The Choctaw Nation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation are working together to make the roadways surrounding Choctaw property safer. During their May 12 meeting, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council approved nine bills which will secure the progress of current roadway projects.

Back in 2016, the Choctaw Nation partnered with state officials to procure a $62 million grant for Bryan County from the US Department of Transportation. This grant was awarded due to the Fostering Advancement of Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The intersection of US 69/75 and Choctaw Road will also be improved to better accommodate the high traffic area, OFFICIALS have been concerned with the safety and congestion issues this portion of the highway brings since 2014. The intersections of US 69/75 are notoriously dangerous, ODOT reported, with all traffic flow.

The primary purpose of this realignment is to provide an alternate route for traffic, improving safety and traffic flow. The project will eliminate the traffic lights in Calera, install service roads along the highway and build controlled access ramps.

Before the grant, construction was expected to begin in 2020, now construction will be starting this year, beginning with the installation of utilities alongside where the future interchange will be. Safety is the main goal of all involved.

The new Choctaw Nation Wellness Center in Poteau is welcoming tribal members.

District 4 Councilperson Biskinik is the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the Poteau Wellness Center May 31. The new facility is located at 102 Kerr Ave. in Poteau, Oklahoma.

Life in the FASTLANE

The Choctaw Nation Moves Forward with Road Construction Projects

by APRYL MOCK

The Choctaw Nation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation are working together to make the roadways surrounding Choctaw property safer. During their May 12 meeting, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council approved nine bills which will secure the progress of current roadway projects.

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Information about the Labor Day festival in Tsvshka Homma will be available in the August issue.
Walking into the new Choctaw Nation Head- quarters in Durant makes me reflect and think about the past and the struggles and resilience of our tribal members. It also makes me think of where the tribe is today and the bright promise of an even better future. It is a home where the Choctaw spirit, faith, family and culture will be lived out daily.

A home where love, grace and prayer can be found day in and day out. And, a home where all of our fam- ily of tribal members and community will always be welcome.

The grand opening was held 26 June for the 30,000-sq. ft. facility. Approximately 300 employees are now together in their new home instead of being separately housed in at least 10 different locations.

They have the best in technology and teamwork abound as they communicate and connect resources to meet the needs of the Choctaw Nation family of tribal members and community. In this atmos- phere, imagination and creativity are moving the Choctaw Nation forward.

The design of the building and the surrounding campus was inspired by the Choctaw people, our culture and the natural elements. It tells the story of the past, present and future through designs, textures and color.

Each floor has a color scheme-earth (green), sand (grey), fire (red), sun (yellow) and water (blue).

The design pattern is unique throughout, hon-oring the diamondback rattlesnake, as well as other designs honoring nature.

Visit photographs and exceptional art by Choctaw artists line the walls. We are privileged to have their work for everyone to enjoy.

The headquarters, including the grounds and restaurant, are for family.

I love to walk the halls and see the conversations between employees, some who have been here for 30-plus years and others who may be just begin- ning their journey with the Nation.

Visitors are welcome and tribal member ser- vices are available at the first three desks, with the most requested services positioned toward the center of the building for ease.

Contacting us re- mains the same by calling either (580) 514-8280 or (580) 325-7070. The mailing address also remains the same. Correspondence can be sent to P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74703. Our mission is to live up to the name of the department you are sending mail to. We do not always describe our accomplishments.

I hope you can visit the new headquarters at 1802 Choctaw Drive in Durant, Oklahoma and experience the faith, family and culture that lives through the people, art and details of our new home.
When Healthcare Falls Short, RAM Picks Patients Back Up

Some days it feels like there is little we can do to alleviate the suffering of this world. Nonetheless, there are those who give all they can and then give a little more.

On June 2 and 3, hundreds of volunteers, doctors and dentists gave their time and skill to lift up the Durant community, whose poverty rate is a dismal 24.8 percent (the national average is 12.7 percent, according to U.S. census data). Remote Area Medical volunteers provided a chance for uninsured and underinsured patients to receive medical care with no strings attached.

The first patient arrived at 4 a.m., an hour before the event started. Before the sun rose on Saturday, hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic Oklahomans lined up for blocks. Some dozed in lawn chairs, others sprawled on the wet grass.

In all, more than 400 people received dental, vision, gynecological and general medical care. RAM’s 374 worth of much-needed services. RAM partnered with Southeastern Oklahoma State University, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC) and South Baptist Disaster Relief.

Delta Dental, South Baptist Disaster Relief and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were the title sponsors. Other local sponsors include First United, First Bank, Security First Bank, Talihina National Bank and Banc First.

In addition to providing financial support, there were many Choctaw tribal members volunteering their time.

According to Commander Joyce Oberly of the PHSCC, “The Choctaws are definitely a tribe to emulate. Supporting these events really shows their commitment to health and the health of the surrounding community.”

While dental services are typically the most popular choice for such events, 200 patients chose to receive vision care, a close second to the 362 who received dental care. Vision tests were performed on site. Once the patients had received their prescription and selected their frames, their eyeglasses were fabricated on site in as little as 10 minutes.

According to Robert Beshear, vice president of RAM, “It’s amazing to see such an immediate impact. You get to see their faces light up when they put on glasses and can actually see and can actually select for the first time in a decade.”

RAM operates more than 60 mobile medical clinics, 90 percent of which serve the U.S., although they frequently assist patients in other countries following natural disasters, including Puerto Rico following Hurricane Irma.

In addition to helping their fellow man, RAM assists man’s best friend, providing veterinary care for more than 67,000 pets since 1985.

According to Beshear, “For more than three decades, RAM has continued to grow into an organization that has treated and treated thousands of people in desperate need of healthcare. We will not stop growing forward.”

For more information, to volunteer or donate to RAM visit www.raramed.org.
Brett Byram Makes Waves in the Science Community

By KENDRA GERMANY

It’s no secret, there are numerous Choctaw tribal members throughout the nation that are doing great things and changing the world. Brett Byram is one of those shining examples.

The 27-year-old Chillicothe native is currently an assistant biomedical engineering professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Byram’s love for science started with the help from a few special teachers.

“I was always making things. For a long time, I wanted to do aerospace engineering. I made a lot of those little model rockets and I’ve always loved math and science. All of those things lead to engineering,” said Byram. “I had a really good biology teacher in high school. They pointed me more to biological problems, but I still love math, physics and some of the more quantitative sciences. When I started to try and figure out the role I wanted to do, biomedical engineering was a good fit. I started doing medical imaging, because it’s very mathematical and has a lot of physics as well. I’m still trying to solve medical and biological problems. So, it has continued to be a great way to take all of my interests and kind of mesh them all together,” explained Byram.

Byram received his bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt in 2004 and graduated from Duke University with a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering in 2011. During his education journey, Byram was thankful to receive assistance from the Cherokee Nation Higher Education Program.

Byram was an assistant research professor from 2012 until he joined the Vanderbilt engineering faculty in 2013. During his time at Vanderbilt, Byram formed the Biomedical and Acoustics Measurement and Analysis Laboratory (the BAMA Lab) and is a member of the Vanderbilt Biomedical Engineering department, the Vanderbilt Institute of Surgery and Engineering, and the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science.

Byram was recently awarded the $550,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Career Development grant. The five-year grant will help Byram and his team develop brain-machine interface technology using a helmet that combines ultrasound and EEG technology. This research could change the way doctors receive brain imaging and possibly help individuals suffering from ALS regain some form of independence.

The future looks bright for Byram and his team. His research could potentially change the lives of so many.

“Funding engineering/vanderbilt.edu/fac for more information on Byram and his research.

Dolan Graduates with Juris Doctorate from St. John’s Law School

Ryan Dolan recently graduated with his Juris Doctorate from St. John’s Law School. Dolan is a native of Bakersfield, California. He is the son of professional musician Demi Dolan and Thomas Self of Hugo, Oklahoma.

While at St. John’s, Dolan served as a staff member of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and a senior staff member on the Most Court Board. Dolan has accepted a job as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City and will be sitting for the New York Bar Exam in July.

Coser Graduates from OSU-Stillwater With Doctorate

Anishag Coser graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. She previously received the Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Clinical Psychology and the Master of Science degree in Counseling at Oklahoma State University. Ashley is currently completing an internship with the American Indians Health Research Center of Tulsa and will continue post-graduate training at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. Ashley is the daughter of Pete and Angela Coser of Stillwater and the grandchild of the late Samson and Josephine Waite of Afton and the late George and Stella Coser of Oklahoma.

Hartung-LaChusa Receives Bachelors from California State University San Marcos

Kelsey Rae Hartung-LaChusa is a biology major at California State University, San Marcos. She received a BA in Liberal Studies. While at California State University, Hartung-LaChusa was an avid member of the Cal State San Marcos American Indian Student Alliance. She received a special degree for her service on campus from Dr. Nelly Peralta (the Director of California Indian Culture and Heritage Center) and Tribull Turner (Tribal Liaison) at the American Indian Graduate Honoring Ceremony. Kelsey plans to attend a residential program in the fall and aspire to become an elementary school teacher working with Native American children at a tribal school. Teaching has been a dream of Kelsey’s, and she looks forward to changing the world one child at a time.

Leach Graduates from Union University

Jake Walton Leach received his degree in Christian Ministry and Missions with a Minor in Business Management May 19, from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

His next pursuit in education is earning a Masters of Arts in Clinical Mental Counseling at Denver Seminary in Denver, Colorado.

Leach finished the semester by being on the Dean’s List. He is the grandson of Alisia Leach of Stillwater and Cherk Leach of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He has a brother Ben Taylor Leach of Jackson who attends Union University and sister Sarah Brooks of Maysville, Oklahoma.

Ashleigh Coser graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. She previously received the Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Clinical Psychology and the Master of Science degree in Counseling at Oklahoma State University. Ashley is currently completing an internship with the American Indians Health Research Center of Tulsa and will continue post-graduate training at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. Ashley is the daughter of Pete and Angela Coser of Stillwater and the grandchild of the late Samson and Josephine Waite of Afton and the late George and Stella Coser of Oklahoma.

Mayorga Accepted to University of California San Diego

Lynne Katherine Mayorga will be graduating from Heritage High School June 7. She was accepted into her first choice college, the University of California, San Diego. Lynne was awarded an Academic Achievement Award, a Citizenship Award and a College Academy Recognition Award.

Merriam aims to be a Pediatric Neurologist.

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Indian Falls Creek

Sundays, July 29–September 2, Aug. 5
Indian Falls Creek is closed to the public. Please contact Director of Recreation, Casting, or Information for registration, program, and housing costs. Contact Director of Indian Falls Creek at (918) 388-2041 or Director of Recreation at (580) 924-8280 or cherokee@choctawnation.com.

Veterans Affairs Presumptive Conditions Event

Tuesday, July 10 from 12–9 p.m.
Choctaw Community Center
2747 Buhla Blvd, McAlester, Oklahoma
Choctaw Nation and Veterans Affairs will be hosting a Presumptive Conditions Campaign Event focused on identifying and educating the Choctaw Nation who may have presumptive disabilities and might be eligible for a VA pension. These conditions may qualify for VA compensation payments. In addition, spouses may be eligible for a VA pension. The day will be framed around these presumptive conditions. The event is free and will be provided. For more details please see article on Page 4.

For more information contact:
Karee Nancy, Medicaid/VA Coordinator, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 575-7009, ext. 6462, ksnancy@cnhsa.com
Jeremy Taylor, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 576-7007, ext. 6496, jayden@cnhsa.com
Mary Culley, VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist at (405) 626-3425, Mary.Culley@va.gov

56th Annual Open Air Gospel Singing
Saturday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Rock Creek Church, Broken Bow, Oklahoma
A concession will be available. Please bring lawn chairs.

A Message from the General Counsel’s Office

There have been recent news articles about a judgment against the Choctaw Nation arising out of a bus accident and rumors that has caused confusion and fear in the community, and in the law enforcement.

In 2011, the Choctaw Nation reached a settlement with a Texas bus lines to bring passengers from the Dallas: Fort Worth area to the Choctaw Casino Resort Center. The bus was involved in a single-vehicle accident causing multiple injuries and deaths.

The bus company and the Choctaw Nation had insurance covering this accident. Initially, the Choctaw Nation’s insurance company tried to avoid paying those claims but later agreed to pay their portion of those losses.

Three multiple lawsuits were filed in the Texas courts.

The Choctaw Nation requested these cases to be settled by the insurance companies and lots of them were. A few of the cases were not settled by the insurance companies as which resulted in the trial covered by the news media.

The Choctaw Nation regrets this occurrence.

The insurance companies have paid all legal and settlement issues in these cases.

They will be responsible for the remaining claims, judgments, settlements and legal issues. The individuals along with their lawyers recognized the Choctaw Nation’s sovereign immunity and agree any recovery could only be paid from the Choctaw Nation’s insurance policies.

They also agreed to have the attorney that prevailed in these cases responsible for payment from the bus company to resolve it.

The leaders of the Choctaw Nation take their responsibility to protect tribal funds and sovereign immunity seriously.

If you have questions or concerns about the judgment or your rights, please contact our office. The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. At this time, legal department is not providing assistance with suits and probate. To make an appointment, or for any questions, contact Michael Burrage, General Counsel, at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2161 or toll-free (800) 522-6170.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available by appointment only to provide assistance with simple legal documents and matters. Examples of matters that the attorney may be able to assist with:

• Family law issues (custody, child support)

• Contracts and leases

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Choose Your Best Cure

Our mission is to serve and care for the patients of the Choctaw Nation. We offer a variety of services and treatments to help you get back on your feet. We provide a wide range of services, from primary care to specialty care, to ensure you receive the best possible care.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at (580) 624-6209 ext. 413 or toll-free (800) 624-6209.

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative available.

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The Choctaw Nation WIC and Farmers Market Nutrition Programs Open

On July 10 and July 17, Veteran Affairs and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will host a Presumptive Conditions Campaign to roll out veteran benefits and opportunities. The campaign, titled "Your Service. Our Mission: Bringing Benefits Home" kicked off on July 10 through a national campaign to roll out veteran services available for which veterans may be eligible for.

The newly constructed greenhouse on the grounds of the Choctaw Nation capital at Tvshka Homma is home to the Preserving Choctaw Culture by Growing Hope project. The greenhouse is being used to grow heirloom Choctaw crops. This is to create a stable seed bank and interest tribal members and encourage youth to help feed their families a healthy diet. All nomination forms must be received in a County FSA Office or postmarked by Aug. 1. Voting takes place between Nov 5 and Dec. 3. For more information about the election, or to obtain an election map you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Holdenville, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office at Durant at (803) 961-4313 ext. 2. The Bryan County FSA office serves as the local FSA contact office for the Choctaw Nation.

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that the USDA will soon begin accepting nominations for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma.

The nomination periods for the 2018 election is from May 15-Aug. 1. Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age can be nominated as a candidate.

Truly members are considered landowners of their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA.

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**Choctaw Nation Bike Team Honors Ancestors with 500-Mile Bike Ride**

The seventh Annual Trail of Tears Ride concluded Friday, May 25, at the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant. Twelve Choctaw cyclists finished a 500-mile bicycle ride which began Saturday, May 18, in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

The journey retraces the path Choctaw ancestors made during the Trail of Tears. It is an enduring celebration of heritage sites to visit along the way.

The streets were lined with family and friends for visits at the golf club and go ballroom dancing more often. Her life is very active, and she enjoys every minute.

She renewed her driver’s license the week before her 90th birthday. Friends love to pick her up for church and the various activities, but she enjoys her independence and is perfectly capable of driving herself.

“When I was a little girl, my family didn’t have a car so when I was sent to Wheelock (Academy) at the age of seven, my daddy took me from our home in Grant to Indian Territory. He rode on the back of a mule with a wagon, said Chief Gary Batton. “I thought we would have more advantages in Oklahoma, but the riders and what it represents,” said Chief Batton.

Chief Gary Batton joined the team at Blue, Oklahoma for the last 12-mile stretch.

They want to know how she is doing, as well as seek her advice. And she always offers it, as well as seek her advice. And they want to know how she is doing.

“arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison.” According to the Choctaw Nation's website, the man was released from prison in 2017.

Alma Louise Laney was born in Grant, Mississippi, on September 12, 1920, and passed away on April 12, 2023.

She married Frank Louis Moses, the first Choctaw to graduate from the University of Oklahoma, in 1942. The couple had three children: Robert, Stell, and Albert. Robert Louis Moses was a prominent leader in the civil rights movement and was later elected to the U.S. Senate.

Alma Louise Laney was a matriarchal society. At 98, Alma said the girls all “sang in Choctaw, so I couldn’t exactly understand what he was saying.”

Lula Belle Hall Moses. There were seven of us with my mother and father. Some- times my family would go to Roebuck Lake and spend the times my family would go to Roebuck Lake and spend the times my family would go to Roebuck Lake. Chief Gary Batton said.

Alma Louise Laney is living life to the fullest. The 98-year-old widow cut her 99th birthday cake.

Alma Louise Laney certainly shines as the matriarch of her family. She keeps her new iPhone close, as family friends and call daily to check in.

To them, it’s hard to know how she is doing, as well as seek her advice. And they want to know how she is doing.

I was always proud of my Indian blood. We called our heritage sites to visit along the way.

“The world is worse now than it used to be, but I see good things everywhere I have been. I always have good friends. Life is what you make of it. You can make it good!”

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Alma Louise Laney is living life to the fullest. The 98-year-old widow cut her 99th birthday cake.
Marianthina J. Brown, 71, passed away May 17, 1981, in Columbus Robert and Jessie Rolls, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Samuel Butler, and Larry McAlester and spouse Cynthia; and son-in-law Marcellus Nichols. She was survived by her children Larry and Norman Campo and Brenda Barton; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Betty Jo Stout
Betty Jo Stout, 86, passed away April 30, 2015, in Superior, Colorado. She was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Jo Stout, 94, passed away May 5, 1981, in Adair, Oklahoma. She was survived by her children Gary Batton and grandsocused Gordon, and great-grandchildren Michael and Lauren; and great-great-grandchildren, Tyce Strain, and great-great-great-grandchildren, Jayla Garrett, Syerrah Strain and great-grandchildren, Brandon, Maddox, and Hailey. For the full obituary, please visit Resthaven Funeral Home.

Carolyn Sue Olson
Carolyn Sue Olson, 77, passed away April 31, 1981, in Vinita, Oklahoma. She was born on Jan. 5, 1940, to Louis Lee Bolding and Evelyn Bolding. For the full obituary, please visit Evans & Miller Funeral Home.

Jennifer DeBord
Jennifer DeBord, 33, passed away May 9, 1981, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her mother, Maude DeBord; and her father, Bernice DeBord. She is survived by her children Darby and Jimmy DeBord; and her parents, Darby and Jimmy DeBord; and her parents, Cordell and Theresa DeBord; and her parents, Cordell Peaks and Theresa DeBord. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

Michael Ray Mackey
Michael Ray Mackey, 80, passed away April 26, 1981, in Vinita, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret May Roberts; and his stepfather, Olan Roberts. He is survived by his wife, Nora Faye Bolding; his children, Brandy Mackey and Jennifer Reyes; his grandchildren, Brianna, Hailey, and Mckayla; and his great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Jaxon, and Jaxon. For the full obituary, please visit Miller & Miller Funeral Home.

Brian Allen Pletcher
Brian Allen Pletcher, 20, passed away April 4, 1981, in Clayton, New Mexico. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Albert "Jimmy" Wade and Cora Louise Jacob; and his grandparents, Joy Eubanks Shaw and Fred Shaw. He is survived by his children, Connor, Cameron, and Colby; and his parents, James Albert "Jimmy" Wade and Cora Louise Jacob. For the full obituary, please visit Evans & Miller Funeral Home.

Celia Ghuloum
Celia Ghuloum, 86, passed away April 18, 1981, in Ardmore, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis Lee Bolding; and her mother, Marlene Bolding. She is survived by her children, Penny Ghuloum and Tanrii Martinez; and her parents, Louis Lee Bolding and Evelyn Bolding. For the full obituary, please visit Resthaven Funeral Home.

Tommy Joe Dillingham
Tommy Joe Dillingham, 49, passed away Jan. 26, 1981, in Marlin, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his adoptive parents. He is survived by his children, and great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit Brown’s Funeral Home.

Michael Claire Smith
Michael Claire Smith, 85, passed away May 7, 1981, in Piedmont, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his adoptive parents. He is survived by his children, and great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit Miller & Miller Funeral Home.
Blood (CDIB) is required. (A Certificate of Degree of Indian For further questions, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant Adult before the first class or you may enroll the first night of class with the instructor.

www.choctawnation.com (click the Tribal Services tab, then Postsecondary tab) and testing fees are provided. You may print an application packet online at HSE classes will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies

Distance Learning Technology is implemented in these classes which allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. Students are able to interact with the

Our free course for homeowners provides cost saving and

Please contact Neile Vance for more information, or to

Each year the Choctaw Nation Recycling Center offers a prize reward for turning in a sack of recyclables to the recycling booth. This year, instead of shirts, the prize reward will be a Luksi hat made of 100 percent recycled materials.

In a sack of recyclables to the recycling booth. This year, instead of shirts, the prize reward will be a Luksi hat made of 100 percent recycled materials.

Registration begins at 5:30 PM To RSVP: Contact: Jack Hicks - (580) 924-8280 ext. 6019 Clay Pope - (405) 699-2037 or Carol Couch - (405) 612-8913 Partners include USDA NRCS, Choctaw Nation, Redlands Community College and the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub.

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Registration begins at 5:30 PM To RSVP: Contact: Jack Hicks - (580) 924-8280 ext. 6019 Clay Pope - (405) 699-2037 or Carol Couch - (405) 612-8913 Partners include USDA NRCS, Choctaw Nation, Redlands Community College and the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub.

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In fact, quilts were not a staple in American homes until the nineteenth century. Even then, only 45 percent of households listed them among their household goods (Kiracofe 1993:59). This increase was due to major developments in of-
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This particular design made for perfect canvases of each church's service. The quilt features a record of the important ser- vice, and includes the names of the pastors and the dates of each church's service. This design, too, is framed with a V-shaped border of color, rectangular bands in between, to frame the theme. These shirts were made for a specific purpose, to keep memories alive, and honorably signed by the person who made it or whose dresses were in there. These shirts, once pieced together, serve as a family album, or record, of the important ser- vice work of the Presbyterian Faith within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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Kruczek, Postoak Recognized at Oklahoma State University

During the 2018 American Indian Honoring Ceremony at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, two Citizen Nation Tribal members were recognized for their outstanding performances in the field of Health Sciences.

Dr. Sara Kruczek was recognized as an Outstanding Native American Medical Student and Mr. Brandon Postoak was recognized as an Outstanding Native American Student.

The Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences was founded in 1972 as the University Center of Health Affairs.

Community Center Weekly Dinners Bring Elders Together

Crowder

Stigler

Smithville

Wilburton

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Alton “Ab” Smith celebrated his 90th birthday March 31. Friends and family were served to send a birthday card for this milestone birthday of “90 years young.” Alton received approximately 80 cards filled with well wishes and lots of love. Happy birthday Ab!

Billie June (Foster) Farrar celebrated her 86th birthday June 8. She is the daughter of original enrollee Eliza Ann (White) Shoemaker. Her family says, happy birthday Mom, you look great!

Camelia (Stevens) Luman of Bristow, Oklahoma celebrated her 65th birthday May 26. She is the daughter of original enrollee Eliza Ann (White) Shoemaker. Her family says, happy birthday Mom, you look great!

April Diane (Vaile) Harris will celebrate her 40th birthday July 1. April Diane received an early present on Father’s Day while visiting her papa, Quentis Edward, and Auntie John Wesley Porter in San Diego, California. Her children, grandchildren and nephews wish her a great year!

Angelique Diane (Vaile) Harris will celebrate her 40th birthday July 1. Angelique received an early present on Father’s Day while visiting her papa, Quentis Edward, and Auntie John Wesley Porter in San Diego, California. Her children, grandchildren and nephews wish her a great year!

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News that Kari Ames Webber, Deputy Director at the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians, has earned the Certified Association Executive designation.

The American Society of Association Executives has announced that Kari Ames Webber, Deputy Director of Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians, has earned the Certified Association Executive designation.

The CAE Program is accredited by the National Commission for Certification Agencies. Kari Ames Webber, CAE received a B.A. in English from Oklahoma State University in 2001. Kari is a strong advocate for many causes in Oklahoma, including serving on the board for the Oklahoma Society of Association Executives as the Marketing Chair, being a founding member of the MS-Cryotub Foundation, founding member of Women and Heal event benefitting the Oklahoma Humane Society, former President of Zoe Troop the Young Professionals civic group for the Oklahoma City Zoo, Leadership OKC’s Local VII Class Member, Arts Council of Oklahoma volunteer and member of OKC and ASSAE.

To maintain the association and nonprofit management credential, Webber has undertaken ongoing certification, and pledge to uphold a code of ethics.

The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry.

The board is composed of elite individuals in the engineering and land survey profession who work with legislators on regulations in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

David Page was appointed to serve as a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Page to Serve as Member of Oklahoma State Board of Licensure

David Page is the President of Page Surveying & Associates, a 35-year-old surveying firm that was founded by his father David Page Sr.

David Jr. joined his father in the family business immediately following his graduation from Oklahoma State University in 1993. He takes pride in upholding the legacy of his father.

Page Surveying specializes in large commercial boundary surveys, extensive topographic surveys for large commercial developments and major highway construction projects.

Page shares his passion and love for surveying through mentoring young surveyors.

David became a Certified Federal Surveyor in 2016, is a Certified Flood Plain Manager and is a member of the Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors.

In 2004 Page was the recipient of the Society’s most prestigious award “The David Page Distinguished Service Award” named in honor of his father.

David and his wife, Melva have been married 20 years and have two daughters, Afra and Reagan. The Pages enjoy attending their children’s school activities and running marathons.

Webber Earns Certified Association Executive Designation

Kari is a strong advocate for many causes in Oklahoma, including serving on the board for the Oklahoma Society of Association Executives as the Marketing Chair, being a founding member of the MS-Cryotub Foundation, founding member of Women and Heal event benefitting the Oklahoma Humane Society, former President of Zoe Troop the Young Professionals civic group for the Oklahoma City Zoo, Leadership OKC’s Local VII Class Member, Arts Council of Oklahoma volunteer and member of OKC and ASSAE.

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Top: Veterans in attendance of the 2018 Antlers Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo.
Bottom Left: Wrightsman Thomas blesses the meal before the Antlers Veterans Dinner May 30.
Bottom Right: Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. and John Hooser smile for the camera. Hooser, 93, was the eldest veteran in attendance of the dinner.

Wright City

Top: Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. and Chief Gary Batton introduce the Wright City veterans to the crowd.
Middle: Chief Batton visits with the Wright City veterans as they enjoy their meal.
Bottom: The Wright City veterans were honored with a lunch on June 6.

Wilburton

Top Left: Tribal Chaplain Olin Williams blesses the meal before the Wilburton Veterans Dinner June 13.
Top Right: Vietnam veteran Pete Swafford points to his photo on the wall of honor at the Wilburton Veterans Dinner.
Bottom Right: Chief Gary Batton and District 6 Council Person Jennifer Woods pose for a photo with the Choctaw veterans.

Talihina

Top Left: Councilperson Bryant jokes around with some veterans.
Top Right: Councilperson Kenny Bryant thanks Honor Guard member Harlan Wright.
Bottom: Talihina Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo.

Crowder

Top Left: A few veterans share a moment of camaraderie.
Top Right: Reanna Allen performs the National Anthem in Choctaw.
Bottom: Councilperson Frank poses with veterans while holding the framed poem that was presented to each of the veterans present.

Durant

Top: Veterans in attendance of the 2018 Durant Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo.
Bottom Left: Roland Wade presents veteran and District 9 seniors chaplain Glenn Estes with an eagle feather.
Bottom Right: Arvel Joe Shults, 85, was the eldest veteran in attendance at the Durant Veterans Dinner on June 13.

Smithville

Top: The Smithville veterans were honored during the Veterans Lunch on Thursday, June 14.
Bottom Left: The ladies in the kitchen worked hard to dish up the delicious food.
Bottom Right: Ed Bohanan, Chief Gary Batton, Jency Bohanan and Sierra Baker visit during the Smithville Veterans Dinner.

Spiro

Top: Veterans from all branches of the military were honored during the Veterans Lunch on Wednesday, June 13 in Spiro.
Bottom Left: People were entertained by Choctaw hymns during lunch.
Bottom Right: Brayle Welker enjoys dessert while her great-grandmother visits during the Spiro Veterans Lunch.

Antlers

Top: Veterans in attendance of the 2018 Antlers Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo.
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Bottom Right: Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. and John Hooser smile for the camera. Hooser, 93, was the eldest veteran in attendance of the dinner.

Photos by Candace Leach, Kendra Germany, Casey Dyer, April Mock, Kelinn Turner, Sissy Nudo, Tony Moghannat, Darlene Dr., Arla Bailey and Charles Green.

Choctaw Nation Veterans Dinners

Veterans Lunch at the Choctaw National Fish and Wildlife Research Complex will be in the August issue.
MARTIN RUSSELL SIGNS WITH SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE IN KANSAS

Martin Russell recently signed his scholarship offer to play basketball at Southwestern College in Kansas.

He is the first athlete from Ysleta High School in El Paso, Texas to sign to a college in nine years.

Russell was a 2-5A All-District selection for the past two years and played in the El Paso BSN Sports Senior All-Star Game.

He is the son of Karlin and Armida Martin Russell recently signed his scholarship offer to play basketball at Southwestern College in Kansas.

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Bullying Can Have Lasting Effects on Mental Health

by LARELL HARRISON

Bullying can occur across the lifespan of a person. Any person regardless of age or gender has the potential to be bullied. However certain populations are more susceptible such as children or adults with disabilities, physical appearance, and/or other factors including race, gender, family background, learning, hearing, teasing, sexual orientation or race.

Is the victim the only one harmed by bullying? NO! The victim, the bully and bystander are at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, alcohol & drug abuse, self-injury, poor school performances and animal behavior.

Can we help? We can help by spending more time with each other: being active and present at events, attend after school activities and in the home, honoring-others that are not our own. We can ask questions like an example of how to be friendly to others despite our differences. We can become buyers, developing a caring heart and place value in others. God gave us the ability to communicate. Our words are sound waves that continue to resonate what we speak. We have seen the results of the negatives being spoken or shown to others with the mass shooting shootings and the word “has been bullied” spoken as a cross. What if we spoke with kindness? What if we started showing respect to others we meet? What if we say please & thank you in our world?

Mental wellbeing is an essential part of who we are as a person. If you find that you are struggling with issues please contact Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health (580) 507-5001, or text “hello” to 741-741. Counseling services are offered throughout the 10 counties of Choctaw Nation in our outlying clinics. Our caring staff of professionals will assist us in providing you with the most effective treatment and/or resources to help with your situation.

“Your Oars have been sharpened; your paddle is ready for the oars. What are you doing with your paddle? Are you merely resting on your paddle or are you ready to row?” There is a message that speaks to our lives. Are we ready to row?

To read the rest of this article or to subscribe to this newsletter visit choctawnation.com

Pastor Olin Williams

World Series of Stickball Brackets Released for 2018 Tournaments

The Choctaw Nation Forestry Department is a firewood fire-fighting unit within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Located in Talihna, the department serves all 10 counties within the Nation including McCurtain, LeFlore, Haskell, Latimer, Pushmataha, Choctaw, Bryan, Atoka, Pittsburg, Coal and the southern half of Hughes county.

The forestry team has eight crew members who are on-call 24 hours a day and are always ready to respond to emergency situations across the United States. These employees are nationally trained to manage wild fires and other natural disasters.

Their training ranges from a basic entry level firefighter to advanced incident management supervisory positions. They spend countless hours obtaining training and the necessary experience to be able to manage those complex incidents.

The team not only protects Choctaw land, but is called out nationwide for large wildfires and natural disasters.

In 2014, the forestry team has assisted in 16 wildfires consisting of 15,800 acres within Choctaw Nation and 30,300 acres in western Oklahoma and Florida.

With the summer months getting hotter and Fourth of July approaching, the risk of wildfires increases.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks caused an estimated 15,600 reported fires in the United States, including 1,484 structure fires, 280 vehicle fires, and 14,984 outside and other fires in 2013.

Choctaw Nation Fire Prevention Technician Jodena Bates recommends using safety precautions at all times.

Use fireworks only under adult supervision. Fireworks can cause serious injuries and burns if not used properly, as well as start a fire.

Do not have water, a shovel and sand available to put out fireworks or small grass fires. Parking lots, plowed fields and open areas with shortly mowed grass are generally safe areas to use fireworks. Never use fireworks over tall grass or weeds.

Photo Credit: Photo Provided

Photography by WALLIS KILCHET

Released for 2018 Tournaments

2018 Career EXPO
(866)933-2260 www.choctawcareers.com

Location: South East Expo Center
4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74502
Contact: Rhonda Mize (580)931-7624

BULLING MEANS...