Ringing out the old with new ventures

Business looks hot as the Choctaw Nation adds another Chili’s to the mix; this one in Atoka on U.S. Highway 69

By BRADY PRY
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome a new Chili’s franchise to Atoka. Residents of Atoka will now be able to enjoy a fresh casual lunch or a night on the town at Chili’s.

The restaurant’s ribbon-cutting and soft opening was held on Friday, Dec. 4. There were over nine people present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, with Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., several members of Tribal Council and local officials in attendance. The restaurant officially opened its doors to the public on Monday, Dec. 7.

“The Choctaw Nation is excited about opening this location in Atoka. We have been very pleased with the performance of the Potomac restaurant and we look forward to serving and being a part of both the Choctaw and Atoka communities”, said Jody Chandler, Executive Director of Retail and Food & Beverage for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The Atoka restaurant has opened its doors to the public on Monday, Dec. 7 and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday–Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday–Saturday.

The restaurant is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 69 and Highway 3, adjacent to the existing Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza and Casino Tribe.

The Atoka Chili’s is a 4,500 square-foot restaurant with seating for 156 customers.

The lobbies of operation will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday–Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday–Saturday.

Smithville’s restaurant is the newest addition to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s franchise.

ConnectHome

Rural broadband dream on way to becoming reality

By CHARLES CLARK
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation

Three public meetings have been held concerning the Choctaw Nation and its ConnectHome program. Hugo, Mclester, and most recently Talihina.

President Obama visited the Choctaw Nation in Durant on July 15 and unveiled the ConnectHome Program, which seeks to have 99 percent of K-12 students have high-speed Internet in their classrooms and libraries by 2015.

Along the same line, Choctaw Nation is trying to bring high-speed, broadband Internet to designated low-income residents in rural America.

In his talk, President Obama referred to targeting residents of HUD funding for the assistance. Residents of the Choctaw Nation’s HUD-type program, under the Housing Authority, will benefit from this plan. But there have been some misunderstandings about who is eligible.

Scott A. Grosfeld said his office had received more than 20 calls in the week before the Nov. 15 meeting in Talihina, including one from a Talihina resident who had 40 years of service and wanted to know when new tablets would arrive.

Scott A. Grosfeld, Regional Director of Rural Property Services & ConnectHome Project of the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation, explained who can expect a free device and training to the more than 100 area residents at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Talihina. He also sent an email starting on their learning process. The ConnectHome team is working diligently behind the scenes to get the best data plans and the overall best infrastructure to bring broadband to all of our rural areas within our service area. We are trying to roll out the service to those sites at one time and are projecting that time frame to be sometime in January 2017.

After entertainment by traditional Choctaw dancers and a dinner, Fred Logan, ConnectHome Coordinator of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, opened the meeting, which was attended by a few guests and a large crowd who offered concerns and the goal of “bridging the digital divide.”

Representatives from participating agencies and companies delivered brief presentations and answered questions from the crowd. Among the private-public supporting organizations attending were EveryOn and GitHub. Other organizations that have announced support of the ConnectHome project and attended previous meetings, are OETA, Best Buy, the Oklahoma Public Library System, the Boys & Girls Club and several Internet companies. We want it all to have an impact for our people well,” Chief Batton said.

Batton said Choctaw Housing this past Friday the 20th is strictly for residents with children who reside in our low income or ARH sites only. Our Rental Manager for those sites will be scheduling to help the children in our families participate in the program. Housing’s inventory only. If you don’t live in an ARH site or have children, you may need a different program.

Residents of Williams Senior of Smithville, Choctaw Nation, shared her story about her tablet and how it helped her connect to Atoka.

ConnectHome is the official publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

December 2015 Issue

Connecting with the Atoka Community: Meeting in Talihina, are, from left, Stacy Sheppard, CEO of Choctaw Nation Member Services, Scott A. Grosfeld, Regional Director with Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation; and from everywhere, Washington, D.C., Dhak Aap, Chief Program Officer; and Amber Petty, national program coordinator.

The parking lot was full of tribal, city officials, and well wishes as Choctaw Nation representatives and Atoka city officials cut a ribbon to welcome a new Chili’s to the community.

Ringing out the old with new ventures

Business looks hot as the Choctaw Nation adds another Chili’s to the mix; this one in Atoka on U.S. Highway 69.

By BRADY PRY
Choctaw Nation

With all the goodies and dinners during the holidays, it’s not unusual for people to gain weight. We must keep our New Year’s resolutions to get fit. Just in time, the health of Choctaw people has again shown its importance as a goal of Choctaw Nation leaders.

Smithville city council members, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., members of the Tribal Council, and Choctaw Nation employees met at the Smithville Choctaw Community Center on Nov. 7, to officially open the Choctaw Wellness Center extension.

Roselee (Williams) Senior, a Smithville local and Choctaw elder, cut the ribbon, signaling the availability of the workout equipment. Senior said she plans on using the facility as often as possible.

Trudell, ellipticals, and stationary blue line up against windows as video wall projected onto the wooded trail near the community center.

There are also free weights, lifting benches, and weight machines.

“We want to make sure to keep our people well,” Chief Batton said.

Batton went on to explain that the Choctaw Council members, serving all counties, such as District 3, Commissioner Kathy Myant, have consistently worked to bring these types of opportunities to their people.

“We are proud of them for making that a wish, and then making it a reality for us over here on the side of the state,” he said.

This new wellness center marks the eleventh center to open within the Choctaw Nation, and the ninth connected to Atoka City. Smithville’s wellness center is attached to its community center located at 9367 S. Highway 239 in Smithville.

The parking lot was full of tribal, city officials, and well wishes as Choctaw Nation representatives and Atoka city officials cut a ribbon to welcome a new Chili’s to the community.
I love that I get to read the story of Christmas from the Bible to my kids. That the real meaning of Christmas is so very profound and so very precious. It is a privilege to share this with them and to make sure that they understand the reason why we celebrate Christmas. I am thankful for the opportunity to share this with them and to make sure that they understand the reason why we celebrate Christmas.
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma commemorates Veterans Day

**By RONNI PIERCE**

Choctaw Nation

Approximately 900 Choctaw citizens and veterans gathered on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds Nov. 11 to honor our country’s veterans.

The ceremony opened with Choctaw Nation’s Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., acting as master of ceremonies, intro-
ducing the Rev. Bertram Bobb to give the invocation followed by the posting of the colors by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

Choctaw Royalty, as represented by Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy, Ju-

nior Miss Choctaw Nation Loren Crosby, and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Arianna Byington, signed the Lord’s Prayer and the Talihina High School band played the National Anthem and later in the pro-
gress played the Armed Forces Medley.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton thanked the veterans for their service and welcomed them, their families, and Choctaw Nation citizens for attending the ceremony.

“Today we are here to honor you, our veterans, for all the sacrifices you and your families have made for God and country and for making the United States truly the land of the free and the home of the freekhi Homma [Choctaw for red warrior], the brave,” Chief Batton said.

He acknowledged that some families have paid the ultimate sacrifice by los-
ing their loved ones in battle. He also

recognized the number of troops who come home with depression, PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries and told them they are not forgotten.

“I want you to know today that you are the ones who inspire me,” Chief Bat-

ton said. “I look around this room and know that you inspire all of us. There are never enough words to say, so I just say Yakoke, thank you for making our world a better place.”

Guest speakers Tribal Council Speaker Thomas Williston and Colonel Bobby Yandell followed and the program ended with a 21-gun salute and taps.

Lunch was served in the cafeteria on Tvshka Hom-

ma grounds.

Choctaw artists Anthony Thompson and Judy Davis from Arlington, Texas, display their work on artists’ row.

Chief Gary Batton leads the Choctaw Royalty at the 11th Annual Durant Pow Wow. Over $100,000 in prize money was awarded during the 2-day event.

**Durant Pow Wow**

Ronald Monoessy Jr., from the Comanche tribe, read-

ies for competition in the Junior Boys Straight category. Ronald’s father participated as a singer during the Pow Wow.

One drum at the pow wow shows you are never too young to learn and enjoy.

Under watchful young eyes, Josey Bird, a Lakota from South Dakota, styles the hair of Laryan Oakes, from Canada, before she enters the dance arena.

Under watchful young eyes, Josey Bird, a Lakota from South Dakota, styles the hair of Laryan Oakes, from Canada, before she enters the dance arena.

Members of the winning team, Southeast Thunder, line up to meet sticks with team Osi Heli after the game. The scoreboard reflects the final score of six-to-one.

A large scrum, or group of players charging for the ball, breaks out with many sticks pushing to grab the loose ball.

Chief Gary Batton, who played for team Osi Heli, moves his sticks to pick up the ball. Batton played center for Osi Heli during the annual north vs. south stickball game.

Coach Les Williston makes his way off the field after checking with each team for their readiness to begin. Williston also an-
nounced the game alongside J. J. Jacob.

Members of both teams scramble toward the stickball, which has just hit the ground after being tossed down field.

A large scrum, or group of players charging for the ball, breaks out with many sticks pushing to grab the loose ball.

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**Choctaw Stickball**

After a long fall stickball game, teams Osi Heli and Southeast Thunder settle togeth-
er to rake their sticks toward a twilight sky.

Members of both teams scramble toward the stickball, which has just hit the ground after being tossed down field.

A large scrum, or group of players charging for the ball, breaks out with many sticks pushing to grab the loose ball.

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Choctaw Royalty (left to right) Little Miss Choctaw Nation Arinna Riggins, Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy, and Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Loren Crosby start the Veterans Day ceremony with the Lord’s Prayer.

Choctaw Royalty (left to right) Little Miss Choctaw Nation Arinna Riggins, Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy, and Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Loren Crosby start the Veterans Day ceremony with the Lord’s Prayer.
Dedicated to diabetic care and staph prevention

By BRADON PRIE

Dedicated to diabetic care and staph prevention.

Stance, Comstock, a Choctaw born and raised in Denison, Texas, explained and dedicated his entrepreneurial efforts to aiding the Native population in the Country.

To address this in its form, it is the balance of preventative and restorative measures. It is known that, too, and legs from being impaired, kidney damage from spreading, and helps patients maintain a higher quality of life. They also noted that the diabetes and infections will not develop again.

Dr. Boyd Miller with the Choctaw Nation’s Preferred Supplier stands with Owners Charlotte Burris and Shane Comstock as they teamed up to start a new business, the BCW Group, with the help of the CSBDS.

The BCW Group was developed to offer a one-stop service to help small businesses with product specifications, budgets and with the help of Boyd Miller and the Choctaw Nation Credit Department.

Shane Comstock, a Choctaw born and raised in Denison, Texas, explained and dedicated his entrepreneurial efforts to aiding the Native population in the Country. After meeting up, the two founded the BCW Group. This business maintains healthy environments using antimicrobial surfaces, non-detectable allergens and contract cleaning.

It is a local Native American and female owned company.

Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and for emergency business improvements. These will not be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and you must reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8220 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

Choose right raw materials—rapidly blend foams, recycled seat belts, and more.

By using unique materials we are able to.

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LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE
IN SEVERAL COUNTIES

As a result of the extreme dry conditions from August through October 2015, livestock producers in Atoka, Choctaw, McCurtain and McCurtain Counties have all been designated drought disaster areas by the USDA’s Livestock Disaster Assistance Program.

Livestock producers in these counties are now eligible to sign up and receive payments from the USDA’s Farm Service Agency. Livestock producers should contact their local Agriculture office to make an appointment to sign up.

Atoka County – (580) 924-2370
Bryan County – (405) 674-0373
Choctaw County – (580) 326-8304
McCurtain County – (918) 254-2794 ext. 2

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________
Daytime Phone ________________________________  Alternate Phone _________________________________
Address ____________________________ City/State/Zip ____________________________
Fax 580-924-4148
Email ______________________________________________________________________________________

Please call for an appointment.

**The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation and serves to educate, inform and entertain our readers. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Choctaw Nation.**

**Reserve Your 2016 Labor Day Festival RV Site**

In order to reserve an RV site with electric and water hook up for the 2016 Labor Day Festival, please mail this reservation request form or letter no earlier than January 2, 2016, at the rates and forms shown on page 23 of the 2016 Labor Day Festival Brochure. Please include a copy of your CDIB card. Also, include the year, make, model, and length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs.

**Please do not send any money at this time.**

All reservations will be drawn randomly for the RV sites. If your name is drawn, you will be notified by mail. At that time you will need to send in your credit card or Money Order to reserve your site and receive your confirmation and rules for RV camping at the Labor Day Festival. No phone reservations will be accepted.

Please only include one reservation per application. We will do our best to respect the requests for preferred RV pads; however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested. Please watch the Biskinik newspaper and Choctaw Nation’s Capi- tal online for the latest information.

**Coalgate by appt.**

**Broken Bow by appt.**

**Coalgate**

**350 North Indian Hills Drive, Coalgate, OK 74530**

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________
Daytime Phone ________________________________  Alternate Phone _________________________________
Address ____________________________ City/State/Zip ____________________________
Fax 580-924-4148
Email ______________________________________________________________________________________

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Daytime Phone ________________________________  Alternate Phone _________________________________
Address ____________________________ City/State/Zip ____________________________
Fax 580-924-4148
Email ______________________________________________________________________________________
Plan ahead for healthy, guilt-free holiday meal

By ERIN ADAMS

Cooking with Carmen:

Ingredients:

Whole Turkey

• 1-3 pinch cloves
• 1-3 pinch fresh thyme, finely chopped
• 1-3 pinch fresh rosemary, finely chopped
• 1-3 pinch fresh ground black pepper
• 1-3 pinch paprika
• 1-3 lemon

Instructions:

1. Turkey is frozen, thaw turkey prior to cooking.
2. In a medium bowl, combine parsley, thyme, & rosemary
3. Gently cover the turkey with foil during cooking to avoid over-browning
4. Baste turkey uncovered at 3-4 degrees for 1-2 hours, depending on size of turkey, until the thermometer registers 170 degrees to 175 degrees
5. Rub the herb mixture over the skin of the turkey
6. Let turkey rest 15 minutes prior to carving.

Serving Size: 4-12 servings depending on size of turkey

Nutrition Facts

Per Serving:

Calories 1020 
Fat 47g Cholesterol 491mg
Carbohydrates 124g Protein 42.9g Cholesterol 183.9mg

Cooking with Carmen:

I hope you enjoy this recipe and have a Merry Christ-

mas and a healthy New Year. If you need further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD, at the Choctaw Nation Navajo Wellness Center (900-636-7056 ext. 6599).

Cooking with Carmen:

Breastfeeding gives breast milk

• 1-3 pinch paprika
• 1-3 pinch parsley, finely chopped

Whole Turkey

• 1-3 pinch cloves
• 1-3 pinch fresh thyme, finely chopped
• 1-3 pinch fresh rosemary, finely chopped
• 1-3 pinch fresh ground black pepper
• 1-3 pinch paprika

Instructions:

1. Turkey is frozen, thaw turkey prior to cooking.
2. In a medium bowl, combine parsley, thyme, & rosemary
3. Gentle cover the turkey with foil during cooking to avoid over-browning
4. Baste turkey uncovered at 3-4 degrees for 1-2 hours, depending on size of turkey, until the thermometer registers 170 degrees to 175 degrees
5. Rub the herb mixture over the skin of the turkey
6. Let turkey rest 15 minutes prior to carving.

Serving Size: 4-12 servings depending on size of turkey

Nutrition Facts

Per Serving:

Calories 1020 
Fat 47g Cholesterol 491mg
Carbohydrates 124g Protein 42.9g Cholesterol 183.9mg
The Big Hunt

Chectow society developed out of a long and informal Spring hunt with the plants, animals, soil, and climate of the southeastern US that took place in the southeast.

In this relationship, Chectow ancestors engineered a food way that minimized their risk of going hungry by relying on a combination of four independent food sources: agriculture, wild gathering, fishing, and hunting.

This food way was flexible enough to adapt to fluctuating conditions. For example, if it was a bad year for crops or wild plants, Chectow communities varied meals heavily on hunting and fishing to get their livestock and other foods. This system was used by the Chectow for centuries, and it is still used by the Choctaw Nation today.

The Big Hunt was a several-week-long extended hunting trip that took place in the fall and winter. It was a sacred passage and a major event in the Chectow calendar, and it played a critical role in sustaining the community's cultural identity.

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Karl Milton Hart

Karl Milton Hart, 84, of McAlester, died on Sept. 24, 2015, after a short illness at Abilene Regional Medical Center from cancer. Karl was born on Dec. 20, 1930, in Tenaha, Texas, to Robert and Ruby (hooks) Hart. Karl was preceded in death by both parents; sons, Henry Hart and Robert Lee Hart; two brothers, Floyd R. and Don Hart; and one sister, Mary of Shattuck; sister-in-law, Mollie Thomas of Hull, Oklahoma. He was the grandson of original enrollee Rev. Charles Ray Harkins.

Karl was in the U.S. Navy as a barber's mate and proud seaman serving the country during the Korean War. Karl was a barber for 53 years in McAlester and was a former member of the McAlester Fire Department. Karl was a member of theospel Baptist Church and loved to dance with his wife Lois and was a member of the Oklahoma Barbers and Beauty Supply Association. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; son, Adam Hart; grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, other cousins, family members, and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Miller Funeral Home in Hugo.

Jane (Johnnie) Gilfeather

Jane (Johnnie) Gilfeather, 54, passed away on Oct. 3, 2015, at her residence in Lane. She was born on Dec. 19, 1960, to Robert Ed Lee and Minnie Boll (Thompson) Gilfeather. Johnnie was preceded in death by her husband, Randal C. Hart; and two older brothers, Floyd R. and Don Hart.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Johnstone Funeral Home in Wilburton. Interment was at Heart/Walker Cemetery in Soper.

Bill E. Russell

Bill E. Russell, 84, of McAlester, passed away on Nov. 22, 2015, in his home in Bartlesville. He was born on Jan. 9, 1931, to John and Ruth (Ross) Russell at the family's Panola, Okla., farm. Bill loved farming and ranching and taught his children how to work. Bill was a member of the 1953 graduating class of Davis High School, where he was a star in football and basketball and was named All-State.

Bill was a member of a 45 year old group called Davis High Big Red Alumni for that year. Following graduation, Bill enrolled at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where he worked for his degree, which he earned for a number of years during this time for entering the U.S. Army in 1947. Bill married Francis Strong in 1954, and Bill served as an MP in the Army when he was in Texas. In 1955, Bill married Francis Strong and raised his family in the Welton area and continued to work for his degree and work full-time. He was a long time member of the Welton United Methodist Church, where he was a lifelong member.

He was preceded in death by both parents; sons, Henry Hart and Robert Lee Hart; two brothers, Floyd R. and Don Hart; and one sister, Mary of Shattuck; sister-in-law, Mollie Thomas of Hull, Oklahoma. He was the grandson of original enrollee Rev. Charles Ray Harkins.

Karl was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Johnstone Funeral Home in Wilburton. Interment was at Heart/Walker Cemetery in Soper.

Orville Ray Yandell

Orville Ray Yandell, 85, passed away on Oct. 8, 2015, at his home in Davis. Orville was born on Nov. 23, 1930, in Red Oak, Okla., to Charles and his wife, Alma (Oakey) Yandell. Orville graduated from Red Oak High School in 1949. He married Frances Strong in 1963 in Oklahoma City, and together they spent their lives working. He learned the drywall, finishing and texture trade and was a long time member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He was a recipient of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He was a recipient of the Oklahoma Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances; sons, Johnie and Leona; and brothers, Calvin, Ed, and Harry Yandell. Karl was the grandson of original enrollee Rev. Charles Ray Harkins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Sunset Chapel Funeral Home in Bartlesville. Graveside services were held on Oct. 10, 2015, at Davis Cemetery.

Winnie Margaret Robbins

Winnie Margaret Robbins, 89, passed away on Oct. 5, 2015, in Davis. She was born on Nov. 17, 1926, in Davis, to Leon and Eula (McMillion) Boyles. She was a member of the Baptist Church and taught Sunday School for years. She was preceded in death by her husband, W.C. Robins; brother; and sister.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W.C. Robins; brother; and sister.

Winnie was survived by daughter, Sonja Fowler and husband, Steven; and sister, Robyn. They had many nieces and nephews. Winnie was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Walter, Sam, and Lorence; sister, Ada; and daughter, Beverly Beach.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Sunset Chapel Funeral Home in Bartlesville. Interment was at Green Hill Cemetery in Davis.

Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribe members and are free of charge. Please call or email Beetle Yarbrough at Beetle.Yarbrough@choctawtribe.net or other official sources. Family members/submitters may still submit obituary information to the office. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document. All obituary information should be submitted to the office and Facebook as a Word document.
Meza earns honor as forty under 40

Choctaw tribe member

HUNTER MADISON

Mildred Crow of Hobart.

She is the daughter of Jessica and Heath Snyder of Quinton, Okla. She visited family in Quinton, Okla. and touring the area rest.

Bingi Lockett of Biskinik

Kelsey Barnard does.

known that her daughter, Kelsey, is a professional power tumbler. Kelsey did her hair to make wigs for people going through chemotherapy. Barnard’s daughter is one of 80,000 potential donators so far.

Kelsey Barnard received her high school diploma from Four Winds High School in Oceanside, California. She was a competitive power tumbler at the national championships and earned a medal. She was also won a silver medal in double mini trampoline, At the national championships, Lockett was named to the U.S. National Team. The team is the grand-daughter of Betty (Suddath) Lock

Wright ranks First Class in Boy Scouts

Jared Wright earned a promotion to First Class in Boy Scouts of America in Los Angeles, California on Sept. 12. He moved up in the BSA rank of Star Scout in December, with the aim of working toward a promotion to First Class Scout in 2016.

Misha Yordanov, a former Bulgarian National Power Tumbler Champion, who attained Level 10 in Bulgaria, was excited to be the first in her family to visit the Choctaw Nation at the Native Enterprise Development Conference.

Kevin Bundy is originally from McClure, Oklahoma where his parents Brent & Pam Bundy still live. His mother Pam Bundy is a loan officer for Choctaw Home Fin.

Teresa “Teri” Polumsky as the 2016 president of the Native American Real Estate Association. She is a certified real estate instructor as well as superintendent. She also won a silver medal in double mini trampoline, At the national championships, Lockett was named to the U.S. National Team. She is the grand-daughter of Betty (Suddath) Lock and Jack Lockett. Jack played tight end and receiver for the Sooners from 1949-1951 and was on the 1950 National Championship team.

The Montana Association of Realtors recently named Choctaw Terri “Tess” Polumsky as the 2016 president of the Real Estate Organization. The event was the award ceremony was held at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. to see a display of all his military medals to the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, Brest Oakes, Director of Veterans Advocacy for the Choctaw Nation, said the honor is a first for the Choctaw Nation. Polumsky will also give all mandatory functions in her new role and represent Montana during the year at meetings held by the National Association of Realtors.

Polumsky is very proud of her Choctaw heritage and traces her lineage to Chief Moshulatubbe. A highlight for her is the fact that she attended the Native American Real Estate Association conference in Washington, D.C. to see a display of all his military medals to the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, Brest Oakes, Director of Veterans Advocacy for the Choctaw Nation, said the honor is a first for the Choctaw Nation. Polumsky will also give all mandatory functions in her new role and represent Montana during the year at meetings held by the National Association of Realtors.

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The five-year-old center in Antlers is currently without a fulltime cook, but there was plenty of help on hand Nov. 18, including Oma Clay, right, assistant director of Antlers’ CHR program.

Father Felix Salinas keeps daughter Ariyah Salinas happy as they wait for the food to be served at the Idabel Thanksgiving dinner. Ariyah wears a Choctaw dress every year for the event.

Ivan Battiest leads the Broken Bow senior group in singing songs in Choctaw, including Hymn #48.

Attending the Coalgatfe lunch are the Soto family: Amanda, Ali, Jorge, Izaiah, and the family matriarch, Vicki McClure. Pictured here being greeted by the Chief and his wife.

Matthew Kemp and James Charles were greeted by District 12 Little Miss Cherokee McCoy and Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy at the Crowder dinner.

Teri Billy, with the Choctaw Nation Language School, volunteers at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner handing out drinks as heads come in for a seat.

Linda Wade, Choctaw Nation Community Health Representative from Broken Bow, prepares the Thanksgiving ham for the Broken Bow dinner.

Matthew Ring and Jeannell Charles were greeted by District 12 Little Miss Cherokee McCoy and Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy at the Crowder dinner.

Niva Londermilk, Lou Draper, Glentnette Cooper, and Alma Bell Alma and Lou are sisters pose for a picture following the Aloka dinner.

From left, Edgar Taylor of Antlers, District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, and Tommy Weslow of Antlers partake in a little after-dinner conversation.

Ivan Battiest leads the Broken Bow senior group in singing songs in Choctaw, including Hymn #48.

Billy and Cooper Battles smile for the camera at the Coalgatfe Thanksgiving lunch.

Jackson and Cooper Battles smile for the camera at the Coalgatfe Thanksgiving lunch.

The kids from the Choctaw Nation Head Start, perform the Snake Dance during the Aloka Thanksgiving dinner.

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The kids from the Choctaw Nation Head Start, perform the Snake Dance during the Aloka Thanksgiving dinner.
Minnie Hamm, Georgia Taylor, Iona Parker, and Jerry Byous visit with each other at the Poteau Thanksgiving dinner.

District 11 Councilman Bob Pate visits with seniors during the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner.

Ramona Baker celebrated her 90th Birthday with her family at the Stigler Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 18. Pictured with Ramona are her daughters.

Jovani Flores smiles for the camera after the Stigler Thanksgiving lunch.

Bobby Coley leads a group of Talihina seniors in singing Amazing Grace during the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner.

Trence Holt and Rosalee Ramirez playing a game of cards after the Wright City Choctaw Thanksgiving lunch.

Connie Slabaugh holds baby Lishya Malaltakachi Ray Baker after the Wright City Thanksgiving lunch.

Trence Holt and Ronelle Ramirez playing a game of cards after the Wright City Choctaw Thanksgiving lunch.

Distict 4 Councilman Kenny Bryant welcomes Tommy Blake to Smithville’s Thanksgiving celebration.

Volunteers preparing to serve the Thanksgiving meal before the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner.

Christine Ludlow, Evelyn Ludlow, Kerrie Page, Margie Watson, and Minnie Edwards enjoy their day at the Choctaw Community Center in Smithville.

District 3 Councilman Ron Perry visits with Larry Lovejoy and Grady Adams at Spiro’s Thanksgiving lunch.

Chief Batton visits with James Melton during the Talihina Thanksgiving dinner.

Cecil Watson poses for a picture with Councilman Kenny Bryant at the Talihina Thanksgiving dinner.

Lisa Bohanan, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Loretha Bohanan, Justin Risner, Councilman Jack Austin, and Tracy Risner pose for a picture after the Wright City Thanksgiving lunch. Loretha is a relative of the Austins.

Eva Brad, Shawana Edwards, and Savannah Edwards visit with each other after the Tvshka Homma Thanksgiving Dinner.

From left, (front row) baby Raleigh Duckett, sister Killian Duckett, and mother Lakien Duckett; (back row) Joann Batiea and Chayynna Cherry. All are waiting for the food to be served at the Poteau Community Center.

Chief Batton, Rooster, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. pose for a picture before the Tvshka Homma Thanksgiving Dinner.

Lana Rohaman, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Loretha Bohanan, Justin Risner, Councilman Jack Austin, and Tracy Risner pose for a picture after the Wright City Thanksgiving lunch. Loretha is a relative of the Austins.

Sandra Nullkamper and Bertha Pittwood take a break from volunteering to pose for a photo at the Wilburton Thanksgiving dinner.

From left, (front row) baby Raleigh Duckett, sister Killian Duckett, and mother Lakien Duckett; and another Lekien Duckett bundle together with (back row) Joann Batiea and Chayynna Cherry. All are waiting for the food to be served at the Poteau Community Center.

District 4 Councilman Kenny Bryant welcomes Tommy Blake to Smithville’s Thanksgiving celebration.

Jerry Emery and Topsy Williams pose for the camera before the Thanksgiving dinner is served in Spiro.

Virginia Terry and Topsy Williams pose for the camera before the Thanksgiving dinner served in Stigler.

District 4 Councilman Kenny Bryant welcomes Tommy Blake to Smithville’s Thanksgiving celebration.

Chief Batton and his family take a break from their meal to smile for the camera during the Tvshka Homma Thanksgiving dinner.

District 11 Councilman Bob Pate visits with seniors during the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner.

Volunteers preparing to serve the Thanksgiving meal before the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner.

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By BRANDON FRYE

find opportunities for your future.”

members and multiple pathways in recognizes the varied interests of tribal Brown, Carl Albert State

like Dartmouth, Cornell, perused the event floor in the early morning, and converged on the location to attend from all over

graduate levels. Interested school, undergraduate, and
taw citizens at the high

taw college planning.”

resources to support and promote

about internship opportunities.

Thomas Williston, Speaker of the Choctaw Tribal Council, spoke to the students about the joy of attending college.

he addressed the importance of havin-

“Everyone here got here by way of a purpose. And you get here by the purpose you pursue. You start young, and the thoughts and hopes they had for the future—and their future is you, each and every one of you,” Wil-

said. “You are leaders of tomorrow, future parents and grandparents, you’ve got your lives ahead of you, and the Choctaw Nation is here for you.”

She will continue her ed-

taw heritage and is thankful

to the Choctaw Nation for

ucation at Texas Women’s

ated from The University

Catherine Molin

with a bachelor’s degree in

potology.

will still be available for the staff to

Students attended a meal with a feast

her daughter Arabella during a community gathering. She

Johnson becomes registered nurse

Johnson graduated from Rose State College with her registered nurse degree. She

“Thanks to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for help-

her educational goals,” she said. “I chose to be a nurse. Yeehaw!”

Medina earns bachelor’s degree

Catherine Molin graduated from The University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, with a bachelor’s degree in nursing and psych-

Photo by Brandon Frye

Chief Gary Batton addresses the students and families who attended the 2015 Choctaw College Connect as the Choctaw royalty and education department leaders took up. He spoke to support the students pursuing their educational goals.

choctaw college connect introduces students to their dream universities

Requirements for eligibility:

- Choctaw Tribal Member
- High school student in grades 11 or 12
- US citizen

Apply Online:

http://www.choctawna.org/education/services/student-services/choctaw-higher-education-programs

Available services:

- ACT Test Fee Remittance
- SAT Test Fee Remittance
- College Prep Program
- Student Financial Aid
- Information about available scholarships

$9,000, up to $49,000

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View more information, visit http://www.choc-
tawlegis.com/act. Remember to pre-register for the event. Addi-
tionally, the UNO Higher Education Program is mailed at 800-522-
7029, ext. 2366.

Students at Jason Academy kick off holidays with a feast

Over 200 guests, students, staff, friends and families of Jason Academy celebrated a season of Thanksgiving on Nov. 20.

This special supper officially kicked off the holidays. Guests enjoyed a meal of fried ribs, chicken, and shrimp. The buffet included green beans, corn on the cob, hot rolls, and a variety of sumptuous desserts. While the kitchen team seasoned and marinated the steak, staff member Mike Duran, supermarket Brandon Square, and principal Robert Kay began cooking the main course early in the morning. As the meal progressed, the kitchen manager, Sheila Cloud, became concerned that the calculated two feet of cake and pie might not be enough for the numbers in the dinner. In the end, her math proved near-

perfect with the smallest remainder of only two whole pies. Everyone was in accord that it was the perfect meal and that there is much for which to be grateful.

A table full of Jason Academy students take a break from enjoying their shared Thanksgiving meal to plan out how they will use the cafeteria was packed with over 200 guests and students. It was a wonderful way to prepare the meal.

A team of students from the Choctaw Nation High School Student Services Program serves students in grades 9-12 who are tribal members. The goal of the program is to assist students with academic information to pursue education and career pathways beyond high school. A table full of Jason Academy students take a break from enjoying their shared Thanksgiving meal to plan out how they will use the cafeteria was packed with over 200 guests and students. It was a wonderful way to prepare the meal.

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