

# THE CHICKASAW NATION



AUGUST 30, 2006

*150 Years of Progress*

## PROGRESS REPORT 2006

## Chukma!

Greetings from the “great unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw Nation.” 2006 was an active and memorable year. In August, we celebrated 150 years as a constitutional government. If a nation’s greatness is measured in part by the kinds of challenges it has faced, the Chickasaw Nation has measured up well.

Our success is a tribute to our grandmothers and grandfathers who gathered on the banks of Pennington Creek in 1856 to establish the first constitutional government of our great nation. They took the first steps down the road to self-government. It is a road that has led us to where we are today.

As each year has passed, we have committed ourselves more fully to self-governance and the care of one another as Chickasaws. Our progress is measured in the improved lives of our citizens through goals and objectives designed to serve. In 2006, those goals and objectives were achieved in phenomenal ways.

The programs we currently provide have been designed to provide special services to our young, our elders and all the families in between. We do this through concentrating our efforts in four major areas: education, elders, health and housing.

During this past fiscal year, we issued more than 2,100 scholarships to students attending colleges and universities, totaling more than \$3 million, with all but around \$200,000 of that money coming from tribal funds. In addition, this past year the Chickasaw Nation gave clothing grants at \$200 each and made them available to students of all ages.

The Chickasaw Nation Health System has continued to increase services provided to patients. This past year, our health care facilities had more than 336,000 patient visits including more than 15,000 at the dental clinics and almost 9,000 at the optometry clinics.

The Chickasaw Nation Elders Energy Assistance program assisted many Chickasaws, 60 and older, with summer cooling and winter heating bills. More than 1,000 households were helped through this program, which also provided air conditioners to Chickasaw families who had elders living with them. As baby boomers enter the ranks of the elderly, our senior sites continue to meet the needs of our precious seniors, and as a result, have experienced significant growth.

We began construction on a sick child day care center, which will allow parents of children who are not seriously ill to be able to continue to work while Chickasaw Nation staff cares for their sick children.

One of our greatest achievements this year was in the area of employment. The Chickasaw Nation employed more than 10,400 people in 2006.

There are countless other programs, services and opportunities that were provided through our wonderful government this past year. All can be read about and studied in the following pages of this progress report. Once you have the opportunity to learn of all the advantages presented, I think you will agree that 2006 was one of the best of our 150 years of progress.

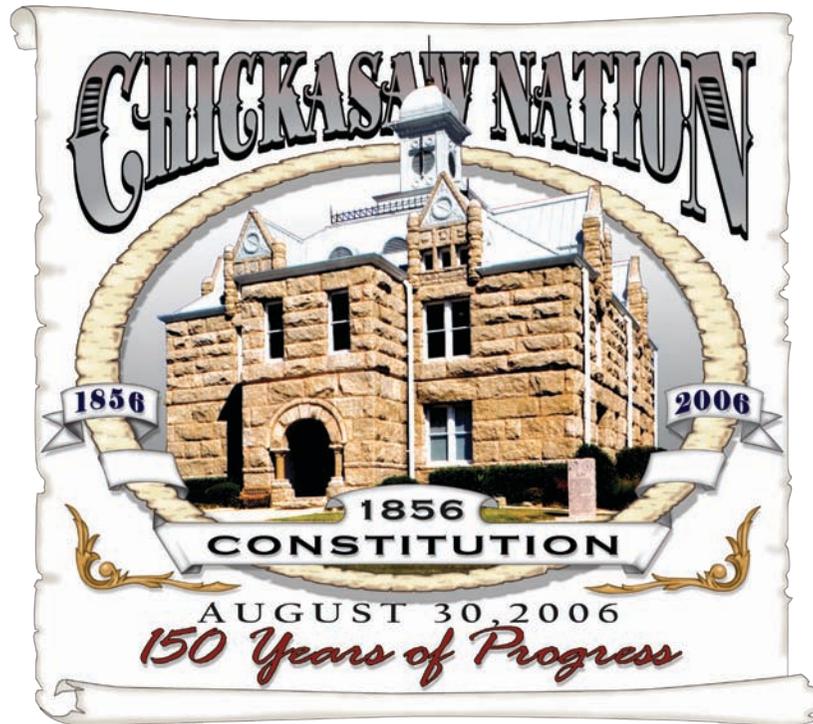
Sincerely,



Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation



## Thousands enjoy Chickasaw Constitution Sesquicentennial Celebration



Gathering only a few hundred feet from the site where the original constitution was ratified in 1856, more than 2,000 Chickasaw citizens, employees and friends celebrated Chickasaw Constitution Day on August 30, 2006.

Participants honored the foresight of their ancestors who wrote the document which “recognized and established the general, great and essential principles of Liberty and Free government.”

Several students took part in an essay competition and art contest designed to encourage reflection on the significance of 150 years of constitutional government. Participants at the event enjoyed a picnic dinner,



Letha Clark and Michael Lovegrove display period dress during the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration in August.

gospel singing, period dress costume contest, sack races, three-legged races, ring toss, horseshoe games and numerous other activities.

Those in attendance gained an appreciation for the fact that those who created the constitution had to deal with controversial and important issues. Leaders at the time were faced with crucial decisions

regarding the positive and negative aspects of retaining traditional ways or adapting to the modern world.

A one-act play was one of the night's featured activities. The play, written by Lorie Robins, Laura Clark and Jeannie Barbour and produced by the tribe's division of arts and humanities, illustrated struggles involved in fashioning a new government.

For example, it showed how, after considerable debate, more progressive factions of the tribe prevailed and the tribe voted for a three-branch system of government similar to that of the United States.



Kids enjoy sack races as part of the children's festivities at the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.

The progress of the tribe includes the development of several governmental divisions similar to U.S. government departments. Just as the U.S. government has an education department, a commerce department and a health and human services department, the Chickasaw Nation includes a division of education, a division of commerce and a division of health system. In total there are 15 different divisions in the Chickasaw Nation government, each focused on developing programs and services important to enhancing the overall quality of life of Chickasaws.

Most of these divisions as well as the legislative and judicial branches are funded by a combination of federal grants and profits generated by tribal businesses.

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce employs 6,488 workers and operates 57 businesses. A large portion of the profits earned by this division are transferred to other divisions to support programs and services. These funds enable each division to move more quickly toward achieving goals.

The division of health system for example, is moving forward on a state-of-the-art hospital and health care facility. Groundbreaking on this new \$135 million facility south of Ada is expected in 2007.

The education division implemented a new tuition book program, and the aging division began construction on a new senior nutrition site in Duncan-- all with dollars generated by tribal businesses.

All Chickasaws have reason to celebrate a constitution which created a government responsive to its citizens and effective in accomplishing its goals.



**Chickasaw White House early 1970s  
Emet, Oklahoma**

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## Executive leadership

*As the Chickasaw Nation continues to prosper and grow it becomes ever more essential to have strong reliable leadership at the helm of each of its divisions. As a sovereign entity with its own government and constitution, the Chickasaw Nation*

**1] Bill Anoatubby**

Governor

**2] Robyn Elliott**

The administrator for the communications division is responsible for issuing timely and important information.

**3] Kirk Perry**

The administrator of the division of heritage preservation is responsible for the preservation of Chickasaw culture, including the Chickasaw language program, genealogy research, museums, archives and the tribal library.

**4] Lisa John**

The administrator for the division of education oversees educational opportunities for all Chickasaws.

**5] Ken Ross**

The administrator works with the newly established Solara Health Care organization. This tribal business venture provides long-term acute care for hospital patients.

**6] Tom John**

The administrator for the division of self-governance is responsible for negotiating the tribal operation of federal programs for American Indians. In addition, the administrator oversees evaluating federal legislation, regulations and policies that impact the tribe.

**7] Jenny Trett**

The chief financial administrator is responsible for the oversight of the financial affairs of the Chickasaw Nation.

**8] Brian Campbell**

The administrator for the division of commerce oversees the growing business operations of the tribe. The revenue generated by tribal business supplements many programs and services within the Chickasaw Nation.

**9] Bill Lance**

The administrator for the Chickasaw Nation Health System is responsible for the many health services operated by the tribe including: Carl Albert Indian Health Facility, food distribution centers, wellness centers and area clinics in Ada, Ardmore, Durant, Tishomingo and Purcell.

**10] Ross Hill**

**6**

Ross Hill is the president of Bank2, a subsidiary of the



*moves forward with a three-branch system of government—executive, legislative and judicial. The executive department is charged with the day-to-day operations of the tribe. The tribal administrators chosen for the awesome responsibility for oversight of each division are seasoned professionals dedicated to the well-being of Native Americans.*

Chickasaw Banc Holding Company. The holding company, and thus Bank2, are 100 percent owned by the Chickasaw Nation.

**11** **Karen Cook**

The administrator of the division on aging is responsible for the senior nutrition sites and the many programs and services geared toward the betterment of the lives of tribal seniors.

**12** **Stanley Foster**

The administrator for the division of facilities and support is charged with the responsibility of monitoring all tribal properties.

**13** **Jefferson Keel**

Lieutenant governor

**14** **Jay Keel**

The administrator for the division of youth and family services is responsible for administering programs designed to benefit and contribute to the overall well-being of Chickasaw youth and families.

**15** **Pat Woods**

The administrator for the division of program operations provides resources that make a difference in the lives of Chickasaw people.

**16** **Jalinda Kelley**

The administrator for the division of administrative services oversees the operations of internal support for the organization.

**17** **Deanna Hartley-Kelso**

The administrator of the division of justice makes available needed legal services to the executive branch and all its many departments.

**18** **Lona Barrick**

The administrator of the division of arts and humanities

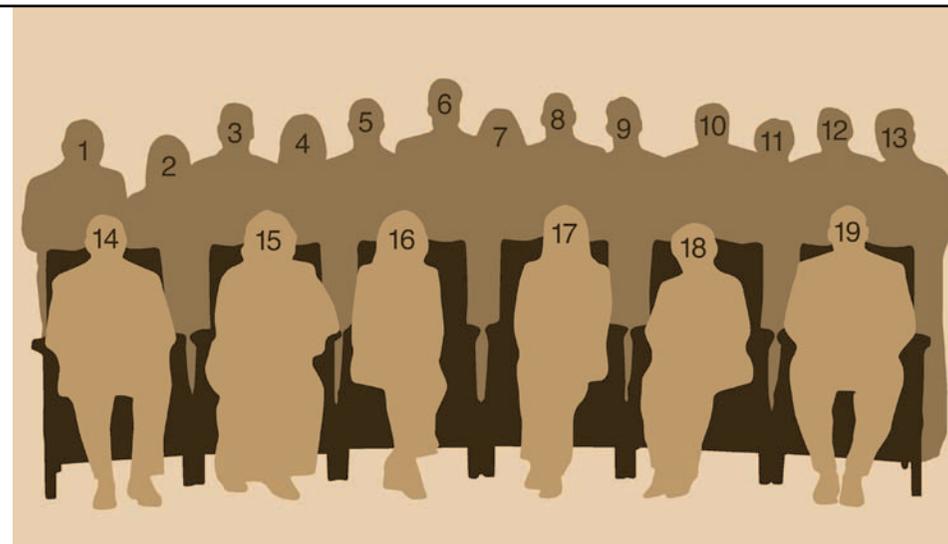
provides opportunities for individual artistic development through arts education, performing arts, visual arts and literary arts programs.

**19** **Wayne Scribner**

The administrator for the division of housing and tribal development works to provide Chickasaw people with the best housing available. In addition, this administrator also oversees the planning and construction of tribal facilities.

**20** **Deryl Wright**

(Not shown in photo) The president/CEO of Chickasaw Nation Industries is responsible for contributing to the economic development of the tribe.



## Tribe hosts first listening conference for tribal citizens

Hundreds of Chickasaws from across the United States joined together at the first tribal listening conference conducted February 12 through 14, to offer their input and ideas on expanding the level of services offered to those living outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation.

Participant comments about the conference were overwhelmingly positive.



Program operations division administrator Pat Woods visits with Chickasaw citizens at the Oklahoma City listening conference.

“This was an excellent conference,” said Carloyn Mendoza of Oklahoma City, who added that she thought it gave participants a real opportunity to be heard.

Some deemed the conference “an unqualified success.” Others indicated they felt this was truly a historic opportunity to work with other Chickasaws and voice their opinions in a way that could impact tribal policies for years to come.

Participants worked diligently in focus groups concentrating on ways to improve health, education, aging and housing services.

Facilitator Gail Marshall, who has led a number of similar exercises for groups across the United States, said she had never seen a harder working group.

In order to generate input from a wide variety of participants, four independent groups met in separate sessions to discuss each of four service areas. Each group took part in brainstorming sessions which produced dozens of innovative ideas which were then analyzed, prioritized and forwarded to the appropriate tribal division.

Those ideas were used to develop several specific health, housing, aging and education services. These new services include mail order prescription services, home improvement grants for low income Chickasaw home owners, a burial assistance grant for seniors,



Sherri Ellis explains the function of various Chickasaw Nation Industries services in the exhibit hall at the inaugural listening conference.

education services for early childhood as well as college students, among others.

While the major emphasis of the listening conference was to gather input and ideas in order to effectively design programs and services to meet the needs of Chickasaws living outside the jurisdictional boundaries, the conference became much more.

Many of those in attendance offered their expertise, knowledge and assistance to advance the priorities expressed in the sessions.

“I would be happy to help distribute information to people in my area,” said Joyce Herrington of Spicewood, Texas.

Dr. Jo Benson Sears, a gerontologist and Alzheimer’s specialist, was inspired to give back to the Chickasaw Nation.

“The listening conference gave me an opportunity to meet with people who could help me find a way to honor my grandmother and just pay something back to help others,” said Dr. Sears, who endowed the Janie Hardwick Benson Memorial Scholarship in honor of her grandmother. “It’s ingrained in me that somebody helped me, and it is my personal responsibility to help others.”

A sense of community permeated the event as citizens from Oklahoma, Texas, California, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon and other states came together with the common goal of improving life for all Chickasaws.

“I was really impressed to see the positive attitude of people at the listening conference,” said Jerod Tate of Longmont, Colorado. “Everyone I talked with had good things to say about it.”

A series of services-at-large meetings in several states sought input from Chickasaws on services developed as a result of the listening conference.

Attendees responded very positively to the options presented.

Tom Knight, from San Antonio, who moved away from Ardmore years ago to join the military, was very enthusiastic about the offerings.

“All the programs and services are just fantastic! This is really going to be great for all the young ones coming up,” he said.

Oklahoma City residents John and Karen Patterson were impressed with the services offered to seniors.

“We were very impressed that they are going to provide \$2,500 for burial expenses,” said Mrs. Patterson.

“We were also very impressed with the medical services,” said Mr. Patterson. “I have a lot of expenses for medications.”

In a similar way, the services-at-large meetings became more than a chance to comment on the programs and services. Many saw the meetings as a family reunion-type gathering of Chickasaws.

Suzette Wenona-Locke, who attended the San Antonio meeting, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to spend time with fellow Chickasaws. “I am grateful that you’re here. This is quite an opportunity not just for the programs and services, but for the fellowship,” said Ms. Locke, whose sentiments were echoed by many others.

Below is an outline of some of the programs developed as a result of the listening conference.

## **Education**

**Governor’s reading program** provides books to be read in the home.

**Chickasaw language cards** provides cards with animals, colors, shapes and translation from English to Chickasaw.

**High reach curriculum** is for **children ages four and five** who do not have an early childhood program in their area, or who are being home schooled. Curriculum is mailed monthly to applying families.

**High reach curriculum for ages six and up** includes reimbursement for tutoring, K-12, scholarships for 10 students to CNASA for students living at large and reimbursement for fees related to supplies testing and training for students attending accredited vocational and technical schools.

**The high reach curriculum for college and university students** includes license and certification reimbursements, a laptop computer for qualifying students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and reimbursement of up to \$150 for graduation expenses. Chickasaw Nation Honor Society sophomores, juniors and seniors receive \$500 per each classification year in which they earn a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Chickasaw families with **special needs receive reimbursements** of fees of up to \$200 per year for extra curricular events such as Special Olympics.

## **Aging**

Division on aging staff can help elders find activities, events and opportunities to enjoy regardless of where they live.

In addition, the Chickasaw elder **burial assistance program** provides up to \$2,500 for Chickasaws 60 and older for funeral expenses.

## **Health**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, Chickasaws 65 and over on



Citizens gather in a small group to share thoughts and ideas at the listening conference in Oklahoma City.

**Medicare Part D Prescription** and those up to 18 may receive mail order prescriptions with little or no out of pocket expense. Beginning June 1, 2007, the program will be expanded to all tribal citizens. The new program will accept insurance from outside providers and offer prescriptions at a discounted price. There will be little or no cost to those with private insurance.

The **eyeglasses program** will be expanded to include those who do not receive eye care from CNHS. It will provide \$125 toward one pair of glasses every two years from our lens manufacturer.

The **Health Savings Account** program will provide reimbursements up to \$100 monthly. The program will give participating Chickasaws more control over when and where they receive health care. Participants must be 65 and over and not currently utilizing CNHS services.

Other programs include **Medicare supplement** and **prescription drug coverage**.

### **Housing**

**Home Improvement Assistance** - Grants of up to \$5,000 will be made available for as many as 100 low-income Chickasaws requiring home improvements in the first year of a new home improvement program.

Up to 100 grants of \$3,000 will be issued the first year in a program designed to assist Chuka Chukmasi participants paying **down payment and/or closing costs**.

## Children & youth



Basketball Team

Front row from left: Annie Kilcrease, M. Cravatt, Vada Quincy. Middle row: Zelia James, Lila Cravett, A. Sealy, Julia Quincy. Back row: Nannie Mosley, Sarah Goforth Kennedy, A. Quincy, N. Middleton, F. Mosley

### The Chickasaw Nation offers a variety of activities for children and youth

Keeping youth and adolescents active provides protection against obesity, heart disease and diabetes as well as building teamwork skills and self-esteem. In FY 2006, the Chickasaw Nation hosted 17 camps and academies that served nearly 1,000 youth. From the Champions Football Camp to the Summer Arts Academy, physical activity and culture-enriching endeavors help develop well-rounded youth. The camps focused on culture, leadership, athletics or education and are provided at no cost to Chickasaw youth because of money generated by tribal businesses.

Athletic camps were filled with celebrities like preseason basketball All-American Courtney Paris and National Championship quarterback Josh Heupel, both of the University of Oklahoma. Athletic camps included football camp, golf camp, softball camp, baseball camp, basketball camp and tennis camp.

Cultural camps Yakomichi and Hayaka Unta reinforced Chickasaw traditions to ensure the culture



Every summer, more than 100 Chickasaw students are taught by coaches and players from the college and professional ranks at the Chickasaw Nation Champions Football Camp conducted on the campus of East Central University in Ada.



Katy Weldon, Tori Davis, Bailee Hatton and Dannie Davidson get ready to play a game of basketball during free time at the Back to School Bash.

will maintain its vibrance and life. The Yakomichi youth camp had over 80 students in attendance this year. Classes in Chickasaw culture, language and history were presented.

Camps focusing on leadership and teamwork, like camp survivor and leadership camp, combined physical and mental strengths to mold our next generation of tribal leaders. More than 100 students attended Camp Survivor.

The educational camps and academies - space and aviation, entrepreneurship and the arts academy- provided top quality training in specific fields of study. The Summer Arts Academy featured nationally renowned Chickasaw composer Jerod Tate.

At Chickasaw Nation summer camps, academies and classes participants learn from the best in the industry.

In addition to camps and academies, the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program is an extremely popular program. An average of 1,200 students participate in the program each month. In addition, 11 Chickasaw Nation martial arts students participated in the North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado, resulting in nine gold medals, five silver medals and six bronze medals. The team was coached and led by the esteemed Matt Clark, who was selected to the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame as Master Instructor of the Year in 2005.

## Education

### Paving pathways to success

Education continues to be on the forefront of progress for the Chickasaw Nation. Programs and services provide learning opportunities for all levels from pre-school tykes to doctoral candidates.

### Higher education

During the 2006 fiscal year, the Chickasaw Nation spent more than \$3 million for higher education grants and scholarships.

The new book tuition grant is available to full or part-time college students. Part-time students receive \$100 each semester and full-time students receive \$200 per semester. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to receive the grant. The total number of spring and fall textbook grants awarded was 1,502.

The education division offers higher education clothing grants for \$400 a year. In the fall of 2006, the education division began offering clothing grants for part-time students at \$200 for every 14 hours completed. In FY 2006, 661 clothing grants were awarded through the education division totaling \$283,050.

The number of scholarships dispersed by the education division in FY 2006 was more than 2,100.

Twenty-two-year-old Jenna Clark of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, plans to teach at a Christian missionary school overseas. Although she knows it is a long way from her Arkansas roots, she said the Chickasaw Nation Education Division has helped her go the distance.

“They have been the biggest blessing to me and my family,” said Clark.

Ms. Clark was a recipient of the \$1,500 higher education grant and the \$200 textbook and clothing grants. The scholarships and grants helped fund her education at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

“As one of four children, the money helps alleviate financial pressures on my family,” said Clark, who



Chickasaw Foundation scholarship recipients look forward to bright futures.

graduated in December 2006. “It’s a blessing from the Lord that I am honored to receive.”

Also thankful for her scholarship is Fittstown native Tonya Bierce, who is studying human resources and counseling with ambitions of becoming an academic counselor. The Chickasaw Nation higher education grants helped make it possible for Ms. Bierce to be eligible for graduation in May 2007.

She hopes her degree will help her take care of her



The 2006 Summer Interns included, top row from left, Aaron McNeill, Derek Prentice and Chad Henry; middle row, Cole Craddock, Lalayna Lines, Erin Diffie, LeeAnn Goheen and Christopher Walker; bottom row, Josh Davis and Brad Jefferson. Not pictured are Jessica Bean, Kristen Dorsey, Ashley Hart, Kevin Kincheloe, Marissa Moore and Shilo Rogers.

family. “It has allowed me to continue my education to provide a better future for my son,” she said.

The \$1,500 grant has helped fund her education at East Central University.

Applicants are able to complete, save and print applications online at the Chickasaw Nation Division of Education web site at [www.chickasaweducation.com](http://www.chickasaweducation.com).

A select group of 17 Chickasaw students completed internships for various organizations across the country, including the National Indian Education Association in Washington, D.C. The program provided leading students with an exclusive educational opportunity to gain on-the-job experience and have a direct impact on the future of the tribe.

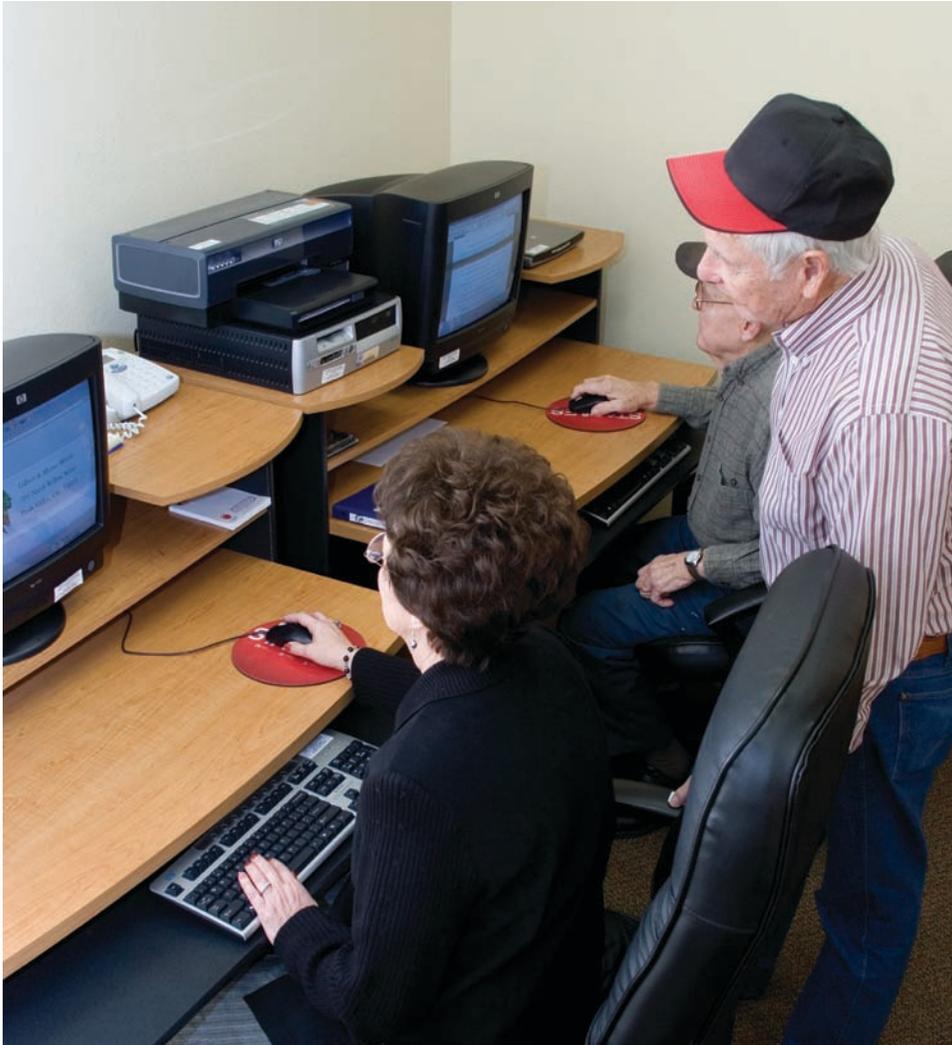
The Clemente Humanities Program, a college-level course in which Chickasaw culture is explored, was offered at East Central University. The program looked at oral tradition, literature, history, language and culture of the Chickasaws, and how it compared to Western society. Students were able to gain an increased awareness of the Native American community, tribal and national affairs.

The course now features a beginner and advanced level. The program provided a unique opportunity for people to learn more about the origin and history of Chickasaw culture. Thirty students participated in the course in FY 2006.

Continual devotion to educating our citizens helps produce the leaders of tomorrow.

## Adult learning

A high school diploma or GED is essential to securing a job and achieving financial security and independence. A total of 270 students were enrolled in GED classes in 2006. The addition of the Fast Track GED program resulted in a 50 percent increase in GED



Myrna Morris, Bob Foraker, Jack Loyd and other seniors use recently acquired computer skills to do everything from communication with grandkids by e-mail to balancing their checkbooks.

completion rates. The program is an online internet service designed to prepare participants with at least a ninth grade reading level for the GED test in four months. The Fast Track GED program is offered to all Chickasaws regardless of income or location.

In addition, tuition assistance awards increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the Career Technology & Training Development program. The grants were awarded to 184 students for vocational technology training.

Chickasaws never stop learning and improving. The adult learning program worked with 10 senior sites to teach elders to become computer savvy and use programs to scan pictures, make cards, create budgets and keep financial records. Education specialists are helping elders write their memoirs, proving that education impacts all areas of life, including heritage preservation.

## Childhood education

Research confirms that early childhood education helps children achieve greater success in school and life. The Chickasaw Nation is committed to providing the best start for our youth.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start program made technological advances in the classrooms with the addition of SMART Boards in 13 Head Start classrooms. The hands-on whiteboard serves as a giant computer touch screen that can be used to display interactive web sites, education software and games complete with live animation. It can also be



Raigan LeFlore moves the letter “b” onto a flower on the screen of the smart board at the Ada Head Start classroom as part of an interactive exercise helping students learn the alphabet.

operated traditionally so that students can use their hands to write on the board.

The tribe’s Head Start program was one of 19 programs nationwide to be selected for the Sleep Safe Grant. Money from the grant was used to install smoke detectors in 126 homes.

In FY 2006, the tribe broke ground on the sick child day care center. The center is designed to care for mildly ill children so parents can remain at work. The 4,100 square foot center will have six classrooms as well as a 780 square foot covered play area. It will feature a

drive-thru drop off area and will be connected to the existing child care facility by a covered sidewalk. The facility will have six teachers and accommodate 30 children.

In March 2006, a clothing grant program for students ages three to 18 began. Each school year students receive \$200 to purchase clothing. More than \$1 million was used to serve 5,564 students in FY 2006.

## Honoring achievement

Not only did the Chickasaw Nation encourage achievement, the tribe rewarded it. About \$200,000 was spent rewarding honor students and students of the month. Students living across the United States received rewards including Wal-Mart gift cards, t-shirts, certificates and school incentives.

The education division will press forward with its mission to foster optimal education opportunities for all citizens.

## Arts education

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities is devoted to educating not only Chickasaws and Native American children about Native American culture, but educating others about Chickasaws.

The department of arts education traveled into the community and served 30 public and private schools

as well as four community organizations. More than 6,000 students were exposed to Native American art and culture through the program during the 2006 fiscal year.

In 2006, the arts education team began to focus on school teachers as well as the children. The department held two arts integration workshops and taught 46 attendees about native art and culture.

In addition, the After School Arts Program (ASAP) provides an opportunity for students to get away from the normal after school entertainment of video games and TV and put their imagination on paper. The program is for students in grades three through 12 and takes place each day after school has dismissed. The program is designed to teach art skills and objectives in a fun way with special focus on Chickasaw art and culture.

The artwork students created during their time at ASAP will be highlighted at special exhibits displayed during National Youth Arts Month in March of 2007. This year, 16 students participated in the program. Plans are in the works to also offer the program to Ardmore and Purcell students.

### **Chickasaw Foundation offers many educational opportunities**

The Chickasaw Foundation administers the upward bound and educational talent search programs and offers many educational scholarships.



Chickasaw student Laura Wilson was one of 158 Chickasaw Nation Head Start graduates in 2006.

The Chickasaw Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that was founded in 1971. The mission of the foundation is to promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and program.

In 2006, more than 150 students were involved in the upward bound program and over 600 were involved in the educational talent search program.

Also in 2006, 37 scholarships were available to Chickasaw students through the Chickasaw Foundation scholarship program. These scholarships totaled \$54,000, which is nearly double the amount available in 2005-2006. Additional scholarships are in the works for the 2007-2008 school year.

The foundation is made possible by the generosity of donors. Aside from individual supporters, in 2006, the Chickasaw Nation Employee Charitable Contribution Plan had 263 new participants. These donations provide opportunities, services and activities for Chickasaw people.



Bloomfield girls and Harley boys  
Front row from left: Ida Wolf, Waiter White, Sudie Durham, Ervin Lavers, Lucy White  
Back row: Illa White, Jack Lewis, Elsie Kemp, Jim Chapman  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Chickasaw Council House Museum Coll. 20288.70.96.7.45)

## Health and wellness

### Tribe focuses on health and wellness for its citizens

The Chickasaw Nation Health System's vision is to produce "healthy American Indians through informed choices and excellent health services." The physicians, nurses and staff work hard to reach the needs of their patients. As those needs grow, we strive to improve the information and services available with the expansion of new programs and facilities.

In the past year, the Chickasaw Nation Health System has continued to increase services provided to patients.



Carl Albert Indian Health Facility groundbreaking ceremonies January, 1978. From left: Neal McCaleb, James Thompson, Governor Overton James and Dr. Emery Johnson.

In this past fiscal year, the health care facilities had more than 336,000 patient visits, including more than 15,000 at the dental clinics and almost 9,000 at the optometry clinics.

Likewise, nearly 600,000 clinic tests were administered for Chickasaw Nation patients and there were 438 births at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility.

### New and expanded programs

The emergency medical services at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility has grown to maintain two 24-hour daily crews. This allows quicker response time to emergency medical transfers.

The dental clinic increased its Saturday clinic for citizens to twice a month and added a dental hygienist to better serve patients. The increased staff and clinic availability helped serve more citizens with routine cleanings and check-ups.

A community dietitian was added to the nutrition services department and additional services were developed. The department added out-patient dietitian services at the Ada and Ardmore wellness centers, delivered nutrition education presentations to several schools and community organizations and hosted healthy cooking demonstrations in many areas across the Chickasaw Nation.



Nikky Wilson, Joe Allen and Michelle Powell are members of Emergency Medical Services at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility, which has grown to maintain two, 24-hour daily crews.

Physical therapy is now available at the Ardmore Wellness Center. This is the first time physical therapy has been available from the tribe to residents in that area.

Many programs and services benefiting youth health and wellness were expanded this year as well.

The behavioral health department conducted the BABES program in elementary schools across the Chickasaw Nation. BABES (Beginning Alcohol/

Addiction Basic Education Series) is an early prevention program designed to give children a lifetime of protection from substance abuse.

The program was presented to 25 first grade classrooms with a total of 480 students participating. The students were presented a new lesson each month and given certificates and class parties at the end of the school year.

The diabetes clinic conducted a TODAY (Treatment Options for type 2 Diabetes in Adolescents and Youth) ongoing pediatric diabetes study. They recruited and enrolled seven participants, the most in Oklahoma.

The nutrition services department served more than 5,000 nutritious meals to youth from the Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Clubs in Chickasha, Sulphur and Tishomingo.

A USDA Summer Food Service Program grant provided funding for two meals a day to be served to each child throughout the summer months. Before the service began, students were required to bring lunch from home or buy something from vending machines. Because of the success of this program, the department hopes to expand the offering next summer.

### **Tribe focuses on diabetes prevention and awareness**

Studies show that diabetes has a drastic affect on the American Indian community. According to the American Diabetes Association, seven percent

of the American population have the disease. The same studies show that 12.8 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been diagnosed. The Chickasaw Nation Health System states that 17 percent of its patients are diabetic.

Because of the increasing number of American Indians affected, the Chickasaw Nation is proactive in helping its citizens prevent the disease. Through a grant provided by Special Diabetes Programs for Indians, the diabetes clinic implemented its first Special Diabetes Prevention Program in 2006.

Eight participants volunteered and successfully completed the inaugural 16-session program, which included classes on healthier eating and physical activity, health monitoring, education and motivation.

In addition, the diabetes care center also provided events throughout the year to diagnose and educate citizens. The center hosted the first Power of Prevention fair at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility on September 12. More than 250 people participated in the event that was geared towards raising diabetes awareness and screening and recruiting Native Americans for the Special Diabetes Prevention Program (SDPP).

“The event was definitely a success,” said SDPP recruiter Wade Boyles. “We were able to screen 111 people for diabetes or pre-diabetes.”

The center also hosted a Diabetes Camp at the Microtel Inn & Suites in Davis, Oklahoma, June 20-23. Thirty-eight participants attended the four-day camp where they learned how to control their blood sugar,



Chickasaw elder Vicky Walker, now deceased, photographed in 1963.

plan meals and snacks, exercise and read labels while grocery shopping.

Campers also attended sessions about nutrition education, diabetes management and complication concerns.

“We were taught how to limit our carbohydrates and how to buy and prepare our food for healthier meals,” stated JoAnn Miller of Ada. Her husband, Claude Miller, is a diabetic who frequents the diabetes care

center for care and checkups. JoAnn attended the camp with him so she could learn more about the disease and how to help manage her husband's diet.

"We have been able to stick to the diet," Mr. Miller added. "I have been able to notice quite a bit of improvement."



Kathy Bean instructs the "Get Fresh!" cooking/nutrition class in Ardmore, Oklahoma.



Participants get an afternoon workout in a water aerobics class at the Ada Family Life Center.

## Housing

### Tribe offers quality housing and housing related programs

A house is more than just walls to protect us from outdoor elements. A house is also a home: a place where we live, where we go to relax, where we spend countless hours with our family and friends.

The Chickasaw Nation is committed to quality housing for its citizens. To make this happen, the division of housing and tribal development focuses on two main goals: determining the needs of citizens and taking the services to the people.

Chickasaws of all ages and income levels can find support from this division. Rental programs, maintenance programs and home counseling programs are offered to help tribal citizens find a place of shelter and protection they can call “home.”

After much research, it was discovered there were many Chickasaw elders who have driveways that are almost impassable, especially during wet weather. This is not only an inconvenience, but also a safety concern in the event that emergency vehicles should need to access the property.

The driveway repair program was implemented this year and to date, driveway repairs were provided for 18 Chickasaw elders. This program was started to help Chickasaw elders and others with special needs who



“Crossing the Blue” house on the Rector Cheadle Ranch  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Smith Coll. 7028)

are not physically or financially able to maintain their private driveways in a “safe” condition.

One hundred twenty-five Chickasaw families received storm shelters last year. Since program inception in 2003, nearly 900 storm shelters have been installed.



A crew installs one of 125 storm shelters provided to Chickasaws in 2006 through the tribe's housing division.

The Chickasaw Nation strives to make homeownership a success. More than 40 Chickasaw families became homeowners by paying off their homes through the homeowners program. Through that program, 49 new homes were constructed and another 46 are under construction.

The Pride in Homeownership Yard Contest was very popular again this year. Twenty-four legislators awards were given, four lt. governor awards were given and one governor's award was given.

More than 850 families are currently being assisted in Chickasaw Nation rental programs. Without the "37" and "98" rental programs, there would be many Chickasaw families either homeless or living with other family members. The rental programs assist low income families. Monthly rent is based on a percentage of total household income. The rental programs assure Chickasaw families are provided safe, decent, affordable housing.

The rental programs encourage personal success by allowing citizens to utilize the program while attending college, vo-tech or climbing the career ladder. Some renters go on to become homeowners either through the housing loan program or open market.

The Chickasaw Nation Roads Program is committed to providing safer roadways for all travelers. Easy access to Chickasaw Nation historical sites was a major goal in 2006. The Capitol Streets Project included the reconstruction of seven blocks of city streets around the historic Chickasaw capitol in Tishomingo, Okla.

The roads program is also dedicated to improving the communities inside the Chickasaw Nation. The tribe partnered with Pontotoc County to replace a dilapidated bridge near Vanoss schools, as well as partnering projects with Love and Garvin counties.

The roads program will continue to ensure that roads and bridges are secure and reliable for Chickasaw Nation citizens and their neighbors.

## Chuka Chukmasi continues to help home buyers

The division of housing and tribal development offers several homeownership programs. One of the most popular ways to become a homeowner is through Chuka Chukmasi, Chickasaw for beautiful home.

Started in 1998, the Chuka Chukmasi loan program is a cooperative effort between the Chickasaw Nation, PMI Mortgage Insurance Company, First Mortgage of Oklahoma City and Fannie Mae to provide low down payment, flexible home loans for Chickasaw citizens. The program is not restricted by income level or location of residency.

Through Chuka Chukmasi, one may purchase or refinance a home. In addition, closing costs and down-payment assistance are available in the form of a second mortgage loan through the division of housing at a reduced interest rate.

In FY 2006, the loan program provided home loans to 70 Chickasaw families. In addition, 38 families were assisted with down payment and closing costs. To date 447 families have been assisted through Chuka Chukmasi.

Another important part of the program is the in-depth homeownership counseling provided to home buyers. In FY 2006, 23 homeownership seminars were conducted and 261 counseling certificates were issued.

Judy Foster from Tishomingo used the Chuka Chukmasi program when she moved to Oklahoma. She is very thankful for the availability of the program



Chickasaw Judy Foster and her mother, Wilma Foster, enjoy a book in their new home. When Judy decided to move to Oklahoma and have a home built she utilized the Chuka Chukmasi home loan program.

and said the staff “bent over backwards to help get problems resolved.”

This program continues to grow and assist Chickasaw families. In fact, in 2003 the program was recognized by the Harvard School of Government as one of the eight most effective and significant tribal government programs in the country.

## Future

### Tribal development and expansion

The year 2006 was another busy year for tribal development. Following are the major accomplishments the Chickasaw Nation made in the construction, revitalization and preservation of tribal facilities.

Special projects completed:

- Historic Chickasaw Capitol improvement project
- Chickasaw White House renovation project

Facilities under construction:

- Pharmacy Refill Center (completed first quarter FY 2007)
- Chickasaw Community Center in Ada
- Sick Child Day Care Center
- Tishomingo Wellness Center
- Tishomingo Senior Site Remodeling (completed first quarter FY 2007)
- Chickasaw Community Center in Enos
- Duncan Senior Site
- Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur

### New health facilities provide new opportunity

The budget for construction of a new Chickasaw Nation health facility in Ada was unanimously approved by the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature in FY 2006.

The new, 370,000 square foot facility will almost triple the size of the current 130,000 square foot Carl Albert Indian Health Facility.

“This new state-of-the-art facility will enable us to continue improving the level of health services for years to come,” said Gov. Anoatubby.

Current plans include a two-story, 70-bed hospital, a level 3 emergency department, an ambulatory care facility, a pharmacy refill center, a diagnostic imaging center and a women’s health pavilion, all located on a single campus.

Also under construction is the Tishomingo Wellness Center. The 9,365 square foot facility will feature a physical therapy area, an aerobics and martial arts area, along with areas designated for free weights, machine weights and cardio equipment.

The wellness center will also focus on nutrition and education services for a holistic approach to health.

The Chickasaw Nation broke ground on the Pharmacy Refill Center on January 24, 2006.

A staff of 16 pharmacists and 16 pharmacy technicians at the 11,000 square foot facility are expected to fill more than 550,000 prescriptions annually.

The facility will provide all pharmaceutical services from the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility, as well as refill prescription service for all five CNHS satellite clinics.

In addition to the pharmacy services, the facility will also include patient counseling services, an anticoagulation clinic and a lipid management clinic.

## Community

The Chickasaw Nation works diligently to provide goods and services to Indian people on a daily basis.

There were 1,350 households that received assistance in 2006 through the Chickasaw Nation's federal energy assistance programs, including Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Leveraging and Energy Contingency programs.

Many families benefited from the holiday food basket program this past year. The area offices distributed 418 Thanksgiving baskets and 532 Christmas baskets to needy families in 2005. The baskets are given to low income Indian families.

The Oklahoma Employment and Training Advisory



Community Health Representatives circa 1980s.

Council (OETAC), in collaboration with the 39 tribes in Oklahoma, sponsored the OETAC Leadership Conference. The Chickasaw Nation Summer Youth Employment program sent 38 summer youth to this valuable and informative conference. The event promotes excellence in leadership and encourages youth to make good decisions in their career direction towards becoming outstanding professionals.

The community health representatives (CHR) have been instrumental in serving the health needs of Chickasaw citizens since 1968. In 2006, the CHR program served 35,349 individuals within the Chickasaw Nation service area. They performed 50,408 activities including blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, flu shots, vital sign screenings, rabies clinics, transports and medication deliveries, minor home maintenance, holiday dinner requests and community health fairs. Many times CHRs helped clients complete needed assistance applications for additional help with utilities, health care and other needs.

The transportation services goal is to provide medical transportation to all clients in a timely and safe manner. This department delivers individuals to appropriate medical facilities for scheduled medical appointments and pick up and deliver prescription medications to area offices and homes. The transportation services department grew to 12 full-time drivers and two part-time drivers in 2006. Transportation is provided in the Ada, Ardmore,

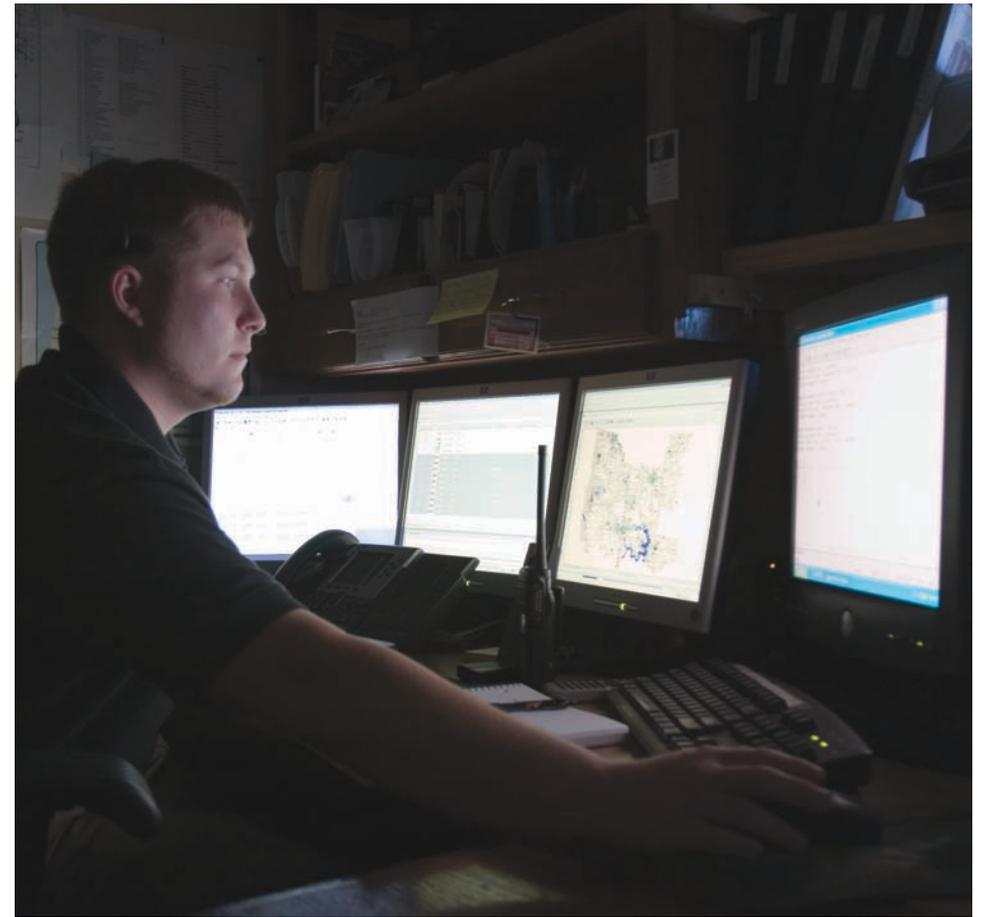
Purcell, Duncan and Tishomingo areas. To date, the transportation department has transported over 7,200 clients and made over 10,000 transports to homes, area offices, clinics, hospitals and dialysis centers. All in all, the department has logged 372,970 miles in 2006.

The dedicated staff at the horticulture department produced over 6,000 pounds of produce in 2006. The fruits of their labor were distributed to farmers' markets and senior sites throughout the Chickasaw Nation. While produce production remains a major focus of the department, many new projects have been added. In addition to vegetables, the department now has a small fruit orchard and beehives. The beehives assist in the pollination process, but are also a great source of raw honey. The horticulture department teaches skills and the value of hard work to many young Chickasaws.

### **Lighthorse Police Department**

The Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department (LPD) has grown to 22 officers and support personnel. This year, LPD signed a cross-deputization agreement with five county sheriff departments and several local agencies. By partnering with local and county law enforcement agencies, the LPD is enhancing the overall safety and crime-fighting needs for everyone residing within the Chickasaw Nation.

Also this year, the LPD assigned a full-time DARE/GREAT officer to teach resistance programs for middle school and elementary aged students in public schools. Both DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) programs are designed to prevent youth crime, violence and gang involvement, as well as to



Mike Holloway with the Lighthorse Police Department operates the new computerized dispatch system that automates and tracks many tasks, providing a more efficient and streamlined operation.

develop positive relations among law enforcement and families, while creating safer communities.

Currently the DARE/GREAT officer teaches more than 350 students a week from six different schools. During Red Ribbon Week, the officer shared the resistance information to over 1,200 students. The DARE/GREAT program unit is an H2 Hummer that makes appearances at area parades and school assemblies promoting drug and violence free lifestyles.

With sworn officers, including a criminal investigator, a narcotics investigator and K-9 officers, the LPD offers a wealth of resources to law enforcement agencies within tribal boundaries.

The LPD has made significant progress as a dynamic, full-service police organization in only its second year of operation. In FY 2006, the LPD handled 4,265 calls for service, an increase of 200 percent from FY 2005 statistics. The department received its third federal grant in two years, totaling nearly \$200,000, for its successful community oriented policing. These statistics illustrate the department's dedication to the community through proactive activities in crime detection and prevention within the Chickasaw Nation.



Indian Police enroute from Ravia, I.T. bringing \$100,000 to Tishomingo.

Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society (Foley & Mitchell Coll. 19695.65)



Lighthorse Police officer Brad Mills fingerprints Hunter Rose as part of National Kids' Day events.

## Awards & recognition

The Chickasaw Nation is dedicated to excellence and quality service to our citizens and customers. The following awards were received by the tribe during the 2006 fiscal year.

### Microtel Inn & Suites

 The Chickasaw Nation was awarded **Franchisee of the Year** at this year's Microtel national awards ceremony for the Microtel Inn & Suites located at Treasure Valley in Davis, Oklahoma and WinStar in Thackerville, Oklahoma.

 Treasure Valley Microtel Inn & Suites employee, Bo Suanders, was awarded the worldwide Microtel **Guest Hero Services Award**.

### CNI - Technology Division

 CNITD and its employees were awarded the **Quality Award for Excellence** by the Federal Aviation Administration.

### Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe

 The State of Oklahoma's Joint Special Committee on International Development presented a **Citation of Honorary Citizenship** to the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe.

### Child Support Services Department

 The Chickasaw Nation's Child Support Services Department was **nationally recognized as a model and voice** for Native children. In the 2006 fiscal year, child support services collected \$5.1 million.

### Chickasaw Nation owned Bank2

 Chickasaw Nation owned Bank2 is the #1 source of Native American home loans in the five-state HUD region for the second straight year. Bank2 was named one of the **Top 100 Native American Owned Businesses in the U.S. in 2005 and 2006** by Diversitybusiness.com. The same organization recognized the bank as one of the **Top 10 Native American Owned Businesses in Oklahoma for 2006**.

# Government

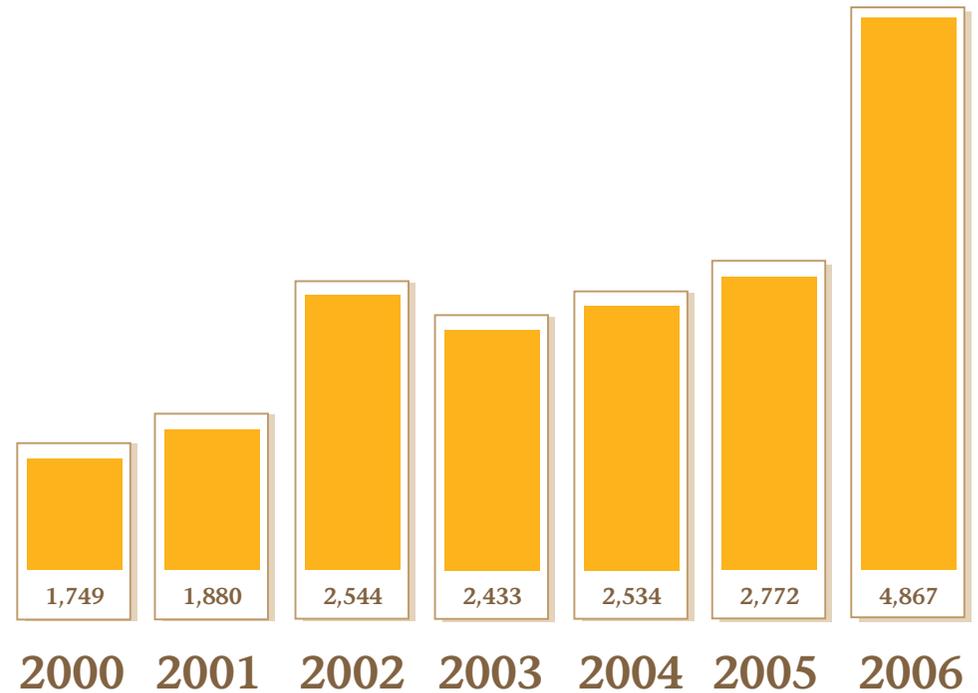
## Numbers continuing to rise

In fiscal year 2006, more than 4,200 Chickasaws received a CDIB and more than 4,860 received Chickasaw citizenship cards, thanks to the efforts of the tribal government services department.



Douglas Johnston campaigning for office at a picnic at Tishomingo, I.T.  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society (Smith Coll. 7887)

## Tribal citizenship cards issued

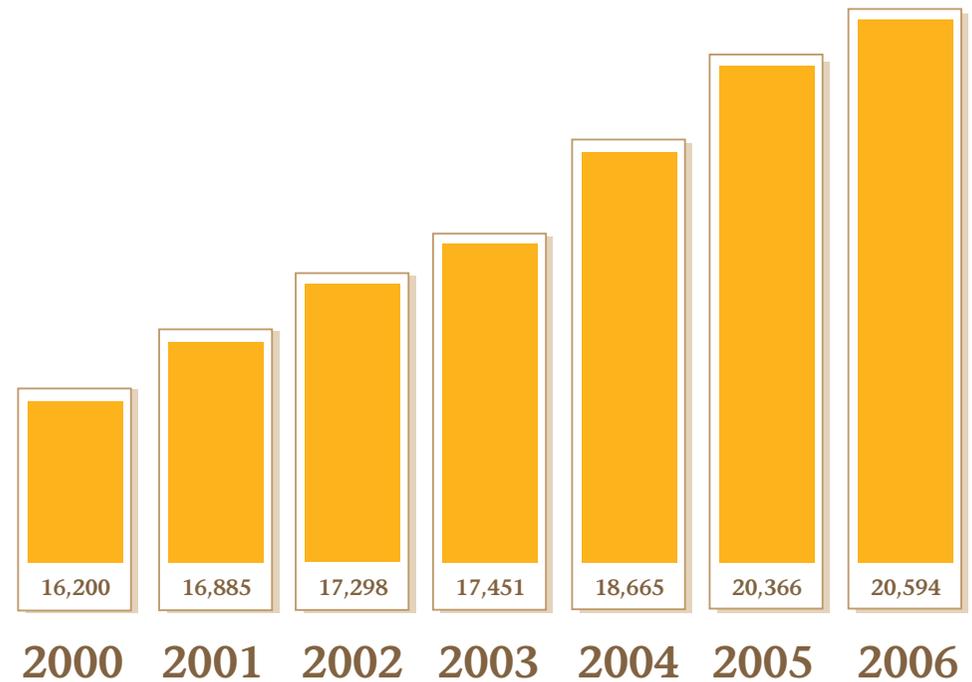




Election secretary Rita Loder confirms tribal ballots in a recent election.

This past year, the number of Chickasaw voters continued its increase. According to the tribal election commission, in FY 2006 there were 20,594 voters.

### Total number of Chickasaw voters



## Elders

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The Chickasaw Nation expanded several of its programs benefiting elders. Construction began on the tribe's 11<sup>th</sup> senior nutrition center, located in Duncan, Oklahoma. The 5,733 square foot facility will include a dining area and kitchen for daily meals, an activity room for games and crafts, exercise equipment, a computer lab and lounge area. More importantly, it will offer a welcoming place for seniors to socialize every day and receive benefits like health checks, exercise classes and healthy meals.

The Tishomingo Senior Nutrition Center is also expanding with a room added to the current facility. The added space will be used as a craft and social area. The extra room will allow the center to offer more programs and accommodate more seniors.

Several aging service programs were expanded to assist citizens with their needs. A new assisted living program was established to help supplement seniors while residing in an assisted living facility within the Chickasaw Nation. The program is designed to help seniors who may not be able to live alone and require some assistance in day-to-day activities.

The over-the-counter medication program was expanded to include services to citizens living outside tribal boundaries. Medications are provided through the Chickasaw Nation Health System pharmacy. The medications provided are at no cost to the elder, with an estimated savings of \$30 to \$40 a month for each elder.

The medications available include non-aspirin, calcium, multi-vitamin, vitamin C, konsyl D, cough syrup, vitamin E, Maalox, docusate sodium, tears and magnesium. Seniors are able to pick up their medications at any senior facility or the division on aging main office in Madill. Those not living near a facility can have the medications mailed to their residence.

Also made available to citizens living outside the boundaries was the veteran jackets program, created to honor elder veterans who have served through the Navy, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Air Force or National Guard. The jacket was specially designed for elder veterans. Each jacket has a label of appreciation and gratitude from Governor Anoatubby.

A new shuttle bus was obtained and is being used to transport seniors to events and group trips. The bus was much needed due to the increase in attendance at special events such as the Christmas Dinner, Valentine Coronation, Thanksgiving Dinner, Arts and Crafts Show and Halloween Rodeo. Another event established this past year was the Fall Bazaar, where seniors sold homemade crafts and baked items to help raise funds for day and overnight trips.

Each senior site has a select group of peers who serve on the Circle of Council. The council plans fundraisers and trips throughout the year. The senior sites combined logged over 20,000 miles in trips.



Chickasaw elders Molsie Palmer and Lillian Brashier, reminisce about their 65-year friendship during the Chickasaw Nation Thanksgiving Dinner.

Some locations visited include San Antonio, Colorado, Tennessee, Branson, Albuquerque, Eureka Springs and Mt. Rushmore, just to name a few.

The caring hearts program includes senior volunteers from each site who visit Native American elders who are in nursing homes or homebound. They check up on the elders and help deliver meals. More than 2,000 unduplicated participants received a congregate meal either at a senior site or by homebound delivery in FY 2006.

Seniors are also able to receive help around their homes with the chore program. This program provides light housekeeping for an average of 270 elders a month.

During the past year, three hard working citizens were honored for their dedication to the elders programs. Chickasaw Nation Program Operations Division administrator Pat Woods was honored at a luncheon at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the National Indian Council on Aging in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Woods was awarded for her 26 years of excellent service as a NICOA board member.

She also has the distinction of being the longest serving board member in the history of the organization and the only female to serve as chairperson.

Two Chickasaw seniors were also recognized for their contributions. Pauls Valley senior site member Magdalene Montgomery and Ada senior site member Sim Greenwood were honored at the Annual Indian Elders Conference in Oklahoma City. The duo were named Outstanding Chickasaw Elders for 2006.

The Chickasaw Nation values its senior programs and the services provided to its cherished elders.

# Culture

## Showcasing our culture

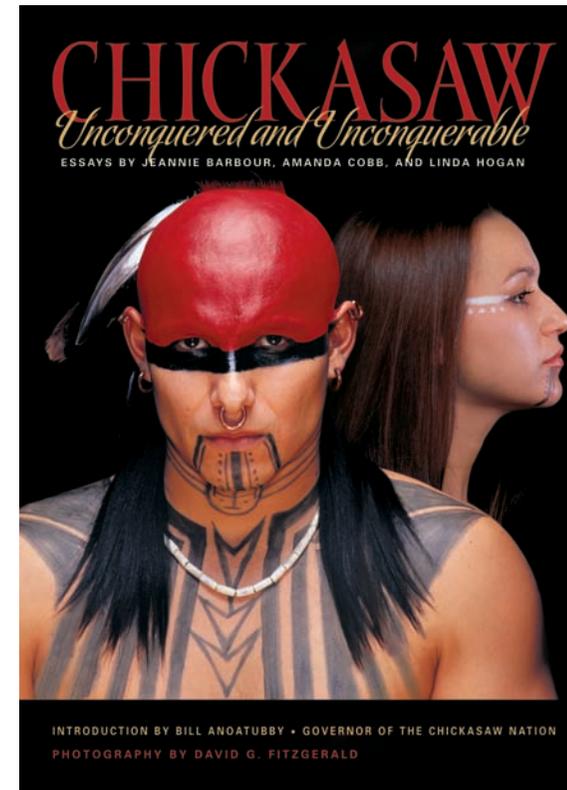
### Our thriving culture

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities spent the year enlightening the world about the unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw spirit. From the world premiere of the play, *Te Ata*, to Chickasaw Children's Choir performances, the story of Chickasaw people is crossing the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation and traveling worldwide.

The division of arts and humanities played an integral role in the world premiere of the play, *Te Ata*, detailing the life of the famed Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata Fisher. Te Ata was a beloved storyteller and actress who performed before kings and queens and broke down barriers and stereotypes for indigenous peoples from all walks of life.

The play, co-sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation, premiered August 5, 2006, in Chickasha, Oklahoma. The world watched as actors performed the play commemorating the famous Chickasaw storyteller and Oklahoma's first recognized cultural treasure, Te Ata.

The cast included award-winning actresses, as well as prominent Chickasaws including playwright JudyLee Oliva and actors Brandon Blankenship, Julie Ray Burwell, Robert Cheadle, Nancy Goate, Tana Takes



Chickasaw: Unconquered and Unconquerable is the first publication produced by the newly established Chickasaw Press. The full-color pictorial features photos from world renowned photographer David G. Fitzgerald and essays from Chickasaw authors Jeannie Barbour, Dr. Amanda Cobb and Linda Hogan.

Horse and production staff member Courtney Parchcorn. The play opened to rave reviews and the tear-wrenching performance sparked an interest in Chickasaw and Native American culture, perhaps continuing Te Ata's legacy of spreading the richness of Indian culture.

The legacy and culture of the Chickasaw Nation was once again immortalized in the launch of the book

Chickasaw: Unconquered and Unconquerable. The 128-page book features photographs, art, essays, recollections and memoirs of Chickasaw people from the removal to present-day.

This was also the inaugural project for the Chickasaw Nation publishing company, the Chickasaw Press. It is a testament to the resilience and strength of tribal citizens. The book spotlights notables such as Te Ata Fisher and John Herrington, retired U.S. Navy commander and the first Native American astronaut to fly in space. The book features essays by Jeannie Barbour, Amanda Cobb, Linda Hogan and an introduction by Bill Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Children's Choir entertained legislators at the Oklahoma State Capitol on March 7, 2006, as part of the *Create OK* Oklahoma Arts Education Coalition opening of Youth Arts Month.

The Chickasaw Nation continues to enrich the fabric of the world through theatre, writing, song and dance.

## Preserving our heritage

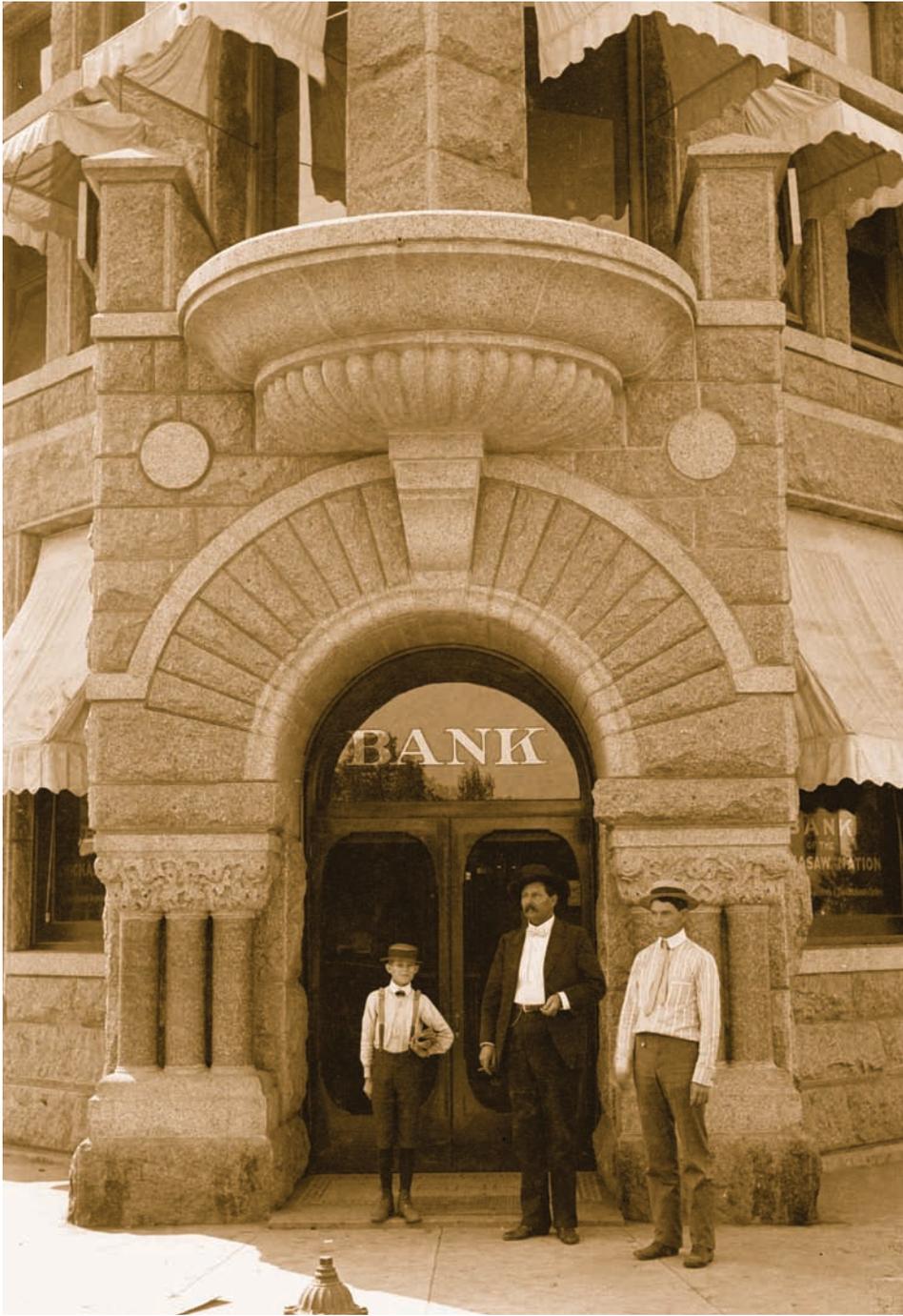
**Preserving our heritage is extremely important to the Chickasaw Nation.**

The Chickasaw Collection of artifacts continues to provide valuable information to archeologists and students of Southeastern tribal history. This extraordinary collection includes important holdings

of artifacts from the vicinity of Tupelo, Mississippi, that represent Chickasaw history before the time of removal. Many items include trade goods from a period beginning about 1680 A.D. to removal in the 1830s from northeast Mississippi. This is important in not only the repatriation process under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), but it also encourages Chickasaws to learn about their culture and history through the study of objects collected and placed in the tribe's collection.

With the help of the Archaeological Conservancy, an article was published in the *American Archaeology Journal* outlining information regarding the Chickasaw Collection. New acquisitions include a long-term loan of ancient lithics from the Natchez Trace Parkway. The lithics will eventually be displayed at the Chickasaw Council House Museum in Tishomingo. The tribe has initiated the process to borrow objects from the Smithsonian Institution for viewing by the public in a future exhibit. The Union County Heritage Museum of New Albany, Mississippi, presented a gift to the Chickasaw Nation's collection of a nutting stone taken from Chickasaw Miko Ishtehotopa's former allotment. Two seals from the City of New Albany were also gifted to the tribe.

Repatriation is an important part of Chickasaw historic preservation. It is a complicated process by which we honor the memories of our ancestors, as well as learn more about significant events of the past. NAGPRA is a federal law passed in 1990, which provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—



Douglas Johnston and his sons Douglas Johnston, Jr. and Llewellyn "Ludie" Johnston stand in front of the Tishomingo Bank at the turn of the century. (Chickasaw Council House Coll. 20288.76.41.44)

human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

The Chickasaw Nation completed negotiations on several repatriation projects in 2006. Tribal representatives visited the Smithsonian Institution Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland, to view Chickasaw objects housed at the facility. Information was exchanged with staff at the National Museum of the American Indian regarding issues of domestic and international repatriation. This was of great benefit to the tribe in its attempts to seek the return of affiliated remains from the Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum and human remains from the British Museum.

In addition to negotiations with federal agencies, the Chickasaw Nation entered into discussions with other organizations for the return of Chickasaw artifacts. The Bankhead National Forest, the Eastern Band of Cherokee and the Denver University Museum of Anthropology reached an agreement this past year. With the help of a federal grant, approval was made to repatriate remains of Chickasaw ancestors for return to Alabama. In addition, the Chickasaw Nation successfully negotiated for the return of unassociated funerary objects (no human remains) from the Mississippi Department of Archives.

Congress established a comprehensive national policy on historic preservation with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). A major goal of the act is for federal agencies to act as



Thurman Carpenter stirs traditional pashofa at Cultural Evening during the week of the Chickasaw annual meeting and festival.

responsible stewards of our nation's resources. This included property that might be deemed a sacred site by Indian tribes.

This year, 708 NHPA notifications were reviewed and responded to regarding Chickasaw sacred sites. The tribe worked with local, state, tribal and federal

officials in Mississippi and other southeastern states to protect sites that were being affected by new construction including subdivisions, highways, railways, airports and cell towers.

The Chickasaw Nation works with a number of groups to protect valuable historic sites. Some of the groups include:

- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Tennessee Army National Guard
- Arnold Air Force Base
- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- Mississippi and Alabama Army National Guards
- Fort Benning, Georgia
- Memphis Corps of Engineers

Educational facilities and historic sites give future generations opportunity to develop an understanding of the proud heritage of the tribe. The Chickasaw Nation has many places of historical significance attributed to it both in Oklahoma and in the homelands of the southeast. It is important to preserve the tribe's historic sites. They are a source of irreplaceable heritage.

The Chickasaw National Capitol hosted more than 7,000 visitors in 2006. It was the site for over 50 meetings, workshops, events and weddings. The monolithic structure was completed in 1898 and has stood majestic over the town of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, as a symbol of Chickasaw resilience. A well was discovered on the property in 2005. The capitol water well house was replicated and reconstructed as it appeared in the late 1800s. Outdoor exhibits were placed inside the well house

with historical information pertaining to the capitol grounds. An accredited archeologist and staff excavated the site of the Chickasaw National Jail located directly behind the capitol. After work was complete, many artifacts were recovered, including a dinner plate circa 1890 and glassware dating back to 1886. These pieces of domestic history will be included in a future exhibit planned at the facility.

The Chickasaw Council House Museum had over 4,500 patrons through its doors in the last fiscal year. An exhibit featuring a film about Chickasaw involvement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Relocation Program of the 1950s is a popular attraction for visitors. Also installed in 2006, was an exhibit titled, "Chikasha althliha nunna chokma ha pomi: Our People Have Done Good Things." It includes information about eight Chickasaw citizens who have made a distinctive mark on the world.

They include:

- Pearl Scott
- Ataloo
- TeAta
- Lushanya
- Governor Overton James
- Cab Renick
- Monk Moore
- John Herrington

Whether a school essay needs to be researched or a family tree needs to be constructed, the staff of the Chickasaw genealogy and library departments are available to help Chickasaw citizens and other interested parties.

Genealogy assisted 1,772 visitors with 850 family lineages developed for Chickasaw citizens in 2006. Included in the genealogy research information are microfilm documentation of the Five Civilized Tribes, U.S. census and other population studies. The purchase of reference books outlining Chickasaw citizenship letters was a significant addition to genealogy archives this past year. Family cemeteries and churches are documented at the facilities as well.

The tribal library served over 1,600 patrons in 2006. The facility added 117 new books to its collections. The library hosted a literacy program, scholastic book fair, summer reading program and a veterans cultural luncheon. The library also received lesson plans on American Indian art of the ancient Midwest and South from the Art Institute of Chicago. The information is available to educational organizations and Chickasaw groups interested in the presentation.

Most ethnologists agree that without language a culture will die. This is why the Chickasaw language has received much attention in 2006. Many Chickasaw citizens do not speak the Chickasaw language fluently and many that do, are elderly. Because of this, there is a real danger of losing the language in a few years.

Chickasaw language classes were held in Ada, Tishomingo, Ardmore, Sulphur, Pauls Valley, Connerville and Purcell. Lesson plans were developed for lunch classes for tribal employees. A component for pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade curriculum for immersion was also created. Other language projects include:



From left: Adeline Brown, Mina Hill, Patricia Wilkinson and Mitchell Brown pounding corn in a corn pounder. Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society (Chickasaw Council House Museum 20288.92.255.3)

- Application for ANA planning grant to collect language speaker data: Master-Apprentice program
- “Year of Language” gathering of fluent speakers
- Language flashcard project
- Translating popular nursery rhyme books into the Chickasaw language
- Thirty-five Chickasaw language preservation classes were conducted throughout the Chickasaw Nation in 2006
- 16-member language committee is made up of fluent speakers. They come together to discuss programs that might be instituted to further the Chickasaw language

- Reverse language in Humes dictionary database by Mal Elliott
- The Chickasaw Nation currently makes available for sale language tapes originally produced several years ago. Gregg Howard is updating these tapes for a second distribution
- Development of translated teaching material for Basic Primer that will cover basic elements of the Chickasaw language to teach individuals how to speak fluently



Chickasaws compete in game of stickball during the Chikashsha reunion.



Members of the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe demonstrate traditional dances during the annual meeting and festival parade.

Community involvement is very important in getting the message out about Chickasaw culture and history. One of the most active groups is the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe. The members serve as ambassadors for the tribe on a national level and give countless performances for public schools, organizations, events and festivals. They were honored to receive a Citation of Honorary Citizenship from the State of Oklahoma's Joint Special Committee on International Development in 2006.

## Chickasaw Cultural Center under construction



Great progress was made in 2006 towards the completion of the Chickasaw Cultural Center to be located on 110 acres adjacent to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur, Oklahoma. The initial opening of the facility is scheduled for 2008. The center will utilize the latest technology, ancient artifacts and natural outdoor spaces to tell the Chickasaw story.

Once complete, the center will feature more than 96,000 square feet of indoor space and outdoor venues, including an earthen terrace amphitheater. The concept also includes utilizing outdoor spaces featuring rich native vegetation, indigenous stone and trails which heighten attention to a spring-fed pond and Rock Creek.

Outdoor areas will include demonstration gardens and a traditional lifeways educational village,



featuring a number of traditional Chickasaw houses similar to those at Kullihoma. An honor garden on the site will pay tribute to Chickasaws who have made a significant contribution to the tribe. Other outdoor areas will be set aside for stomp dance and other traditional ceremonies.

Indoors, an interconnected series of theaters, exhibits and galleries is designed to immerse visitors in tribal history and culture. A performing arts center will provide a venue for a variety of entertainment and cultural events. Entertainment at the center will likely include performances focused on Chickasaw culture and history, as well as music written by Chickasaw composers and plays written by Chickasaw authors. In addition, the Center for the Study of Chickasaw History and Culture will

serve as a first-class educational resource which will include a library and archives.

The cultural center was awarded an Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration grant. The grant is made possible through funding from the Oklahoma legislature and will fund the creation of the Oka Kappassa (centennial fountain) on the cultural center's campus. Its theme is designed to remind visitors of the importance of water to the development of the Chickasaw Nation and to Oklahoma.

Once complete, this world-class facility will help preserve Chickasaw heritage and culture for future generations of Chickasaws. It will also provide a means to share that heritage and history with others.

## Chickasaw historic sites

### Chickasaw White House

Restoration efforts on the Chickasaw White House near Emet, Oklahoma, were completed in 2006. Once considered a mansion on the frontier, it was home to Chickasaw Governor Douglas Johnston and his family from 1885-1971. Over the years this unusual and stately home played host to powerful politicians and influential dignitaries, making it an important historic site for the Chickasaw Nation and for Oklahoma.

A complete inventory of White House furnishings and fixtures was accomplished with much effort going into the repair and restoration of the original furniture, paintings and dishes. Careful consideration was given to grounds restoration as well. Mrs. Johnston planted the two crepe myrtle trees still in the front yard and the Jonquils come up every spring. In addition, there is a windmill on the property and a picket fence similar to what was there originally. Efforts were taken to reinvigorate the plant life, rebuild the fence according to original specifications and secure the windmill.

### Tchitchatala

The Chickasaw Nation worked with the Archaeological Conservancy to preserve the Chickasaw village known as Tchitchatala in Lee County, Mississippi. The site is located at the Cedarscape Archaeological Preserve. A long-term lease is being prepared so Chickasaws can visit and learn about their history prior to the tribe's removal from the area in the 1830s.

### Burney Institute

The Chickasaw Nation closed the deal on obtaining the historical site of Burney Institute, a boarding school for scores of Chickasaw children in the late 1800s and early 1900s located near Lebanon, Oklahoma.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby signed papers on March 28, 2006, to finalize the purchase of the property which has been in the Chickasaws' history since 1860.



Interior of the Chickasaw White House after restoration was complete in 2006.



Burney Institute circa 1898.

Established in 1857 by an 1854 Act of the Chickasaw Council, Burney Institute first began housing children in 1860 under the name Lebanon Orphans Home. Originally a school for Chickasaw girls and classic education, the school was discontinued during the years of the Civil War and reconstruction. Around 1872 it was re-opened and began accepting Chickasaw boys. They were taught agriculture and horticulture, while girls learned homemaking, sewing, knitting, cooking and housekeeping.

In 1887, the Chickasaw Legislature changed the name and function to the Chickasaw Orphans Home and Manual Labor School. There was a capacity for 60 students. The institution was discontinued in 1910.

Burney Institute is located approximately one and one-half miles west of Lebanon near State Highway 32 in Marshall County. The historic property contains the two-story brick school, plus the first floor of the three-floor school dormitory. The dormitory has been converted into living quarters, but the school building is much as it was at the end of the 19th century. Restoration of the buildings is planned.

## Commerce

Successful economic development and business diversification efforts provide a number of benefits which help the tribe accomplish its mission “to enhance the overall quality of life of Chickasaw people.”

One of the benefits is to supplement federal funding of programs and services. This is important because federal funding is not sufficient to provide the desired level of services. Beyond that, there is always the possibility that funding may be reduced or eliminated at any time. Business revenues also enable the tribe to develop programs and services not supported by the federal government.

Recently implemented health, education, housing and elder services developed for Chickasaws living outside tribal boundaries are examples. Funding specifically for Chickasaw Summer Youth workers is another example. Others include the elders’ prescription program and the medication assistance program.

While these programs and services provide important short term assistance, the ultimate goal is to enable Chickasaw people to achieve success on an individual level. Perhaps the most important benefit of economic development is providing more opportunities for individual Chickasaws to succeed.

Economic development is part of the Chickasaw Nation’s overall plan to promote a better way of life.

Because the tribe is focused on increasing the number and quality of opportunities available, its success is



The Chickasaw Motor Inn in Sulphur, Oklahoma, was purchased by the tribe in 1971 and served as tribal headquarters for a time.

measured by the number of people who seize those opportunities.

By that measure, tribal economic development has been very successful, as the tribe now employs more than 10,400 workers.



Margaret Guess prepares to open for business at the Ada Bedré retail store.

Beyond that, tribal economic development initiatives have had a positive impact on the Oklahoma economy, which increases employment and business opportunities for Chickasaws and others who do not work directly for the tribe.

Tribal leaders are working to multiply those opportunities by striving to work with Chickasaw business owners in a number of ways. A directory of tribal businesses was created, giving individual Chickasaw business owners the opportunity to become preferred providers for tribal businesses.

Planning is under way for a small business development center which will provide training, education and other methods to assist individual Chickasaws in starting or expanding businesses.

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce employs 6,488 workers in 57 business operations, including more than a dozen gaming centers, Bedré Chocolates, motels, restaurants, travel plazas, radio stations, a newspaper and many others.



Lazer Zone Family Fun Center, one of the tribe's many businesses, attracts customers from around the state who want to take part in bowling, laser tag, miniature golf or one of the other fun activities offered.

# Financial resources for tribal operations and development

## Fiscal year 2006

Cash received from customers:	\$ 7.735 Billion
Cash winnings paid to customers	(\$7.277 Billion)
Total proceeds from gaming	\$458 Million

Other business proceeds	\$103 Million
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Total available for use	\$561 Million
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Operating costs of businesses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.)	(\$377 Million)
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Cash invested back in businesses <i>Business expansion, new business and development, infrastructure</i>	\$75 Million
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Cash transferred to the Chickasaw Nation for provision of services, new buildings (health, education, etc.)

**Transferred to Tribal Government  
\$109 Million**

Education



Elders



Heritage Preservation



Tribal Development



Program Operations



Health Care



Youth & Family



Lighthouse Police



Continued success of economic development efforts enabled tribal businesses to make significant transfers to fund tribal programs and building projects.

Opening of Riverwind Casino, along with an increase in wages and provision of health benefits to part-time employees, contributed to higher business operating costs in FY 2006.

\$109 million, or almost 60 percent, was transferred to the tribe to fund services and building projects.

The remaining \$75 million was reinvested in business expansion and development.

Millions were transferred to fund building projects, many of which are currently under construction. Those projects include the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Duncan senior site, community center in Enos, Sick Child Day Care Center and Tishomingo Wellness Center, among others.

With the completion and opening of the 219,000 square foot Riverwind Casino, the Chickasaw Nation now operates two of the largest casinos in Oklahoma.

Construction was also completed on the 10,000 square foot WinStar Golf Course club house and the course was opened for play. A number of tournaments and events are scheduled at the facility, which includes a golf pro shop, restaurant and meeting room.

Construction was completed on a 1,500 square foot bingo hall at WinStar, allowing remodeling to begin on the previous bingo facility. This area will be renovated into a 44-table poker room complete with a players' lounge, additional blackjack tables, dealers' lounge, support offices and cashier windows.

The Chickasaw Nation's Treasure Valley Microtel Inn

& Suites in Davis, Oklahoma, was named "Franchisee of the Year" at Microtel's national awards ceremony in April 2006.

Possibly even more impressive is the fact that two tribal employees, including the winner, were nominated for the Microtel "Guest Hero Services Award." Since only three Microtel employees worldwide are awarded the honor, this says a great deal about the training and dedication of Chickasaw Nation employees.

Acquisition and remodeling of a 41,000 square foot training facility in Newcastle, Oklahoma, will enable the tribe to continue the tradition of effective training which is so important to the success of hospitality businesses.

Successful business operations have enabled the Chickasaw Nation to invest in a number of new businesses. Investment in Solara Healthcare and a sand and gravel mining operation on the Red River are two examples of business diversification efforts aimed at providing the best opportunity for stable long-term returns.

## Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

Chickasaw Nation Industries (CNI) is experiencing exponential growth and provides a great illustration of tribal business diversification efforts.

With 12 companies providing a variety of services to a long list of clients, CNI increased gross revenues in FY 2006.

Currently, CNI employs about 1,700 in a wide range of occupations, from construction to technology. CNI is expected to employ 2,200 in FY 2007.

Much of CNI's growth has come from its strategy of identifying and acquiring companies with great potential.

One example is the purchase of DataCom Sciences in 2003 to form the CNI Technology Division (CNITD). More than 1,000 CNITD employees provide information and aviation technology services, records management and other services to a wide variety of government entities.

CNITD and its employees have won numerous awards, including the Federal Aviation Administration "Quality Award for Excellence."

Approximately two-thirds of CNITD employees are located in corporate offices in Oklahoma City and Albuquerque. Other employees are deployed across the country, providing services to the Army, Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Interior and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

CNI also purchased a manufacturing facility in



CNI offers customers state-of-the-art manufacturing technology.

Marietta, Oklahoma, from Siemens Dematic. That facility is at the heart of the CNI Manufacturing Division, which produces conveyor systems for six major international airports and the U.S. Postal Service as well as a number of other products.

In May 2006, CNI purchased All Points Logistics, an award-winning company which provides technical and management services to the federal government and prime contractors.

With expertise in virtually every phase of construction

and property management, the CNI Construction Division has government and private sector customers throughout North America.

As a medical services contractor to the federal government, CNI provides medical and dental services in the continental U.S., Hawaii, Alaska and South Korea.

Through its professional services division, CNI is providing planning and management services for two major facilities under development by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



CNI manufacturing facility provides employment for dozens of individuals in Marietta, Oklahoma.

Headquarters for CNI is located in Ada, Oklahoma, and there are seven regional offices in four states and Washington, D.C. A regional construction office will open soon in St. Louis, Mo.

Profits have been reinvested in the business to maintain and accelerate growth. In addition, revenues and resulting payments made by Chickasaw Nation businesses to the tribal treasury have enabled the tribe to increase and expand services. The tribe has been able to put more Chickasaws to work, provide educational opportunities, improve aging services and continue providing the very best health care possible.



Bank2 is a subsidiary of the Chickasaw Banc Holding Company. The holding company, and thus Bank2, are 100 percent owned by the Chickasaw Nation.

The bank has two Oklahoma City locations. The corporate headquarters is located at 909 S. Meridian and recently a branch was opened at 1701 S. Morgan Road.

Bank2 is a full service bank offering checking, operation, savings and money market accounts. The bank also offers a full line of consumer, commercial and real estate loans. The bank specializes in construction and home mortgage lending. The bank has a strong Internet presence and offers Internet banking, bill pay and e-statements through eBank2.

Since the beginning of the bank in January 2002, the bank has grown from the smallest bank in the state to one of the top 100 in the state. At year end 2006, the bank had total assets of nearly \$85 million and total loans of nearly \$57 million.

Since inception the bank has made over \$330 million worth of loans and has maintained an industry leading low past-due percentage of less than one-half percent. Nearly 52 percent of the bank's business comes from Native America. The bank is one of the highest rated banks in the state.

Aside from other awards, Bank2 was named the Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center Service Business of the Year in 2003. In addition, the bank was named the Oklahoma Native American Chamber Business of the Year in 2004.

## Business features | Riverwind

Tribe opens state's largest casino



Riverwind Casino, located at the intersection of I-35 and State Highway 9 just south of Norman, is huge. This massive facility covers more area than four football fields, but its impact will be felt far beyond the walls.

Riverwind employs more than 1,700 and has already begun to bring thousands of tourists to the area.

A preview of the Mel Gibson film *Apocalypto* and top-flight performing artists such as the Beach Boys and Jewel are only a few examples of the high quality entertainment events Riverwind brings to the area.

The tremendous economic impact, however, is only part of the story. Revenues generated by the businesses will contribute to a variety of programs and services which bring about a positive transformation in the lives of individuals.

The Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, Chickasaw Summer Youth Program, Chickasaw Children's Choir, Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy are only a few of the programs which have made a positive impact on Chickasaw youth.

Earlier this year, members on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and visitors in the gallery stood in hushed silence, hands over their hearts, as the Chickasaw Children's Choir sang the National Anthem. Adding to the impact was the fact that choir member Amanda Shackelford repeated each phrase in the Chickasaw language.

A rousing ovation followed the rendition presented by 35 children from across the Chickasaw Nation.

Lisa Johnson-Billy, Chickasaw and freshman District 42 Oklahoma representative, invited the group to perform.

"I'm so proud to see our children singing and to see their faces," said Ms. Billy. "I think it's very beneficial. I think this is how we build bridges with communities of people who don't know who we are as Chickasaw people.

"I'm very, very grateful to all the adults who helped put it together. I'm very grateful to Governor Anoatubby and our tribal legislature for setting money aside to do this, because it's more than just singing songs. It melts hearts out there."

The computer distribution and literacy program is another example.

More than 4,000 families are now enjoying in-home computer access thanks to the Chickasaw Nation Computer Literacy and

Distribution Program, which refurbishes and distributes excess tribal computers as well as computers donated by businesses and government agencies.

Implemented in February 2002 to make computer equipment available to students, elders and others who may be unable to afford it, the program is providing a much needed service, according to Cliff Jones, director of the program.

"As far as I know, this is the largest program of its kind in the state, and maybe in all of Indian country," said Jones. "I think we're at the cutting edge of getting technology into the hands of people who need it."

Senior sites operated by the Chickasaw Nation in 11 area cities which offer food, fellowship and fun to area elders are other examples of the impact business revenue has on the lives of citizens.

"I really enjoy the fellowship," said Carole Davis, a regular at the Ada senior site. "When we started coming here, my husband knew a lot of people, but I didn't really know anyone. Now I have a lot of friends I see here."

Beulah Shavney began attending the Ada senior site regularly when she moved to the city in 2002. She recently began taking computer classes offered at the site.

"I like to email my family and keep in touch with relatives that I didn't get to talk to much before," she said. "I especially like getting email from my grandchildren."

From jobs to funding of programs and services which enhance the lives of Chickasaws, Riverwind joins other tribal businesses in making a huge impact in southern Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation.



## Business features | Bedré

### **Bedré Chocolates continues to be a successful economic venture for the tribe**

Since opening its Pauls Valley factory in July 2003, Bedré Chocolates has tripled annual sales and made changes in operations which will allow it to continue expansion far into the future.

While the factory was a great improvement over the previous facility in Ada, Bedré still had the potential to sell much more product than they could produce.

Bedré now utilizes custom-made equipment from a variety of European manufacturers to effectively and efficiently produce the highest quality chocolates.

Production capabilities for some products have increased from several hundred per day to thousands per hour.

Increased capacity was followed closely by increased marketing efforts. Sales to established customers such as Neiman-Marcus have increased. Relationships with a number of new customers have also been established.

Braum's and Love's Country Stores are a couple of well-known local retailers now on the Bedré client list. In addition, Bedré is currently negotiating with several national retail and wholesale outlets.

While Bedré is increasing the number of outlets and production capability, the factory is continuing to produce the highest quality European-style chocolate. New production methods enable a more precisely controlled ingredient mix, resulting in a superior, and more consistent, product.

A variety of high quality products, including chocolate covered potato chips, nut clusters, filled pieces, candy bars and more are available.

Retailers choose the products best suited to their own needs, and many, such as Neiman-Marcus, prefer to market the products under their own brand names.

Improvements in production and marketing have led to significant improvements in the bottom line and Bedré has the potential to continue growing for years to come.



# Business features | WinStar Golf Course

## Chickasaw Nation opens golf course

The new 18-hole WinStar Golf Course opened in August 2006 and has already hosted several events. It is expected to be a significant factor in expanding the area into a resort destination.

The first golf tournament on the course was a Heartland Sr. Tour event, which took place in September.

Golfers have offered high praise for the 7,249-yard D.A. Weibring Signature Design course. Many commented on the beauty of the course, while others were impressed with the course condition, considering the drought conditions prior to the opening.

D.A. Weibring Golf Resources Group has designed a number of highly acclaimed golf courses in the United States and Japan. The company designed the Bridlewood Golf Club in Flower Mound, Texas, which was rated the #1 Luxury Golf Course by Avid Golfer Magazine in 2004.

Another notable course designed by the company is the Tournament Players Club at Deere Run, site of the annual PGA John Deere Classic tournament. Located near Chicago, the course was recognized by Golf Digest Magazine in 2000 as the eighth best new daily fee club.

“The Weibring Group is known for the natural look and artistic character of their golf courses,” said WinStar PGA head professional Mike Hammond.

“D.A. and chief architect Steve Wolfard have taken a beautiful piece of native land and created a golf course that not only fits the lay of the land but is gorgeous to look at as well as fun and challenging for any level of player.”

Because of the Weibring reputation and the high praise for the new course, it is expected to attract golfers from a wide area and draw a number of corporate events.

A top-notch golf course can be an indispensable component of a resort, particularly one which may attract not only individuals,



but corporate groups, according to Sam Swanson, president of D.A. Weibring Golf Resources Group.

“A golf course can provide widespread exposure and create an image for a resort property that can be very beneficial in marketing to individuals or group meetings,” Swanson wrote in an article published in Indian Gaming magazine.

“The typical decision maker in any organization would be influenced by the availability of a quality golf course to the resort,” he continued. “The CEO (or decision maker), whether it be male or female, is typically a golfer and may consider the golf course component of the project to be not only critical to the decision making process, may, in fact, be the most important piece of the puzzle!”

The 10,000 square-foot clubhouse featuring a pro shop, locker room, grill and banquet facilities will appeal to golfers and non-golfers alike.

Several events have already been booked in the facility, which is designed to accommodate corporate outings, wedding receptions, social events and business meetings.

Only months after opening, WinStar Golf Course and clubhouse have already gained a reputation which is sure to draw patrons from near and far for years to come.

# Family

## Tribe strives to focus on family

A solid foundation begins at home. The Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth and Family Services is dedicated to strengthening Chickasaw families.

Studies confirm that strong nurturing family environments have a profound impact on many facets of life, including long-term health, happiness and success. Because of these facts, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby started the Governor's Family Initiative almost two years ago. The division of youth and family services has succeeded in realizing the goal of the program, to provide support to help maintain healthy and thriving families.

One example is Relationship Enhancement Training, which has been a popular training attended by nearly 5,000 employees so far. The training is designed to provide the necessary skills for successful relationships in all environments. The program focuses on conflict resolution and concepts such as effective communication and working with different personality types.

The department of strong family development implemented various programs to protect and preserve the family and the well-being of all individuals involved. The division offers Chickasaws and Chickasaw Nation employees with programs that provide several methods to help families grow stronger and function more effectively.



Hyman Burris family.  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Czarina Colbert Conlan Coll. 4023)

The department of strong family development served more than 7,000 people through its programs and trainings.

The Prevention Relationship and Enhancement Program classes helped strengthen communication and problem-solving skills, helping couples to maintain their relationship. Fatherhood accountability groups and single parent support groups targeted

specific concerns of traditional or non-traditional families. Abstinence education and parenting classes were also available.

The office of strong family development also provided residential services to youth who may not have a stable living situation. Both the Chickasaw Children's Village and the Transitional Living Center provide a place for young Native Americans to stay.

The Chickasaw Children's Village is an academic residential facility for Native American students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, located near Lake Texoma in Kingston, Oklahoma. The village includes eight cottages, each housing eight students and one set of married house parents.

The 64 children accepted each year are from all walks of life. Two additional cottages were added this year.

The transitional living center in Ardmore, Oklahoma, is designed for homeless, runaway or at-risk youth ages 18 to 21. The facility is also residential.

The Chickasaw Nation's residential services date back to the late 1800s from Indian schools like Bloomfield Academy and Carter Seminary.

The Chickasaw Nation recognizes how important both emotional and financial support are to the well-being of a child. The department of family advocacy is designed to restore, revamp or strengthen the family unit with a host of services.

Indian child welfare assisted 2,357 children. The family preservation program provided direct services

to 507 families and the violence prevention program served 241 families.

Violence prevention received a grant allowing the office to hire three victim advocates, including a children's counselor and a career developer. The office also received funding to extend its services to Chickasaws residing in Bryan and Cleveland counties in Oklahoma.

The department of child support services was recognized nationally as a model and voice for Native American children. In fiscal year 2006, child support collections totaled \$5.1 million. Recent programs established, like Tribal Employment Placement Program (TEPP), contributed to the collections. TEPP is a program in which courts monitor the progress of non-custodial parents in obtaining or maintaining employment. Thirty-one parents participated this year, resulting in \$60,000 of collected child support.

A new program, drug court support services, was implemented in February 2006. The program is available in Pontotoc and McClain counties. Plans are to expand into Stephens County in the coming year.

Family is the backbone of Native American culture and the division of youth and family services will ensure that family is given priority.

# Employment

## Putting Chickasaws to work

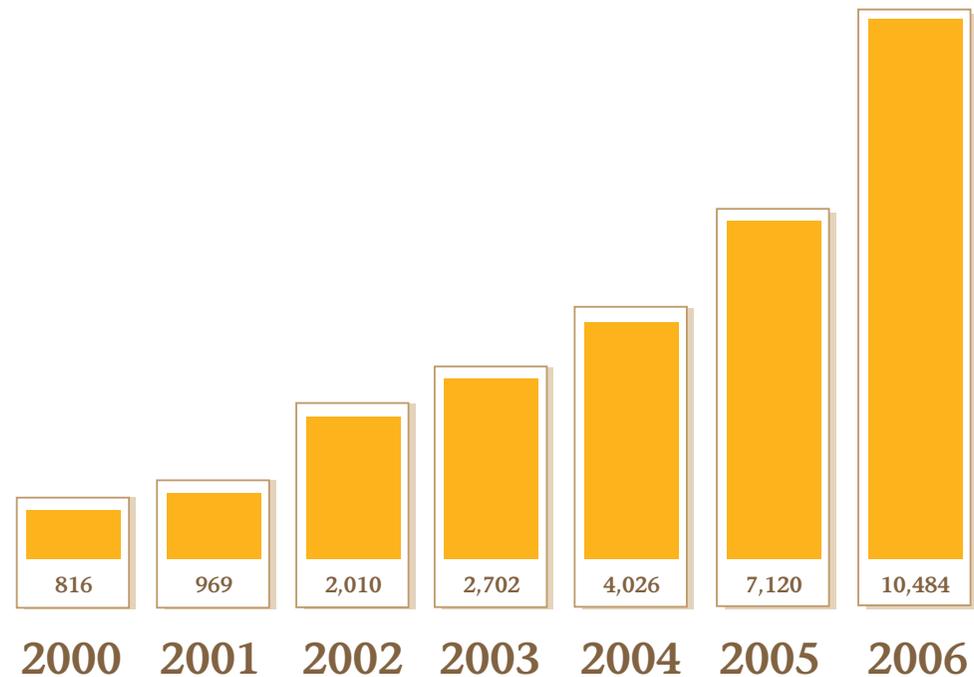
The administrative services division works diligently to provide training and opportunities to help Chickasaws find employment with the tribe and with other employers.

Human resources workers actively searched for Chickasaw employees at job fairs at the Southeastern School of Business in Durant and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

A new mentoring program was implemented by the information technology department to provide a path to success for those interested in technology careers.

The human resources department is also working cooperatively with IRT to train and employ Chickasaw citizens at the company's Ada site. IRT is Interactive Response Technologies, an award-winning provider of call center services. Efforts are underway to encourage management at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, to hire additional Chickasaw employees.

## Tribal employee growth





Tom Newman and Beulah Richardson work in the Chickasaw Capitol Building, circa 1905.  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Chickasaw Council House Museum Coll. 20288.74.104.9)

## Tribe committed to employment

### Job Training

The Chickasaw Nation is committed to providing quality jobs to tribal citizens and other members of the community. This year the tribe became part of Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry's Workforce Development Initiative and began certifying clients

with "Work Keys." The "Work Keys" system supports economic and workforce development programs, connects work skills, training and testing for education and business. It also makes it easier to meet the requirements of federal programs and legislation.

To date, the Chickasaw Nation has certified through American College Testing (ACT), 129 participants including 93 summer youth employment members. There were 1,734 individuals assisted through area offices with a variety of employment and training activities in the pathways to success program.



Applying for employment with the Chickasaw Nation is now easier than ever thanks to user-friendly kiosks. Applicants can also apply online.



Janis Taliaferro, 14, identifies the sternum on a doll used to teach life-saving skills during the Babysitters' College held in Purcell. Fourteen participants attended the training, which was offered in Purcell for the first time.

The summer youth employment program had its biggest year yet. In 2006, 542 Chickasaw young people had an opportunity to work for the Chickasaw Nation and other area businesses. Due to federal department of labor cuts and the need to supply jobs to a growing number of Chickasaw youth, the program increased its budget to accommodate all young people wanting a job in the tribe's service area. This meant 72 percent of the total budget for the program was provided by tribal funds.

Another popular job training tool is the annual babysitters college. The Chickasaw Nation Behavioral Health Department hosted the babysitters college for youth ages 12 to 18 who were interested in safely and effectively caring for small children. The program expanded this year to include colleges in Ada and Purcell. Twenty-eight teenagers graduated from the program.

### **School to Work Program**

In the fall of 2005, the Chickasaw Nation began a School to Work Program in the newly created landscaping department.

This program provides opportunities for citizens to pursue training from a technical school or a degree from a college or university while still maintaining full-time employment with benefits.

Participants apply for positions with the landscaping department and are interviewed and assessed. Each individual is issued a score based upon his/her assessment. As positions open, individuals are hired to fill spots based upon their eligibility score. Once hired, the individual becomes a full-time landscaping technician and begins working within the program.

Once in the program, technicians spend part of each day in the classroom at the school of their choice pursuing a trade or degree and the rest of the day working with the landscaping department. Throughout the program, technicians earn a full-time paycheck and credit toward their degree.



Jay Wisdom and Michael Markum work together installing a lawn drainage system at the Chickasaw Capitol grounds in Tishomingo.

can first obtain their high school diploma, if needed. In FY 2006, five participants received their GED.

Technician Ginger Sanders, a 32-year-old mother from Wynnewood, Oklahoma, majoring in pre-pharmacy at East Central University, said, “My children see me studying and it’s easier to get them to do so. My 10-year-old daughter is now talking about going to college and what she wants to major in. I feel my family is being drawn closer by this.”

Career counselors work with each technician to help complete enrollment paperwork, apply for financial aid, find child care, build an academic plan and prepare for entry into the workforce.

“This program has helped my family financially,” stated 36-year-old Jeremy Walsh. “It has provided us with living comforts that we wouldn’t normally have.”

Walsh is working to obtain his Heavy Equipment Operator certification from the Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada.

“The more knowledge you have the better you are. No one can take knowledge from you,” he added.

Currently both area programs in Ardmore and Ada have reached their 40-student capacity, but as technicians graduate and begin careers, spots will be filled with new applicants.

Applicants are not limited to only the Ada and Ardmore areas. Citizens from across the Chickasaw Nation can take part in the program. The department plans on expanding to other areas in the future.

Some of the department’s landscaping work can be seen at the Chickasaw Capitol Building in Tishomingo, at several senior sites and other new facilities across the Chickasaw Nation.

Four technician crews work creating and maintaining landscaping projects at tribal buildings and facilities, while the other four crews do lawn and yard maintenance for Chickasaw elders and disabled citizens at their private residences. The department



Joe Phillip plowing.  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Davis A. Homer Coll. 21744.4)

took care of nearly 150 Chickasaw elders' or disabled Chickasaw citizens' yards this past year. The yards were mowed, edged and trimmed once a week during the growing season.

Landscaping and lawn design is created by field manager Donny Rollings, who works with field coordinators and supervisors in both areas.

"They do an excellent job. The work improved my yard 100 percent," said Ada resident Doris Post oak,



Warren Alexander and Chris Henry work on the landscaping near the Council House Museum in Tishomingo.

who receives lawn care through the department. "Everyone says my yard looks real pretty. It gave my whole place a face lift."

### Career Development Initiative

The horticulture department/Career Development Initiative/REACH program has grown from 15 participants at the start of the year to more than 50. These individuals are given the opportunity to explore career choices and are encouraged to challenge

themselves. Each person develops an individualized plan for empowerment and personal growth. Progress through their plan is of equal, if not greater importance than their day-to-day performance.

The initiative had more than 20 graduates placed in equivalent or superior employment positions. While working with the initiative, participants found themselves serving on a variety of community service projects that range from building wheelchair ramps to landscaping facilities.

Through REACH, grant funding was provided for renovations on qualifying homes to reduce energy bills. In most cases this has involved little more than caulking and weather stripping, but occasionally more extensive work has been done. Participants have trained as roofers, plumbers, heating ventilators and cooling technicians. While the experience alone would make these jobs exceedingly valuable, the most rewarding part has been helping numerous Native American families.

The initiative expanded in the past year, adding offices in both Sulphur and Ardmore. These two new facilities have enabled the initiative to open the door to new participants. To date, well over 100 homes have been serviced under this program. Plans are in place to increase that number in 2007.



J. Hamp Willis, an Indian policeman 1896-1905  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Lynn Rogers Coll. 20364.2R)

## Chickasaw census

### Historic Chickasaw census completed

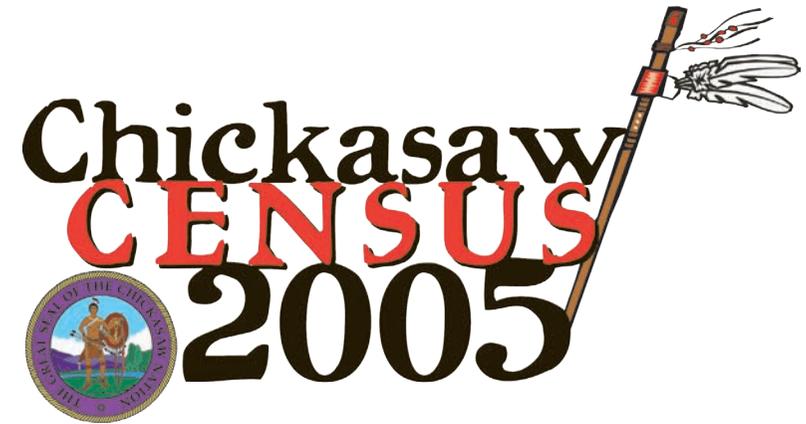
A historic census of Chickasaws conducted by the Chickasaw Nation was completed this year.

While there have been a number of census counts taken of Chickasaw citizens, most of those have been conducted by outside entities in relation to treaties or other dealings with the federal government.

This census, which was the first compiled by the Chickasaw Nation in recent history, was devised and conducted to provide information which will assist



Chickasaw courthouse and grounds on election day.  
Photo courtesy Research Division Oklahoma Historical Society  
(Sybil Rector Coll. 12778)



tribal leaders in developing programs and services to meet the needs of Chickasaws.

Census workers strove to create a census form which would be easy to complete and still provide much-needed information about Chickasaw citizens of all ages.

Census forms were mailed Sept. 20, 2005, to all Chickasaw citizens currently listed on the CDIB database.

Special incentives, including commemorative items and cash prizes, were offered to everyone who completed a form.

Everyone who completed a census form received a sports tote with the census logo, while those who completed the census at the annual meeting also received a special commemorative t-shirt.

A limited number of commemorative pens bearing the Chickasaw seal were offered to encourage respondents to return forms promptly.



Chickasaw elders Jeannie Copeland and Pauline Brown draw names of census winners from a hopper.

Each individual who completed a census form was entered in a special drawing for cash prizes. The drawing was conducted at the Chickasaw Foundation in Ada Dec. 21, 2005.

Donella Griffith of Cleveland, Oklahoma won the top prize of \$5,000. Richard Kelton, Denton, Texas and Terry Miller, Holliday, Texas each won \$2,500. Linda Donham, Safford, Arizona; Mary Gibson, Ada, Oklahoma; Katherine Rockenfield, Tuttle, Oklahoma; Teresa Bolen, Ardmore, Oklahoma and Sheila Blankenship, Berryville, Arkansas each won \$1,000.



Brianna Smith and Terah Keith enter Chickasaw Census 2005 information into the database.

Ten additional winners each claimed a \$500 cash prize, while 20 won \$250.

Winners from seven states claimed cash prizes, including California, Nevada, Washington, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas.

The intent of the census is to collect data to provide information tribal leaders need to anticipate growth and changes in population so they will be better able to develop programs and services to meet the needs of Chickasaws.

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