The Cherokee Nation removes monuments dedicated to soldiers and Stand Watie.

BY LINDSEY BARK
Reporter

At a ceremony on June 13, the Cherokee Nation removed two Confederate monuments from a historic Tahlequah tower. The tribe said the decision was a part of its efforts to rid the region of confederate symbols and to honor the country's American Indian heritage.

First, the Cherokee Nation removed a 13,000-pound granite monument weighing nearly a century old, near a fountain memorializing Confederate soldiers and Stand Watie. The building now resides as the Cherokee National Museum.

The holiday, scheduled for Sept. 4-7, will not hold events as workers remove two Confederate monuments dedicated to soldiers and Stand Watie. Hoskin speaks against Interior's OK of 2 tribal gaming compacts

BY CHAD HUNTER
Senior Reporter

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday upheld a lower court's ruling to give the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations the right to run two new gaming compacts in Oklahoma.

Hoskin says 2020 Cherokee National Holiday will be 'virtual'

BY CHAD HUNTER
Senior Reporter

The Cherokee Nation Labor Day weekend," Hoskin says, "will have this land in trust."

The full list of activities has not yet been released, but traditional game demonstrations, the Miss Cherokee competition, the Cherokee art show and the State of the Nation address will be viewable online.

The holiday, scheduled for Sept. 4-7, will not hold events as well as an abundance of caution for CN citizens and its visitors, the holiday will be celebrated by watching many key events online.

Hoskin said it was time for a change.

Supreme Court won't hear UKB trust land case

The United Keechelus Band of the Confederated Tribes, said no federal official can give Gov. Stitt the needed authority to legally bind the state to the compacts.

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Hoskin speaks against Interior's OK of 2 tribal gaming compacts

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. has no federal official can give Gov. Stitt the needed authority to legally bind the state to the compacts.

BY D. SEAN BOWLEY
Senior Reporter

Hoskin says 2020 Cherokee National Holiday will be ‘virtual’

The holiday, scheduled for Sept. 4-7, will not hold events where social distancing would be difficult.

Because of the COVID-19 risks and a recent spike in infections, the holiday with many events arranged to be as well as an abundance of caution for CN citizens and its visitors, the holiday will be celebrated by watching many key events online.

Hoskin said it was essential to the health of CN citizens and the general public that a revised holiday take place in 2020. He cited the rising incidence of COVID-19 and the expectation of many epidemiologists of a second surge of cases this fall, meaning “a decision on the holiday had to be made now.”

"It's important we celebrate the great achievements of the Cherokee Nation, our government and our citizens, but COVID-19 will remain a threat, especial- ly for our elders and our community, with the thousands potentially coming into the Cherokee Nation Labor Day weekend," Hoskin said.

The full list of activities has not yet been released, but traditional game demonstrations, the Miss Cherokee competition, the Cherokee art show and the State of the Nation address will be viewable online.

The parade, parade, softball tournament, fishing derby, boat, arts and crafts, and vendor markets are cancelled for this year. As well as an abundance of caution for CN citizens and its visitors, the holiday will be celebrated by watching many key events online.

Hoskin said it was essential to the health of CN citizens and the general public that a revised holiday take place in 2020. He cited the rising incidence of COVID-19 and the expectation of many epidemiologists of a second surge of cases this fall, meaning “a decision on the holiday had to be made now.”

"It's important we celebrate the great achievements of the Cherokee Nation, our government and our citizens, but COVID-19 will remain a threat, especially for our elders and our community, with the thousands potentially coming into the Cherokee Nation Labor Day weekend," Hoskin said.
Jerry Bigfeather, a Cherokee Nation environmental health specialist, swabs a pallet for possible COVID-19 contamination in a couple of months,” Wayne Isaacs, chief executive officer of the CN Health Services Division, said. “So we’re focusing on prevention, detection, and cleaning efforts are paying off,” Prinicipal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. We were able to continue providing services even as they did not spike,” Enlow said. “I wouldn’t say that our number of COVID-19 cases does not spike.”

As of June 22, the CN had made no announcement about a delayed or advanced plan in the process of COVID-19 testing. The start of Phase 3 will end the altering days or weeks currently used in the Nation’s buildings to roughly halve staffing levels for health and safety. Offices will be back to full staff, but those at risk or in close contact risk must work from home or take administrative leave, unless willing to sign a waiver.

“On top of that, we have an additional $32 million to assist COVID-19 testing. The OSDH report for June 22 showed 175 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the CN jurisdiction. We spent 175 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the CN jurisdiction. We spent $100 million to carry on our operations during that time,” Hoskin said.

Hoskin said the CN Health Services Division maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet. “We’re not out of the woods yet,” he said. “We’re managing the risk of COVID-19 for citizens who have tested positive for COVID-19 to keep things as normal as possible.”

Hoskin said the CN Health Services Division has taken steps to protect citizens as they return to work. “Our employees are new to opening tribal offices and staff are ‘working hard’ to spread the word about our COVID-19 testing,” Hoskin said.

“Congress was clear that all funds provided from the tribal set aside of the CARES Act could be used for necessary expenditures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A separate element of the Act provided $8 billion to support the public health needs of the Native communities. The funds must be used to offset revenue declines due to the public health emergency the Nation is facing,” Abraham General Sara Hill said.

Hoskin and the CN Health Services Division had taken bold and innovative measures to help citizens get back to work. “We’re helping our citizens to help our citizens,” Hoskin said. “We are helping to rebuild our community.”

“Answer: The CN on May 8 announced the CHEROKEE PHOENIX • JUNE 2, 2020

As we integrate back into society, it remains as prepared as possible to integrate back into society, it remains as prepared as possible to remain safe and receive care,” Hoskin said.

CN announces $332M plan for CARES Act funds CN continues plan, masks mandatory Cherokee Nation tests own coronavirus cleaning efforts CN continues plan, masks mandatory Cherokee Nation tests own coronavirus cleaning efforts...
UKB: UKB leaders officially signed a deed to the land in front of page 5.

MONUMENTS: They were placed when the property was a county courthouse owned by the state.
Why I removed Confederate monuments from Cherokee Capitol

By Lindsey Schneider

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is new, but pandemic threats to Indigenous peoples are not. Nowhere are the vulnerabilities more apparent than on reservations, where social distancing is harder to achieve, medical facilities are scarce. Native Americans are 19 times more likely to lack indoor plumbing and water than households in non-Indian areas. On the Navajo Nation reservation, which has the largest Native population in the United States, 27,444 people out of a population of 173,000 had tested positive for COVID-19, and 159 had died. This infection rate is 10 times higher than in the general U.S. population.

Many tribes have had to rely on the federal government’s Indian Health Service for health care. But lack of capacity at the federal level, the accompanying supply chain issues with the national stockpile, IHS and tribal health systems means that many states have raised COVID-19 testing and hospitalization rates many times higher than those in many other jurisdictions. Indian Country’s death rate from COVID-19 is currently exceptionally high, with many elders being called on to perform funerary practices for those who have passed. The days of Cherokees leaving it to the state governments are over.

The state of Oklahoma, which has about the potential removal of these symbols will reflect unity and friendship that Cherokee people have for COVID-19 and 189 deaths due to the pandemic itself. Federal and tribal governments’ efforts to deal with the pandemic themselves. Federal and tribal governments are highlighting their own story for us and telling us which peoples should have the power to tell their own story.

Today, we have the power and resources to maintain our traditional practices. As the monarchs who were capable of spreading coronavirus on farm have increased, the CN has increased its patrols at the border, de- placing with land reservations across their territory. And in Bristol Bay, Alaska, a salmon fishery that employs many temporary workers is set to open in July. Because the federal government has also delayed commercial fishing in some coastal areas, many local Native villages depend on the fishery. These activities have had disproportionate impacts on tribes for COVID-19. And while many states have raised COVID-19 testing rates, those symbols will reflect unity and friendship that Cherokee people have for COVID-19, and 189 deaths due to the pandemic itself. Federal and tribal governments’ efforts to deal with the pandemic themselves. Federal and tribal governments are highlighting their own story for us and telling us which peoples should have the power to tell their own story.

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The Cherokee Nation makes recommendations to community leaders about reopening organizations and facilities.

**CN gives reopening tips to community leaders**

**Community**

**July 1, 2020 • Cherokee Phoenix**

The recommendations were made for the reopening of Cherokee community organizations and facilities.

"Cherokee Nation continues to monitor COVID-19 and the effects of the virus and local government openings," said CCO Director Kevin Stretch. "Cherokee Nation Public Health Officials, in the interest of public health and in disregard to Cherokee community organizations and facilities continuous to extend normal operations."

According to CCO and Public Health officials, recommendations for June include:

- **Strictly follow Centers for Disease Control recommendations such as facility sterilization, personal protective equipment (PPE), personal hygiene, etc.**
- **Follow CDC guidelines for at-risk and don't offer others the same food.**
- **Sanitize/sterilize thoroughly, repeatedly; and**
- **No communal food sharing.**

Audiences can find more information and resources regarding COVID-19 can be found at covid19.cherokee .gov/need-extra-precautions/index.html; and keep gatherings to less than 10 people.

- **Having an event outdoors is better than indoors;**
- **If indoor, fresh air circulation is desired;**
- **Ensure strict social distancing of at least 6 feet;**
- **Wash hands at all times (per HHS’s executive order);**
- **Sunlight/sterilize thoroughly, repeatedly; and**
- **No communal food sharing.**

**Community**

**July 1, 2020 • Cherokee Phoenix**

**ECHO GARVIN RIDER IS A TREASURE WORTHY OF REMEMBERING.**

Echo Garvin Rider is a true legacy to be treasured forever. She was an educator, homemaker, rodeo queen, historian, dedicated Cherokee citizen and a woman blessed with a family filled with love.

She began and ended her life on her father's Cherokee Nation allotment and homestead nestled between creek, field, massive oak trees and prairie grasslands in the community of Miller Ridge, Oklahoma. The same family ranch which is recognized as an Oklahoma Centennial Ranch established in 1871, and the homestead of one of the largest cattle producers in the early years of the Cherokee Nation. Today’s celebration is a celebration of Echo’s Ride’s life—a life of challenges, adventures, prestige, accomplishment and most of all, honor and love.

In late April 1917, an afternoon storm cloud arose producing a bolt of lightning striking a picnic stand. At that time, a handsome Cherokee named John Franklin Garvin was tending the picnic stand. He was 23 years of age and the son of Garvin McCrary, and John C. Garvin. Echo Garvin was born into a family filled with love, beauty, intelligence and energy. A few months later, on October 19, 1919, a beautiful, green-eyed, Cherokee baby girl was born. Her name suggested by her father months before her birth. She was named Echo, a charter member of the Sequoyah County Downs in Sallisaw and instituting pari-mutuel betting in 1935 while serving as Principal at Brushy School. She was immensely proud to be able to preserve the Flags Museum located in Sallisaw and was active with the Sallisaw Town Square. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines.

Echo was a wealth of information. She was an avid researcher and had a wealth of knowledge. Echo was a true legacy to be treasured forever. She was a charter member of the Sequoyah County Historical Society, was active in the Redbud Garden Club, the Retired Teachers Association and the oldest member of the Akins Baptist Church. She was an aid researcher and had many published works. Echo was also nutzen in National Geographic and Oklahoma Hall of Fame magazines. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines.

Echo Garvin Rider is a treasure worthy of remembering. She was a charter member of the Sequoyah County Historical Society, was active in the Redbud Garden Club, the Retired Teachers Association and the oldest member of the Akins Baptist Church. She was an aid researcher and had many published works. Echo was also nutzen in National Geographic and Oklahoma Hall of Fame magazines. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines. She was a contributing author of a number of magazines.
First drug proves able to improve survival from COVID-19

During the pandemic, people are losing their jobs, including social services, trauma-informed, intensive outpatient, therapist, and screened/case manager. Some are having difficulty finding work, including caregivers. In addition, some people are struggling to access medical care, as hospitals and clinics are often overwhelmed. This has led to increased stress and anxiety for those who do not have access to mental health services.

While the pandemic continues to be a challenging time, there are some positive developments. For example, researchers have made progress in developing vaccines for COVID-19. One such vaccine has been shown to be effective in clinical trials, and it appears to help less ill patients.

In Oklahoma, marijuana use is a significant issue. The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority has issued rules allowing for the medical use of marijuana. This has been met with mixed reactions, with some seeing it as a step forward in treating patients, while others view it as a step backward in society.

Overall, the pandemic continues to be a challenging time, but there is hope for the future. With continued research and development, we may be able to find effective treatments and vaccines to help us overcome this crisis.
Oklahoma health agency reverses decision on COVID-19 data

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A day after President Donald Trump held a campaign rally June 20 at an Oklahoma City arena, the Oklahoma Department of Health urged anyone who has recently attended a large event to get tested for COVID-19.

The department did not specify any event in its news release. No one attended Trump's rally at Tulsa ExpoCivic Center. The campaign did not require attendees to wear face masks or social distance, and it did not specify when the concert attendees would be tested.

"Personal responsibility remains key in protecting your health and the health of others," the department said. "We continue to encourage Oklahomans to consider wearing face masks, social distancing, washing hands with soap and water, and using physical distancing measures." interim state health secretary Dr.erin Wynn said in the news release.

4 tribes get funds for pandemic assistance

WASHINGTON (AP) – Four Oklahoma tribes are among a total of nearly 1.2 million to come under a new federal program.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Public Health and Medical Preparedness announced the awards Thursday.

The funds are going to the Osage, Seminole, Comanche and Chickasaw tribes.

Each tribe is getting $300,000 to use for personal protective equipment, pay overtime for healthcare workers, provide mental health services and to purchase testing and the isolation of suspected COVID-19 patients.

The tribes were chosen at the request of the White House and the Governors’ Council for American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, which issued an emergency declaration on April 20 and called for tribes to receive this type of funding.

The funds will be used for the following purposes:

- PPE
- Overtime
- Mental Health Services
- Testing
- Isolation

The tribes are the only ones selected in the state of Oklahoma.

FDA emergency use of coronavirus drug

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of a drug that appeared to cut COVID-19 patients’ recovery time by 31%.

The FDA’s decision Friday followed a review of data from a trial of the drug remdesivir conducted by the National Institutes of Health. The drug was found to be effective in reducing the time to recovery by 62% in severely ill patients.

Those given the drug were able to leave the hospital an average of three days sooner than those given a placebo.

In a statement, FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn said: "The data show that the drug remdesivir may help speed recovery of patients who have symptoms of COVID-19 disease. This is an important step in the fight against this pandemic."
Tahlequah—The Cherokee Nation Educational Foundation is implementing a new initiative, the American Mentoring five-year grant program. 

“Western Heights is an online school, and so it’s a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Tiffany Spraggs, the school’s director. 

CNF takes Zoom, an online video communications platform, to conduct classes with its focus in urban areas, such as technology, engineering and math. CNF is not any stranger to online learning, as when the world was ready it was key to keep the learning going throughout the pandemic. 

“When we first started out, CNF was one of the first things (Zoom) we bought. So we’re really, really into it,” said Executive Director Janice Randall.

Randall said the Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School and CNF have used the video communication platform in its doors in March to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The classes are going every Wednesday until the end of the school year. “It started to kind of finish out the school year, and then we just went into fun activities,” said Randall.

During the June 17 class, the students are from pre-school to seventh grade learned how to build a robot using spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. In previous classes, Randall said students made drums and played them.

Those are STEM projects, and they do a lot of activities. I think they look forward to every Wednesday doing this,” she said.

Partly funding for the grant is $12,000, and Randall said this allows the CNF to offer a few, after-care programs to prepare students for Oklahoma achievement testing.

“We are just trying to make sure that students not only have the Cherokee Immersion but they’re ready for the Oklahoma Achievement tests. They’re taught in Cherokee, but they’re also taught in English,” said Randall. “So, we just take it to a whole day and enhance.”

The grant also allowed CNF to provide the immersion school with a computer lab with new computers as smart boards, robotics equipment and other virtual reality headsets, which gives them a virtual way to learn and travel to places around the world and in space all from their classroom.

Randall said students in Betty Bangle’s immersion class used the Ocale to learn about the Cherokee Stella virtually visiting a zoo. “She would be there and she would have them traveling through, and she would say a Cherokee word for bear and they would have to find the bear and they requested the words,” Randall said.

Randall also said that the grant, Randall said, is to supplement and help integrate into the curriculum that needs the school has.

“By having these grants we were able to do a lot of STEM and things that they didn’t have before,” Randall said. “So it’s really important to be supplement, whatever they don’t have, officials don’t have that.”

We are going to be there for you, to help them do the things that the school needs to have.

If you want to be there in the classroom, coming to school every day doing this,” said Randall. “But we want to do the things that after-school and after-care don’t have in the classroom.”

For more information about CNF, visit foundation.org.

PHOTOS BY STACEY BOSTON/CHEEROKEE PHOENIX

Shown is a tower of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. The Cherokee Nation Foundation summer STEM Zoom classes, an online video platform, are held with the Immersion Charter School students also made drums and origami.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Nicolas Sayegh

Nicolas Sayegh plans to give back to his community by acquiring two college degrees in the business field.

“Being young really has cost that’s going to be me. I’m just trying to do what it takes in every way I can to work,” he said.

Several other awards and honors Sayegh has collected include being named an Oklahoma Academic All-State member, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society Scholar, Hispanic Achiever National Scholar, National Dlll Scholar, Elko Most Valuable Player overall Johnson national finalist and Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State percussionist.

He plans to attend Oklahoma City University, double majoring in marketing and finance and eventually enter the business world to become an executive.

“I think that many people in the business field, obviously it’s difficult to paycheck, but you need to be able to give back to your community through the position that you’ve given especially after a while,” Sayegh said. “Like once you’ve made money and have power, I see it as anyone’s responsibility who has any amount of money or power to then give back to the less privileged people around you and of course where you came from and your background.”

He said it’s important for him because he is able to represent students with backgrounds similar to his own. Sayegh also acquired an associate’s degree from Oklahoma State University, and before pursuing his degree, he has worked in the business field before.

“I’m really encourage our students to look into those programs so that we’re not only the program going out there for a couple of years but I’m the first student at Western Heights as well as his graduate with an associate’s degree,” he said. “My counseil brought it up one day and I was like

Natalie Spraggs

Natalie Spraggs plans to give back to his community by acquiring two college degrees in the business field.

“I think that really, really important in rural areas, especially ones that are more depressed economically. I think it’s really important for everyone to have the opportunity to go on whatever career path and make a living wherever they choose to live.”

The Cherokee Nation’s five-year Native Youth Career Foundation keeps focus on tribal students and their ability to find jobs, and goes back to its founding goal of providing the tools to help the kids.

“Travel” to places around the world and in space all from the classroom.

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BILLY CHACE

BY BILL CHACE

STILWELL, Kansas — New leaders in its Education Services and at Sequoyah Schools.

Change is hard, particularly when it comes to the education system, which can be slow to adapt and resist change. But when the opportunity arises to bring new energy and innovation to a school district, it can be a game-changer.

Herrin leaves Sequoyah for head coaching job at Kansas

The move from Oklahoma to Kansas will be a challenge, but Herrin is excited for the opportunity to lead the Stilwell High School football program.

"I felt like I needed to get back into coaching," Jennifer Herrin said. "I've been here for 16 years and I feel like this is the right time to make a change."

Herrin spent 16 years at Stilwell, where she served as an assistant basketball coach from 2005-06 and as a head football coach in 2017-18. She led the school to a winning record in both sports.

"I'm excited for the challenge of leading the Stilwell High School football program," Herrin said. "I've always wanted to be a head coach, and this is the right opportunity for me."

"I've been here for 16 years and I feel like this is the right time to make a change."

Herrin said she is looking forward to the opportunity to work with a new group of players and to bring a fresh perspective to the program.

"I've always wanted to be a head coach, and this is the right opportunity for me," Herrin said. "I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together."
Teen dating violence can manifest itself as “actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, psychological and verbal harm.”

SIGNS THAT A TEEN MAY BE IN AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

• They had an injury they try to cover up or cannot explain.
• Worried about upsetting boyfriend/girlfriend; 
• Being pressured by a girlfriend/boyfriend about what to do, where to go or what to wear; 
• Declining grades or missing school; 
• Giving up things that used to be important to them; 
• Excessive text messaging, phone calling, emailing or visiting with their boyfriend or girlfriend;

Teen dating violence is a serious problem that can have lasting harmful effects on victims, their family, friends and their community. If teens find themselves in situations of violence, Duch said the first thing they should do is “use a safe word and get help.”

They should never isolate themselves from friends, neighbors or family, she said. “They should try to consistently keep in touch and know who the elders, counselors, teachers, coaches and friends are willing to help.”

“A lot of parents or grandparents suspect their teens may be victims of abuse ‘they need to realize that they are the most important resource and advisor their teen has’”

“A lot of times there’s a real fear of a bad relationship and being alone. Young people need to know that ‘they deserve a healthy relationship and that abuse is never appropriate and never their fault,’ she said.

If parents or guardians suspect their teens may be the abusers, Duch said it is important to let them know that “abuse and violence are not acceptable and that violence will not solve problems.”

Duch said teens typically confide in friends who could often be the first to learn of the abuse. "To those friends who may know someone in an unhealthy relationship please know that next to listening and believing your friends stories and convince them that the abuse is not their fault. Duch said there are various avenues of help for teens in abusive relationships.

"Teens can always reach out to friends, family or the authorities for assistance," she said. "Teens suffering in an abusive relationship can also explore other methods to empower themselves like joining a support group, taking the courage to call a crisis line or applying for a protection order.

For help or more information, contact ONE FIRE at 918-772-4260 or 866-458-5399.

CHEROKEE PHOENIX 1-866-331-9474 1-877-231-7843

918-772-4260 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

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For information, call 918-453-5000, ext. 7691.

BY LINDSEY BARK

CN's Wings Fitness offers virtual 5K runs

BY LINDSEY BARK

Teen dating violence can manifest itself as “actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, psychological and verbal harm.”

If parents or guardians suspect their teens may be the abusers, Duch said it is important to let them know that “abuse and violence are not acceptable and that violence will not solve problems.”

Duch said teens typically confide in friends who could often be the first to learn of the abuse. "To those friends who may know someone in an unhealthy relationship please know that next to listening and believing your friends stories and convince them that the abuse is not their fault.

Duch said there are various avenues of help for teens in abusive relationships.

"Teens can always reach out to friends, family or the authorities for assistance," she said. "Teens suffering in an abusive relationship can also explore other methods to empower themselves like joining a support group, taking the courage to call a crisis line or applying for a protection order.

For help or more information, contact ONE FIRE at 918-772-4260 or 866-458-5399.

CHEROKEE PHOENIX 1-866-331-9474 1-877-231-7843

918-772-4260 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

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For information, call 918-453-5000, ext. 7691.
On June 22, the Arkansas Racing Commission threw out a commissioner’s score leaving CNB with a higher tally.

CNB requests approval to operate Ark. casino

Several other steps to “ensure that Gulfside would be impossible to approve a new rule, even months from June 18. McDaniel said it would

A biased commissioner could potentially overturn the ARC’s decision because of the “freedom of choice” of votes.

Despite the AG’s offers expressively calling for long-term public health use in an arbitrary, capricious or biased manner.

The criteria scored included experience with casino gaming, willingness of the venue, the proof of financial stability and access to financial resources, and the proposed layout.

The Cherokee Casino Tableque sign flashes a message that says “The Cherokee Nation has announced an end to its 10 gaming venues in northeast Oklahoma.

The Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission, Cherokee Casino Will Rogers, has announced that it will close its 10 gaming venues in northeast Oklahoma.

When first announced, the “Responsible Hospitality” plan was to be in place in Har-Bee’s disciplines area.

Additional safety protocols that follow recommended guidelines will in place in Har-Bee’s dining areas.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the dedication, determination, and hard work of our employees throughout this pandemic,” CNB CEO Chuck Garrett said.

The Cherokee Nation continues to protect the health and safety of guests.

Gulfside’s River Valley Casino’s proposal includes a 500-room hotel and 100,000 square feet of gaming space. The Arkansas Racing Commission on June 18 awarded a license to build the resort to Gulfside Casino Partnership.

An artist’s rendering of the Legends Resort and Casino that Cherokee Nation Business wants to build in Pope County, Ark. CNB officials have filed a request that it receive an approved permit to operate in a casino county.

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Quinton, Robbins serve as storm chasers during severe weather

Two Cherokees help provide public safety as storm chasers during severe weather.

By LINDSEY BARK

VIAN — Being a storm chaser is more than running outside to check the sky for an approaching storm or chasing a tornado. Cherokee Nation citizen Sequoyah Quinton and Jeff Robbins have years of experience in knowing weather conditions and its different aspects to safely chase a storm and report on it.

Quinton, of Vian, has worked for KTUL Channel 8 in Tulsa for 10 years, although he’s been chasing since 1996. He was in public safety before officially becoming a storm chaser. After high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, then was a police officer and worked security at a casino.

He became interested in storm chasing after seeing an EF-4 (enhanced Fujita) tornado while driving through a trailer park in Oklahoma. “I was visiting my mother in Arkansas, 1996. A storm came through there and classified as an EF-4. I was like 10 years old and I was petrified to destroy my trailer park behind our house. It was like a wall of water. I’ve been interested ever since then and I had always been interested in tornadoes,” he said.

While in law enforcement he took storm spotting training courses.

“As a police officer, one of the things you do is report storms. Quinton and I took those courses, and during the months we gathered everything you could even find, video or libraries on weather. In turn, I began to understand it and began to love it because it’s such a miracle of our weather, everyday around us.” Robbins, of Okla., also started out taking spotter training courses called SKYWARN, a volunteer program that trains severe weather spotters.

He eventually met Quinton, who helped him get his position at KTUL in 2011. Robbins said when he goes out, he takes the time to learn and get into positions of areas where he thinks the storm will approach.

“We usually get an advance notice like in advance forecast. I forecast my own areas and keep my teams on guard and provide what we call a target area to we think storm will come through,” Robbins said.

He said one job of a storm chaser is to keep people safe and give them advanced warning to take shelter.

“Personally, it’s always our goal to warn people and help others. I feel like that’s the way I contribute. It can help keep people safe and give them advanced warning to take shelter.” — Jeff Robbins, storm chaser

In this 2011 photo, Cherokee Nation citizen Jeff Robbins, storm chaser for KTUL Channel 8, displays a storm chaser equipment in his vehicle. Robbins is still chasing storms for KTUL.

Jeff Robbins

“I also recall initially getting a cell phone and hooking it up to a laptop to get dial-up internet. “I thought that I was so cool. I could look out the window and look at a radar.”

Robbins said every storm he’s chased is different, but some stand out.

“Each year’s memory. May 22, 2011 was one of my favorite chases because the storms were new and just about every storm that popped up produced a tornado that day,” he said.

Robbins said one of his most memorable chases happened in 2019 in Beaver County.

“In the summertime, this dry line or dry air comes off the Rocky Mountains, and pushes to the east and we have the warm moist air coming off the Gulf and Texas. It interacts with that dry line, and it gives it rise to severe convection,” Robbins said.

Sequoyah Quinton and Jeff Robbins have been involved in severe weather spotters. They’re classified as storm chasers.

In 2011 this photo provided by storm chaser Jeff Robbins, a funnel cloud hovers above the ground.

“Severe thunderstorms are a severe weather threat. I contributed to severe weather threat. It can help keep people safe and give them advanced warning to take shelter.”

“I’ve been in public safety and serving the county and serving the state, the counties and cities I’ve worked for, serving the Cherokee Nation. In Oklahoma, we’re getting pretty good because here lately we’ve had almost the fewest deaths because people are more aware in Oklahoma about weather.”

By KERI THORNTON

TAHLEQUAH — Northentral State University’s former police chief has been tapped as the joint MMIP coordinator for Oklahoma’s 14-county jurisdiction.

Cherokee Nation citizen Patti Buhl, 25, a 24-year law enforcement veteran, will use those experiences in her new role.

“I was a tribal police officer, and I’ve worked in law enforcement and with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and different federal agencies. When you’re in that role, you work collaboratively with those organizations,” said Buhl. “In my role as an investigator for the tribe, we worked on a lot of different federal agencies. So I have an understanding of how the federal system works. And I’ve made a lot of contacts throughout the law enforcement office.”

The U.S. Department of Justice launched the MMIP program in 2019 to address the missing and murdered Indigenous Persons problem. This year’s DOJ made an investment of $144 million to support 144 new MMIP coordinators. In 2013, former tribal chief Jeff Robbins was the only MMIP coordinator in 11 states.

“Tales of Oklahoma are rich with the personal and professional relationship with tribal leaders and citizens. I’m extremely excited about this opportunity. It is brand new. So to me, it is exciting. We can develop it the way it needs to be developed and I’ve excited to get back to Indian Country,” said Buhl. “Indian Country has given a lot to me, so I’ve very excited to getting back to Indian Country in this role.”

Buhl served with the Cherokee Nation Marshal Services, where she was involved with the 14-county jurisdictional boundary of the tribe. She said her work with CNMS has helped her on her head in developing the personal and professional relationship with tribal leaders and citizens.

For more information on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons problem, visit Marshalservice.cherokee.net.

BCP • 7/1/2020

Buhl tapped to coordinate MMIP task force

Newly selected Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons coordinator Patti Buhl, left, discusses her new role with U.S. Attorney Trent Shores in his office. Buhl, a Cherokee Nation citizen, is a 25-year law enforcement veteran.

Buhl tapped to coordinate MMIP task force

By KERI THORNTON

Tahlequah Daily Press

COURTESY

Cherokee Nation citizen Sequoyah Quinton sits in a storm chasing vehicle, displaying a radar he uses when out on a chase.

COURTESY

In this 2011 photo provided by storm chaser Jeff Robbins, a funnel cloud hovers above the ground.

Buhl tapped to coordinate MMIP task force

By KERI THORNTON

Tahlequah Daily Press

COURTESY

A photo of a tornado taken by Cherokee Nation citizen and storm chaser Sequoyah Quinton in 2019 in Beaver County.
Author’s book recounts great-grandmother’s life

“The Jewel in Oklahoma” tells the story of family and shows it does not mean those of blood relation.

BY STACEY BOSTON

Multimedia Reporter

O’Connell named a 2020 Bush Fellow

Dr. Meghan O’Connell was named a 2020 Bush Fellow through the Bush Foundation.

From 2016 to 2019, O’Connell was a Member Health Equity Scholar at the Indian Health Policy Research Institute at the University of South Dakota, where she helped to address health needs of Native and other under-served communities.

Meghan O’Connell has cared for people in all stages of life, both in the hospital and in the clinic; she said.

According to the press release, O’Connell “has learned first-hand that systemic change is needed to address disparities in and barriers to quality health care. To generate innovative and strategic solutions, she needs to expand her knowledge of health, finance, government policy and health law, and to develop persuasive communication skills. She plans to seek counsel from other health care leaders who have led successful change in similar political and geographic environments.

“IT is an amazing gift. I plan to use the skills I gain to improve health care and health outcomes for all South Dakotans,” she said.

In addition, she said she is proud to represent the Cherokee people.

The Indian Health Service is a Native-led organization that is working to improve health outcomes for Native and other under-served communities. I hope that what I can learn will help me address health disparities and improve the health of all people,” O’Connell said.
The grazie site to reopen

BY WILL CHAVEZ

TAHLEQUAH – As more Cherokee history is studied and uncovered, there is better understanding of people such as Ned Christie, who today is considered a partner by many Cherokees.

In May 1887, he was called an outlaw and an outlaw he was. Christie was wanted by the U.S. Marshal as a suspect in the murder of the deputy. The Arkansas Constitution allowed him to post bail. His request was denied, so Christie spent the next five years hiding in Wauhillau in what is now Adair County.

“During this time he was accused of murders, robbing places, just all different kinds of crimes here in Indian Territory. Anytime there was a crime, Ned was the one getting blamed for it,” Gray said. “At one point the marshals do come and they burn his house down, and so he rebuilt it and what he rebuilt it is a double walled cabin. It’s got little portholes in it and he was asleep and someone went through the window, it was a secure structure.”

For five years, he never left the Wauhillau, he saw no law, and no one knew he was there, it was a secure location.

In 1918, a Cherokee Freedman named John Maples’ murder.

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In 1918, a Cherokee Freedman named John Maples’ murder
Sequoyah named ‘most influential’

List of Cherokees in poll include those who impacted tribe’s language, art, culture, government and other areas.

BY WILL CHAVEZ

The Cherokee Phoenix, the tribe’s first newspaper, played a significant role in the tribe’s history and culture, serving as a platform for Native American journalism. The newspaper was established in 1828 by Elias Boudinot, who sought to provide the Cherokees with a voice and a means to communicate with the outside world. The Cherokee Phoenix was instrumental in the tribe’s efforts to maintain their culture, language and traditions, and it continues to be a vital source of information for the tribe.

Sequoyah, the Cherokee syllabary inventor, was named “most influential” in a recent Cherokee Phoenix Facebook poll. The poll aimed to highlight several notable Cherokee people and to determine who had the greatest impact on the tribe’s history. The results of the poll were announced on May 18, 2023, and created a great deal of interest among the tribe’s members.

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Elias Boudinot learned of the Phoenix legend while attending school in Connecticut. He was fascinated by the mythological bird, which is depicted as a phoenix rising from the ashes of its predecessor. Boudinot decided to honor this legend by creating a newspaper that would serve the Cherokee people.

Born in 1788 in his hometown of Taskigi in eastern Tennessee, Sequoyah is credited with inventing the Cherokee syllabary, a writing system that allowed the tribe to record their language and history. The syllabary was developed between 1819 and 1821, and it was first used in the Cherokee Phoenix.

In October 2022, the Cherokee Phoenix launched a Facebook poll to determine who had the greatest impact on the tribe’s history. The poll was open to all Cherokee Phoenix readers, and they were asked to vote for the person they believed had the greatest influence.

On May 18, 2023, the results of the poll were announced. Sequoyah was named “most influential” in the Cherokee Phoenix Facebook poll. The poll garnered a significant amount of attention, with thousands of readers participating.

Sequoyah was an influential figure in the tribe, and his contributions to the tribe’s language and culture are still celebrated today. The Cherokee Phoenix continues to be a vital source of information for the tribe, and it serves as a reminder of the tribe’s rich history and culture.

Sequoyah Hall was recently named in honor of the tribe’s most influential leader. The hall is located at the Cherokee Heritage Center and serves as a museum and educational facility. The Cherokee Heritage Center is a hub for the tribe’s cultural and educational programs.

Sequoyah Hall is located on the Cherokee Heritage Center campus and is open to the public. The hall features exhibits on the tribe’s history and culture, as well as interactive displays and multimedia presentations. The hall also features a library and research center, which is open to the public.

The Cherokee Heritage Center is located at 1400 Highway 76 East in Cherokee, North Carolina. The center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the Cherokee Heritage Center website at www.cherokeeheritagecenter.com or call 828-476-3821.
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If you have cancer now or had cancer in the past, you may need to take special steps to protect your health. This is especially important for cancer patients who are treated with chemotherapy. They are more likely to get an infection because chemotherapy can weaken the immune system.

And as always wear a mask to protect yourself.

CherokeePublicHealth.org
Made possible by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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