

Spivey Returns to Madill as Guest Speaker for Museum of So. Okla.

The Marshall County Historical Society and the Museum of Southern Oklahoma is hosting an open house and tour at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 12 with featured guest speaker Towana Spivey.

A former Madill resident, Spivey is a historian, museum director, author, Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame inductee and promoter of Oklahoma resources and Native American heritage.

The presentation will take place at the Senior Citizens Center, next to the museum in the Fred Stanley Center.

A tour of the museum will follow.

"There will be refreshments and door prizes," a museum spokesperson said. "Join us and enjoy the presentation, refreshments and tour."

Spivey spent his professional career preserving and interpreting the prehistory and history of the Trans-Mississippi West with particular interest in the Oklahoma area. He was born in Madill, the descendant of several generations of Chickasaws who came to the Indian Territory in 1837 from northern Mississippi, and Euro-American ancestors from Tennessee and Arkansas, who came together in the rugged Yellow Hills country between Ardmore and Madill.

His educational background includes undergraduate work in History and Natural Science at Southeastern State University in Durant, and graduate work in Anthropology/Archeology and

Museum Studies at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Denver, and Montana State University. He has conducted archaeological research involving various frontier military posts in Oklahoma and Texas, including Fort Washita, Fort Towson and Fort Sill. This experience has developed his expertise in the restoration and interpretation of historical structures and construction techniques from archeological evidence.

As a teenager he was responsible for maintaining the Oakland Cemetery near Madill, which was the beginning of a long association with researching and preserving historic cemeteries elsewhere across Oklahoma, as well as in Tupelo, Miss. This often involved protecting Native American burial grounds from destruction or loss due to improper development by private and governmental agencies.

During his career, he has been involved in many unique projects such as conducting forensic archaeological investigations in an organized-crime, multiple murder cases north of Tulsa for the Federal Aviation Administration in 1971, and consultations with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on a serial murder case in California in 1975.

He has also collaborated on several occasions with local law enforcement agencies in southwest Oklahoma regarding the possible association of missing

persons with human skeletal remains found in the Wichita Mountains. He served as an expert witness in multiple trials involving Native American jurisdiction.

In his capacity as a Historic Architect and Curator for the Oklahoma Historical Society from 1972-1974 was primarily responsible for the acquisition and early development of Fort Towson Historical Site in Choctaw County and the complete restoration of the 19th century barracks at the Washita Historic Site east of Madill. He later returned to Fort Towson to investigate and design the restoration of the 1832 Sutler's Store.

Following his work with the Oklahoma Historical Society, he served as Curator of Anthropology for the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton from 1974-1982, where he maintained collections, conducted research and designed interpretive exhibits, while conducting archeological field work through southwest and northwest Oklahoma for the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 1980 he conducted field experiments in skinning and butchering buffalo at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge using both prehistoric stone tools and historic metal knives for comparative research purposes.

Beginning in 1982 he was employed

(See SPIVEY, page 4A)

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photo courtesy - Rebekah Morrow

FORMER MADILL resident Towana Spivey is pictured on the cover to the "Indian Country" issue of *Oklahoma Today* magazine. Spivey is the guest speaker Saturday at an Open House at the Museum of Southern Oklahoma in Madill.