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2015 SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA TRAVEL GUIDE

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8

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CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT | GRANT

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CHOCTAW CASINO | BROKEN BOW

1790 S Park Drive // 580.584.5450

CHOCTAW CASINO | IDABEL

1425 SE Washington // 580.286.5710

CHOCTAW CASINO | MCALESTER

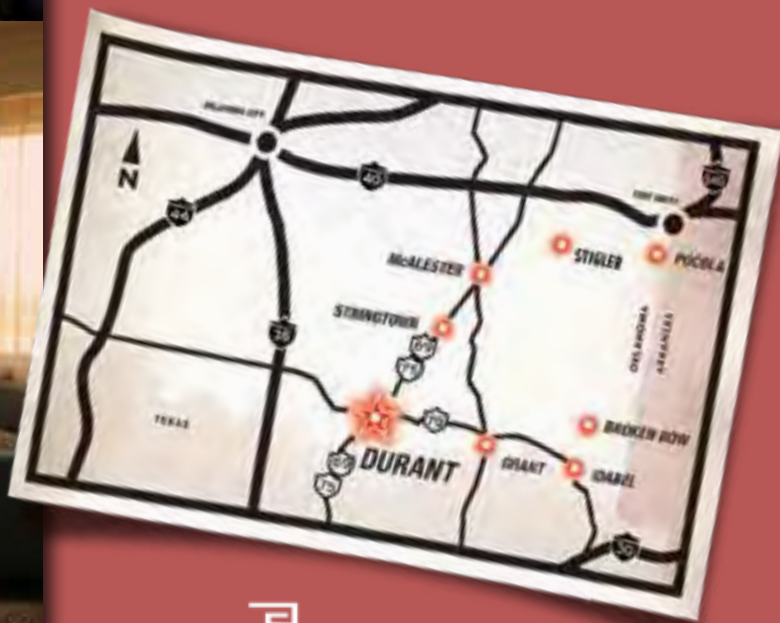
1638 S George Nigh Expressway // 918.423.8161

CHOCTAW CASINO | STRINGTOWN

893 N Hwy 69 // 580.346.7862

CHOCTAW CASINO | STIGLER

1801 E Main // 918.967.8364




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1002 Highway 2 North, Wilburton, OK 74578-0638
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 Fax (918) 465-3873
www.choctawcountry.com



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BRYAN COUNTY Sue Folsom Lana Sleeper	PITTSBURG COUNTY Kathy Wall
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LEFLORE COUNTY Karen Wages, Vice President Vera Nelson	LAYOUT & DESIGN Texoma Print Services

The Choctaw Country Visitors Guide is published by Choctaw Country, Inc. as an informational guide for visitors, new residents and economic development decision makers. The guide is distributed at 12 Oklahoma state information centers, Chambers of Commerce, museums, state parks in Oklahoma, and locations of heavy tourist traffic. Also at large travel shows in the Central U.S. and mailed through the Oklahoma Fulfillment Center and our office in answering requests and inquiries nationally.

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100,000 copies of this guide were produced at a cost of \$0.36 each. Produced by Choctaw Country, Inc. in cooperation with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. For more information about Oklahoma, call or write:

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
 Post Office Box 52002
 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2002
 (800) 652-6552 or
 (405) 230-8400
www.travelok.com



Oklahoma is a Choctaw word that means Red People. At Tushkahoma, the Capitol of the Choctaw Nation, a life size statue of the Red Warrior is displayed. Both of these aspects are proudly displayed in our Choctaw Country logo.

FIND OUT
WHAT'S
AROUND THE
*Beavers
Bend*

CABINS / CAMPFIRES / STARS / FORESTS / MOUNTAINS / LAKES / RIVERS / WILDLIFE / BIGFOOT

THE MOUNTAIN FORK RIVER winds its way through Beavers Bend. This clear, cold river that flows through Broken Bow Lake is stocked with trout and just enough white water to keep it interesting. But the best part of the Mountain Fork? Finding out what else is just around the Beavers Bend in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. You might be surprised.

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Including the Ouachita Mountain Range, and sub-ranges including the Kiamichi, Sugar Loaf & Jack Fork Mountains.

Choctaw Nation has 8 Class A Casinos and 11 Casinos Too

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Circus City USA

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Equestrian, Hiking & Biking Trails

Hunting, Fishing, Boating, Birding

Churches of Your Choice

Talimena Scenic Byway & Kiamichi Trace Byway Scenic Routes

Cavanal, the World's Highest Hill

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Black Bears & Elk Herds

Fine Dining

Year Round Trout Fishing

Mountain & Rock Climbing

Equestrian Camps & Marinas

Floating & Canoe Trails

Scenic Drives in Choctaw Country

Indian Nations Turnpike This four-lane toll road is the longest turnpike in the state, and one of the most scenic. It extends from the Canadian River north of McAlester in Pittsburg County to the Red River/Texas border to the south.

State Highway 2 Beginning at Antlers and paralleling the Kiamichi River north through Clayton, Wilburton and exiting Choctaw Country at the Canadian River.

State Highway 31 A meandering east-west corridor from just north of Panama in LeFlore County to Coalgate in Coal County.

State Highway 82 A short stretch of highway through scenic LeFlore, Latimer and Haskell counties.

State Highway 144 Winds through the Kiamichi Mountains from Octavia in LeFlore County to Nashoba in Pushmataha, connecting U.S. 271 and U.S. 259. Parts of Highway 144 are unpaved.

State Highway 37 This road travels in from Texas northward across the Red River and ambles northeast to Idabel in McCurtain County.

Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Corridor - U.S. Highway 70 Part of the Trail of Tears, the Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Corridor stretches through the southern most part of Oklahoma from the Arkansas state line to the Chickasaw capital in Tishomingo.

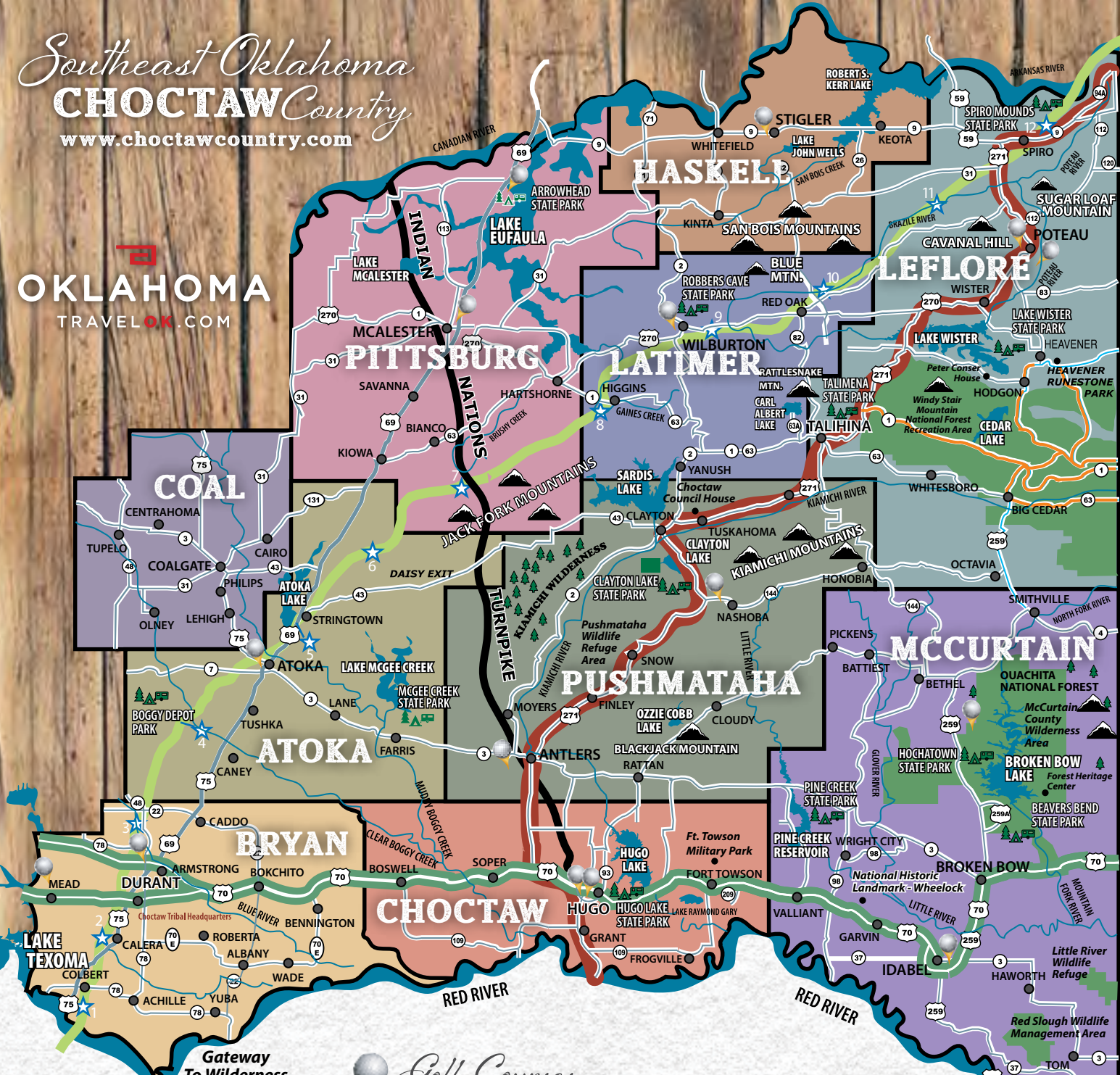
Kiamichi Trace - U.S. Highway 271 Highway 271 hugs the contours of the Kiamichi River, roughly tracing the footpaths of Native Americans who traveled this stretch of country for centuries. The drive extends through three counties and the rugged and beautiful terrain of the Kiamichi Wilderness area, from Spiro south to the Red River and the Texas border.

Talimena Scenic Drive - National Scenic Byway The Talimena National Scenic Byway is a gorgeous 54-mile route that spans one of the highest mountain ranges between the Appalachians and the Rockies. One breathtaking panorama follows another as this national forest scenic byway winds along the crests of forested peaks between Mena, Arkansas and Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The drive offers the best fall foliage viewing in the area. The area is also beautiful in all the other seasons. In the spring the trees put on their different hues of green and many of the trees also have lovely blossoms. The various assortment of wildflowers found in the area blanket the ground with color. Lodging is available along the route.

Southeast Oklahoma CHOCTAW Country

www.choctawcountry.com

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Scenic Driving

- Indian Nations Turnpike
- State Highway
- State Highway
- State Highway
- State Highway
- State Highway
- Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Corridor
- Kiamichi Trace
- Talimena Scenic Drive - National Scenic Byway
- Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Route

Mountains

- Blue Mountain
- Blackjack Mountain
- Cavanal Hill
- Jack Fork Mountains
- Kiamichi Mountains
- Ouachita Mountains
- Rattlesnake Mountain
- San Bois Mountains
- Sugarloaf Mountain
- Windy Stair Mountain

Golf Courses

- Antlers Springs
- Cedar Creek
- Arrowhead
- Golf Club
- Country Club
- Nashoba Valley
- Choctaw Country Club
- Wolf Ridge
- Brier Creek
- Sycamore Springs
- Rock Creek Golf Course
- Hugo Golf Club
- Atoka Trails
- Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club
- Silverado Golf Course

Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Route

- 1) Colbert's Ferry
- 2) Fisher's
- 3) Nail's Station
- 4) Reggy's Station
- 5) Geary's Station
- 6) Waddell's Station
- 7) Blackburn's Station
- 8) Pusley's Station
- 9) Riddle's Station
- 10) Holloway's Station
- 11) Trahern's Station
- 12) Walker's Station

Lakes & Marinas

- Broken Bow Lake
- Beavers Bend Marina
- Cedar Lake
- Eufaula Lake
- Evergreen Marina
- Hugo Lake
- Hugo Lake Marina
- John Wells Lake
- Nanih Waiya Lake
- Ozzie Cobb Lake
- Pine Creek Lake
- Raymond Gary Lake
- Robert S. Kerr Lake
- Keota Marina
- Roebuck Lake
- Sardis Lake
- Wister Lake
- McGee Creek Lake
- Atoka Lake
- Lake Texoma
- Lake Durant
- Alberta Creek
- Burns Run East
- Burns Run West
- Johnson Creek
- Lakeside
- Lake Texoma State Park
- Platter Flatts
- Willow Springs
- Catfish Bay Marina

- Broken Bow - 580.494.6300
- Broken Bow - 580.494.6455
- Heavener - 918.653.2991
- Eufaula - 918.484.5135
- Enterprise - 918.799.6113
- Hugo - 580.326.3345
- Hugo - 580.326.0303
- Stigler - 918.967.2164
- Tuskahoma - 918.521.3721
- Rattan - 918.521.3721
- Valliant - 580.933.4239
- Fort Towson - 580.873.2307
- Keota - 918.775.4475
- Keota - 918.775.4475
- Ord - 580.326.7511
- Clayton - 918.569.4637
- Wister - 918.655.7756
- Atoka - 580.889.5822
- Atoka - 580.889.2410
- Durant - 580.924.0848
- Durant - 580.931.6610
- 877.718.5585
- 580.965.4660
- 580.965.4922
- 580.924.7316
- 580.920.0176
- 580.564.2566
- 580.434.5864
- 580.924.6240
- 580.564.2307



Area Parks

Arrowhead State Park
3995 Main Park Rd
Canadian, OK 74425
(918) 339-2204

Lake Wister State Park
25567 US Hwy 270
Wister, OK 74966
(918) 655-7212

Beavers Bend & Hochatown State Park
Hwy 259A
Broken Bow, OK 74728

McGee Creek State Park
576-A S McGee Creek Lake Rd.
Atoka, OK 74525
(580) 889-5822

Boggy Depot Park
475 S Park Lane
Atoka, OK 74525
(580) 889-5625

Raymond Gary State Park
HC 63 Box 1450
Fort Towson, OK 74735
(580) 873-2307

Clayton Lake State Park
Hwy 271
Clayton, OK 74536
(918) 569-7981

Robbers Cave State Park
Hwy 2 N
Wilburton, OK 74578
(800) 654-8240
(918) 465-2562

Heavener Runestone Park
18365 Runestone Rd
Heavener, OK 74937
(918) 653-2241

Talimena State Park
50884 Hwy 271
Talihina, OK 74571
(918) 567-2052

Hugo Lake State Park
Hwy 70 E
Hugo, OK 74743
(580) 326-0303

VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS

*Kiamichi Mountains, please let me run free.
I hear your voice Mountains; must you keep calling me?
I roam far away to see wonder grand,
But your voice calls me back to Kiamichi land.*

*My heart is there with you; my mind is there too.
Kiamichies, I'm longing to be there with you –
To smell your white dogwood, see bluebirds in flight,
Or camp on your ridges and hear sounds of night.*

*To hear a wolf's lonesome howl on yon hogback ridge
And hear its mate answer from down by the bridge,
Hear the complaint of the owl, whose home's in the tree.
On the far side of the creek, whose waters run free.*

*Then the voice of the Mountains gives its mighty command:
"Come back, My Daughter, to Kiamichi Land."
Now I'm back in these mountains, and no longer ask why.
Within these Kiamichies, let me live till I die.*

- Juanita Stockton, McCurtain County

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OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

AND THE LAND WE BELONG TO IS **GRAND**



Southeast Oklahoma is a natural wonder with pine-covered mountain ranges, pristine lakes and clear, running rivers. Explosively vibrant in spring and fall, it is a breathtaking backdrop for 10 of Oklahoma's 34 Great State Parks. For a timberland adventure, basecamp at Talimena and hike the trails of the Ouachita National Forest. McGee Creek is the natural choice for sportsmen with one of Oklahoma's finest trophy lakes and 10,000 acres of adjacent hunting grounds. And for a picturesque retreat near the Winding Stair Mountains, journey to Lake Wister and enjoy secluded cabins with fireplaces and vast, star-filled skies. Visit TravelOK.com/SPDeals for special offers.



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ATOKA

The Stars Are A Little Brighter In Atoka!

Atoka County, Oklahoma, is a mix of rolling hills, native grass prairie and pine and hardwood forest fed by mountain streams, rivers and beautiful lakes. Atoka County offers fun, relaxation and recreation for enthusiasts of every kind. Atoka is home to the state's best hunting, fishing, boating and camping.

Atoka County was first settled by Choctaw Indians during the 1830 government removal. The county and county seat were named for a respected Choctaw, Captain Atoka, who led a band of his people to Indian Territory during the "Trail of Tears."

The most prominent settlement during those early years was old Boggy Depot. It was a thriving trading post and supply depot during the Civil War, in the heart of Choctaw-Chickasaw land. Choctaw Gov. Allen Wright, a prominent Boggy Depot resident, suggested "Oklahoma" as the name of our state.

Atoka is the Guinness World Record holder for the "Largest Parade of Fire Trucks." The previous record held by Switzerland was crushed with 220 flashing vehicles. Atoka is also the childhood home county of 1987 World Champion bull rider Lane Frost, WNBA star Crystal Robinson, former pro baseballer U.L. Washington, Academy Award winner Matthew Mungle, country music sensation Reba McEntire and award-winning gospel singer, Susie McEntire.

Centrally located at the crossroads of US Hwy 69/75 and State Hwys 3 & 7, Atoka is 120 miles north of Dallas, 140 miles south of Tulsa and 130 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

www.atokachamber.com www.atokacity.org
www.civilwaralbum.com/atoka

2015 EVENTS

APRIL

Confederate Memorial
Museum & Cemetery:
Living History Days

JUNE 27TH

Caney Old Settlers Reunion

SEPTEMBER

Atoka County Free Fair
Boggy Bottom Classic Car Show

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Atoka County Historical Society
Zombie Crawl

DECEMBER

OSU Extension Craft Show

For more information, visit:
www.atokachamber.com



Atoka

1302 S. Mississippi
Atoka, OK 75525

Stringtown

987 N. Hwy 69
Stringtown, OK 74539

Your One Stop Shop

Atoka County Chamber of Commerce

415 E. Court Street - PO Box 778 - Atoka, OK 74525

Mon. - Fr. 9 - 2 Phone: 580-889-2410

www.atokachamber.com - chamberlatoka@sbcglobal.net

**Historic Downtown Shopping District * Antique Shops * Beautiful 9 Hole Golf Course
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Chamber Office is located in historic downtown, in a restored 1932 cottage-style Phillips 66 Service State.



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Atoka, OK 74525
580-889-3349
www.stutevilleford.com



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To historic downtown Atoka

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(Hwy 69/75)
580-889-8999

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El Adobe Mexican Grill

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Mon-Sat
11am-9pm
580-889-5296



The Confederate Memorial Museum & Cemetery

Visitor's Center & Rest Area
258 N Hwy 69 - 580-889-7192
M-F 9am 4pm - FREE
www.civilwaralbum.com/atoka

 Atoka Museum & Confederate Cemetery



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2015 EVENTS

FEBRUARY - TBA

Dancing with the Stars of Durant

APRIL 25TH

Take to the Skies Air Fest
Durant Regional Airport/Eaker Field

MAY 28TH - 30TH

Magnolia Festival &
Durant Round-Up Club Rodeo

JUNE - TBA

Kopper Kettle Cook-off

JULY 4TH

Choctaw Casino & Resort
Fireworks Display

OCTOBER - TBA

Colton's Run
@ Downtown Main Street

DECEMBER 1ST

Durant Christmas Parade
@ Downtown Main Street

For event information,
please call 580-924-0848
or visit www.durantchamber.org.

DURANT

DISCOVER DURANT, the City of Magnolias, the Gateway to Lake Texoma, the home of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the Great Choctaw Nation. We are blessed to be located in "God's Country". Durant's high quality and affordable family-valued lifestyle is located a convenient 90 miles north of Dallas on Highway 75 and 150 miles southeast and south from both Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Visit Durant and experience our hospitality and strong sense of community while enjoying our recreation and entertainment.

Recreational opportunities are abundant on beautiful Lake Texoma, offering a wide variety of water sports. Only 15 minutes from Durant, the lake has 89,000 acres of water to enjoy. With the numerous activities, Lake Texoma can make anyone's vacation the ultimate experience.

Don't forget to include historic Fort Washita in your agenda as well. Fort Washita is located 15 miles northwest of Durant at 3348 State Road 199. Find out more about the interesting history of Fort Washita by calling 580-924-6502 or visit www.okhistory.org.

The Magnolia Festival is one of the largest events in South Central Oklahoma and takes place the week following Memorial Day. The 2015 Magnolia Festival opens Thursday evening May 28 and runs thru May 30 at the Choctaw Event Center with a carnival opening on Wednesday, May 27. This four-night, three-day festival is filled with fun and entertainment. For more information on the 2015 Magnolia Festival, visit www.magnoliafestival.com.

Durant is fortunate to have the headquarters of the Choctaw Nation located in our city. Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. provide leadership for the Choctaw Nation. Many of their business enterprises operate throughout Bryan County, and among the most popular is the Choctaw Hotel Casino and Resort. New construction on a 14-story tower at the Resort is expected for completion in summer 2015 with new attractions including a movie theater, laser zone, bowling alley, food court and additional hotel rooms. As usual, the casino provides 24/7 entertainment and the Choctaw Event Center hosts a variety of events for those of all ages along with quality entertainment acts year-round. Visit www.choctawcasinos.com for upcoming events.

The City of Durant is also the regional service area for a five-county area. Our city continues to prosper and grow as we have celebrated the opening of several new facilities. Durant is proud to be home to Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) Savage Storm, a four-year regional college. SOSU enhances our rural setting by providing quality musical productions including the renowned Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival and includes an award-winning Aviation Program.

While in our area be sure to pay a visit to our beautiful and charming downtown. With broad-based community support, the Durant Main Street program has enhanced the original business district through working with business owners, property owners, partners and volunteers. The quality of the downtown businesses is at an extremely high level. The program has received the designation of a National Register District for the Downtown as well as Preserve American community status.

Whether you are venturing on a visit or establishing a permanent residence, we invite you to come and enjoy our hospitality and quality of life. For additional information, contact Durant Main Street at www.durantmainstreet.org, 580-924-1550 or at 110 N 2nd Street. Or visit the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce at www.durantchamber.org, on Facebook and Twitter, our office located at 215 N. Fourth Avenue or give us a call at 580-924-0848 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Discover Durant, we're a great place to be!



Roma

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Business hours

Tuesday - Thursday | 11:00 am - 9:30 pm

Friday - Saturday | 11:00 am - 10:30 pm

Sunday 11:00 am - 9:30 pm

Closed Monday

WWW.ROMADURANT.COM

Roma

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Friday & Saturday
6:00 - 10:30pm

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*and check out
the coming events*





Durant East
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Durant, OK 74701

Durant West
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Calera, OK 74701

Choctaw Smoke Shop
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Durant, OK 74701

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FAX: (580) 745-9304
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Owner, Cindy Hanning



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WILLOW TREE • OXO • JELLYCAT

205 W. Main
Durant, OK 74701

(580) 931-TREE (8733)
Fax: (580) 931-9098

Gale McCurry and Caroline Hill, Owners

ChoctawStore.com



Choctaw Welcome Center
1882 Hwy 69/75 Colbert, OK 74733
855-865-7854
www.choctawstore.com

HUGO

Hugo, established in 1901, is the county seat of Choctaw County. To circus fans Hugo is known as "Circus City USA" because it is winter quarters for three traveling circuses: Carson & Barnes, Kelly-Miller & Culpepper-Merryweather.

Hugo is home to the Endangered Ark Foundation (EAF). The EAF is a private nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the future of Asian elephants in North America, providing a retirement ranch for circus elephants, and educating the public about this endangered species. Motivated by their intimate understanding of the bonds and partnerships formed between animals and humans, the late D.R. Miller and family established the EAF in 1993. Tours are available every Saturday (weather permitting) at 10:00 am. Contact 580 317-8470 or visit www.endangeredarkfoundation.org for tour information.

Hugo also includes Mt. Olivet Cemetery which has been home to Showman's Rest for over fifty years. It is the final resting place for many performers of the Big Top. It has many unusual monuments reflecting the performers "circus days". Buried nearby are World Champion Cowboys and Bull Riders Todd Whatley, Freckles Brown and Lane Frost. Also buried at Mt. Olivet is Ed Ansley, also known as "Buster Brown", the 4' 2" midget with the Dutch Boy haircut who traveled the country and the world for 27 years with his dog "Tige" as a living symbol for the Brown Shoe Co.

We offer a guided tours of our rich history to RV groups and bus tours. The tour includes the Frisco Depot Museum, the Ft Towson/Doaksville site and firing of the civil war cannon, feeding of the elephants at the Endangered Ark, and Showman's Rest at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The tour can be customized to meet your time schedule. For information about the guided tours contact the Hugo Area Chamber at 580-326-7511.

The Frisco Depot Museum built in 1914 is the third largest depot on Frisco rail lines in Oklahoma. It is located at Hwy 70 and the railroad crossing on West Jackson Street in Hugo. You can visit the Harvey House Restaurant and museum filled with items dating back many years. Come see vintage school rooms, Harvey House Restaurant boarding room, circus memorabilia and a wealth of information about early Choctaw County History. Their hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: (580) 326-6630.

The Frisco Depot RV Park is conveniently located across the street from the Frisco Depot Museum. It has 48 full hookups, 30/50 amp breakers, full shower & bathroom facilities, and an adjacent 3,000 sq. ft. hospitality room with a full cooking and meeting area. Daily or monthly rates are available. For information about the museum or the RV Park call (580) 326-6630 or (580) 743-6033.

The Ft. Towson/Doaksville site and museum is the location of surrender of the last Confederate General, Stand Waitie. It was a place of rest for Davy Crockett and Sam Houston on their way to the Alamo. While there, you can see a newly renovated museum with artifacts taken from an 1830's sunken steamboat from a nearby site on the Red River. Doaksville was one of the most prominent commercial centers in the Choctaw Nation for more than 70 years and served as the first Capitol of the Choctaw Nation.

Here, you can also enjoy the oldest bluegrass festival west of the Mississippi. The Early Bird Bluegrass Festival will be held March 27th & 28th. Come enjoy the great bands and the toe tapping music!

The nearby Choctaw Casino Resort offers lodging and was expanded in 2009 to 80,000 sq. ft., which features 1100 games. New are twelve blackjack tables and eight poker tables in a poker room and more reel games than ever before. Three restaurants are available for patrons, one is fine dining and the other two are more casual, serving hamburgers, sandwiches and java. In the summer of 2009 a new hotel was built featuring 60 rooms with all the amenities and a beautifully landscaped swimming pool.



Images by Gloria McAfee Carver

2015 EVENTS

MARCH 27TH & 28TH

Early Bird Blue Grass Festival

SEPTEMBER 10TH & 12TH

Choctaw County Fair

APRIL 25TH

Choctaw County Art Show

NOVEMBER 7TH

Circus Festival

APRIL 16TH

Mr. Crappie Fishing Tournament

For more information, visit:
<http://hugo2choctawcountyok.com>

MAY 29TH & 30TH

PRCA Rodeo, Dance & Parade

HUGO LAKE STATE PARK

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Running Back to Health



Pre-removal, the Choctaw people were a vibrant and healthy people. Recently, the rising cases of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and other diseases linked to poor nutrition and obesity among Indian peoples has concerned the Choctaw Nation. A recent State of the Nation's Health Report

(2010) demonstrated a growing frequency of these health problems, and that they were occurring in younger and younger tribal members. Agreeing that something had to be done to break this trend, the Choctaw Nation "Going Lean" initiative was established in October 2010.

Through this program it is Choctaw Nation's hope that our people will develop a healthier lifestyle that will be passed on to future generations. In an effort to do this, Choctaw Nation hosts free, open to the public races each year alongside community run/walk events

Plan your time in Choctaw Country with health-building physical activities like these in mind. For more information about available run/walk events and making healthy lifestyle choices, go to www.cnhsa.com and click the P.A.C.E. link.

Did you know?

Famous outlaws like Jesse James and Belle Starr hid from the law in the mountains of southeast Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is the third largest tribe in the United States

The original Code Talkers of World War I were Choctaw men

www.visitchoctawcountry.com

COAL COUNTY



COALGATE

Coal County was formed at statehood in 1907. Prior to statehood, the majority of Coal County was part of the Pushmataha District of Choctaw Nation Indian Territory. A small 3.5 mile strip was included in the Pontotoc District of the Chickasaw Nation Indian Territory.

The county was named "Coal" due to the rich coal deposits found there. Coal mining was the county's primary economic activity from the 1870s until the early 1920's. The first coal mine was established on the land of Choctaw Chief Allen Wright. The mining industry peaked in Coal County from 1910-1916. After World War I, the coal industry took a dramatic dive and many Coal County mines were closed.

Today, Coal County is known for oil and gas production, as well as agricultural industry. The towns of Bromide, Clarita, Coalgate, Lehigh, Phillips, Centrahoma, Cottonwood, Olney, and Tupelo support contemporary industries and give Coal County its rich history.

Unique features of Coal County include a large Amish Community near Clarita. The Amish community sponsors an annual Amish Auction the second Saturday in September and provides home-made products to many local retailers. The County Seat of Coalgate is home to the Coal County Genealogical Society and the Coal County Historical and Mining Museum.

Photo: "Lehigh Coal Mine", Sourced from: OkGenWeb, contributed by Sandra Riley

2015 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Annual Amish Auction
Clarita, OK

2nd Saturday each September
www.claritaoklahoma.com

For more information, visit
www.coalcounty-chamber.com

HASKELL COUNTY



STIGLER

The Land Between Two Lakes

Stigler is a prime Oklahoma tourist attraction located between two big lakes. Stigler tourism and Stigler business is booming! Lake Eufaula, one of the largest man-made lakes in the U.S. is less than 20 miles to the west, while Robert S. Kerr Lake lies just northeast of town. Stigler proper even has its own blue-water lake, Lake John Wells, it's very popular for fishing, boating, swimming and skiing.

Recreational opportunities may be found at the Robert S. Kerr Lake, Lake Eufaula, Lake John Wells, and Brier Creek Golf Course. Annual events include Reunion Days during the third week of June, the Christmas Parade on the first Saturday in December, and the Fall Harvest Car Show the fourth Saturday in October.



HASKELL COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
918 967-2164

2015 EVENTS

APRIL 4TH
Easter Egg Hunt
Kiamichi Technology Center

OCTOBER 24TH
Stigler Fall Festival & Car Show
1505 E. Main, Stigler, OK

MAY 23RD
Stigler Cruise Night

DECEMBER 5TH
Stigler Christmas Parade
Downtown Stigler

JUNE 19TH & 20TH
2015 Stigler Reunion Days
Courthouse Lawn

For more information, visit
www.stiglerok.com

JULY 31ST & AUGUST 1ST
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History and Heritage

MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

Barnes-Stevenson House
Idabel, OK
www.idabelchamber.com
(580) 286-6347

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Capitol Museum**
Tuskahoma OK
www.choctawnationculture.com
(918) 569-4465

**Confederate Memorial Museum,
Cemetery & Rest Stop**
Atoka, OK
(580) 889-7192

Forest Heritage Center
Broken Bow, OK
www.travelok.com
(580) 494-6497

**Fort Towson/Doakville
Historic Site and Museum**
Fort Towson, OK
fttowson@okhistory.org
(580) 873-2634

Frisco Depot Museum
Hugo, OK
(580) 326-6630
www.friscodepot.org

Gardner Mansion & Museum
Broken Bow, OK
www.travelok.com
(580) 584-6588 or (580) 306-1511

Gene Autry Museum
Idabel, OK
(580) 286-3747

Goodland Academy
Hugo, OK
(580) 326-7568
info@goodland.org
www.goodland.org

**LeFlore County Museum
at Hotel Lowrey**
Poteau, OK 74953
(918) 647-9178
www.leflorecountymuseum.org

Lutie Coal Miners Museum
Wilburton, OK
(918) 465-2216
www.eastoklahoma.worldweb.com

McAlester Building Foundation
McAlester, OK
(918) 423-2932
www.cityofmcalester.com

Museum of the Red River
Idabel, OK
(580) 286-3616
www.museumoftheredriver.org

Peter Conser Home
Heavener, OK
www.okhistory.org
(918) 653-2493

**Pittsburg County Genealogical
& Historical Society**
McAlester, OK
www.pittsburgcogenealogical.org
(918) 426-0388

Spiro Mounds
Spiro, OK
www.okhistory.org

**Tannehill Family Heirlooms
& Gun Museum**
McAlester, OK
(918) 423-5953
www.eastoklahoma.worldweb.com

Three Valley Museum
Durant, OK
(580) 920-1907
www.durantmainstreet.org

Wheelock Academy
Millerton, OK
(580) 746-2139
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu>

Wildlife Heritage Center Museum
Antlers, OK
(580) 298-9933
www.wildlifeheritagecenter.org



Skullyville Cemetery is all that is left of a once bustling region of Choctaw culture and political life. The name of this town that was an ending point of the Trail of Tears, is derived from Skully-, the Choctaw word for money and -ville the European word for village.



CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS

**Atoka County
Veteran's Memorial**
Hwy 3
Atoka, OK 74525

**Butterfield Stage Road
Monument**
258 N Hwy 69
Atoka, OK 74525

**Confederate Memorial
Cemetery**
250 U.S. 69
Atoka, OK 74525
(580) 889-7192

**John F. Kennedy
Memorial**
Big Cedar
(918) 567-3434

Mount Olivet Cemetery
Hugo, OK 74743

Skullyville Cemetery
Off of Hwy 22A on
Spring Rd in Skullyville

**Stringtown Shootout
Monument**
Hwy 69
Stringtown, OK 74569



WILBURTON

Wilburton and the surrounding area offer everything from great scenic drives to hiking, festivals, art shows, equestrian events, golf and more! Robbers Cave State Park and Wilburton go hand in hand with great places to stay and opportunities to explore around every turn.

Area Attractions

Robbers Cave State Park
918-465-2562

Wilburton Farmers Market
918-465-2254

**Robbers Cave State Park
Swimming Pool**
918-465-0293

Sycamore Springs Golf Course
918-465-3161

**Robbers Cave State Mini Golf
& Paddle Boats**
918-465-5005

Disc-Golf at Robbers State Park
918-465-2562

Disc-Golf at Gary Rosbure Park
918-471-8609

Goldberg Joseph Heritage Park
918-465-2254

Places to Stay

**Robbers Cave State Park
Cabins, Lodge and Camping**
918-465-2562

HiWay Inn Express
918-465-1166

Buffalo Creek Guest Ranch
877-527-4207

A-OK Motel
918-465-2377

Traveler's Inn
918-465-5601

Check out our local restaurants as well. With a range from fast food to Mexican to home cooking, there will be something for everyone.

Latimer County Tourism
918-465-8609
www.latimercountytourism.com
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918-465-2254
www.wilburtonmainstreet.com
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Wilburton Chamber of Commerce
918-465-2759
www.wilburtonchamber.com

Robbers Cave Fall Festival Committee
918-465-3400
www.robberscavefallfestival.com



Wilburton

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ANNUAL EVENTS

LATIMER COUNTY



- January:** 20 Men Who Cook
- February:** Happy Hearts Run
- March:** 4-H Clover 5K Run
- April:** Green Frog Festival, Puddle Jump 5K Run
- May:** Cruise Night
- June:** What About Bob Chuck Wagon Races
Wilburton Round Up Club Rodeo
Antique Tractor Show
- July:** Red Oak 4th of July Celebration Weekend
Butterfield Stage 5K Run/Walk
Fireworks Over Lake Carlton
Cruise Night
- August:** "Keep It Neat" Golf Tournament
- October:** Robbers Cave Fall Festival & 5K
Robbers Cave Haunted Hay Rides
Wilburton Cruise Night
- November:** Wilburton Turkey Trot 5K
- December:** Santa Photos
Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

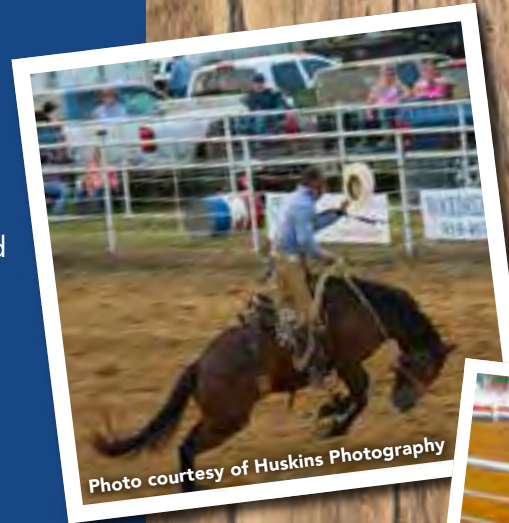


Photo courtesy of Huskins Photography



ADDITIONAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

Livestock Shows, EOSC College Ball Games,
Theater Productions, Banquets, Equestrian Events



Photo courtesy of Huskins Photography





Trail of Tears & Death

The Choctaw's were the first Tribe to be forcefully removed from their homelands beginning in 1831 and not ending until 1833. Choctaw Chief George Harkins was quoted by the Arkansas Gazette that the removal was a "trail of tears and death." Thousands died on the trails due to disease, exposure, starvation and poor planning.

Alexis De Tocqueville was visiting Memphis when the Choctaw arrived on their way west. He wrote:

"... The wounded, the sick, newborn babies, and the old men on the point of death...I saw them embark to cross the great river and the sight will never fade from my memory. Neither sob nor complaint rose from that silent assembly. Their afflictions were of long standing, and they felt them to be irremediable."

Read more about the Choctaw removal under the History tab at www.choctawnation.com.

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LEFLORE COUNTY

2015 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 10TH

10th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet

MARCH 28TH

Veteran's Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 11TH

City Wide Trash-Off

APRIL 11TH & 12TH

Viking-Celtic Festival
918-653-2241

APRIL 25TH

Thor's Hammer
5K/10K Marathon
918-653-2241

MAY 2ND

Latin Flair Festival
918-647-9178
Vendors Welcome

JUNE TBA

Gospel Singing in
Heavener City Park

JULY 4TH

Independence Day
Celebration at City Park
Vendors Welcome

AUGUST 7TH & 8TH

Heavener Rodeo at
Cecil Leachman Arena
918-839-0330

AUGUST 22ND

Car Show
Downtown
Vendors Welcome

SEPTEMBER 26TH

Thor's Hammer 5K/10K ½
Marathon Trail Run
918-653-2241

SEPTEMBER 12TH

Multi-Cultural Festival
Downtown 12pm
Vendors Welcome

OCTOBER TBA

Viking-Celtic Festival
918-653-2241
Vendors Welcome

OCTOBER 3RD

Lions Club
Street Carnival
Downtown 6pm

NOVEMBER TBA

Choctaw 5K/10K Run
918-653-2241

NOVEMBER 7TH & 8TH

Arts, Crafts and
Antiques Fair at
PAC Center 9am
Vendors Welcome

DECEMBER 5TH

Christmas Parade
in Morning

DECEMBER 12TH

Radio Auction
918-653-2241

For more
information, visit
www.heavenerchamber.com

HEAVENER

Heavener is an area rich in both beauty and history. It is home to the mysterious Heavener Runestone that contains etchings of a runic alphabet. Twice a year, in both fall and spring, Friends of the Heavener Runestone celebrate this history with a Viking/Celtic Folk Festival filled with vendors, live music, reenactments and much more!

Visitors can also step back in time to the Choctaw Nation before Statehood and explore the nearby Peter Conser Home. Local attractions also include Skullyville, the first town developed after Indian removal—once a bustling region, abandoned after the Civil War; the Heavener Lamplight Theater that hosts local musicians on Friday nights; and nearby Spiro mounds—the only prehistoric Native American site in Oklahoma open to the public.

Among the various restaurants, one unique option is to dine on the railroads. The Southern Belle Restaurant, once an active railroad car, has been restored to its 1940's state and now boasts of true Southern home cooking with some of the best homemade pies around!

Take the time to explore everything Heavener has to offer.



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Facebook.com/southernbelleheavener

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Viking/Celtic & Latin Festivals | Thor's Hammer Trail Run
Music – Vendors – Food – Family Fun
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Heavener-Runestone/1194742794176>
918-653-2241
18365 Runestone Rd., Heavener, OK





Photo courtesy of Brian Branam

2015 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 26TH

Chamber of Commerce Banquet

MARCH

St. Paddy's Day 5K

MARCH 28TH

Vlke Hike ½ Marathon

APRIL 11TH

City Wide Trash Off

Rotary Wine & Arts Festival

MAY 9TH

Cavanal Killer 8K Run/Walk

JUNE 22ND

Chamber Golf Tournament

JUNE 26TH

Wheels 'n' Deals Cruise Night

JUNE 27TH

Wheels 'n' Deals Car Show

JULY - AUGUST

DWRCC Summer Concert Series

JULY 4TH

4th of July Celebration

JULY 17TH & 18TH

Phil Gardenhire Memorial Rodeo

AUGUST

Brave the Mud Run

SEPTEMBER 10TH - 12TH

HOG Rally

SEPTEMBER 19TH

Walk, Run, or Dye 5K Color Run

OCTOBER 11TH

Zombie Run

OCTOBER 16TH & 17TH

Poteau Balloon Fest

NOVEMBER 7TH

Veterans Pancake Breakfast & Parade

NOVEMBER 29TH - DECEMBER 24TH

Lights on the Island

DECEMBER 5TH

Historic Downtown Christmas

DECEMBER 31ST

New Year's Eve Extravaganza

For more information, visit
www.poteauchamber.com

POTEAU

Poteau is located in beautiful Southeast Oklahoma only 20 minutes from the Arkansas Line and is the county seat of LeFlore County. It is a progressive city with a growing population of 8,900; keeping an eye on the future and boasting a historical heritage few other communities can match. Founded in 1898, Poteau is still a young city by standards. A growing community with excellent lodging and several local restaurants just waiting to serve you.

Tourism is a large industry in LeFlore County, but that's not all. It is a quality place like a city three times its size. Home of The Patrick Lynch Public Library, PARC Sports Complex, Off Broadway Skate Park, Carl Albert State College and Home of "The World's Highest Hill", Cavanal.

Poteau is just minutes from Heavener Runestone, Spiro Mounds, Wister Lake State Park, Cedar Lake State Park and Peter Conser House. No RSVP needed; come see us anytime.

For more information visit www.poteauchamber.com

Area Attractions

Sweet Escapes Winery, Cavanal the "World's Highest Hill", Choctaw Casino & Resort, Heavener Runestone Park, LeFlore County Museum at the Hotel Lowery, Peter Conser Home, Spiro Mounds, Talimena National Scenic Byway, Cedar Lake, Historic Downtown Poteau Walking Tour, Tower Drive In & Movie Theatre, Strike A Lot Lanes, Maple Creek Blueberry Farm, Wister Lake State Park, Donald W. Reynolds Community Center, NYF Skate Park, Wolf Ridge Country Club, Choctaw Country Club

For More Information...

On Poteau, the surrounding area, its tourism, attractions and events you can view the following websites:

Poteau Chamber of Commerce
www.poteauchamber.com

Donald W. Reynolds Community Center
www.poteareynoldscenter.com

City of Poteau
www.poteau-ok.com

Travel OK
www.travelok.com

Or contact the Poteau Chamber of Commerce at:
501 S. Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918-647-9178
poteauchamber@windstream.net
adminpoteauchamber@windstream.net

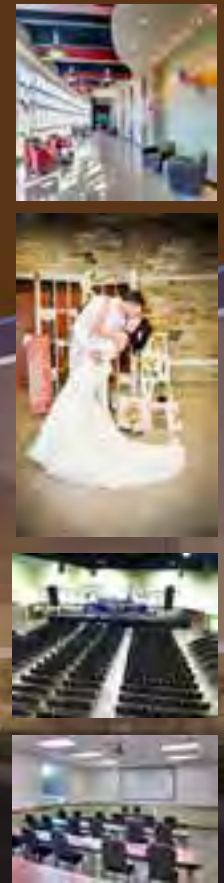
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COMING SPRING 2015!

TALIHINA

Talihina is known as the "Village Between the Mountains". It lies between the Winding Stair and the Kiamichi Mountains, however, the town may be best known as the gateway to the Ouachita National Forest and to the Talimena Scenic Drive, Oklahoma's only National Scenic Byway. The Talimena Scenic Drive offers 54 miles of breathtaking scenery along the crest of the Winding Stair and Rich Mountains. The Talimena Scenic Drive, National Scenic Byway, and the surrounding forests offer the best fall foliage viewing in the area. Talihina, and the Talimena Scenic Drive are beautiful in all seasons. In the spring the trees put on their different hues of green and many of the trees have beautiful blossoms. The beautiful assortment of wildflowers blanket the ground with wondrous color.

Hiking Trails are also in abundance in the area. The Ouachita Trail begins at the Talimena State Park, which offers RV Sites and tent camping, and ends near Perryville, AR, making it a great trail to travel over an extended period of time. ATV Trails are accessible from the Talimena State Park and primitive camping is allowed in the forest. Billy Creek Park and Winding Stair Campgrounds have campsites. Cedar Lake has camping, RV sites and bathhouses. Cedar Lake also offers an Equestrian Camp. Horse Heaven Ranch, is a great place for those who love to ride horses, just remember to bring your own. If outdoor sleeping is not your style there are motels, cabins and bed and breakfasts in the area. Talihina offers a variety of restaurants that serve great food at reasonable prices.

The Choctaw Nation Museum and Capitol Building, located just south of Talihina, is a great place to spend time visiting the past, viewing a buffalo herd, wild horses and longhorn cattle. There are two great fishing holes, near Talihina, Clayton Lake and Sardis Lake. These lakes offer picnic and camping areas, cabins (at Clayton Lake) RV Hookups, swimming and playgrounds. Nearby Honobia, is Bigfoot Country. Several sightings of Bigfoot have been reported in the area surrounding Honobia. There is great fishing and hunting in the Kiamichi Mountains where Honobia is located.

When you are in Talihina be sure and visit our new Talimena Scenic Drive Visitor and Cultural Center located at 201 First Street where you can get information on the drive and the surrounding area and view information panels about the early days of Talihina.

The Talihina Area offers a great place to ride motorcycles, bicycles, and horses, view hang gliding, go hiking, take pictures, go hunting and fishing, and view an array of wildlife, birds and butterflies. If you want to experience the beauty and serenity of nature TALIHINA is your destination!



Talihina Chamber of Commerce
201 First Street
Talihina, OK 74571
918-567-3434
www.talihinacc.com
chamber@talihinacc.com

2015 EVENTS

APRIL 12TH
Indian Festival & Pow Wow
Mountain Gate Poker Run

JUNE 13TH & 14TH
Talihina's Frontier Days Rodeo

JUNE 21ST
Talimena Motorcycle Rally

SEPTEMBER 20TH
In a Good Way's 3rd Annual
Homestead Event

Free Admission
OCTOBER 3RD - 5TH
Honobia Bigfoot Festival
& Conference

OCTOBER 31ST
Talihina's Fall Foliage Festival
Arts & Crafts, Car Show,
Live Entertainment

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www.talihinacc.com

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 jollysafety@gmail.com www.HonobiaBigfoot.com

BROKEN BOW

Broken Bow, located at the foothills of the Kiamichi Mountains and home of the ever popular Beavers Bend State Park, welcomes visitors from near and far to enjoy the natural resources that have made Broken Bow thrive. This scenic area, known for its luscious green forests and abundance of clear water, provides a fun-filled environment for many popular outdoor activities such as canoeing, boating, hiking, bird watching, golfing, scuba diving, hunting, mountain biking, camping, horseback riding, four wheeling and all types of fishing.

We currently hold the State Record Brown Trout, at 17 pounds 4.64 ounces, caught in Lower Mountain Fork River and the State Record for Large Mouth Bass, at 14 pounds 11.52 ounces, caught in Broken Bow Lake. Broken Bow Lake has 180 miles of shoreline; it is one of Oklahoma's most scenic lakes. Whether you are fishing for trout in streams that are stocked year-round or canoeing the rapids of the Lower Mountain Fork, there is an outdoor activity suited for all ages and seasons.

Culture and history are also plentiful in Broken Bow with three museums, each with its own unique subject to offer a rewarding learning experience. The Gardner Mansion and Museum is well-known for their collection of pre-historic and historic Indian and Pioneer artifacts. The museum was originally a mansion built in 1884 for Jefferson Gardner who later went on to be the chief of the Choctaw Indians for several years.

Also located outside the museum are the remains of a 2,000 year-old Cypress tree. At the entrance to the Beavers Bend State Park is the Beavers Bend Wildlife Museum. Not only does this museum feature wildlife exhibits but also environmental education, making it a true learning experience for all ages.

The Forest Heritage Center Museum is located within the Beavers Bend State Park. Through a series of 14 large dioramas, painted by famous Smokey Bear artist Harry Rossoll, visitors learn the important role forestry plays in their lives. The Forest Heritage Center also is home to another Harry Rossoll creation, Tree Bear, who was developed to encourage tree planting and spread the message "Good Things Come From Trees!" One of the museum's newest exhibits, "The People of the Forest", includes over 150 historic photographs illustrating early day logging in and around Broken Bow and the surrounding communities.

2015 EVENTS

APRIL

3-Person Golf Scramble
Girls Gone Wine
Hochatown: 580-306-9463

MAY 17TH & 18TH

Beavers Bend Rod Run
& Cool Cars

JUNE 20TH & 21TH

Kiamichi Owa-Chito
Festival of the Forest
Reception & Art Show
Beavers Bend State Park:
580-494-6300

SEPTEMBER

Masters at Work Woodturning Event
Beavers Bend: 580-494-6497

OCTOBER

Wright City Lumberjack Festival
Wright City: 580-981-2238

Beavers Bend Folk Festival
580-494-6497

DECEMBER

McCurtain County Christmas Parade
Broken Bow: 580-584-3393

For more information, visit
www.brokenbowchamber.com

Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce McCurtain County Tourism Authority

113 West MLK Drive
Broken Bow, OK 74728
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bchamber@pine-net.com
www.brokenbowchamber.com
www.visitmccurtaincounty.com



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Stickball

Ishtaaboli, or "Little Brother of War" also known as the game of "Stickball", is the Choctaw National Sport. It is an ancient game that was used to settle arguments instead of going to war and also was used as a social game. The Choctaw Nation has been revitalizing their culture and in 2010 began sponsoring its own stickball team. Competitions between other teams has inspired a World Series which has now lead to the development of a youth league with 168 kids actively participating.

Museum of the Red River

Museum Hours
 Tuesday-Saturday
 10am to 5pm
 Sunday
 1pm to 5pm

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MCCURTAIN COUNTY



2015 EVENTS

APRIL

Flutemaking Workshop
Museum of Red River
580-286-3616

Dogwood Days Festival
580-286-3305

MAY

Native American Beading Seminar
Museum of Red River
580-286-3616

Red Slough Birding Convention
580-286-3305

JUNE 19TH & 20TH

Owachito Festival in the Forest

AUGUST

McCurtain County Rodeo
580-286-3305

SEPTEMBER

McCurtain County Free Fair
580-286-3305

DECEMBER

"City of Lights" Parade
580-286-3305

For more information, visit
www.idabelchamberofcommerce.com

IDABEL

Over 100 years ago, the Choctaw and Arkansas Railroad cut its way through virgin forest to reach a site within miles of the Red River. A town was soon born in the southeast corner of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. The site, surveyed and staked out in late August 1902, was originally named Purnell, but in 1904, the town was given the permanent name of Idabel, named for Purnell's daughters Ida and Bell. This agricultural town began to grow, with cotton as its primary crop. The cotton gins were soon followed by general stores, banks, schools, drug stores, churches, blacksmith shops, livery stables, wagon yards and grist mills. In 1907, Idabel became the county seat of the area designated as McCurtain County, a growth steadily continued.

As factories evolved, the 1970s also brought the building of new schools and businesses and the Museum of the Red River by Quintus and Mary Herron. One of the most outstanding cultural entities in Idabel and Oklahoma, this museum contains a broad spectrum of artifacts, including a dinosaur found in McCurtain County. The Choctaw Nation has also made many contributions to the area, including the state-of-the-art Choctaw Nation Health Clinic, Head Start, housing for the elderly, Choctaw Casino, and a Community Center.

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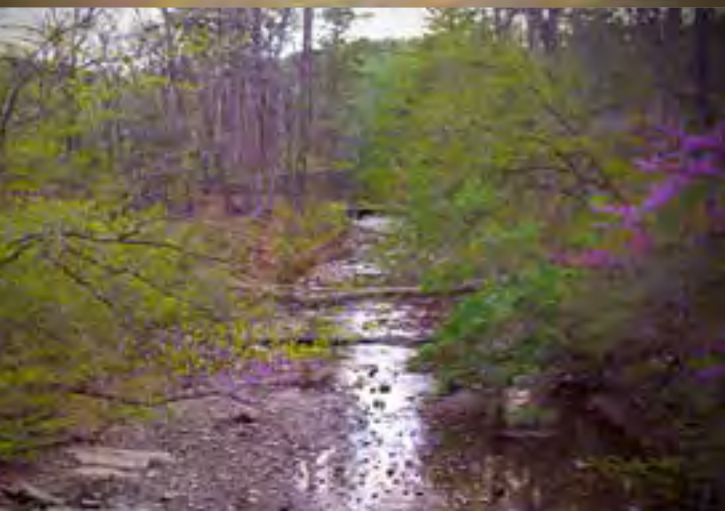
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VALLIANT

The Town of Valliant sits on the western edge of McCurtain County, nestled between four area lakes and five rivers. Within the diverse geographical area, lush forests, beautiful lakes and rivers, bountiful hunting areas, Valliant residents and guests enjoy life in an Oklahoma home town.

Valliant was founded in 1902, as a result of the railroad expansion. The town was named after Frank Valliant, an engineer with the railroad. The land that Valliant is on was originally designated as Indian land and was part of the Choctaw Nation. In 1904, the town was incorporated and the first mayor, Ransom Turley was elected. During the 1930's, Valliant had numerous Works Progress Administration and National Youth Association projects. Projects included a rock high school, gymnasium, grade school and shop building. The old rock gym, Stiewig Hall, is the only remaining building.

The Valliant area provides guests with easy access to Hugo Lake, Pine Creek Lake, Broken Bow Lake, Lake Raymond Gary, Little River, Red River, Glover River, Mountain Fork River and Kiamichi River. Pine Creek Lake, located 8 miles north of Valliant, is known for its great fishing and an ideal family destination. The manicured grounds along the shoreline offer full RV hookups, several boat ramps, picnicking & grilling areas, swimming, hiking and camping. Cabin rentals are available just outside the park. Hunters flock seasonally to the nearby wilderness areas in pursuit of whitetail deer, wild turkey, black bear, squirrel, dove, and quail, wild boar permits are available year round.

The Wheelock Academy is a former Native American girl's boarding school and is the home of Oklahoma's oldest church. The facility was originally founded in 1832 as a Christian mission after the arrival of the Choctaws over the Trail of Tears. Wheelock Academy welcomes visitors to its historically rich museum and gift shop.

Valliant celebrates its agricultural heritage each year with a Watermelon Festival on the last weekend in July. Admission and watermelon slices are FREE. Activities kick off on Friday night with a parade through downtown Valliant and a free Gospel concert in the park. Saturday begins early with a USATF sanctioned 5K, a Kids Fun Run, a classic car show, a Big Melon Contest, watermelon eating and seed spitting contests, quilt and photography contests, turtle and dachshund races, vendors, concessions and more. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the wholesome family fun-filled day, and stay in town for the dance in the park on Saturday night!

The face of Valliant continues to change, but it never loses its hometown atmosphere. Valliant is our home, and we hope you enjoy your stay! The Valliant Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to our slice of Southeast Oklahoma.

Valliant Chamber of Commerce
16 North Dalton - PO Box 396
Valliant, OK 74764
580-933-5050
www.valliantchamber.org

2015 EVENTS

MAY 1ST & 2ND
City-wide Yard Sales

MAY 15TH
Military & Veterans
Resource Fair

MAY 23RD
Alumni Homecoming

JULY 24TH & 25TH
14th Annual Watermelon Festival

SEPTEMBER 4TH & 5TH
City-wide Yard Sales

DECEMBER 12TH
Christmas Market, Parade & Bingo

For more information, visit
www.valliantchamber.org



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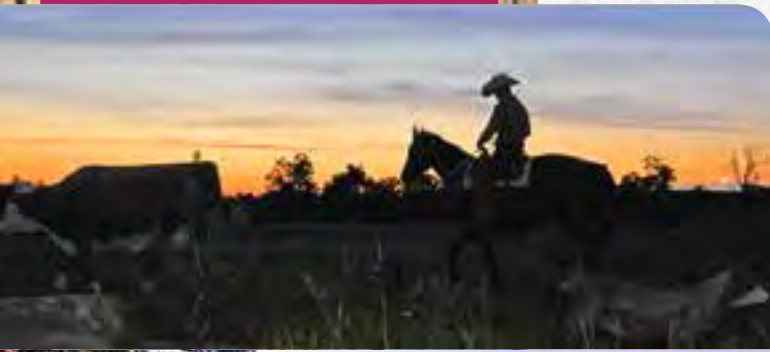
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PITTSBURG COUNTY



MCALESTER

McAlester, the Capital of Southeastern Oklahoma, is the county seat and economic hub of Pittsburg County, located at the crossing of U.S. Highway 69 and 270. It is a great place to consider, whether you are looking for tourism ideas, economic development opportunities or relocation for your family. McAlester is not only rich in history with our museums, memorials and historical sites but also offers nature's finest in wildlife and water activities, as well as many new entertainment choices for your leisure enjoyment.

The downtown area offers many unique shops for your shopping experience. You won't want to miss shopping historic Old Town with many antique shops and historical buildings to explore. Our Highway 69 Bypass area has boomed with economic growth, with many retail stores, restaurants, hotels and entertainment facilities.

Many annual events are held in McAlester. To name a few, the Italian Festival is held in May each year, to celebrate McAlester's rich Italian heritage. The Old Town Celebration is held in October each year to celebrate McAlester's historical beginning.

We invite you to come enjoy "The Great American Experience" in McAlester, Oklahoma. Our many community organizations stand ready to assist you and look forward to seeing you soon!!

City of McAlester Tourism
www.cityofmcalester.com
918-424-9600

Economic Development
www.cityofmcalester.com
918-423-9300 ext. 4951

McAlester Chamber of Commerce
www.mcalester.org
918-423-2550

McAlester Main Street
www.mcalestermainstreet.com
918-423-8888

Pride in McAlester
www.prideinmcalester.com
918-426-4444

2015 EVENTS

JANUARY

Metcalf Gun Show @ Expo

AUGUST

Culture Fest, Downtown McAlester

FEBRUARY

Junk Hippy Road Show @ Expo

SEPTEMBER

Metcalf Gun Show @ Expo

MARCH

Okie Nation Outdoor
Hunting & Fishing Show @ Expo
Women's Expo 2015 @ Expo

Fall McAlester Cruise Night
Big Mac Cruiser's, Downtown McAlester

OCTOBER

Wild West Festival in Old Town

APRIL

Gathering of the Tribes Pow Wow @ Expo

NOVEMBER

Christmas on the Hill on Adams Street
2ND through 5TH Street

MAY

PRCA Rodeo @ Expo
Italian Festival @ Expo

JW Hart PBR Choctaw Chute Out @ Expo

JULY

Stars & Stripes Funfest
Firework Show & Activities @ Expo

For events information, visit
www.cityofmcalester.com



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PUSHMATAHA COUNTY



ANTLERS

*Pushmataha County - Gateway to History,
Exploring, and Adventure*

Antlers, Oklahoma, the gateway to Pushmataha County, awaits travelers and guests as they explore the scenic Kiamichi Mountains, learn about the history of the Choctaw people and the area, experience the Heritage Horse of Oklahoma, visit the Wildlife Heritage Center and the historic RR Depot and Museum in Antlers, and the many other museums throughout the county.

Antlers, Indian Territory, was established prior to 1887 when the railroad commenced operation. The area was originally known as Beaver Springs but, because deer antlers were attached to trees near the springs, it became commonly known as Antlers Springs. The springs were a favorite watering hole for wildlife, hunters, pioneers, trappers and Indians. With statehood in 1907, the town became Antlers, Oklahoma. Today the area sitting at the foot of the Kiamichi Mountains still teems with wildlife and nature's beauty.

Tushka Homma, located in northern Pushmataha County, is the home of the Choctaw Nation Council House. The Choctaw people, originally from Mississippi, hunted for many years west of the Mississippi River before they were re-settled in what was then known as Indian Territory, subsequently the State of Oklahoma. The Council House is the home of the Choctaw Nation Museum and the Grounds are the site of the Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival and Pow Wow. All are welcome!

Antlers, known as "The Deer Capital of the World," is home to the Wildlife Heritage Center Museum located in a log cabin that opened in 2006. The Museum serves as both a visitor's information and wildlife education center. Local wildlife on display includes Black Bear, a Bobcat, Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey, Albino Raccoon and several species of fish. There are live Whitetail Deer in the adjoining pens to feed, take pictures of and just enjoy. The Pushmataha County Historical Society and Museum are located inside the RR Depot. In addition to its historical exhibits, the museum houses the local genealogical archives including microfilmed copies of several local newspapers, including the Antlers American. Both museums are FREE ADMISSION. The annual Deer Festival and outdoor Show, to be held on October 2 and 3, 2015, is also FREE.

Pushmataha and Choctaw Counties are home to the Heritage Horse of Oklahoma - The Gilbert Jones and Choctaw horses. These horses have been called the purest free-roaming Spanish Mustangs in the United States. Many of the Choctaw horses descend from horses brought from Mississippi when the Choctaw people were removed to Indian Territory. Located on private property, the horses can be seen by appointment. Contact the Wildlife Heritage Center Museum for more information.

For family adventure, come and enjoy the fun of floating down the beautiful Kiamichi River, jeeping near Clayton, fishing or boating in one of our lakes, streams, and rivers, or just relaxing in one of the many cabins in the area. Adventure awaits all ages in Southeastern Oklahoma!

2015 EVENTS

MARCH 5TH - 7TH

Pushmataha County Livestock Show
at Pushmataha County Fairgrounds

MARCH 28TH

Made in Oklahoma/Garden Show
at Pushmataha County Fairgrounds

JUNE 20TH & 21ST

Annual Homecoming Celebration

SEPTEMBER 16TH - 19TH

Pushmataha County Fair
at Pushmataha County Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER 26TH

8th Annual Community Archery Contest
at Moyers Baptist Church

OCTOBER 2ND & 3RD

14th Annual Deer Festival
& Outdoor Show
at Pushmataha County Fairgrounds

For more information, visit
www.pushchamber.com

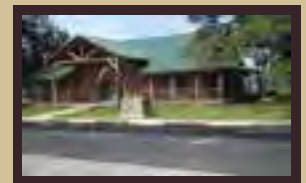
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Verne Jackson, Administrator



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Saddle Up!



One thing that Oklahoma is noted for is the horse industry. Through the years, the state has benefited from this industry's growth and expansion. Oklahoma is well known for its top caliber equine friends and their uses. It is also known as the "Horse Show Capital of the World" and stages more than one thousand rodeo events per year as well as hosting the top race meets for Quarter Horses in the United States. Our state has produced more rodeo champions than any other state and a good amount have come from right here in Choctaw Country. One reason for this is that here cowboying is a way of life and we have good horses to work with.

Choctaw Country is never short of rodeos and horse related events. The PRCA Rodeo in Hugo draws the top contestants from across the Nation. Other rodeos include the Oklahoma FFA rodeos, the Oklahoma Junior Rodeos, the Barrel Racers Associations, the Goat Tying, the Breakaway Roping, the Pole Bending, etc., which all play a big part in the area's agritourism. Team Roping, better known as "Headin' and Healin'" has grown faster than any horse and roping event, sometimes drawing as many as 90 to 100 pairs of ropers of all ages. Barrel Racing for women and girls has been another rapidly growing event with as many as 60 to 100 riders entered. Trail Rides are also an attraction here in Choctaw Country. There are seven ranges of mountains that can be explored. You can ride your own horse or rent one to take part in the many organized trail rides. Where possible, chuck wagons go along to prepare food for overnight trips. In some cases, guitars, mandolins, fiddles, etc., go along and music and singing add to the unique experience.

The Cowboy Church is also playing an important part in the continued movement of the horse industry. It gives many people a church home that is also a good place to bring their families. Most of these cowboy churches have arenas where the adults and young folks bring their horses and work out in the wide variety of events for the equine population. The young folks, male and female alike, have many Oklahoma heroes to look up to and their sights are set in that direction. Many of these kids begin at an early age and are top horsemen at five and six years old. Many chuck wagons have been restored and built anew, taking their rightful place around the rodeo events, promising steak and gravy with a variety of delicious fruit cobblers. The coffee pot is always on and warms the throats of cowboys and cowgirls.

So, take your pick as to what is your fancy, saddle up for the trail or head for the rodeo. Thrills and spills are inviting you, so "Saddle Up" and hang on!

CHOCTAW NATION MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP



The Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum is located in northern Pushmataha County on tribal property between Clayton and Tali hina. The building was the site of Choctaw Nation legislative action from 1884-1905. It is still considered the Choctaw Capitol Building, yet the Council now votes on tribal legislation in chambers adjacent to the museum. It currently houses exhibits pertaining to the history of the Choctaw people, a gift shop and the Tribal court.

Open to the public – admittance is free.
Museum open Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Open Saturdays after Memorial Day through Labor Day
Please call to set up tours – 918-569-4465

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma

On March 5, 2014, the Oklahoma Legislature voted unanimously to designate the Oklahoma Colonial Spanish horse as The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma. Brought to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors, beginning in the early 1500s, these horses are unique in their genetics, history, geography and contributions to the people of Oklahoma. The Heritage Horses of Oklahoma have been DNA tested and are considered the purest free-roaming Colonial Spanish herd in the United States. Thousands of these horses were relocated in the 1800s with the tribal removals to Indian Territory, today's Oklahoma. With the Choctaw people and in herds managed by the military, the Choctaw Indian horses were brought and placed in several different areas of the Choctaw Nation in Southeastern Oklahoma. The Choctaw people carefully bred and maintained these horses and treasured them as cultural remnants and practical beasts of burden, making them a part of the Choctaw heritage. According to Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, "The historical record for the Choctaw Indian horses is extensive and more details are known for this strain than for many other strains of Colonial Spanish horse. But, they are surviving by a thin thread...perilously close to extinction."

In the 1950s, Gilbert Jones moved, with several Spanish mustangs, to the Finley, OK area and began collecting and breeding the remnants of the herds located in the Kiamichi Mountains. He developed the Gilbert Jones line of Spanish mustang and later formed The Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (southwestspanishmustangassociation.com) to record and register the bloodlines of these horses.

Bryant Rickman, in the early 1980s, realized that the horses with rich Choctaw heritage were in danger of extinction. Alongside his wife, Darlene, Bryant dedicated his life to preserving these horses' legacy. They subsequently also became stewards of the Gilbert Jones' foundation herds. Today there are approximately 800 to 900 of these registered horses alive causing the Livestock Conservancy to place the Heritage Horses on their Conservation Priority List for livestock breeds in danger of extinction.

Bryant and Darlene Rickman are still working tirelessly to preserve and promote the Colonial Spanish mustang, The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma. While not yet a public facility, they do try to accommodate visitors. Recently, The Friends of the Heritage Horse Foundation Herds - a 501c3 not-for-profit association - was formed and approved by the IRS to assist the Rickmans in their efforts. The goals of the association are to promote ongoing survival of the pure bloodlines of this genetic treasure. More information on the horses and how to help in their preservation can be obtained through the Rickman's website: thespiritofblackjackmountain.com. The Friends group gratefully accepts donations of feed, hay, land and monies through The Spirit of Blackjack Mountain website or by contacting their home office in Antlers, OK at (317) 409-6517. Their mailing address can be found below.

Friends of The Heritage Horse Foundation Herds

193670 No. 4230 Road
Antlers, OK 74523

* Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD, Professor, Pathology and Genetics,
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech





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