Tribal Council holds regular March meeting

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session March 5 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted on: Application for COPS Tribal Resources Equipment/ Training Grant; Application for the Social and Economic Development Strategies Grant; Application for the Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education; Application for the Native Youth and Culture Panel; Dispose of Surplus Equipment; Declaration for the Day of the Young Child.

The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers on the capital grounds in Tvshka Homma.

Over 18 years old?

Don’t forget to update your membership card if you have recently turned 18 or will be turning 18 within the next 60 days and have not yet obtained your Adult Membership card. Please visit www.choctawnation.com or call the Membership Department at 1-800-522-675 or 936-524-6260.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To provide families of all members through opportunities designed to become healthy, successful, and productive members.

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Youth Stickball League wraps up inaugural season

By ZACH MAXWELL

The inaugural season of the Choctaw Youth Stickball League wrapped up on April 5 in Broken Bow. The tournament Hiloha Ossi (Little Thunder) team won the junior and senior division championships.

League organizer Joey Tom said there were four teams from throughout the Choctaw Nation which participated in the stickball league between February and April. These included Hiloha Ossi (Little Thunder) from Broken Bow, Nashoba Homma (Red Wolves) from Hoxg, Koi Iskitini (Little Tigers) from Tchithuna and Ohi Heli (Flying Eagles) from Durant.

“When we first started, each team had about 30 players,” said Tom. “The effort prove to include more than 200 children playing stickball by season’s end.

“Tribal effort began with a grant to Boys & Girls Club of McIntosh County which helped start a youth stickball team in that area. Since then, the Choctaw Nation has stepped in to help and community volunteers and coaches also have held fundraisers to offset the cost of fuel, jerseys and equipment.

“The main thing is getting kids active in their culture and language,” Tom said. “We want to bring it back together and keep it going. It’s about teamwork, pride and attitude.

Stickball is part of life,” Tom said.

Joey Tom is one of six coaches under Stanley Shomo guiding Hiloha Ossi. Others include Bobby Baker, Kerry Willis, Brad Willis, Derrick Willis and Gabriel Shomo. Nashoba Homma coaches: Branden Sigler, Jeuron James, Teela Walton and Randy Hammond. Koi Iskitini: Mikey Milton, Ross Green and Isaac Wacochee. Ossi Heli: Jurel Tom, Bresner Billy, Ryan Spring and Bryan Kimpson. Players will be honored at an awards assembly at 1 p.m. on April 16 in Tvshka Homma.
Preserving families is investment in our future

The Workforce Investment program has received over 1,200 applications this year. The students look forward to their summer jobs for a number of reasons. It’s a great chance to learn job skills and make some money as they earn money to buy school clothes, car insurance or whatever else they need. Many of the students have a parent or grandparent over 65 years ago, one set of siblings was overworked when they were kids. They may very well look forward to staying with their grandmother and by pooling their efforts, they are more likely to get a job deposit on a house. It won’t be unusual to see the teens using their income to buy things for younger brothers and sisters. Their desire to preserve the family unit is strong.

I also see the strength of staff members who work all week to mend broken families or educate teen parents, all taking a physical and mental toll. It is beyond their capabilities to extend their weekends – their time off – volunteering to hold these kids’ hands. Many of them have several options for the youth during the summer, from sports and sports camps to employment opportunities – made possible because of God’s grace.

Remember in Ephesians 2:2: “By grace you are saved through faith.”

You can’t earn your way into heaven. You should be thankful for the fact that our sins can never be earned.

God’s grace is part of the blessing of salvation. It is by grace that we can never be earned. And it is by grace that we can never be earned.

Way back in Romans 5:23: “But through faith, we have peace with God, because our sins have been forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ.”

Why is this true? Because Jesus proved that the Son of God was alive! What does salvation mean for you? It means that you have total assurance that you will be saved forever. It means that you are safe no matter what happens.

What does salvation mean for you? It means that you are safe no matter what happens.

When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and declare to Him in our hearts that we accept His word as God’s revelation to man and accept Him as our own personal Savior, He sets free from the condemnation, and we are delivered from the condemnation, and we are saved. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. (…the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

The Roman governor Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?”

Remember in Romans 3:23: “But God is rich in mercy, because He loved us first.”

We should be thankful that God first loved us and gave us this wonderful salvation.

Remember in Ephesians 1:3: “Blessings of salvation, the forgiveness of sins.”

The Bible says in Romans 6:9: “But God declared you to be saved through faith, that you are saved.”

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Remember in Romans 3:23: “But God is rich in mercy, because He loved us first.”

We should be thankful that God first loved us and gave us this wonderful salvation.
A group of 25 Danish students, aged 17-19, from the Silkeborg School of Business in Denmark, two of their teachers, plus 10 Eastern Oklahoma State College students, and Steve Glazier, EOSC vice president of Student Affairs, traveled across the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to tour its facilities and experience the culture. The students were given dance and stickball demonstrations, as well as the opportunity to taste Choctaw food.

### Danish business students tour Choctaw Nation

Amy Thompson and Rebekah Becksick hand out gift bags to the Danish students visiting the Choctaw Nation on April 2.

Photos by LARISSA COPERLAND | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Mandy Lawson and two of the Choctaw Princesses, Callie Curnutt and Isabelle Cox, perform Choctaw social dances with the student visitors.

Loretta Blaine made tanchi labona and grape dumplings so the students could have a taste of Choctaw food.

At right, Billy Eagle Road explains the game of stickball to the students.

### Durant seniors hold corn husk doll making classes

Debbie Damron and Shelley Garner give instructions to the Durant seniors on corn husk doll making.

The seniors work on their corn husk dolls.

Dr. Ian Thompson readies the fire to start the pottery firing process with the seniors from the Talihina area. The firing took place at the In a Good Way Farm, located in Buffalo Valley.

### Talihina seniors hold pottery firing

Ruth Romaly gets ready for the firing.

Marianne Lewis shows off her pottery.

By Tryndi Holder, YAB member

A few weeks ago, over spring break, I was given the opportunity to travel to Wynne, Arkansas and tour a small portion of the Trail of Tears in an effort to experience the same journey my ancestors once did long ago. If it was not for the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB,) members like me may not have gotten the privilege to participate in such knowledgeable events. It is very important that the children of today have some insight to our culture and realize the importance of retaining the historical paths of our ancestors.

Along our journey, I was able to meet many new people, one of them being Sandy Stroud. Sandy, being a full blood Choctaw, had many stories to tell about the Choctaw culture and the Trail of Tears. She also brought some sage to share with all of us. Sage is so greatly cherished in many tribes, we placed some along the trail as we walked, to show our gratitude and respect. I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful organization that teaches about heritage and culture.
Diabetes and colon cancer: an emerging link

A few years ago we looked at a very large study which showed a direct link between type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer. These studies are numerous and show that the risk of colorectal cancer for just a person with type 2 diabetes is 2.5 to 3 times higher than the average person in the United States. Also, many of the ways people can lower their risk for type 2 Diabetes are the same as how they can avoid type 2 Diabetes:

- Avoid red and processed meats
- The U.S. has the highest rate of colorectal cancer in the world.
- Many of the ways people can lower their risk for colorectal cancer are the same as how they can avoid type 2 Diabetes:

    - Avoid red and processed meats
    - Get and maintain a healthy weight
    - Stay physically active daily
    - Avoid tobacco and heavy alcohol use

Studies not only show type 2 diabetes is linked to increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. These studies also show that people diagnosed with colorectal cancer were more likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes than those who were not. In fact, one study found that 40% of all colorectal cancer cases in the United States have diabetes. This is a staggering amount of people with diabetes and colorectal cancer. This is not the time for complacency to set in! How can we help!

In a recent study, researchers from the American Cancer Society, has been studying the connection between diabetes and colorectal cancer for a number of years and he has a few major hypotheses for this link.

1. Hyperglycemia (chronically high levels of insulin) is a strong risk factor for the development of type 2 Diabetes. Hyperglycemia along with high levels of glucose (sugar) create an environment in the colon that promotes the development and growth of cancer.

2. Untreated hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) and hyperinsulinemia (inflammation due to diabetes mellitus) have been linked to colorectal cancer. Campbell states researchers seem to have ruled out the cancer risk appears to go away when something is done to treat type 2 Diabetes.

However, Campbell states much more research is needed to discover exactly why type 2 Diabetes is apparent to increase a person’s risk for colon cancer and other cancers as well. Diabetes is linked to increased risk of dying from pancreas, breast, and liver cancers.

Would you believe that a person’s risk for colon cancer is the same as how they can avoid type 2 Diabetes:

- Avoid red and processed meats
- Get and maintain a healthy weight
- Stay physically active daily
- Avoid tobacco and heavy alcohol use

Steps like these can help to prevent type 2 Diabetes as well as many different types of cancer. Below is a fun recipe full of flavors and vegetables in many different colors. As a guide, I also want to show you the ingredients.

The news is all in this little book

• Duvor soaphead sheep
• Avoid a well-balanced diet following the method
• A wide variety of fruits and vegetables in many different colors
• Include vegetables, fruits, and other foods as part of your daily diet

Recipe of the Month

Honey-Lime Chicken Kebabs with Mango Slices

(Recipe from Cooking Light my recipes June 2013)

Yield: Serves 4 (serving 2: kebabs and 1 sliced mango half)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 red, 1 yellow, and 1 orange bell pepper cut into large cubes
- 1 cucumber cut into large chunks
- 2 teaspoons grated lime rind
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- Cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 yellow, 1 orange and 1 green bell pepper all cut into different colors
- Additional chili powder (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat broiler to high.

2. Combine 1.5 ingredients; toss to coat. Thread chicken onto 8 (6-inch) skewers. Alternate chicken with bell peppers and onion. Place kebabs on a broiler pan coated with cooking spray; broil 4 minutes, turning kebabs occasionally.

3. Combine juice and honey in a small bowl; stir until smooth. Arrange kebabs and mango slices on a platter; drizzle with sauce mixture, and sprinkle with chili powder, if desired.

4. Prep Time: 30 min

Nutrition Facts:

- Amount per serving: Calories: 254, Carbs: 23g, Fat: 9g, Fiber: 5g, Protein: 34g, Sodium: 196mg, Cholesterol: 75mg, Calcium: 12g

I hope you all enjoy this wonderful recipe full of colors, flavors, and textures. For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center from page 439 onward: last updated...
Family sends their thanks

I would like to thank everyone for attending Jarrod Choate’s funeral. I knew he would have been very happy to see you all. I would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation for everything. It was appreciated. Thank you also to my older sister, Joyce.

God bless,
Geraldine Pierre and Tommy Choate

Looking for family members

I am looking for descendants of my family, John E. and Dixon D. Sumpter. Their father and mother were Jacob and Nancy Cato Sumpter. They lived around Fowler, Pan and Valley and Olus, Oklahoma. I would appreciate any information. My number is 337-275-6125.

Jean Harper

Dyer-Labor family reunion

Plan your family reunions for the 2014 Dyer-Labor family reunion at Broken Bow State Park, near Broken Bow. Group Camp 2: frost cabins RV pads, & tent spaces available. Check in: 3 p.m., Friday, June 27-Sunday, June 29 rate of $25 for the two nights. Reunion contact number is 803-649-0207. Make checks payable to: Tiajuana Cochnauer, of $25 for the two nights. Reunion contact number is 803-

Noahubi-Columbus-Battiest family reunion

The 2014 Noahubi-Columbus-Battiest family reunion will be held on Saturday, May 10 at the Broken Bow City Park from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All family members are asked to bring lawn chairs, BBQ for dinner, food, drinks, lawn chairs, gifts for games, and a covered dish. All friends are invited to come visit and enjoy the day with us.

For info: 580-577-8963 or contact Louise (Yumke) Lanyon at 580-239-3435 or (basic) (Lore) Rose at 580-842-4977.

CNHS to host Senior Day

The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority’s Senior Nutrition program will be hosting its 25th Annual Day on May 1 at the Missouri Expo Center.

Parnell-Graves-blake family reunion

The Parnell-Graves-Blake reunion will be held June 14 at the Choctaw Senior Center in McAlester. It will be a covered dish lunch at 11:30 a.m., and bring old photos to share memories.

For more information, contact Linda Grimes at 580-286-6127.

Casey-Ward family reunion

The Casey and Ward Cousins Reunion will be held at 7 p.m. on May 16 at the Missouri Expo Center.

For information, please call 918-335-6133.

CHURCH TO HOld MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 3 p.m., May 11 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month, at the Community Full Gospel Church, 901 Big Ben Road, Poteau, Oklahoma. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Communion will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-760-6127.

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Ritter family reunion

The Ritter family reunion will be held May 17 at the Quarry Ship. Any relatives of those of the Choctaw Nation.

For information, contact Elizabeth Payton at 580-476-6133.

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Simmons receives Firefighter of the Year

Stanklin Simmons received assistance from the Nation’s Career Development Program for his firefighter training at EOC Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center. He started as a volunteer part-time employee at the Seminole Fire Department about one year ago. The Seminole Fire Department voted and by a unanimous vote of his peers he was awarded in February the award “Firefighter of the Year”. This March he was offered and accepted a full-time position with the Seminole Fire Department. Once again, with the support of the Career Development Program he is working towards achieving an Advanced EMT national certification at Ardmore Technology Center.

Debo graduates with Doctorate in Pharmacy

Dr. Erica Debo graduated with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Southeastern Oklahoma State University on December 20, 2013. She is a 2007 graduate of Hugo High School, graduated Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and is a current employee at Choctaw Nation Medical Center in Ada.

Henry and Minnie celebrate 50th anniversary

Congratulations to Henry and Minnie Miller who celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 16.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Geraldine Black

SHELBI CAST

Shelby Lee Cast of Pampa turns 16 on April 8. Her parents, Bob and Kimberly Cast, will also celebrate her sister, Kodie, who will turn 14.

Happy Birthday and Congratulations to all!

Ronnie Smith Jr.

Geraldine Black

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Happy Birthday and Congratulations to all!
Chocotaw Nation names Spiro
from history books read by kids and
seen in Hollywood movies.

also involved Choctaws in other
aspects of the book's creation. "The
primary illustrator, Leslie Widener,
brother, Jon Sawyer, who
primary illustrator.
Sawyer. Leslie Widener was the

wouldn't have happened without them
support of those in the
NMAI program, went to
Washington, D.C. with me to help
research the Removal, carried the
heavy load for preparing and
operating the writing workshop, and
helped tremendously with organizing
and researching for the book itself. She
also took the starring role in my
myself.
Sawyer will be donating a
portion of all the sales of the book
coming to the Choctaw Nation scholarship
fund. "Donating to the scholarship
fund is just something I wanted to
do as a way to give back. We are
also donating copies to education
facilities.

Sawyer and the participants of the writing workshop she held in Durant in March 2013.
June Shippe

June Shippe, 77, peacefully went to be with her Lord and Savior May 30, 2014.

She was born in Lawton on Oct. 26, 1936, to Albert and Ruby Har-
mear Shippe. She graduated from Lawton High School in 1954.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her loving husband, Clyde and her brother, Darrell Shippe.

She is survived by her son, Jack Howard Martindale Sr., 65, un-
married, of Shingle Springs, Calif.; two sons, Leonard Brokeshoulder with
wife Courtney of Denison, Texas; granddaughter Mal-
tyn, 16; great-granddaughter, Alexis; and great-great-grandson, Jack; two
brothers, William James; and two sisters, Mildred Bland; a brother, William James; and two sisters, Mildred Bland; a
brother, William James; and two sisters, Mildred Bland.

Giving侏儒 Joshual

Joshua Howard Martindale, 22, passed away on May 2, 2014. He was born on May 12, 1991, in
Longview, Texas to the family of Jack Howard Martindale Sr. and Cheryl Himes. Joshua was a full-blood Choctaw with a
full-blood Chippewa with Cha-

Clyde Adell, Jr., James Larry Martindale, Jarrett Wayne Mar-
tindale, wife Patty of Joshua Tree, Calif., James Larry Martindale of
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brothers, William James; and two sisters, Mildred Bland; a brother, William James; and two sisters, Mildred Bland.
Chocotaw header Roger Amerman will again be a featured artist at this year’s Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian’s American Museum of the American Indian.

Amerman and his brother, Marcus, who will also participate this year, were part of the 2007 Choctaw Days exhibit.

“Amerman, who, with his wife, Carolyn, resides on a ranch on the Nex Perce Reservation in Idaho, is known for his artwork that are high color and intricate, pictorial style beadwork. This year, Amerman will feature his beadwork, including some that he’s done on buckskin. He will also focus on Southwest designs.”

“Amerman’s educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in geology from the University of Oregon, a master’s degree from Colorado School of Mines, and a master’s degree in environmental science from Washington State University. Amerman was looking forward to Choctaw Days as a platform to educate.”

Happy kiddos and proud papas

“Father’s involvement has a unique impact on both his outcomes, and a positive cognitive development, achievement, math and reading scores, as well as behavioral problems,” said W. Jean Young, an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor.

The Native Nation Head Start in Wright City and the fathers of their students understand the role a father has in a child’s life. The role a father plays is important throughout their lives.

The Head Start program often offers support to all parents and provides activities for the parents to enjoy with their children. The program understands that it is increasingly more difficult for fathers to find the time to create these lasting memories. “In Wright City, it is not uncommon for parent meetings and family’s meetings. Their parents care deeply for their children and want them to be successful in all endeavors,” said Head Start Supervisor Kim Gill.

On March 27 the students and their fathers built birdhouses together. Building birdhouses with a child is not only good for the child’s motor and creative skills but it can also help a child build a better understanding of nutrition. The fathers enjoyed the activity and the children loved spending time with dad.

The students and their fathers have played kickball together and will also enjoy skateboarding with their children. The final father/child meeting this year will be on March 27.

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Fort McCulloch

In 2012 David Howington, a local historian, approached the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Office about conducting historical research at Fort McCulloch. Staff at Historic Preservation made several trips to the fort to document some of the finds made there by Mr. Howington. A retired historical archeologist was consulted for further advice, who began with a review of old historical maps and aerial photographs of the property. Aerial photographs from the 1940s were found to show a great deal of detail about the area that no longer exists, due to farming and land improvements over the years. A number of visits have been made to the area over the past year and over a dozen fairly impressive archeological features have been recorded. Fortified positions include several star forts and open trench and berm positions located across to 300 yards apart, with each supported by one or more other fortified positions. Star forts were fairly simple platforms, built up with earth 3 to 4 feet high on points of high ground. Most were rectangular with berm walls 2 to 4 feet high above the fort platform and triangular bastions in each corner. The “fort” was surrounded on at least two sides by a trench about 10 feet wide and 5 to 8 feet deep. Open fortified positions generally have trenches and berms of dirt on three sides, and open from behind the area being guarded. A number of roads converge on the fort area and the focus of the fortifications was to guard the traffic along the roads. So far, four river fords and one bridge location have been identified on this part of the Blue River. The main road through the post was the Texas/Butterfield Road from Bigby Depot to the northeast and Fort Washita to the east.

Other roads through the area include the old Dragon Road from Camp Holm to the north, the Fort McCulloch and Armstrong, Academy Road from the east-southwest, the road to Sherman and Boydston to the south, and a branch road to Preston/Denison to the southeast. The bridge location is marked by a large grass-banked steel cable still firmly attached to its anchors on the riverbank. The cable is believed to be from the second bridge at this point, a toll bridge erected during the Civil War. There are references to an earlier “Society” bridge at this location before the war. A mill built on the river by Claude Nail in the 1850s (and used by the fort) has not been identified at this point. Local tradition says that there were the graves of several soldiers next to the Nail/Polson family cemetery at Nail’s Station on the east side of the river. A brief visit to the area in 1992 did not locate any graves but several sandstone rocks (such as was common markers of the petty) were noted piled near to the worn-out iron fence enclosing the Nail/Polson groves. One of the more impressive features at the fort was a coral complex which included a Glanders compound and one adjacent to it for the general remuda. Glanders was a deadly disease for horses and the Confederates learned that new animals had to be quarantined for a period of time to stop the spread of the virus long before it was heard of in the north. According to era descriptions, the Glanders compound would have had a stockade and a berm perimeter. A low berm remains in place around two sides of the compound today. The compound and remuda coral share clearly on the earlier aerial photographs, a small wooden roadway from the quartermaster’s compound. A log cabin that once existed in the area also shows clearly on the old aerials, but has since been lost to a stock pond on the property. A great deal of research remains to be done at this important military post.
Choosing business focuses

Along with Palmer were over 100 U.S. and international students from countries such as Prague, Berlin and Vienna are on the 13-day itinerary, which begins June 29, 2014. Palmer plans to attend this conference, learning leadership skills on a global scale. He will be traversing Europe, absorbing lessons from leaders in a multitude of countries. Notable locations such as Prague, Berlin and Vienna are on the 13-day itinerary, which begins June 29, 2014. Choctaw Nation SAP is proud to recognize Palmer’s accommodations as he primes his resume for college. He mentions that he plans to attend a university with a distinguished business program upon graduation in 2015.

To prepare for his graduation, Palmer discussed part in SAP’s ACTFest prep and has been able to have business learning experience gain. SAP’s ACTFest prep and has been able to have business learning experience gain. To ensure your project is visible on an all around equine events was officially bestowed the honorable title of “The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma” on March 5, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

The Stealing Partners Dance at Take to the Skies AirFest on March 29.

In addition, “These Spanish horses were relocated in the 19th century to Indian Territory when tribal peoples were removed from their ancestral homes and were carefully bred and maintained by families who treasured them as cultural remnants and practical beasts of burden.” The Southeast Spanish Mustang Association (SSMA) was established in 1977 to protect and preserve these wonderful and rare horses.

The Spanish Mustang of Oklahoma, famous for excelling in endurance competitions and all around equine events was officially bestowed the honourable title of “The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma” on March 5, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

“The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma” Concurrent Resolution No. 34 declared these horses be recognized as the Official Heritage Horse of Oklahoma. Sen. Jerry Ellis authored the resolution in the Senate where it passed unanimously. As stated in the Resolution, these equine treasures...

Spanish Mustangs of Oklahoma named state Heritage Horse

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Chief Pyle welcomes Kellie Pryor Long of Lubbock and her children, Kasen, 9, and Kelsey, who was celebrating her 17th birthday.

Roger and Carolyn Guthrie and son Andrew, 6, Bill and Melanie Guthrie and Charlotte Young gather at the Lubbock meeting.

Annie Thomas Odell of Lubbock and Helen Thomas Lighan of Floydada, Texas, escort their mother, Willie Mae Thomas, to the Lubbock Cultural Gathering.

Rita Jo Fitzgerald, center, and daughter Mary Elizabeth Allred are pleased with the pottery mask they purchased from artist Evangaline Robinson.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton says the Lord’s Prayer in Choctaw to open the gathering.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Mike Scott, far right, welcome Earlene Marris and Leona Johnson, both of Ardmore and Onita Carnes and Kathy Eys, both of Madill.

Mary Ann Allen proudly displays her artwork at the Ardmore meeting.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the Choctaw language instructor in Ardmore, Lillian Vaughn.

Kari Gossven of Healdton and her one-year-old nephew, Tate Lifken, of Wilson examine a Choctaw arrow.

Congratulations to Landa McSure of Ada (originally from Talihina). She won the drawing for the iPad Mini. Attendees who pre-registered for the meeting on choctawnation.com were entered into the drawing.

Zakk Shamshizer, 4, joins Beca Patton and daughter Kaisa, 2, for the Snake Dance.

Shelley Tate instructs first-time beaders Yvonne and George Johnson of Ada.