Indians.

The Nearly 950-mile trek spans seven states: Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Participants retrace the path Cherokee ancestors were forced to walk more than 188 years ago on the Trail of Tears. The ride was scheduled to begin June 1, according to the announcement.
The ride was created in 1984 as a youth leadership program. It was restarted in 2000, and in 2011 began to include cyclists from both the CN and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
The nine cyclists to participate were announced in March and had been training since December for the annual ride and the pandemic forested areas and social distancing, riders began
tidally. The 2020 riders were Shaco Duncan, 21, of Broken Arrow; Rafael Goodrich, 24, of Tahlequah; Whitney Beach, 21, of Tahlequah; Madison Whitekiller, 21, of Tahlequah; Natasia Wancie, 19, of Tahlequah; Hunter Waller, 21, of Tahlequah; Tracie Ashill, 38, of Tahlequah; Heather True, 19, of Pryor; Madison Whitekiller, 21, of Claremore; and Malorie Giang, 20, of Tulsa.

Three of the eight new efficiency homes in the Additon for Cherokee elders.

Construction complete on 8 elder efficiency homes
A home covers 720 square feet with a bedroom, living area, kitchen and bathroom.

BY D. STEVEN ROWLEY
Senior Reporter

TULSA - Cherokee Nation Businesses officials on May 18 announced a set of strategies titled “Responsible Hospitality” to offer a safe respite for guests and employees at its entertainment properties.

How we move forward from this pandemic will be a part of our legacy,” CNB CEO Chuck Garrett said. “We intend to emerge confident in the knowledge that we did all we could to implement industry-leading protocols that promote the health and safety of our team.

Staff and helpers at Robin’s Nest Flowers and Gifts in Pryor celebrate a successful Mother’s Day weekend after reopening

CBN outlines commitment to safely reopen casinos
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The Cherokee Nation of New Mexico is currently negotiating two new compacts with the state of Oklahoma. If approved, the compacts would allow the tribe to operate a casino in the area in question. The negotiations have been ongoing since March, and the tribes must make a decision by June 8.

The compacts would allow the tribe to build a casino in the community of Stilwell, which is located near the Chickasaw Nation casino in Tahlequah. The new casino would provide an economic opportunity for the community and create jobs to the area. The Cherokee Nation's response to COVID-19 pandemic has been successful, and the tribe is preparing to return their properties, amenities and services to full operation.

The plan addresses operations such as casino gaming, food and beverage service, hotel, retail, golf and live entertainment. The phases have target dates, but are designed to be a fluid, evolving program that addresses the needs of employees and guests. While the guest experience will be expected to return to work in their business, high-risk employees can request arrangements to shelter in place, and all employees must remain at home.

The Cherokee Nation has not yet announced plans to adjust the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cherokee Nation's Facebook page cherokee.org can provide the most up-to-date information.
Cherokee Nation citizen Sarah Gossett was named to replace the commissioner who resigned for an education-related position within the CN, Sellers said. “We’re going to really miss her. We wish her the best.”

“Sarah has been with the CN for over 20 years and has served in several capacities, including serving as a commissioner in the District of Tahlequah,” Sellers said. “Sarah’s life work has been in education and has dedicated a significant part of her life to education-related causes and has been a strong advocate for the community.”

Sarah Gossett has served as a commissioner for the Cherokee Nation since 2014. She previously served as deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation’s Department of Tribal Justice and was appointed to the CN Commission in 2010. She was selected to serve as Oklahoma’s Missing and Murdered Native American Women’s Coordinator in 2019.

“Sarah Gossett has a wealth of knowledge and experience in education and will be an asset to the CN Commission,” Sellers said. “She is dedicated to helping our citizens and will continue to work towards the betterment of our Nation.”

Sarah Gossett resides in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and is married with two children. She is a member of the Cherokee Nation and is a graduate of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

“I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have served the Cherokee Nation,” Gossett said. “I hope to continue to be a voice for this Nation and its citizens.”

The News-Journal is an independent, local news outlet that covers the Cherokee Nation and its people. The newspaper is published weekly and distributed to homes across the Nation. The News-Journal is owned and operated by the Cherokee Nation.

Floridians give CN heartfelt donation during pandemic

Cherokee Nation citizens who wish to fill Allen’s unexpired term. The Commissioners are accepting résumés from CN citizens interested in serving as commissioner.

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Domestic violence poised to become violent crime

By WHITNEY BRYEN

A bill that would add four domestic violence crimes to Oklahoma’s list of violent crimes is headed for Gov. Kevin Stitt’s desk. It would allow prosecutors to file domestic violence charges when they believe a person has passed domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon against a pregnant woman and domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon. A vote to oust Stitt from office is imminent.

“People who are victims of domestic violence are at high risk of serious injury or death,” said Assistant District Attorney John Pierson of the Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office. “Prosecutors must be able to hold people accountable.”

Violence against women is a leading cause of death worldwide. It is the number one cause of death for women ages 15 to 49. One in three women will experience physical, sexual or psychological violence or economic control by a partner or other intimate during their lifetime. This has led to overcrowded prisons. But state question SQ 805 would remove those tools. SQ 805 supports adding domestic abuse to the state’s list of violent crimes, but not for domestic violence. This is a big deal because we can affect real change in the criminal justice system. A report from the governor’s office said 74% of the women in a state prison in Oklahoma said they were victims of domestic violence.

Despite the apparent victory, supporters said more is needed to support victims of violence. “The Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which advocated for the bill, said the move is necessary to hold abusers accountable and end lifetime perceptions that domestic abuse is a private matter that should be kept out of court.”

Ala. Kresse, who heads Oklahoma for Criminal Justice Reform, said her organization supports it. “We are glad to see the measures that treat domestic violence as a serious violent crime.”

“This move is a big win for domestic violence survivors,” said Stacy Amin, FDA chief compliance officer. “The FDA continues to support this effort and will continue to take action to ensure consumers are protected.”


The claims made in the complaint are allegations that, if true, would have caused a permanent injury against the defendants. In response to the department’s filings, defendants immediately took down their sales sites. In addition, they have posted a message offering refunds to their customers. “Due to the FDA and the DOJ’s requests, this site has been removed. Anyone who has ordered in the last 90 days, would like a refund, please do.”

The DOJ will continue to seek complete relief against defendants.

The public is urged to report suspected fraud, product complaints or other concerns to the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline by calling 1-866-722-6123 or to an online reporting form at www.justice.gov/disaster fraud/system/ndf-disaster-claim-form.

Homes: To meet requirements, a household member must be a CN citizen and meet income guidelines. From front page

Roguing Authority of the Cherokee Nation For a taking an innovative approach to health services, treatment programs and investigative stories on important health issues facing the state. For more Oklahoma for Criminal Justice Reform, is a constitutional reform, is a constitutional health services, treatment programs and investigative stories on important health issues facing the state. For more Oklahoma for Criminal Justice Reform, is a constitutional reform, is a constitutional reform, is a constitutional
In this 2016 photo, “Remember the Removal” cyclists walk their bikes on a dirt road upon reaching the Gosconade River near Lebanon, Missouri. This year’s “Remember the Removal” ride has been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BY CHUCK HOSKIN JR.

Pre-Covid 19

In light of the worst public health crisis in generations, we have used medical science, facts and compassion as our guide. Throughout this crisis, our decision-making has been guided by Cherokee Nation health experts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Based on this guidance, limiting access to government headquarters and temporarily shutting our businesses was the right thing to do. We are now ready to move forward, while continuing to err on the side of safety and being prepared for any sudden changes.

Beginning June 1, CN will begin a phased reopening of government offices, as well as Cherokee Nation Businesses. We will execute this plan gradually and strategically to safely restore operations throughout this time, and that will not change as we execute our reopening plan.

On-site business employees have continued operating under their regular schedules.

• The Cherokee Phoenix reserves the right to edit any rhetoric intended to advance the political position of a person, group or organization which cannot be verified.

• Letters shall not exceed 350 words.

• Submissions deemed to not comply with this policy shall be published anonymously. Submissions will be attributed by author’s full name and city of residence.

• Letters from non-citizens will be labeled as such.

• Submissions will not contain personal attacks or statements denigrating another person’s character either directly or implicitly.

• The content of submissions shall not contain false or substantiated claims or statements that make claims which cannot be verified.

• The content of submissions shall not contain political rhetoric intended to advance the political position of a candidate for Cherokee Nation office.

• Mail subscriptions and change of address charges are in stock by sending to Cherokee Phoenix, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465. Orders must be postmarked. Please inquire to make sure the issues are in stock by writing to Back Issues, Cherokee Phoenix, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465, or calling 918-453-5358.

• The Cherokee Phoenix reserves the right to edit any submitted letter or column so that it conforms to this policy. Such changes to submissions shall be made at the discretion of the editorial staff.

• Submissions shall have the author’s name, phone number or email address so the editorial staff can confirm the author.

• Submissions without such information will not be published.

• Submissions shall be received by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. Submissions shall not be published anonymously. Submissions will be attributed by author’s full name and city of residence.

• Letters from Cherokee citizens will be given greater consideration. Letters from non-citizens will be labeled as such.

• Letters shall not exceed 350 words.

• Columns will be published at the discretion of the Executive Editor and shall not exceed 400 words.

• Columns submitted without invitation shall not be published without specific permission from the Executive Editor.

• Submissions deemed to not comply with this policy shall be sent to the Editorial Board for review.
Reporter
BY LINDSEY BARK

TALKELaAH – While Oklaho-
ma is reopening the state in phases during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Cherokee Na-

Society making similar plans, the need for personal protective equipment is still in demand, and many people who can sew are making fabric face masks so others can stay protected.

CN citizen Brooklynn Cookson began sewing masks with her sister Sarah Cookson in April, and together they have sewn more than 500 masks, and are making more.

“We started making masks to simply help,” Brooklynn said. “COVID-19 has affected everyone in some way, and it has made many people feel helpless, but we found it important to utilize a skill that our late grandmother, Glennie McCot-

ham, taught us in order to help. It has been really special to use our old sewing machines and fabric to make masks and donate them be-

cause we know that someone out there is doing something else.”

Brooklynn said she knew of the PPE shortage, especially for essential workers. “We found it critical to help during this time due to the shortage of PPE and the seriousness and extent of the virus. We wanted to donate masks to help people who could use one in order to protect their health and the health of others, and hopefully curb the spread of the virus.”

Brooklynn said they are making masks upon request and creating a stockpile in case people ask for them. She said there is no charge to receive a mask. “We aren’t trying to profit off of this; we just want peo-

ple that have to be out for essential trips to do it safely.”

Brooklynn said they have donat-
ed masks around Cherokee County but are also helping businesses and individuals in areas such as Stillwater, Muskogee, Checotah, Lo-
cust Grove, Fort Gibson, and have shipped masks to nurses in Tulsa, Pryor, Stillwater, Anadarko, and Dallas.

“We have donated several to hospital staff, Cherokee elders, restaurant workers and other busi-

nesses that are helping during this time, medical personnel, the VA hospital staff, Cherokee elders, and individuals in our community members in need.”

Brooklynn said she and her sister took materials that belonged to their grandmother and made dou-

ble layer cotton masks with a pocket for filters.

“The filter adds another layer of protection and has been highly recommended by medical profes-
sionals we have talked to,” she said.

“We used a 1900 3M air filter with virus and bacteria protection in our personal masks.”

With the rise in mask making, materials such as elastic are in demand and can scarcely be found on store shelves. “We also started using elastic in our masks so that they could be easily put on and taken off around the ears, but due to the high demand of elastic right now, once we ran out we could not find any more,” Brooklynn said.

“So, we started cutting up unrest-
ted T-shirts we had around our house and attaching them to make-

to go around the ears.”

“The mask should be entirely behind the ears.”

“The sisters encourage others to help in any way they can. "If you can help someone in any way, I would encourage you do that. Whether it is sending an encouraging message to a nurse or someone who needs a little companionship in their day, I would highly encourage you to do that."
Staying safe this summer means staying home, social distancing when you have to go out, and following all CDC guidelines.
It's been a long journey for our Community, but we're happy to see that your work is paying off. Keep up the good work!
Sequoyah, Grand View continue meal programs

Local schools continue to provide meals to students via summer food programs.

“Providing these two meal options for our students helps us meet an important need in our community.”

Mark Vance, Education Services deputy executive director

In this 2014 photo, Scarlett Shell looks for a pair of shoes in Tahlequah after receiving a Cherokee Nation clothing voucher. Eligible students receive $100 vouchers to help with school clothing.

CN taking school clothing aid applications

BY STAFF REPORTS

TAHELQUAH – The Cherokee Na-
tion’s Family Assistance will again give
out school clothing vouchers to eligible
children through its Clothing Assistance
Program this summer, and applications
are available until June 15.

According to the CN website, the Cloth-
ing Voucher Program is funded through
the Tri-Bill Council and has been imple-
mented through Human Services since
2006. The goal is to assist families with
back-to-school expenses by providing
financial assistance for school clothes for
the children’s first day school.

In the past, eligible school-aged chil-
dren have received $100 Visa gift cards.
Eligibility requirements and documenta-
tion include:

• Students must be CN citizens with
copies of tribal citizenship cards.

• Must live within the tribe’s jurisdic-
tion verified by a utility bill, not exceed-
ing 30 days from application date, that
shows physical or service address;

• Must be in grades kindergarten
to 12 for the 2020-21 school year.

• Application must be completed by
parent or legal guardian, providing
proof of ID;

• Legal guardians must provide proof
of guardianship;

• Provide copies of income verifica-
tion for all household members; and

• Household must meet income guide-
lines.

The vouchers must be spent on school
Clothing and not on accessories such as
backpacks or fragrances. The vouchers
have no expiration dates and can be used
during the state’s tax free weekend of
shopping from July 31 to Aug. 2.

“We needied out applications to those
who were approved last year in February
and have received more than 600 re-
turns,” Family Assistance Department
Manager Angela King said. “Those who
were approved last year are asked to
submit their applications or if they have
misplaced it, they can request another
application from Human Services or
download a copy from our website.”

Due to the COVID-19 virus, applica-
tions are available online at https://cher-
okee-ok.org/all-services/human-services/
family-assistance/school-clothing-assis-
tance-program.

For information, email human-ser-
vice@cherokee.org.

Mail applications to Cherokee Nation
Family Assistance, Attn: School Clothing
Program, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK
74465.

BY LINDSEY BARK

Reporter

TAHELQUAH – Schools around
Cherokee County are continuing to
serve breakfast and lunches to students
via state and national programs so
school-aged children up to 18 years old
are provided nutritional meals into their
summer breaks.

When COVID-19 forced school
closures in March, students were able to
pick up breakfast and lunches provided
by their schools at locations for the
remainder of the school year.

Though the last day for Sequoyah High
School was May 15, the school was
approved to serve breakfast and lunch
trough the Oklahoma
State Department of Education’s Summer
Food Service until June 30, Mark Vance,
Cherokee Nation Education Services
deputy executive director, said.

“Students ages 18 years and younger
will be provided breakfast and lunch on
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
during this time,” Vance said. “The meals
will be served in grab and go style
following guidelines from the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention
and as approved by the Oklahoma State
Department of Education.”

He said the program ensures
students have access to needed
nutritious meals and that Sequoyah has
received this program for several
years.

“Providing these two meal options for
our students helps us meet an
important need in our community,” Vance said.

Sequoyah meals are available Monday
through Friday at four locations: SHS
cafeteria and the CN Court House
loading dock.

Cherokee Phoenix
Public Health
Comprehensive Cancer Control

JUNE: I AM A SURVIVOR.

More than 15 million cancer survivors live in the United States. Due to cancer treatment, lifestyle, genetics and risk factors contributing to the initial cancer, cancer survivors have a greater chance for recurrence of developing second cancers. Comprehensive Cancer Control encourages you to live tobacco-
free, eat a balanced diet, maintain a healthy weight and exercise regularly to lower your risk.

CherokeePhoenixHealth.com
Made possible by funding from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
**Cherokee Federal unveils Scout Health Security unit to Cherokee Nation leaders and medical professionals at the CN’s Outpatient Health Center in Tahlequah.**

**“Through Scout Health Security, our team has taken a comprehensive approach to provide protective barriers and effective solutions to reopen America.”**

- Steven Silby, Cherokee Federal president

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**Mortgage relief and COVID-19 scams: What you need to know**

The United States is seeing an increase in mortgage relief scams due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are facing financial hardship, it is crucial to understand how to identify and avoid these scams. Here are some strategies to help you protect your home and financial well-being.

**Tips for avoiding mortgage relief scams:**

1. **Check your servicer's contact information:** Before taking any action, make sure you have the correct contact information for your loan servicer. Call them directly to discuss your options or visit their website for guidance.

2. **Use the Freddie Mac scam hotline:** If you suspect a scam, report it to the Freddie Mac scam hotline. They can provide guidance on how to verify the legitimacy of the calls, screen for robocalls, and report them.

3. **Report any suspicious activity:** If you receive a call or email asking for sensitive information or urgent action, report it immediately. Contact your servicer or the Freddie Mac scam hotline to verify the legitimacy of the request.

4. **Verify the legitimacy of any call or email:** Do not provide any personal information unless you are sure it is legitimate. Hang up if you are uncertain and call your servicer directly.

5. **Be cautious of unsolicited offers:** Scammers may make unsolicited offers that sound too good to be true. Always verify these offers before taking any action.

6. **Report any suspicious activity:** If you suspect a scam, report it to the Freddie Mac scam hotline. They can provide guidance on how to verify the legitimacy of the calls, screen for robocalls, and report them.

By taking these steps, you can protect yourself from mortgage relief scams and safeguard your home. If you are unsure about any action to take, contact your servicer directly for guidance.
By the end of his college schedule.

In addition to his teaching duties, Page has also been busy on the fishing scene. He has been consistently placing in the top five at various bass fishing tournaments and has earned All-State honors as a high school student.

In 2016, Page was chosen as one of four students from Claremore Sequoyah High School to attend the State University of New York at Buffalo for a college visit. Page said that the experience was helpful in deciding which college to attend and also served as a reminder of his love for fishing.

Page's fishing career began in 2014 when he was nominated for All-State honors by his coach and mentor, Gary Lively. Since then, Page has continued to place well in tournaments and has become a well-known figure in the world of bass fishing.

Page's success on the water is matched by his success in the classroom. He is a good student and has maintained a high GPA throughout his college career.

Page's future plans include continuing his fishing career while pursuing a degree in business or finance. He hopes to start his own business someday and is considering going into politics as well.

In conclusion, Page is a talented and driven student-athlete who has made a positive impact on his community and on the world of bass fishing. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can lead to success in both academics and sports.
Cherokee game developed for iTunes

Players must use Cherokee language to advance through the game.

**BY WILL CHAVEZ**
Assistant Editor

TAEKIJEUW - Using interactive media and its continued contributions to the Cherokee citizens Joseph Lewis Erb and Matt Mason have created a video game that uses the Cherokee language.

The two created a free game titled “Adalonuhesgi,” or “Cherokee Robot Company.” Erb said the game’s story uses the “iconic Cherokee trickster,” rabbit, to steal Cherokee elders.

“It’s been a hard thing to work on, but we’re excited to try it out and play it and give us feedback. Hope they like it,” Erb said.

The game incorporates Cherokee words for points. Cherokee players must use Cherokee language to advance through the game, while non-players can use English to advance.

Cherokee citizens Joseph Lewis Erb and Matt Mason have created a free game titled “Adalonuhesgi” or “Cherokee Robot Company,” where players must use the Cherokee language to advance through the game.

**TECH & TEN**

YUKON - A poet from the Oklahoma City metropolitan area is among a list of poets published in an international, multilingual anthology that includes the only voice printed in the Cherokee language.

Ed Roberts, a 61-year-old Cherokee Nation citizen, is one of 90 writers from 30 countries appointed to contribute to the latest “Amavasya Puitra Priya” anthology that features 12 languages. His contribution to the anthology is a free verse poem about getting up the morning after a night out, which he said was inspired by his own life.

The finished feathers, which are made of Invar, which is a metal that will never rust, are 6 inches long with approximately 60 or 70 long, floating feathers. He designed his medical equipment. He designed his grandfather, CN citizen Larry Mills, hold a “floating feather” piece from metal and wood. “I think this is a very critical time right now in the world language loss, and with the majority of our speakers being elders, this is a huge concern. We have to do something, and if really can’t be someone depending on a kid at the Cherokee Immersion Charter School or a kid in the apprenticeship program,” he said. “For all of us and our citizens of the Cherokee Nation, Kwassow or Eastern Band, it is our obligation to do more with the language so that it doesn’t die out.”

“Adalonuhesgi” has different levels, each with different themes, colors and numbers.

**TECH & TEN**

DALLAS - A Cherokee Nation citizen has created what he calls “Rounding numbers” from metal as a unique way to embody his family’s teachings.

“My grandpa just said, ‘Hey, you can do anything with rounding numbers,’ ” said Christopher Daugherty, who created the piece. “So I got to looking at rounding numbers as feathers or dream catchers – things that are common with the Native American Cherokee.”

The finished feathers, approximately 6 inches long with more than 20 feathers each, were designed by several family members, Daugherty said. His grandfather, Larry Mills, of Battleboro, North Carolina, described the piece as having “breathtaking expertise and quality.”

“I do not, unfortunately, have my own personal poem because they are rather expensive. But I do thankfully have access to my grandmother’s collection of poems that she left me at any time,” she said.

A video game is even more profitable now than before, he said. While the first language of many people today is English, there are several other languages and patterns that can be created, but those require a different type of wordplay,” she said.

She said loom weaving patterns also vary, some harder to learn than others. “The easiest design to learn and start with is a traditional or white weave. That is the pattern I first learned,” Sherron said. “But more recently I have learned loom weaving with the herring bone and diamond pattern, such as my piece from last year’s Cherokee Art Market Vashon Competition. That was the first herring bone poem I created.”

The piece is a 21-inch-by-11-inch wall hanging with a diamond pattern.