

Community centers  
Chickasaw Head Start  
Lighthouse Police  
The Chickasaw Press  
Chickasaw Dance Troupe  
Senior sites  
Services@Large  
Chickasaw Annual Meeting

# *the Chickasaw Nation* **Progress Report**

health clinics  
Chickasaw Outpost

# 2007

stickball tournaments  
Chickasaw Princess  
Get Fresh!  
Chuka Chukmasi  
the Chickasaw Times  
Chickasaw Hall of Fame  
Council House Museum  
Chickasaw Cultural Center  
Chickasaw Historic Capitol  
Kullihoma  
Tishomingo  
Wellness Centers  
Chickasaw White House



UNITED WE THRIVE

Greetings from the great “unconquered and unconquerable” Chickasaw Nation. There are many accomplishments to celebrate as we look back on 2007. One hundred years after statehood, an event many thought would sound the death knell for our nation, we are stronger than ever.

As we reflect on our current success, it is important to understand and appreciate that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. We will continue to succeed as long as we continue to honor the Chickasaw tradition and culture which brings us together as a people, while at the same time looking forward and preparing for the future.

Many of our accomplishments in 2007 mark continued growth in our effort to preserve and promote our culture and heritage.

Expansion of the division of heritage preservation brought the creation of two new divisions – the division of culture and the division of history, research and scholarship. With these divisions working alongside the division of arts and humanities, the preservation and promotion of Chickasaw heritage continues to be a valuable focus.

A commitment to our youth is also an important part of our culture. This year more than \$7 million was distributed in the form of scholarships and grants. We also took a group of students to space school at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

We provide numerous services and opportunities for our seniors. Nutrition centers, assisted living, utility assistance, housekeeping, home repair, lawn care services, fellowship and fun are available for our treasured elders.

A strong sense of community is important to Chickasaws. Newly constructed community centers that opened in Ada and Marshall County provide first-class gathering places for Chickasaw families and friends.

That sense of community is important in our decision-making process as well. We work steadily to ensure Chickasaw people feel confident in the decisions we make as a nation.

The newly created division of policies and standards works diligently to make sure we have proper decision-making guidelines and procedures in place. By maintaining these guidelines and procedures we are able to continue to increase the degree of accountability for proper management of our resources.

There are numerous programs and services throughout this report which have been created to enhance the lives of Chickasaw people. More information can be found by visiting [www.chickasaw.net](http://www.chickasaw.net) or by calling (866) 466-1481.

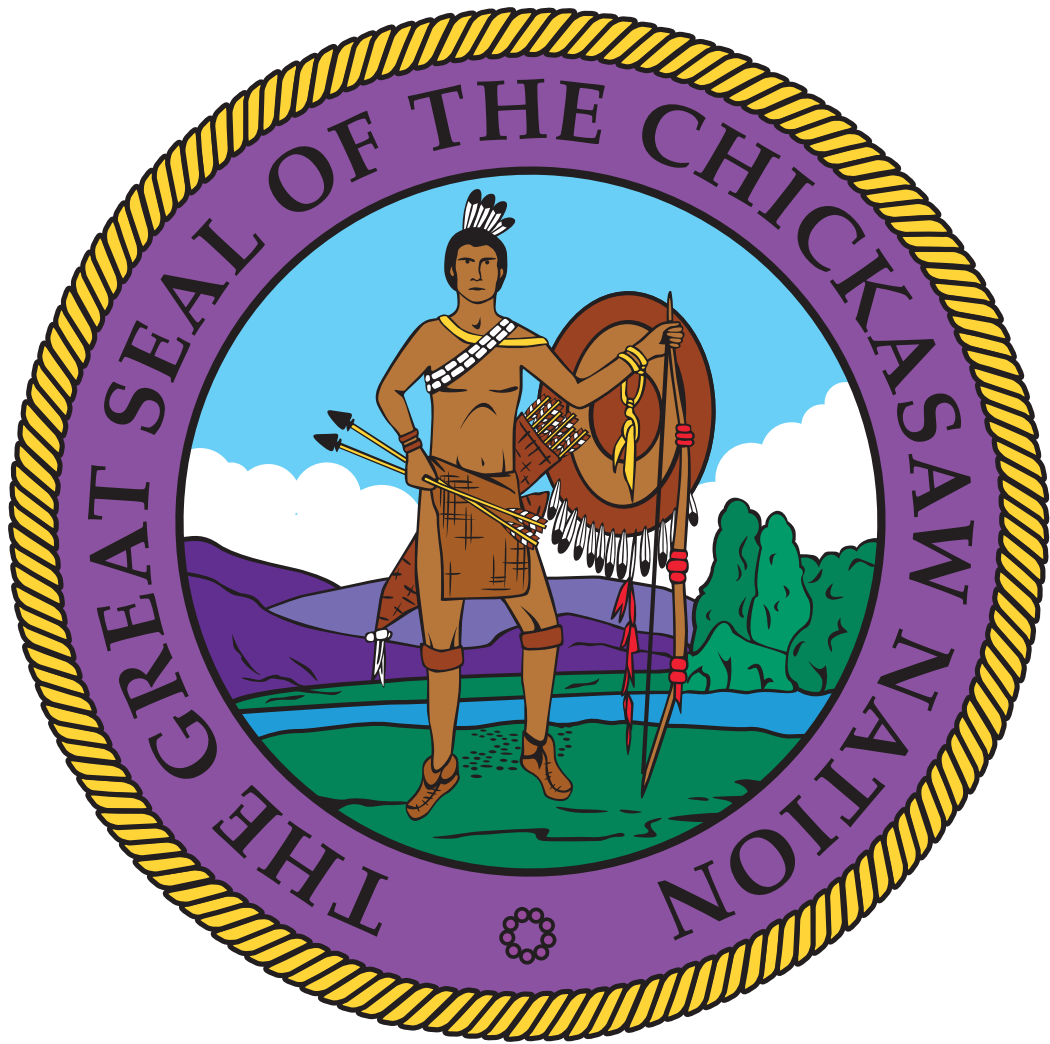
It is the continued success of tribal businesses that allows us to provide the services, programs, cultural activities, historic preservation and revitalization efforts discussed in the following pages. As you read about them, remember it is the perseverance and dedication of all Chickasaw people that has brought us the success we celebrate today.

Sincerely,



Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation





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# Executive Leadership



1) **Bill Anoatubby**  
Governor

2) **Brian Campbell**  
Brian Campbell, division of commerce administrator, oversees numerous business operations of the tribe. The revenue generated by these operations serves as a supplement for many programs and services offered by the Chickasaw Nation.

3) **Robyn Elliott**  
Robyn Elliott serves as the administrator for the division of communications. This division works to promote cultural pride among Chickasaw people by sharing timely and important information with citizens, employees and the world.

4) **Ross Hill**  
Ross Hill is the chief executive officer of Bank2, a subsidiary of the Chickasaw Nation owned by Chickasaw Banc Holding Company.

5) **Bill Lance**  
Serving as the administrator for the Chickasaw Nation Health System, Bill Lance is responsible for all health services operated by the tribe. These services include the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility, food distribution centers, wellness centers and area health clinics.

6) **Kelley Lunsford**  
Kelley Lunsford, administrator for the division of culture, oversees the preservation and development of cultural opportunities for the Chickasaw Nation.

7) **Kirk Perry**  
Kirk Perry is the administrator of the newly created division of policies and standards. This division ensures the tribe has the proper procedures and policies in place to maintain a good infrastructure, an increased degree of accountability and proper management of resources.

8) **Tom John**  
Tom John, administrator for the division of self governance, negotiates the tribal operation of federal programs. He also oversees the Lighthouse Police Department and the evaluation of federal legislation, regulations and policies that impact the tribe.

9) **Lona Barrick**  
Lona Barrick is the administrator for the division of arts and humanities. Her focus is to provide individual artistic development for citizens of the tribe with opportunities in arts education, performing arts, visual arts and literary arts programs.

10) **Deryl Wright**  
Deryl Wright serves as the president & CEO of Chickasaw Nation Industries (CNI). CNI was created for the purpose of promoting the economic development and long-term financial viability of the Chickasaw Nation.

11) **Lisa John**  
As the administrator for the division of education, Lisa John oversees educational opportunities for Chickasaws of all ages. Programs and services offered through this

division provide support and guidance to Chickasaws throughout their academic endeavors.

**12) Ken Ross**

Ken Ross is the chief executive officer for Solara Healthcare. Solara Healthcare is a tribal business that provides long-term acute care for hospital patients.

**13) Jay Keel**

Jay Keel is the administrator for the division of youth and family services, which provides programs and services designed to benefit and contribute to the overall well-being of Chickasaw youth and families.

**14) Wayne Scribner**

Working to provide Chickasaw people with the best housing possible is the main focus for Wayne Scribner, administrator of the division of housing and tribal development. He also monitors the planning and construction of tribal facilities.

**15) Deanna Hartley-Kelso**

Deanna Hartley-Kelso, administrator for the division of justice and attorney general, provides guidance and legal services to the executive branch and all of the departments contained therein.

**16) Jalinda Kelley**

Jalinda Kelley is the administrator for the division of administrative services, which oversees the operations of internal support for the organization.

**17) Jefferson Keel**  
Lieutenant Governor

**18) Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham**

Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham is the administrator of the newly created division of history, research and scholarship. This division collects historical documents, genealogical records and oral histories and preserves them for future generations.

**19) Neal McCaleb**

Neal McCaleb serves as a special advisor to Governor Anoatubby on economic and transportation policies.

**20) Pat Woods**

As the administrator for the division of program operations, Pat Woods provides resources that improve the quality of life and number of opportunities for Chickasaw people.

**21) Karen Cook**

As the administrator for the division on aging, Karen Cook is responsible for the senior nutrition sites along with various programs and services designed to assist and improve the lives of Chickasaw seniors.

**22) Stanley Foster**

Stanley Foster, administrator for the division of facilities and support, oversees and monitors Chickasaw Nation properties and the tribe's school-to-work landscaping program.

**23) Jenny Trett**

As the chief financial administrator, Jenny Trett is responsible for the oversight of the financial affairs of the Chickasaw Nation.



# Chickasaw Gatherings 2007

In 2007, Chickasaw Nation tribal representatives traveled to eight cities across the United States to meet and greet hundreds of Chickasaw citizens at a series of meetings called Chickasaw Gatherings. These special meetings enabled tribal staff to speak with citizens, answer questions, gain valuable feedback and provide information about available programs and services.

The tour of cities included Phoenix, Arizona; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Ardmore, Oklahoma; Fairfield, California; Pasadena, California; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Denver, Colorado and Dallas, Texas.

“We were happy with the turnout at each location,” said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, who also attended the meetings. “We were able to reconnect with friends we had not seen in quite some time and meet many new friends as well.”



Geneva Stapler of Littleton, Colorado receives information from division on aging administrator Karen Cook at the Chickasaw Gathering in Denver.

At each meeting, participants were able to gather information and speak to representatives from the housing, health, aging and education divisions. In addition, new citizenship applications were filed during the meetings as several citizens took the opportunity to enroll their children and relatives.



Chickasaw Nation administrators Jay Keel and Lona Barrick visit with Gloria Trujillo at the Chickasaw Gathering in Fairfield, California.

Chickasaw citizen Ruth Baker, from Valencia, California, attended the meeting in Pasadena with her husband, Dave. They learned about new programs that were useful to not only them, but future generations of their family as well. “We have grandchildren in college,” Mrs. Baker stated, “so there were a lot of education programs we will take back to them. We picked up the paperwork for them.”

In addition to providing valuable information on programs and services offered to citizens, the health services staff was on hand to provide health screenings for citizens in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles. Blood sugar and

blood pressure readings were taken as a part of a diabetes prevention and awareness program. Educational information on diabetes prevention and healthy living was also offered to citizens. To be proactive in the fight against diabetes, information was given about local diabetic health care clinics in each location so citizens with risk factors could follow up with a local physician.



Governor Anotubby visits with citizens at the Chickasaw Gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Citizens also enjoyed Chickasaw tradition and culture shared at the meetings through language presentations with fluent speaker JoAnn Ellis and traditional storytelling sessions by Lorie Robins.

Many citizens expressed interest in learning the language and teaching it to their children. Language flash cards and DVDs were handed out to provide citizens with the opportunity to practice and share the information with their families.

Along with tradition and culture, fellowship was also a cornerstone of each meeting. Vadare Cornelison, a citizen from Albuquerque, said she truly enjoyed the meeting and was happy to see that so many Chickasaws lived in her area. She even spoke

with a tribal representative about starting a local group to get together on a regular basis. "I would really like the opportunity to meet with other Chickasaws and get to know everyone in this area," she said.

All eight meetings proved to be successful and plans are underway to host additional Chickasaw Gatherings in 2008.

"These gatherings are important for staying in contact with Chickasaws living across the United States," Governor Anotubby said. "There are new, valuable programs being developed and we want everyone to have the opportunity to learn more about them."



Governor Anotubby chats with a family at the Chickasaw Gathering in Pasadena, California.



# Children & Youth

*“Our motto was ‘to speak without thinking is to shoot without aiming.’”*

*Katie Mitchell*

The Chickasaw Nation offers many programs designed to enhance the quality of life for Chickasaw students and give them the opportunity to develop healthy and balanced lives. Several programs are offered to allow Chickasaw youth to hone new skills, develop healthy habits and delve into their native culture.

## **Camps**

Chickasaw Nation camps focus on culture, leadership, athletics, arts and education, and are provided at no cost to Chickasaw youth. More than 1,400 youth attended 18 camps and clinics offered in FY 2007. The exemplary camps were made possible through funds provided by tribal businesses.

More than 125 Chickasaw youth participated in the 2007 golf camp, conducted at the new WinStar Golf Course in Thackerville, Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation Junior Golf Program was honored by the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) “Growth of the Game” grant.

Over 100 Chickasaw boys participated in Chickasaw Nation Champions Football Camp. The students were instructed by some of the top players in the country, with former University of Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel leading the pack.

The first-ever archery camp was conducted in FY 2007. Thirty Chickasaw students learned about the sport of archery from master archers.

More than a dozen Chickasaw students from across the state received instruction on gun safety and target shooting techniques from Olympic gold medalist Matt Emmons and silver medalist Bob Foth at an inaugural gun violence prevention clinic in Ada.

Almost 90 Chickasaw female athletes participated in a two-day softball camp in July. The camp was conducted by members of the University of Oklahoma softball team.

A second location was added to basketball camp in 2007. The additional location allowed more than 170 Chickasaw youth to participate in the popular camp in Ada and Ardmore. University of Oklahoma women’s standout players Courtney Paris, Ashley Paris and Jenna Plumley helped instruct the camp along with OU men’s standouts Longar Longar and David Godbold.

In an effort to promote healthy lifestyles, the Chickasaw Nation hosts Camp Survivor each summer. In 2007, 111



Camp Survivor participants incorporate culture and exercise into a game of stickball.

campers from across Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico gathered at Camp Classen in Davis. Camp Survivor was created to promote a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and exercise in a fun and positive atmosphere. When asked what they learned during camp, some of the responses included: “Chickasaw culture,” “how to be a team and be friends,” “how to keep my body healthy” and “being a survivor.”

### *Academies*

Along with excellent sports and health camps offered, the tribe also provides camps and academies that enhance other skills in youth including leadership, arts and sciences.

Twenty-two Chickasaw students took part in the world-renowned Space School at Space Center Houston in the summer of 2007. The students toured the Johnson Space Center and met Gene Cernan, Alan Bean and John Young - three Apollo astronauts who have walked on the moon. Select students from around the world attend Space School to receive an introduction to activities supporting manned space flight operations. This was the first group of students from the U.S. to attend Space School in more than three years and the first group of all Native American students to ever attend the school.



Chickasaw students learn about exciting science and technology career opportunities at Space School in Houston, Texas.

Another highlight of Space School was the opportunity for students to witness behind the scenes activities surrounding an actual space shuttle launch. The group toured the historic mission control center used when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. They also watched astronauts in underwater training for spacewalks in the neutral buoyancy laboratory.

Space School centers on a mock mission to Mars, giving students the opportunity to work as a team to plan, budget and design a rocket, rover, landing and lofting device needed for a successful mission. Katie Mitchell, a senior at Ringling High School, was selected as her team’s systems manager. Her group was ultimately awarded the honor as “best overall team.” She said that she tried to help her team communicate more effectively, because the projects required each team member to know their specific role. “The main key was communication,” she said. “Our motto was ‘to speak without thinking is to shoot without aiming.’”

The Space School activities were part of an expansion of the Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy which also took place in the summer. More than two dozen Chickasaw youth spent a week learning about aviation and space during the fifth annual Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA), conducted in Ada.

The world-class space camp introduces students to careers in aviation and science and allows them to participate in activities such as robot building and operating a flight simulator. Their week was capped off by an airplane ride over the skies of Ada and instruction from a NASA aerospace engineer.

# Children & Youth

*“By coming to the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, I’ve taken the first step to succeeding in my dreams of becoming an artist.”*

*Betsy Barbour*

The Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy (CSAA) was up from 53 students in 2006 to more than 100 in 2007. A Fine Arts Rotation was added to serve more students. The two-week academy is conducted at East Central University in Ada, and draws young artists from around the country.

This academy provides intense, detailed and culturally sensitive instruction from professionals in several art disciplines including music composition, literary arts, visual arts, video production, vocal music, dance and drama.

Betsy Barbour said of her experience, “By coming to the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, I’ve taken the first step to succeeding in my dreams of becoming an artist.”

## ***Leadership Opportunities***

The Chickasaw Nation offers leadership skill building opportunities to future generations of Chickasaw children so they may become the leaders of tomorrow.

Thirty-two Chickasaw students participated in the 2007 Pehlichikbi Leadership Camp hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth and Family and vocational rehabilitation department. Campers learned about a wide range of leadership skills such as budget planning, job training and nutrition while enjoying fun camp activities like karaoke, a scavenger hunt and competitive games.

Many potential future tribal leaders participate in the Chickasaw Nation District Youth Councils. The group’s purpose is to conduct business during monthly meetings for their respective districts similar to the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature. Council members are elected by their peers. Then 13 officers are elected from the district councils to make up the Chickasaw Nation Executive Youth Council. Both the district youth councils and the executive youth council function according to bylaws written by their peers during past terms.

## ***Diverse Youth Programs***

Other valuable youth programs are offered year-round and give Chickasaw children the opportunity to learn more about their tribe, their heritage and themselves.

The Chickasaw Princess Program is one example. The

Chickasaw princesses travel across the United States acting as ambassadors of friendship and good will to bring honor and pride to the Chickasaw



The 2006-2007 Chickasaw Princesses were Monica Seawright, Nacobi Walker and Caitlynn Sparlin.

Nation. The princesses took part in several events during the past year including the Grand Entry at the Boys and Girls Club of America's 2007 Native American Summit in Hollywood, Florida, and the annual Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City.

The three princesses also participated in more than 25 Chickasaw Nation events and were the special guests at the Miss Cherokee Leadership, the Miss Choctaw and the Miss Seminole Nation princess pageants.

The Chickasaw Children's Choir provides youth the opportunity to learn vocalization techniques, be taught songs in the Chickasaw language and make new friends while performing at various events across the state. In 2007, more Chickasaw youth were able to participate in the choir after an additional practice site in Sulphur was added to the already existing sites in Ada, Ardmore, Purcell and Tishomingo. The choir recorded its first video DVD of the original song, "Bridge Builders," written by staff members. The song was recorded at the Chickasaw Nation's multimedia studio in Ada.



Martial arts allows children to be physically active while learning important values including respect and discipline.

Last year, thousands of youth took part in the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program instructed by Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts director Matt Clark, a United States Martial Arts Association National Hall of Fame member and the 2005 Oklahoma Master Instructor of the Year.

As director of the Martial Arts Program, Mr. Clark oversees classes in five towns across the Chickasaw Nation. The program has grown exponentially over the past few years and includes youth as young as three years old.

The Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club is another of the many programs with the mission to promote and enhance the character development of all boys and girls. The club offers a variety of life-enhancing programs that help young people develop socially, emotionally, culturally, physically and educationally. During FY 2007, the Boys and Girls Club was awarded a Quickball grant from the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. The Chickasaw Nation also partnered with Sulphur Public Schools to open a Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Club in the school's new building. Other Chickasaw Nation Boys and Girls Clubs are located in Chickasha and Tishomingo.

# Education

*“Thank you so much for the clothing grant. It is appreciated and much-needed.”*

*Ms. Lynn Dorrrough*

From grants and scholarships to childhood development, the Chickasaw Nation strives to provide the best educational opportunities available to all Chickasaw people.

## ***Childhood Education***

Learning basic educational fundamentals at an early age is important in the initial developmental stages of childhood. The Chickasaw Nation continues to advance in providing the highest standards of care and learning for Chickasaw children.

Reading is a key component of childhood education. The Chickasaw Nation reading program was developed to provide books to Chickasaw children, encouraging parents to read to their children. In this program, Chickasaw children ages zero to five years receive one book per month until the age of five.

Three-year-old Skylar Idell and parents Michael and Kimberly Idell of Fort Worth, Texas, were first-year members of the Chickasaw reading program and look forward to receiving their book each month.

“The reading program is a great opportunity for children to receive a book of their own each month in the mail,” said Mrs. Idell. “After we read the book to Skylar, she has her brothers read the book to her too, so the whole family benefits from the program.”

In addition, the Reading Is Fundamental program grant was awarded, resulting in 1,044 books distributed to 256 Head Start students. Twice Upon a Time, a two-week reading challenge, was successful with 588 participants reading 3,766 books.

The High Reach curriculum used in the Head Start program is now available to Chickasaw children ages three to five years who are home schooled or do not have a preschool program in the area they live. The curriculum is sent to Chickasaw children until the child reaches the age of five.

Another part of childhood education is the Chickasaw Children’s Village. The Chickasaw Children’s Village is an academic residential facility for Native American students in 1st through the 12th grades, located near Lake Texoma in Kingston, Oklahoma. The village includes eight cottages, each housing eight students and one set of married house parents.

Residents of the Chickasaw Children’s Village earned a 3.03 grade point average by the end of the 2006-2007 school year and seven graduating seniors from the Chickasaw Children’s Village received college assistance funding, ranging from \$4,000 up to \$32,000.



Chickasaw Nation Head Start students listen intently to one of many fun learning projects they participate in each day.

A school clothing grant was offered for the second consecutive year. This year, more than 5,000 children and youth received \$200 to purchase clothing for the new school year. More than \$1 million was used to allow these children to “dress for success.”

Lynn Dorrrough, from Banning, California, was grateful for the clothing grants her two boys, Shawn and Ryan, received for the 2007-08 school year. “Thank you so much for the clothing grant. It is appreciated and much-needed,” Ms. Dorrrough said.

Construction began on the Chickasaw Nation’s Sick Child Care Center in June 2007. The center is designed for mildly-ill children to receive care while parents remain at work. It is the first child care center in Oklahoma designed to care for mildly sick children who, under state guidelines, would otherwise have to go home.

“The Chickasaw Nation is setting a precedent,” said Lisa Blackmon-Hansard, the tribal program specialist for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. “There is nothing like it in the state.”

### ***Arts Education***

The tribe’s After School Arts program expanded in 2007 to include Ada, Ardmore and Purcell, and four mini-festivals were completed at schools in Blanchard, Calvin, Maysville and Pauls Valley. Direct on-site art service was also available to schools expanding beyond the Chickasaw Nation to Pottsboro, Texas. With Chickasaw citizen and teacher Nila West, the new class was formed by request with several Chickasaw students in attendance.



Governor Bill Anoatubby and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel awarded Head Start graduation certificates to nearly 200 students in 2007.

The festivals and on-site teacher workshops, along with direct service to students in public schools throughout the Chickasaw Nation, enabled the arts and humanities division to share Chickasaw culture and art with more than 30 schools.

Several students entered competitive arts shows and Courtney Parchcorn, a Byng High School junior, placed Best in Show for the second consecutive year at the Red Earth Art and Cultural Festival in Oklahoma City.

Donna Manning’s 13-year-old daughter Addison nurtured her artistic ability through the After School Arts program.

“It opened up a great door for her. We are just thrilled to be a part of the arts program,” said Ms. Manning.

Aside from the After School Arts program, a writing contest was created for youth and young adults. The 2007 theme was “100 Years of Chickasaw History,” to coincide with the centennial celebration of the state of Oklahoma.

*“I encourage all Native American students from across the country to apply for an internship. It is a great experience.”*

*Heath Clayton*

# Education

## ***Honoring Achievement***

The Chickasaw Nation continues to encourage educational excellence for Chickasaw students by honoring their achievements.

In 2007, the education division declared 103 Student of the Month winners, awarding trophies and gift cards to recipients.

New programs were developed to recognize students going above and beyond. A Perfect Attendance program was implemented awarding 1,227 Chickasaw students with a Chickasaw Honor Club certificate and a gift card. An Outstanding Achievement award was also created and awarded 18 Chickasaw students with a gift card and an engraved plaque for achieving educational accomplishments from academics to athletics.

Through the grade incentive portion of the Chickasaw Honor Club, 9,327 gift cards and certificates have been awarded. Of these awards, 3,808 were Chickasaw students and 5,519 were of Native American descent. More than 1,400 awards were also distributed by this program to Chickasaw students who live at-large.

## ***Higher Education***

Achieving higher education goals is important to the Chickasaw Nation and obtaining those goals can be rewarding. During the 2007 fiscal year, the division of education awarded 7,645 grants and scholarships providing more than \$7.2 million through higher education initiatives.

Several new higher education programs were implemented including the new laptop scholarship. The laptop scholarship is available to students enrolled full-time at an accredited institution for higher education with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. In FY 2007, 334 received the scholarship.

Through other educational programs implemented in FY 2007, such as graduation assistance programs and degree completion incentives, more than 400 students were recognized for achieving higher education accomplishments.

One of the more rewarding programs offered through the tribe is the internship program. This program provides students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the professional world. The division of education placed a select group of 11 Chickasaw students with



Chickasaw college students are able to participate in the Chickasaw Nation Internship Program which partners with government and business leaders across the U.S. to provide exclusive educational opportunities to the students.

internships during 2007. Through contacts made during the internship program, two interns were offered full-time positions in Washington, D.C.

Exploring Chickasaw culture, the Chickasaw Clemente Humanities course was expanded to the campus of Murray State College in Tishomingo. The course has been offered at East Central University for three years. In this course, students gain an increased awareness of Chickasaw history, language and tradition and how it compares to western society.

### ***The Chickasaw Foundation***

The Chickasaw Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, was founded in 1971. The foundation is made possible by the generosity of donors, including individual supporters and Chickasaw Nation Employee Charitable Contribution Plan participants. 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 programs.



2007 Chickasaw Nation intern Heath Clayton gained valuable experience and leadership skills while interning in Washington, D.C.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, five new scholarships were added to the Chickasaw Foundation's list of 37 this year. The Chickasaw Children's Village Scholarship, Ataloo Memorial Scholarship, Janie Hardwick Benson Memorial Scholarship, Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship and the Mooniene Ogee Memorial Scholarship.

"The Chickasaw Foundation allowed me to remember and honor my grandmother. She was an original enrollee who influenced my life. They (the Chickasaw Foundation) helped me to demonstrate to my children how much she meant to me. The scholarship will allow her name to live on," said Dr. Jo Benson Sears.

### ***Adult Learning***

The Chickasaw Nation understands the importance of continuing education for securing careers and creating financial stability. The Adult Learning program has been successful with the implementation of the GED Fast Track Internet-based program for Chickasaw adults.

Thirty-four year old Chickasaw citizen Teresa Velazquez, a 2007 GED program graduate from Austin, was excited to learn about the Chickasaw Nation GED at-large program.

"After completing the GED program, I have enrolled in classes at Austin Community College to become a registered nurse," said Ms. Velazquez. "I have always dreamed of becoming a nurse and with the Chickasaw Nation GED program I am able to make my dreams come true."

Along with improving GED efforts, emphasis on improving the adult basic education curriculum was on the task list. New adult basic education resources were reviewed to ensure proper curriculum is being used to reach the highest standards of reading and vocabulary levels for GED preparation.



# Education

*"I have always dreamed of becoming a nurse and with the Chickasaw Nation GED program I am able to make my dreams come true."*

*Ms. Teresa Velazquez*

The Adult Learning program also received a \$15,000 literacy grant through the Dollar General Corporation for the purchase of ReadOn, a reading intervention software program for adult learners. ReadOn is a fully-automated reading system that begins the adult learner at the appropriate reading level based on automated individual screening and placement testing. This software has been a great tool in preparing adults for GED testing.

Through Career and Technology Training Development, new programs and grants were provided including a cost of living grant, the Technical Supplies Assistance program and the License and Certification Assistance program. The tribal vo-tech program is available to part-time and full-time Chickasaw students interested in attending a state or nationally accredited vocational facility. Tribal vo-tech grants have been awarded to 237 students totaling \$339,475 in tuition, fees and books for Chickasaw citizens.

The Adult Learning program continues to meet the educational needs of all adults, including elders. Eleven senior sites were utilized in educating Chickasaw elders on computer use in FY 2007. A new plan of computer instruction is underway to incorporate quarterly projects completed by elders enrolled in the elder education program to be presented at the annual elder conference.

## ***School-To-Work Program***

The Chickasaw Nation's School-to-Work Landscaping program continued to grow in participants and successes. In FY 2007, the program operated at its maximum capacity of 80 students. Four students graduated or received certification. One student received his journeyman's license in plumbing and another received his welding certificate. Two others graduated from college and received degrees in education and law enforcement. Ten students received their GED and are now attending college or vo-tech. Five more students will receive their college degree or technical certification in May 2008.

The school-to-work students received several awards and honors for their success in the classroom. Two students were named members of the National Technical Honor Society. Eleven students received laptops from the Chickasaw Nation Division of Education for a GPA of 3.0 or above. One student passed the class and obtained his CDL so he can complete his heavy equipment operator's course in 2008.



The Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work program empowers Chickasaw citizens to further their education and earn an income while obtaining their degree or certificate.

The landscaping portion of the program provided approximately 1,000 lawn care services per month - the highest being in August 2007 when the program provided lawn care service to 1,208 elder or disabled Chickasaw citizens. When time allows, the landscaping component also provides lawn care services to 30 churches and 20 cemeteries.

The department provides lawn service to 35 tribal buildings and has provided design and landscaping to 13 tribal facilities. The landscaping component also provided clean-up and landscaping to the historic homelands on the Cedarscape project in Tupelo, Mississippi.

### ***Vocational Rehabilitation***

In FY 2007, the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation program successfully served 600 Native Americans with disabilities. Of the 600 individuals served, approximately 47 percent were Chickasaw citizens.

The vocational rehabilitation program assisted three East Central University Chickasaw students with a worksite to complete a 30-hour work-study requirement for undergraduate coursework. In addition, the vocational rehabilitation office also provides internships with three certified rehabilitation counselors available to assist interns.

### ***Boarding School Reunion***

The Chickasaw Nation hosted a Boarding School Reunion in June to honor boarding school students and celebrate the survival of Chickasaw language and culture through the boarding school era.

Former boarding school students and relatives submitted photos and information about an era spanning more than a century and accounting experiences from at least eight schools. This memorabilia, along with many stories, was shared during the reunion at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center in Ada.

The oral histories and other information gathered at the reunion will help preserve the history of the boarding school experience for students, family members and future generations.



Chickasaw elders reminisce about their youth at the Boarding School Reunion.



Lois Anoatubby and fellow classmates enjoyed a walk down memory lane looking at old school photos.

# Education

## *Awards and Recognition*

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities received two prestigious honors at the Oklahoma Art Educators Association (OAEA) Fall Conference. Arts in Education manager Laura Stewart was named Supervisor/Administrator of the Year by the OAEA and the Chickasaw Nation received the Karen Kirkpatrick Youth Arts Month Award for Outstanding Organizational Support.

Chickasaw youth continue to set great examples across the state. Chickasaw athlete Sharayha (Shay) Buchanan was named State Olympian of the Year during the May 2007 Oklahoma Special Olympics. She was also awarded the Area Olympian of the Year at the Ada Special Olympics and Special Olympian of the Month by the Oklahoma State Lottery.

Thirteen-year-old Chickasaw pianist Zachary Star Garcia earned the National Federation of Music Club's 3rd Gold Cup. He has also won more than a dozen state, regional and national awards for his compositions and for his skills as a pianist, including two state awards for a composition created during the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy.



Accomplished Chickasaw pianist Zachary Star Garcia was one of many students who participated in the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy and gained valuable instruction and guidance from professionals in all areas of art.

Another Chickasaw student recognized for excellence was Benjamin J. Bigbie. He was named Outstanding Sophomore at the University of Oklahoma. This award recognizes excellence in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service to the university community, and is the highest honor bestowed to sophomores by the university community. Mr. Bigbie was also selected as a member of the Crimson Club, a prestigious student organization under the direction of the Office of the President.

# Development

With successes from tribal businesses, growth and expansion have been made possible across the Chickasaw Nation. FY 2007 was no exception. Chickasaw Nation Tribal Development completed seven commercial projects that totaled more than \$13 million. Nine projects are under construction with contracts in place totaling more than \$18.5 million.

## Projects Completed in FY 2007

- Pharmacy Refill Center in Ada
- Tishomingo Senior Site Addition
- Tishomingo Wellness Center
- Community Center in Marshall County
- Community Center in Ada
- Housing Administration and Maintenance Buildings
- Grading and Site plan development for judicial and legislative project

## Facilities Under Construction

- Chickasaw Nation Health Center
- Sick Child Care Center
- Government Services Building
- Douglas H. Johnston Education Building
- Duncan Senior Site
- McSwain Theatre Renovations
- Human Resources Remodel Phase II
- Art and Humanities Phase I
- Chickasaw White House Facilities
- Chickasaw Cultural Center



The Chickasaw Community Center in Marshall County provides Chickasaw families a place for events, meetings and fellowship.



The Tishomingo Wellness Center offers participants many avenues to exercise including: free weights, cardio equipment, aerobics and strength training. A pool will also be added adjacent to the wellness center in the near future.



The Pharmacy Refill Center offers state-of-the-art automated equipment and three drive-thru lanes for convenience and a more efficient overall pharmacy service to patients.

# Health and Wellness

*“Our partnership with Dean McGee has provided the Chickasaw Nation with the most advanced eye treatment and technologies which greatly benefit eye care for our patients. Together we have brought cutting edge metropolitan eye care to our patients.”*

*Bill Lance*

The Chickasaw Nation Health System (CNHS) provides Native Americans with health services that promote healing and wellness. CNHS has continued to increase and expand services provided to all citizens.

In the last fiscal year, CNHS had more than 350,000 patient visits. The dental clinic had 14,880 visits and there were more than 8,000 visits at the optometry clinics. The number of births at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility (CAIHF) has increased in the last year. In 2007, there were 614 babies delivered at the facility- more than a 40 percent increase since 2006.

The wellness centers in Ada, Ardmore and Tishomingo also saw great success in 2007. Combined, the facilities had more than 75,500 participant visits.

## ***New Programs and Services***

The Chickasaw Nation Pharmacy Refill Center opened in January 2007. This facility features the latest in robotics for safe and efficient prescription refills. The pharmacy refill center is expected to fill more than 550,000 prescriptions per year. Technology at the center allows pharmacists to spend more time with patients providing valuable education and counseling.

Diabetes is one of the most serious health challenges facing Native Americans. One important component of the Chickasaw Nation’s proactive approach to health care is prevention. The Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Care Center hosted a Power of Prevention Health Fair in April 2007. Participants were screened for blood sugar, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) and the American Diabetes Association risk test. Diabetes Care Center staff offered counseling based on the results.

In an effort to provide education and promote healthy lifestyle changes in individuals affected by diabetes, the Chickasaw Nation hosted Diabetes Camp in May 2007. There were 38 campers in attendance. Throughout the week, campers participated in many activities aimed at educating them about diabetes.

Campers’ blood sugar was checked at regular intervals each day and attendees were served healthy meals throughout the week. Campers also had the opportunity to participate in many different exercise activities and education workshops. Shelly Garcia from Wynnewood learned information at this year’s camp that will hopefully help future generations of her family. She learned how “to prevent my kids from becoming diabetic, to eat right and to get help when you need it- before it goes too far.”



Shon McCage educates participants on healthy food choices and portion sizes at Diabetes Camp.

The Chickasaw Nation partnered with the Pontotoc County Oklahoma Department of Human Services to host the annual Children's Fair. Approximately 2,100 people attended the event that helps to celebrate the Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. "We hope that this event will help foster the importance of safety, health, education and overall wellness for our children," said Governor Bill Anoatubby.

The Chickasaw Nation sponsored three Move It! Family Fun Walks during the month of May. Combined, over 400 people participated in the family-oriented events. The events were conducted in Purcell, Ardmore and Ada. Move It! is the National Diabetes Education Program's campaign to help increase physical activity and combat diabetes.



Diet and exercise are key factors in eliminating and reducing the risk of diabetes. In an effort to combat the disease, participants of all ages took part in the Move It! Family Fun walks.

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services administers the Chickasaw Nation Summer Food Program to ensure that youth involved in many Chickasaw Nation programs receive healthy meals and snacks. This program served more than 9,700 meals and snacks during June and July at Tishomingo and Chickasha Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth and Family Services Summer Camps and at the Upward Bound Program at Murray State College.

The Chickasaw Health Information Center (CHIC) opened in June. The CHIC is a collaborative effort between the Chickasaw Nation Health System, the National Library of Medicine and Computercraft to provide an online consumer health information center where patients can access health care information relating to specific conditions.

The Tishomingo Wellness Center opened in July. The facility provides education, mentoring, monitoring, incentives and access to activities that promote exercise, nutrition and overall improved health. By providing access to equipment and services offered at the three wellness centers in Ada, Ardmore and now Tishomingo, the Chickasaw Nation hopes to help build healthier communities and reduce the health disparities faced by many Native Americans today.

Through partnerships and expansion of current services, optometry related services are on the forefront of technology and reaching more patients than ever before. Optometry services have been added to the Purcell Health Clinic. Dr. John Garber and Dr. Stephen Fransen have combined forces to combat visual impairments in CNHS patients. Through a partnership with the Dean McGee Eye Institute, the Chickasaw Nation offers patients state-of-the-art treatment involving telemedicine and the use of lasers, and most recently vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) injections. "Our partnership with Dean McGee has provided the Chickasaw Nation with the most advanced eye treatment and technologies which greatly benefit eye care for our patients. Together we have brought cutting edge metropolitan eye care to our patients," said Bill Lance, Chickasaw Nation Health System administrator. All maintenance and updating of equipment is done by the Dean McGee Eye Institute, which reduces the burden on federally funded facilities like CNHS.

CNHS also signed a historic contract with the new Oklahoma Cancer Center. The Chickasaw Nation was the first tribe to sign a contract with the new facility. The

# Health and Wellness

cancer center will provide patients with access to the highest level of professional staff and will provide access for patients to participate in clinical research trials.

Citizens living at-large also have health services available including: eyeglasses program, health savings account, Medicare Part D prescription plan and prescription mail order program. The health savings account gives tribal citizens control of when and where health care services are obtained. Citizens 65 and older are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to \$100 of approved health care expenses per month. More than \$106,000 was reimbursed through the health savings account program in FY 2007. The prescription mail order program is also popular among tribal citizens. This program includes benefits for youth, disabled citizens and elders to allow prescription submission from the citizen's provider.

## *The New Hospital*

Chickasaw citizens have repeatedly cited health care as the number one priority among tribal services. Actions are being taken to ensure those priorities are met.

In December 2003, the CNHS leadership council met with consultants to begin the process of addressing space constraints within the Ada campus. In June 2005, Governor Bill Anoatubby commissioned an architectural study to plan a remodel of the existing facility and compare that to construction of a new facility at a different site. In August 2005, the results of this study were presented and plans to build a replacement facility were started. Construction on the new hospital began in late 2007.

The current Carl Albert Indian Health Facility is 130,000 square feet. The new hospital will be nearly three times that size and will encompass 370,000 square feet. Currently, CAIHF has a 52-bed capacity, which will increase to 72 with the new hospital.



The centrally located Town Center will contain:

- A spacious three-story gathering place with welcome desk
- 24-hour cafeteria
- Space to highlight Chickasaw history and art
- Chickasaw Health Information Center with computer access to on-line and printed health information
- Chapel with attached healing garden
- Large gift shop for easy access

Upon completion, the new hospital will offer state-of-the-art technology and the highest quality patient care.

Construction of the new hospital will increase the number of doctors and nurses for many services, including: family practice, optometry, obstetrical and gynecological, dental and behavioral health. An imaging department will also be added that will include digital mammography, ultrasound, bone scan, CT scan and MRI. The new facility will also include a 24-hour cafeteria, chapel and attached healing garden and gift shop.

Creation of the new hospital will add approximately 300 new employment positions in the coming years, which will positively impact Chickasaw people and local economies.

The new facility will enable the tribe to provide the highest quality facilities, medical professionals and patient care far into the future.

### ***Awards, Recognitions and Honors***

Dr. Curtis Harris, Chickasaw Nation Health System chief of endocrinology and medical director of the Diabetes Care Center, was recently elected as a director on the Federation of State Medical Boards Board of Directors. Dr. Harris was elected to a two-year term by vote of the representatives of the 70 medical licensure boards in the United States and its protected territories. Dr. Harris also serves on the Oklahoma Medical Licensure Board. He was appointed to a seven-year term by Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry in 2005.

Chris Anoatubby, chief of pharmacy services for Chickasaw Nation Health Services, was awarded the 2007 Young Pharmacist of the Year Award during an Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service continuing education conference. Mr. Anoatubby was the only tribal employee to receive the honor.

Sarah Miracle, Chickasaw Nation Get Fresh! Program manager, was elected to serve as the Oklahoma delegate to the American Dietetic Association's (ADA) House of Delegates. The ADA has more than 67,000 members and is the nation's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Ms. Miracle is the only delegate from Oklahoma and was elected in a state-wide vote. As a delegate, she will serve for three years and will attend various meetings representing the state.

Melissa Vavricka-Conaway, Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Care Center dietitian, received her Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) credentials from the National Certified Board for Diabetes Educators. By achieving the CDE credential, one exhibits to people with diabetes and employers that they retain distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people with diabetes.



State-of-the-art automated equipment and three drive-thru lanes have provided convenience and more efficient pharmacy service to patients at the Pharmacy Refill Center in Ada, Oklahoma.



*“The Chickasaw Nation) has done a wonderful thing for us, the staff went above and beyond to help us.”*

*Joyce Vinyard*

## Housing

The Chickasaw Nation strives to provide safe, quality housing for its citizens. The division of housing and tribal development offers many programs and services to Chickasaws of all ages and economic backgrounds in an effort to help them find and create a place to call “home.”

More than 790 Chickasaw families are currently being assisted in Chickasaw Nation rental programs. The “37” and the “98” rental programs assist low income families by providing safe, decent, affordable housing. Without these programs there would be many Chickasaw families either homeless or living with other family members. The rental program also encourages personal growth by allowing citizens to utilize the program while earning a higher education or technical training.

Believing that a solid foundation begins at home, the Chickasaw Nation works to keep rental units in good condition and provide opportunities for citizens to rehabilitate and repair existing homes.

During FY 2007, 26 low-rent units and 28 mutual-help homes were remodeled. In addition, more than 3,500 work orders were performed on Chickasaw Nation rental properties helping to maintain safe places for Chickasaws to live.

Fifty-two driveways were completed for Chickasaw elders in 2007 as a part of the driveway program, which was implemented in 2006. This program was created to maintain private driveways for Chickasaw elders and those with special needs.

Also, 278 private homes received maintenance through the homeowners maintenance program, and four homes received handicap accessibility renovations.

In 2007, the Chickasaw Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) awarded grants to citizens that helped remodel 26 low rent units and 28 mutual help homes. CHIP also helped make repairs to 67 privately-owned homes, and 61 homes were repaired through the emergency repair program.

Some renters go on to become homeowners either through a Chickasaw Nation housing program or the open market. To help ease confusion associated with this process, housing counseling and loan services offers a variety of counseling programs dealing with topics including housing maintenance, family budgeting and fire and home safety. Pre-purchase and post-purchase counseling is also offered. The division of housing and tribal development conducted 23 homeownership seminars during FY 2007, and as a result, the division issued 195 counseling certificates.

In addition to offering regular classes, Chickasaw Nation representatives travel to specialized locations to offer educational opportunities about housing programs and housing-related services, and to assist with the application process.



Evelyn Hawkins recently had her home remodeled through the Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing. Workers remodeled and replaced most everything in her home, including windows, kitchen cabinets, appliances, carpet and flooring and bathroom fixtures. Ms. Hawkins is very proud of her home and the work that was done. “I love the whole house,” she said.

Chuka Chukmasi, Chickasaw for beautiful home, is another excellent avenue the Chickasaw Nation offers to provide housing to its citizens. Initiated in 1998, the Chuka Chukmasi loan program is a cooperative effort between the Chickasaw Nation, PMI Mortgage, First Mortgage of Oklahoma City and Fannie Mae. The institutions work together to provide affordable, flexible home loans for Chickasaw citizens.

Through Chuka Chukmasi, a home may be purchased or refinanced. Closing costs and down payment assistance are also available through the program. During FY 2007, this loan program provided 111 mortgage home loans to Chickasaw citizens and tribal employees. To date, 558 families have been assisted through Chuka Chukmasi.



Kay Perry, division of housing counseling and loan services director, and staff provide a variety of counseling opportunities to help ease the complexity surrounding home ownership.

Members of Joyce Vinyard's family have benefited from her participation in the Chuka Chukmasi program. Through the program, Ms. Vinyard purchased a larger home in the same Anadarko neighborhood that she and her late husband had lived in for more than 40 years. She now lives with her grandson and disabled adult son. Through Chuka Chukmasi, Ms. Vinyard was able to finance 100 percent of the purchase price of the home and was awarded a grant for closing costs. She said she was anxious about buying a home, but said the process was very easy. "The (Chickasaw Nation) has done a wonderful thing for us, the staff went above and beyond to help us," she said. "I love my home."

Ms. Vinyard also utilized the Chickasaw Nation's storm shelter program to have a new shelter installed. This family is just one of the 145 Chickasaw families to receive storm shelters last year. Almost 1,050 storm shelters have been installed since the program began in 2003.

The homeowners program is another opportunity for homeownership available for Chickasaw citizens. The program allows for the new construction of homeownership units in accordance with NAHASDA guidelines for low income Native Americans. In FY 2007, 58 families became homeowners by paying off their homes through this program. Forty new homes were built in 2007 and 25 additional homes are under construction.

The Pride in Homeownership Yard Contest is an incentive program to recognize and reward participants in the homeowners programs for their efforts in maintaining their home and yard. These homeowners won awards for helping beautify their communities and promote pride in homeownership in 2007.

**Legislator Award:** Ray Wilkerson, Laura Lyda-Harris, Jonetta Whitworth, Wanda Benton, Misty Pittman, Courtney Alexander, Craig Parnacher, Christopher Alford, Gene Whitley, Joe D. Beshirs, Kathy Eagle, Billy Duckworth, Debra King, Shonda Martin, Tandra Kiddie, Gina St. John, Jesse McGee, Tanya Anthony, Linda Caldwell, Phyllis Carroll, Misty Howell, Joshua Lawson, Darren Patton, Cornelia McGee

**Lt. Governor's Award:** Ray Wilkerson, Billy Duckworth, Courtney Alexander, Cornelia McGee

**Governor's Award:** Billy Duckworth

# Elders

The Chickasaw Nation believes in honoring its elders. They are a cherished group with much heritage and wisdom to share. Programs and services continue to be created and implemented to serve seniors.

One new service is an “adopt-an-elder” program in which staff members volunteer during the winter months to assist elders in their area who do not have someone to regularly look in on them. Staff members check on the elders after work hours and on weekends to make sure they have proper heating, deliver groceries, help during power outages and provide other services as needed.

The Chickasaw Nation also has programs and services designed to help those in need of assistance with their daily living needs. Five elders now benefit from the assisted living program. Services are provided not only to those in need of assistance, but to the caregiver as well. The caregiver program assists families who are caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability and provides support services for family caregivers and/or grandparents or older individuals who are relative caregivers.

The division on aging strives to provide programs and services for Chickasaw elders so they can continue to maintain their highest level quality of life. The elderly energy assistance program, chore services program, transportation program and nutrition program all provide seniors with the opportunity to maintain their independence while receiving supplemental services. The elderly energy program provided services to 380 Chickasaw citizens living at-large and 1,047 elders living inside tribal boundaries. The school-to-work landscaping program provided lawn mowing and lawn care services to nearly 700 elders during FY 2007. This program provides a vital service to tribal elders by easing the burden of caring for their lawn.

An annual volunteer awards ceremony took place in the spring and awarded more than 200 elders for 16,355 hours of volunteer services. Four of those volunteers were recognized for logging 300 to 499 hours of services, including Bessie Smith, Dean Starns and Flora Perry from Kullihoma and Lou Norman from Connerville. Six outstanding volunteers were awarded for volunteering 500 hours or more. They included Henry Patrick of Ada, Lee Crossley of Purcell, Magdeline Montgomery of Pauls Valley and Clarence Imotichey, Jerry Ridley and Edina Williams, all of Sulphur.

The Chickasaw Nation has 10 senior sites located throughout the tribal boundaries, and in FY 2008, Duncan seniors will be able to enjoy fellowship and activities in their newly constructed facility. At each site, elders can enjoy a nutritious meal and participate in a variety of activities



The division on aging hosts several events throughout the year including Rodeo Day, holiday parties, a craft bazaar, Active Life Day and the Annual Aging Conference.

including playing card games, using exercise equipment, working on beadwork and quilting projects and utilizing computers to keep in touch with family and friends. In addition to nearing completion on the newest senior site in Duncan, the Chickasaw Nation worked to expand some already existing sites. The Tishomingo senior site gained a new craft room and the Ardmore site's dining area will nearly double in size when its expansion is complete. Madill elders will also benefit from increased dining area upon completion of their arts and crafts room addition.

Several events and trips are hosted throughout the year to allow seniors from different areas to come together in fellowship including the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, Valentine's banquet, Easter egg hunt, stick horse rodeo and annual elders conference. During this year's elders conference, which hosted nearly 200 elders, two outstanding seniors were awarded for their service and achievement for the tribe. Winnie McNeely of Ardmore was selected as Outstanding Chickasaw Female Elder and Jerry Underwood of Tishomingo was selected Outstanding Chickasaw Male Elder.

Also recognized in 2007 was division on aging director of senior services, Pam Nelson. Ms. Nelson received the Outstanding Information & Assistant Individual Award from the Oklahoma Minority Conference.



Many seniors spend time fellowshiping at the senior nutrition centers while enjoying cards, dominoes, crafts, quilting and music.



Seniors at the Pauls Valley senior site enjoy spending time together and taking part in events and activities throughout the year.



Senior site participants enjoy their many trips each fall and spring.

# Community

The Chickasaw Nation continues to do its part to enhance the quality of life of Chickasaw people, not only in their homes and jobs, but in their communities as well.

One way is through the tribe's roads program. The roads program is committed to providing safer roadways for all travelers in the Chickasaw Nation. The program works to ensure roads and bridges are secure and reliable for Chickasaw Nation citizens and their neighbors. Ongoing projects include the Cooper Memorial Road widening project in Sulphur and Kullihoma Road construction in Pontotoc County.

Another valuable project underway is the Capitol Street Project in Tishomingo. This project includes reconstruction of seven blocks of city streets around the historic Chickasaw capitol building. Completion of this project will allow easy access to Chickasaw Nation historical sites.

The tribe also utilizes joint ventures with cities, counties and the state to complete projects that will benefit the entire community. Some of those cooperative efforts included the Seventh Street project in Achille and Lake Drive in Platter Flatts, both in Bryan County. Two Pontotoc County projects include the Egypt Road and John Price Road projects.

For its efforts, the Chickasaw Nation Roads Program was awarded the prestigious Best Paved Concrete Road in Oklahoma award. The award was presented from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to the Chickasaw Nation for the WinStar Casinos frontage road on Interstate 35 in Love County.

The Chickasaw Nation also maintains area offices in six locations that provide services for citizens living in the community and at-large. Some of these services include energy and utility assistance, transportation, employment training and community health representatives.

In FY 2007, hundreds of elders received energy assistance through the Chickasaw Nation's energy assistance program.

Citizens received free transportation to medical and physical therapy appointments. Also, more than 8,200 medical prescriptions were delivered to homes or area offices to help with cost of travel to the pharmacies. In all, a total of 398,257 miles were driven by the transportation staff in FY 2007.



Helping provide safe roads and bridges is just one way the Chickasaw Nation contributes to the community as a whole.

The Chickasaw Nation has many programs that offer opportunities to Chickasaws in an effort to help them prepare for and obtain quality jobs. The various programs offer classes on topics including résumé development, career counseling, interviewing skills and many other job-readiness subjects. More than 1,600 citizens were assisted with a variety of employment training activities through the tribe's Pathways to Success program. Activities included GED training, vocational training, life skills training and pre-apprentice training.

The Community Health Representatives (CHR) Program promotes disease prevention and health education while acting as a liaison between Native American families, the resources of the Chickasaw Nation and communities within the tribal service area. The CHRs build trusting relationships with Chickasaws and other Native Americans while providing medically guided primary health care services in areas of need. CHRs assisted 35,015 individuals with blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, flu shots, vital sign screenings and other health services. In an effort to increase safe practices, the CHRs also assisted with the Car Seat Safety Program which provided car seats and education to 450 citizens.

Other services provided to citizens through the area offices included animal vaccinations at several rabies clinics, the distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets and Christmas baskets. One hundred ten Chickasaw veterans' appreciation medals and jackets were also distributed during FY 2007.

Hundreds of Chickasaw families now enjoy in-home computer access thanks to the Chickasaw Nation Computer Distribution Program, which provides computers to qualifying families. By providing access to computers, citizens are given the chance to become familiar with the equipment and develop skills that can lead to expanded educational and employment opportunities.

The Chickasaw Nation hosted the 50th Annual American Indian Scouting Association seminar during the summer of 2007. The association is a collaboration between American Indian tribal leaders, youth educators and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America. During their time in the Chickasaw Nation, the group toured the Chickasaw capitol building, the Chickasaw Council House Museum and visited other tribal locations.

The Chickasaw Nation also collaborates with other local organizations and businesses in community-wide efforts. For the third consecutive year, the City of Ada was selected for a top National Night Out award by the National Association of Town Watches organization. The annual crime-fighting event is co-sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and East Central University, and is conducted each August.



Transportation specialist Kay West picks up a prescription from the pharmacy refill center. By picking up and delivering prescriptions, the transportation services department helps alleviate travel expenses for Chickasaw citizens.

# Community

The Chickasaw Lighthouse Police Department (LPD) plays a vital role in keeping our communities safe. The LPD uses innovative methods and state-of-the-art technology to provide a broad range of protection and services to the Chickasaw Nation and citizens of south central Oklahoma. LPD officers and staff work in partnership with communities and external entities to identify and resolve issues impacting public safety in an effort to improve the quality of lives of those living in the communities they serve.

In 2007, the LPD was invited to the Fifth Annual California Tribal and State Justice Summit. California State Attorney General Olin Jones, who is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, extended the invitation. Officers were asked to share stories of the department's success establishing relationships and agreements among city, county, state and federal authorities. The department also related successful anti-drug efforts. The LPD was invited to attend the California conference because of the many contributions they make to local communities. In FY 2007, the LPD attended 188 community policy events promoting safety and drug awareness. The department made 116 presentations sharing information about the duties of the LPD and its programs. Throughout FY 2007, LPD officers were commissioned to make almost 8,000 community and premises checks on tribal housing and complexes, tribal businesses and Indian Trust property.

Many Chickasaw citizens have also received national recognition this year for outstanding efforts they have made in their communities.

Chickasaw John B. Herrington, the first Native American astronaut in space, continued to be a role model for leadership as he was selected to lead the Center for Space Studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, his alma mater. Mr. Herrington, who flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 2002, assumed his duties in December.

Courtney Parchcorn, a 17-year-old artist from Ada, received "Best in Show" honors for the second consecutive year at the 21st Annual Red Earth Festival Youth Arts Competition. The festival is conducted in Oklahoma City and is the largest and most respected Native American visual and performing arts event of its type in the world. Miss Parchcorn's beaded cane, titled, "For All the Grandfathers," bettered more than 200 entries from around the United States to receive the high honor. The beautiful art piece was completed in honor of Miss Parchcorn's maternal Chickasaw grandfather, Franklin D. Allen, who passed away in 2007. The cane was designed to portray all the life-lessons learned from grandfathers.



The Lighthouse Police Department not only works to fight crime, but to educate communities on drug and gang awareness.

Chickasaw classical music composer Jerod Tate played a vital role in “Classical Native,” a series of recitals, chamber concerts and discussions featuring Native American classical composers and musicians. The event was conducted in October 2006 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Mr. Tate also composed the score for “A Seat at the Drum,” a documentary exploring many issues facing Native Americans, which aired on PBS.

Fourteen-year-old Chickasaw citizen and Olympic hopeful Kaylea Arnett won her fifth national diving title in August 2007 and qualified for the 2008 Olympic Trials Selection Camp. In 2007, Miss Arnett compiled six gold medal finishes, four silver medal finishes and one bronze medal finish in individual competition and two bronze medal finishes in synchronized diving.

Chickasaw Angie Carney was named the National Indian Education Association’s (NIEA) Parent of the Year in 2007 for her many volunteer efforts that help preserve and share Native American culture. She was honored in a ceremony at the 38th Annual NIEA Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Ms. Carney serves as a coordinator for the Ardmore area Chickasaw Dance Troupe, a booster parent for the Chickasaw Childrens Choir, secretary on the parent committee for the Johnson-O’Malley program at Ardmore Public Schools and chair for the

Title VII parent committee. Among her other volunteer efforts, Ms. Carney also works with Dream Catchers, the Native American club at Ardmore High School. Ms. Carney was also honored by the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education as the organization’s 2006 Oklahoma Indian Parent of the Year.

In 2007, thousands of Oklahomans were able to appreciate the artwork of Chickasaw master artist Mike Larsen. Larsen designed the Oklahoma Centennial postage stamp, and Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby purchased the first centennial stamp sold from the U.S. Post Office in Tishomingo. The stamp depicts an Oklahoma sunrise over the Cimarron River. Following the unveiling of the stamp, Mr. Larsen presented the original painting of the Oklahoma Centennial postage stamp to Governor Anoatubby. “It is a source of great pride that the image of a sunrise painted by a Chickasaw master artist was chosen to commemorate the Oklahoma Centennial,” said Governor Anoatubby. “The selection of this image by this artist is symbolic of the dawning of a new and even brighter century of progress for all people in the state.”



The Oklahoma Centennial postage stamp was painted by Chickasaw artist, Mike Larsen. The stamp carries a message of pride, accomplishment and progress for Chickasaws and Oklahomans.



# Government

In fiscal year 2007, the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Government Services Department once again saw tribal growth. More than 3,000 Chickasaws received a CDIB and more than 3,820 received Chickasaw citizenship cards. The number of Chickasaw voters also increased. The tribal election commission reported 21,490 registered voters at the end of the fiscal year.

## *Employment*

The Chickasaw Nation continues to provide quality jobs to tribal citizens and other members of the community. In doing so, the tribe strives to offer training and opportunities that will help Chickasaws find employment not only within the tribe but with other quality employers as well.

To help meet the tribe's employment goals, a new program was developed and implemented in 2007 that is designed to help individuals with issues that may make it difficult to find a job. The Career Development Initiative (CDI) helps citizens who may have a weak work history, child care or transportation needs, a history of substance abuse or other circumstances that may hinder them from finding quality employment.

CDI helps individuals fill holes in their application as they create a stable work history, regain their driver's license, complete drug court requirements or deal with other pressing needs. More than 80 citizens have already benefited from this program. One is Mark Mershon, a single father of twin sons from Sulphur who had a number of problems related to substance abuse.

"I was ready to give up," Mershon stated. He had no job and no prospects, but CDI helped him with steady employment, counseling and support and helped restore his self-esteem and hope for a better life. Mr. Mershon earned a perfect score on his GED exam and also earned a high score in his ACT college entrance exam and is now attending East Central University pursuing a degree in petroleum engineering. "Without this program I hate to think where I'd be," he added.

Another program established to help provide quality employment for citizens is the career development program for current Chickasaw Nation employees. This program was designed to create and foster an environment that facilitates and enhances the leadership and management skill development of tribal staff members. The program helps ensure the Chickasaw Nation has well trained employees capable of taking on supervisory, managerial and executive positions. In 2007, 61 employees applied for the new career development program.



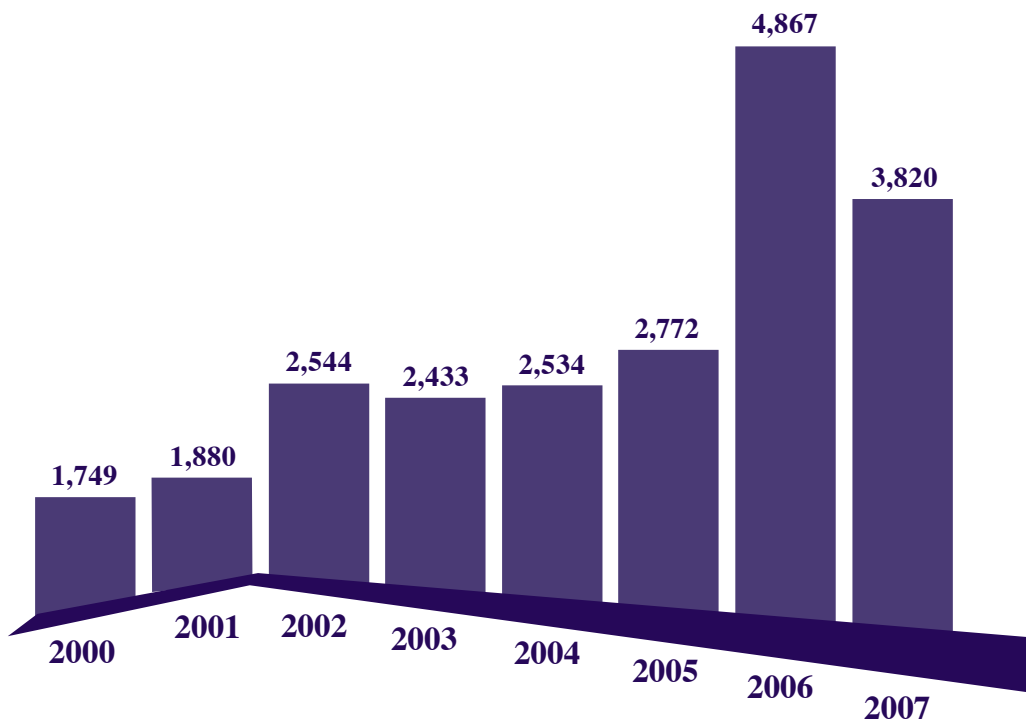
Corey Fite from Wickenburg, Arizona visits with Gina Brown, director of tribal governmental services, at the Chickasaw Gathering in Phoenix.

Construction began on the new Government Services Building in Ada which will provide much needed space for the tribal election board, self-governance division and tribal citizenship offices. The 14,000 square foot facility will also house the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Special Trustee. Combining the tribal government services and the federal agencies creates a convenience for clients as well as tribal employees and federal workers.

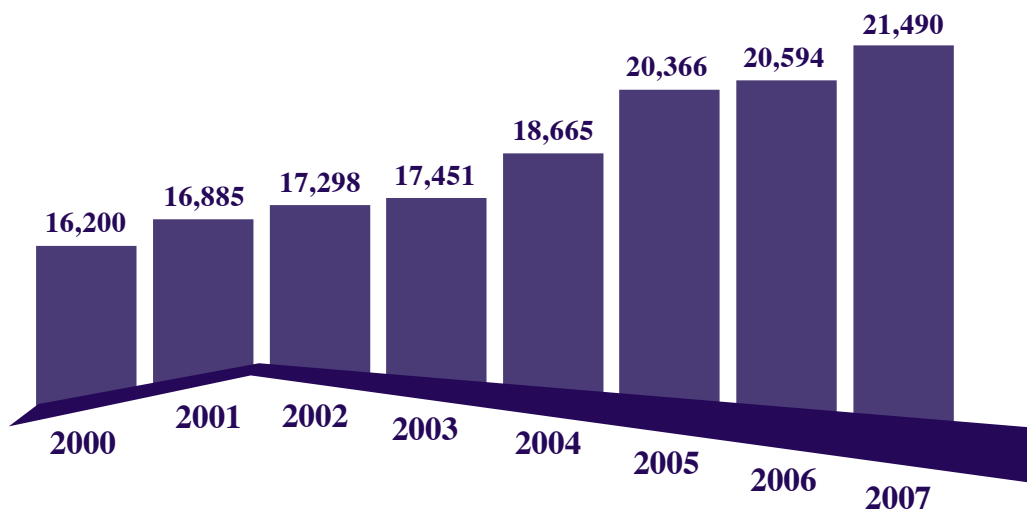
The Chickasaw Nation Division of Justice prosecuted 105 juvenile cases, 48 criminal cases, two jury trials and another which ended in a bench trial.

Four new attorneys were sworn into the Chickasaw Nation Bar Association and began duties in FY 2007. Jefferson Troy Keel, Jennifer D. Barnes, Kaycie Sheppard and Charlotte Linn Claborn received the honors. The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association is one of the largest tribal bar associations in the country with about 120 licensed attorneys as members of the association.

*Mark Merishon*  
 "Without this Career Development Initiative I hate to think where I'd be."



› *Tribal citizenship cards issued*



› *Total number of Chickasaw Voters*

*“This Chickasaw Cultural Center will be a tremendous facility, but beyond that, it will be a place rich with the culture and heritage that binds us together as Chickasaws.”*

*Governor Bill Anoatubby*

Researching, preserving and promoting the culture and heritage of Chickasaw people are very high priorities. A reorganization and expansion of divisions in 2007 means there are now three separate divisions which focus primarily on those goals.

Duties which previously fell under the purview of the division of heritage preservation are now the responsibility of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Culture and the Chickasaw Nation Division of History, Research and Scholarship.

The division of culture assumed the responsibility of preservation and development of cultural opportunities for the Chickasaw Nation. This includes the Chickasaw Council House Museum and the establishment of the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

The mission of the division of history, research and scholarship includes preserving and adding to archives and genealogical records, preserving and caring for archaeological artifacts and providing a place to learn and share Chickasaw history and culture.

The two new divisions join the division of arts and humanities, which focuses on the preservation and promotion of Chickasaw history and culture through the arts.

The three divisions work hand-in-hand to accomplish common goals. Together they enable the Chickasaw Nation to expand efforts to learn, preserve and promote Chickasaw history and culture.

## ***Chickasaw Language Programs***

Among the many valuable cultural programs the Chickasaw Nation operates, one focus that continues to be important is language preservation and revitalization. Several programs have been implemented to help pass on the Chickasaw language.

One of the most recent is the master-apprentice program. Several fluent Chickasaw speakers are participating in this program designed to pair a fluent speaker with another Chickasaw who wants to learn the language. Participants must make a commitment to communicate with each other two hours each day, five days per week, for one to two years.

Chickasaw Head Start students have been learning basic Chickasaw language elements for several years. Students from the Madill class took part in the Native American Youth



The Chickasaw Dance Troupe travels hundreds of miles each year to educate and expose others to Chickasaw culture.

language Fair at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman for the fourth consecutive year. Ada Head Start students also participated in the language fair this year. The goal is to have students from each Head Start location compete in the language fair.

The Chickasaw Nation began a language immersion program for Ada Head Start students in 2007. Students participating in the program speak only Chickasaw for 17 hours each week. They take field trips and participate in other activities which enable them to learn and use Chickasaw language in a fun environment. Plans are to expand the immersion program to other Head Start locations in the near future.

Dozens of individuals took advantage of weekly adult classes in Ada, Ardmore, Tishomingo and Sulphur to learn the basics of the Chickasaw language. Students in the class move from very basic vocabulary to constructing and translating simple sentences and having simple conversations in

Chickasaw. While most of the students are Chickasaw, some are from other tribes and others are non-Indians who are simply interested in the language.

### ***Construction Projects***

Restoration of the Chickasaw White House was completed in FY 2007. The home of former Chickasaw Nation Governor Douglas H. Johnston is a historic place and once considered a mansion on the frontier. Johnston lived in the home from 1898 until his death at 83 in 1939.

The home contains some very unique features for the era, including 14-foot ceilings, cherry mahogany fireplace mantels, crystal chandeliers, a dance floor and phonographs. The Chickasaw White House, located on the north edge of Emet, Oklahoma, was the scene for a number of important social and political events. Prominent politicians, including members of the Dawes Commission, met at the home. William E. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray was married at the home to Alice Hearrell, a niece of Governor Johnston. Their son, Johnston Murray, was born in the house and later became the 14th governor of Oklahoma.

In FY 2007, work was continued on the highly anticipated Chickasaw Cultural Center. Located on 110 acres of rolling hills, woodlands and streams adjacent to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur, the center is designed to utilize the latest technology, ancient artifacts and natural outdoor spaces to tell the Chickasaw story.

"This will be a tremendous facility, but beyond that, it will be a place rich with the culture and heritage that binds us together as Chickasaws," said Governor Bill Anoatubby.

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.



Chickasaws can take a step back in time by touring the historic Chickasaw White House, home of former Chickasaw Governor Douglas Johnston.

“Each story is like a single thread that when woven together makes one large Chickasaw blanket.”

Patrick Kennedy

Outdoor areas will include demonstration gardens and a traditional life ways educational village featuring traditional Chickasaw houses. Areas will also be set aside for stomp dance and other traditional ceremonies.

Indoors, an interconnected series of theaters, exhibits and galleries are designed to immerse visitors in tribal history and culture. The space will be home to hundreds of Chickasaw artifacts and cultural pieces as well as a place for traveling shows and galleries.

Construction is scheduled to continue through 2008 with some areas opening for public viewing late in the year.

### **Cultural Award Winners**

Two exhibits on display at Chickasaw museums won awards from the Oklahoma Museum Association in FY 2007.

*Hina lawa linoatok: We Have Walked Many Roads* was selected as a winner in the interpretive exhibit category. The exhibit displays travels of Chickasaw people in six periods of time from the leaning pole migration legend to the air and space travels of Pearl Carter Scott and John Herrington. It was created as part of a grant project funded by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Chickasaw Choctaw-Corridor project. The exhibit contains a number of phrases in English with Chickasaw translations.

An exhibit at the historic Chickasaw Capitol in Tishomingo titled *Chickasaw Government, the Indian Territory Years* also received first place honors from the Oklahoma Museums Association. That exhibit is part of the restoration of the historic Chickasaw capitol which has turned the building into a showcase of Chickasaw history. Not only has the building itself been restored to its former glory, numerous exhibits highlight historic events and interesting facts about the capitol. There are also several exhibits that highlight historic events in times and places extending well beyond the life of the capitol building. Topics including the allotment process, politics, law enforcement, culture and more are addressed in a variety of exhibits.

*Chickasaw: Unconquered and Unconquerable*, the first book published by the Chickasaw Press, has won several awards, including a gold award and a bronze award in the 11th Annual Independent Publisher Book Awards competition. The Independent Book Publishers Association named the book a finalist for a Benjamin Franklin Award for interior design. The staff of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities produced the book in cooperation with Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company. Oklahoma State Representative



Leslie Clark adds his signature to the highly acclaimed and award winning *Chickasaw: Unconquered and Unconquerable* at the official book launch during the 2006 Chickasaw Festival.

Lisa Johnson Billy was honored as this year's Dynamic Woman of the Chickasaw Nation. In 2004, Rep. Billy became the first Native American and woman elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in District 42. Rep. Billy is the chairman of the newly created International, Federal and Tribal Relations Committee. In 2006, she initiated the first Oklahoma Native American Caucus and currently serves as the co-chair. She is also vice-chair of the majority caucus and a deputy whip.



Many programs and services are available to help preserve and share Chickasaw culture with our youth.

thread that when woven together makes one large Chickasaw blanket.”

This was the second year authors have been honored with Chickasaw Nation Heritage Preservation Awards. These awards are presented to authors of books, doctoral dissertations, master's theses and articles dealing with some aspect of Chickasaw heritage. Matthew DeSpain and Patrick Kennedy were co-recipients of a Heritage Preservation award for Best Article for “The Ring and Beyond: The Boxing Life of Chickasaw Pugilist Curt Kennedy.”

Patrick Kennedy is the nephew of the late Curt Kennedy. He said the two had a special relationship. “I believe that every Chickasaw citizen probably has stories to tell of their families and should take the time to write them down,” said Mr. Kennedy. “Each story is like a single thread that when woven together makes one large Chickasaw blanket.”

Joshua Hinson received a Heritage Preservation award for Best Master's Thesis, *tóli Chikashsha inaafofokha: Chickasaw Stickball Regalia*. Earlier this year Mr. Hinson was named director of the Chickasaw Cultural Center and Chickasaw language programs.

Stanley Smith received the Silver Feather Award for his work to preserve Chickasaw heritage and culture. Mr. Smith began speaking the Chickasaw language at an early age and is now employed as the senior language master of the Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program.

Winners of the Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM) were also honored during an awards ceremony in Tishomingo. The show was open to all artists of Southeast and Woodlands tribes. The 2007 SEASAM was the largest show to date.



Silver Feather Award recipient Stanley Smith was presented an engraved plaque and blanket from Governor Anoatubby and Lt. Governor Keel at the 2007 Arts and Culture Awards ceremony.

# Family

Experts say a strong family can have a profound impact on most aspects of life, from long-term happiness to health and success. That is why the Chickasaw Nation is dedicated to strengthening Chickasaw families.

Seeing the need to strengthen Chickasaw families by providing support in many areas, the Governor's Family Initiative was implemented two years ago by Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. Since that time, hundreds of Chickasaw families have been assisted with many different needs from child support services to adoption and foster care programs. Several tribal departments including the department of child support services, the department of family advocacy and the office of strong family all serve the Chickasaw people with a common goal: to strengthen the family unit and decrease issues that undermine the family structure.

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services continues to set the standard of excellence in its program. It is continuously recognized as a model program and a voice for Native American children. The department was awarded the "Partnership Award for Professional Excellence" at the Seventh Annual National Tribal Child Support Association Training Conference in 2007.

In FY 2007, the department of child support services collected over \$5.2 million for Native American children living throughout the state of Oklahoma. The department also entered an agreement with the Chickasaw Lighthouse Police Department to serve warrants and provide process service on non-custodial parents, which will facilitate an increase in support collections from non-paying parents.

During FY 2007, the role of child support services advocate was created by combining the responsibilities of the tribal court liaison and mediator. The child support advocate works with courts to keep a strong working relationship in place, and provides any assistance to the court upon request. The child support advocate also works with clients who are unable to travel long distances by setting up meetings at the court systems. The advocate provides mediation services upon request of the clients and courts to resolve disputes that may effect the child support payments or establishment of orders.

The family preservation program is designed to promote family strength and stability, enhance parental functioning and protect the children of families living within the Chickasaw Nation. The program focuses on prevention, early intervention and working with Native American families as partners to utilize family strengths to assist in meeting their needs.

During 2007, the family preservation program provided services to 250 families, including more than 600 children. Services such as transportation, application assistance and crisis intervention are provided by the program.



Neva and Tim Harjochee spend quality time reading to grandsons Trey and Davion Wilson.

The foster care/adoption program, Chepota Apisa Chi Li, facilitated the adoption of 22 Native American children, completed 199 home visits and attended 69 court hearings in FY 2007. The program strives to provide safe and nurturing care for Native American children placed into tribal or state custody.

The Chepota Himmita (Young Child) program, which provides services and support to expecting women, conducted 528 home visits, 43 screenings and 56 educational groups in FY 2007. The program, formerly known as healthy families, provides transportation, respite care, support groups and other services to women throughout their pregnancy and into the babies' first three months.

The Indian Child Welfare (ICW) program assisted more than 1,500 Native American children, attended 319 court hearings, facilitated 337 reunification visits and completed 333 visits to children in foster home placement. ICW also opened an office in Oklahoma City to serve Oklahoma and Cleveland counties.

The office of violence prevention, which helps victims of domestic or family violence, provided direct services to 278 families, including 346 children, in FY 2007. Direct services included assistance with protective orders, emergency shelter, housing and utility deposits to assist with relocation, clothing, household items, food, transportation, counseling, career development and much more. The department also sponsored domestic violence trainings and participated in a variety of community awareness activities throughout the service area in an effort to educate the public about domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Also in an effort to promote violence awareness and strengthen family and neighborhood partnerships, the Chickasaw Nation partners with East Central University each summer to host

National Night Out. This event brings families together to take a stand against crime. Many Chickasaw Nation programs are represented at this event, helping to educate families about programs and services available to help strengthen families and increase involvement in community-wide awareness activities.

The department of strong family development implemented various programs to protect and preserve the family and the well-being of all individuals involved. Drug court support services, implemented in 2006, helped 50 Chickasaw citizens and 2,400 transports were provided to these participants. The development also provided abstinence education and parenting classes, as well as support groups, to help strengthen communication and problem-solving skills.

Several Chickasaw Nation departments participate in the annual National Night Out event to help foster the importance of safety and community awareness.



Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services employees participate in National Night Out each year. They provide nutrition education information in an effort to help families incorporate healthy eating habits into their daily lives.





Successful economic development efforts have become increasingly important in funding tribal programs and services. Profits from Chickasaw Nation businesses are used to supplement federal funds in a number of different programs as well as provide funds for services and operations that would not otherwise be available.

In addition to providing additional funds for the day-to-day operation of programs and services, tribal business revenues also help fund construction of facilities available to all Chickasaws. Newly constructed community centers opened this year in Ada and Marshall County providing first-class gathering places for a variety of events. Tribal business revenues were also used in the construction of the Pharmacy Refill Center, Tishomingo Senior Site addition, Duncan Senior Site, Ada Community Center, Tishomingo Wellness Center, Marshall County Community Center, Sick Child Care Center, McSwain Theatre renovations, government services building and the housing administration building.

Funding from tribal businesses often has a multiplier effect on federal funding. One example is funding for the new hospital. The Chickasaw Nation Health System will receive millions in additional annual funding from the Indian Health Service for patient care because tribal funds are being used to construct the new facility.

Business revenues also play an important role in preserving tribal history, culture and heritage. Tribal businesses are providing a majority of the funding for construction of the Chickasaw Cultural Center near Sulphur and for the renovation of the Chickasaw White House in Emet, Oklahoma.

### *Chickasaw Businesses Setting the Standard*

There are several standard measures that owners, shareholders and investors use to evaluate the success of business ventures. While net profit is the measure many people find most familiar, there are a number of important measures used to evaluate business efficiency.

A study conducted by Dr. Jim Rauch, East Central University assistant professor of business administration, revealed that Chickasaw Nation gaming businesses are operating very efficiently. Chickasaw Nation businesses have a very high level of return on investment and net profit margin compared to other businesses.

Gaming operation had a net profit margin more than three times that of the average for S&P 500 companies.



Riverwind Casino patrons can enjoy a wide variety of entertainment and dining options, including Willow's Buffet.

## ***Bank2***

Another tribal business setting high standards is Bank2, a subsidiary of the Chickasaw Banc Holding Company. Bank2 is a full service bank offering checking accounts, operation accounts, savings and money market accounts. The bank also offers a full line of consumer, commercial and real estate loans and is 100 percent owned by the Chickasaw Nation. It opened its doors in 2002 with \$7.5 million in assets. In FY 2007, Bank2 has approximately \$85 million in assets.

Because of the outstanding growth and achievements of this business, Bank2 has been recognized as an industry leader. It was named an Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center Service Business of the Year in 2004 and one of the Diversity.com Top 100 Native American Owned Businesses in the United States in 2005. Today, Bank2 is the number one source for Native American home loans in Oklahoma.

## ***CNI***

Chickasaw Nation Industries (CNI) continues to increase revenues and find new ways to reach its goal of promoting the economic development and long-term financial viability of the Chickasaw Nation. CNI now owns and manages 20 business enterprises that collectively employ more than 2,000 people.

CNI has offices in New Mexico, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Washington, D.C. and Oklahoma, and has employees in all 50 states, as well as South Korea, Guam and Puerto Rico.

## ***Solara Healthcare***

Solara Healthcare is a tribal business based in Dallas/Fort Worth. Solara provides long-term acute health care solutions meeting a growing demand across the United States. Solara currently operates hospitals in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and has several other hospitals in development.

## ***Tribal Businesses Attract Investment***

Because WinStar Casinos in Thackerville attract thousands of visitors from Texas and other states each week, private investors are beginning to develop adjacent property. One private land developer is marketing tracts of land on 200 acres near the WinStar Golf Course. Tracts of land are being sold for private housing, as well as retail and entertainment establishments. Arrangements have been made for another investor to build a hotel and convention center adjoining WinStar Casinos.

These developments and the expansion currently underway should draw even more business to the facility. Construction has already begun on additional gaming plazas and a 2,500 square foot theater, which will also serve as a convention hall. The expanded facility will include more restaurants as well. Expansion plans also include constructing a façade in front of the facility which will give the facility the look of a Tuscan village. A 150-space RV park with sand volleyball, pavilion and club house is also being added. Once complete, the WinStar expansion will provide 1,100 new jobs.



Bank2 recently opened a second branch in Oklahoma City.

# Commerce

Riverwind Casino in Norman had an estimated 1.5 million visitors in its first year of operation. That number is expected to grow with the opening of Autographs, a new restaurant owned by University of Oklahoma Heisman Trophy winners Jason White, Steve Owens and Billy Sims. A private investor also has plans to build a hotel near Riverwind.

The successful operation of Riverwind also attracted Hollywood and international media when the facility hosted a preview screening of the film *Apocalypto*, produced and directed by Academy Award winner Mel Gibson. The film, depicting the life of ancient Mayan people, made its United States debut at the Riverwind screening.

Bedré Fine Chocolates, owned by the Chickasaw Nation, expanded its line of gourmet European-style chocolates in FY 2007. The company added an additional line of chocolates to Neiman Marcus stores and select Bloomingdales stores across the United States. The upscale department stores, which already sold Bedré chocolate under their own private label, will now carry the new line of products under the Bedré Chocolates name brand.

Bedré also went global in FY 2007 with the addition of Hard Rock© hotels to its clientele. Bedré produces chocolate guitars which the chain uses as treats placed on guests' pillows in their hotels across the United States and around the world.

Other tribal businesses that have drawn new clientele include Chisholm Trail casino, which opened a Billy Sims Barbecue restaurant.

## *Award Winning Businesses*

Riverwind Casino won an award for architectural design from the Global Gaming institute. Riverwind also won awards in Best Overall Project and Decorative/Interiors category from Metal Architecture magazine.

Two Ada-based radio stations owned by the Chickasaw Nation were the recipients of two highly-coveted Outstanding Achievement Awards from the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. KADA-FM won for a 30-second promotional announcement promoting the station's weather coverage. KYKC was awarded for a live "spot news" broadcast.

The division of commerce marketing department won 23 ADDY awards from the American Advertising Federation. Those awards included 14 local awards, seven district awards and two Gold ADDY



Bedré Chocolates' innovative line of products has proven to be profitable and expanded into the global marketplace in 2007.

Awards. The department also won four bronze International Telly Awards for business advertising campaigns.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby was selected as the “2006 Minority Business Advocate of the Year,” by the Oklahoma City Minority Business Enterprise Center. The award was presented for outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of minority-owned businesses and was presented as part of Minority Enterprise Development Week activities in late 2006.

### ***Small Business Development Center***

A wealth of business experience and knowledge combined with a strong entrepreneurial spirit among the Chickasaw people led to the creation of the Chickasaw Nation Small Business Development Center.

The CNSBDC provides a number of services to aspiring entrepreneurs. Those services include help in developing a business plan, management counseling, marketing assistance, technical assistance and assistance in locating financing among others.

There are a number of grants, loans and loan guarantees available through the CNSBDC and other entities. For that reason, the CNSBDC works with a number of other government entities and financial institutions to make the best use of all available resources. Several Chickasaw entrepreneurs have already utilized the services of the CNSBDC to open or expand business operations.



“The Chickasaw Nation Small Business Development Center worked with me to ensure that the process of applying for a micro grant was neither difficult nor time consuming. Receiving the grant had an immediate positive impact on our small business and the future looks bright,” said Tracy Harjo, owner of Scrapbooking 24/7, Ada, Oklahoma.



The CNSBDC helped Calvin and Michelle Nelson open Nelson Family Chiropractic Center in Seminole, Oklahoma.

# *Financial resources for tribal operations and development*

## *Fiscal year 2007*

<i>Cash received from gaming</i>	<i>\$9.581 Billion</i>
<i>Cash winnings paid to customers and commission payments</i>	<i>- \$9.167 Billion</i>
<i>Total proceeds from gaming gross profit</i>	<i>= \$414 Million</i>
<i>Other business proceeds gross profit</i>	<i>+ \$26 Million</i>
<i>Total available for use</i>	<i>= \$440 Million</i>
<i>Operating cost of all businesses</i>	<i>- \$231 Million</i>
<i>Cash invested back in business</i>	<i>\$79 Million</i>

*Cash transferred to Chickasaw Nation for provision of services, new buildings (health, education, etc.)*

*Transferred to Tribal Government*

*\$130 Million*





*Education*

*Program Operations*

*Health Care*

*Youth & Family*

*Lighthouse Police*

*Elders*

*Culture*

*Tribal Development*







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