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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

August 2016 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session July 9 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Approve appointment of Gail Thompson as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority of Choctaw Nation.
- Budget for the FY 2016 Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Fund.
- Budget and Recontracting for the FY 2016-17 Choctaw Nation Head Start Program funding.
- Approve to donate equipment to City of Red Oak.
- Plan/application for FY 2017 funding through the Department of Health and Human Services for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- Plan/application for FY 2017 funding through the Department of Health and Human Services for the Community Services Block Grant.
- Application for the Tribal Title VI-E Plan Development Grants.
- Authorize Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Participation in a Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment.
- Application for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant.
- Right of Way No. T-150 (Renewal of T-44 and M-1731) with ONEOK Gas Transportation, LLC on Land USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Latimer, Oklahoma.
- Arkansas Riverbed Oil, & Gas lease with Stephens Production Company Continental Properties, LLC on land belonging to the Choctaw/Chickasaw/Cherokee Nations in Sequoyah County, Oklahoma.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to <https://www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills>.

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

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.

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FASTLANE Fast-Trackd Thanks to Choctaw Nation

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation has partnered with state officials and was a major factor in Bryan County receiving a \$62 million grant from the US Department of Transportation (DOT). The grant was awarded under a new program created to enhance safe travel through high traffic areas. According to transportation.gov, “The Fostering Advancement of Transportation for Long-term Achievement of Nation Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program is a new program in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country.” Chief Gary Batton worked with Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, US Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla), Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02), executive director of Oklahoma DOT Mike Patterson and officials of

Durant and Calera. “I applaud Oklahoma’s local leaders for their hard work that resulted in our state being awarded one of 18 new FASTLANE grants out of 212 applicants,” Inhofe said. The \$62 million will be added to state funds, which are allotted to a project to make US 69/75 safer and easier to travel. The project area is a four-mile stretch from Chickasaw Road in Calera to the US 70 bypass north of the Choctaw Casino. Since the end of 2014, officials have been discussing the safety and congestion issues this portion of the highway brings. The solution is a \$120 million project. The project will eliminate the traffic lights in Calera. The idea is to elevate the highway and build controlled access ramps much like an overpass. Also being added are service roads on each side of the highway for easier access. US 69/75 is recognized

as a major trucking route with trucks traveling this area from as far south as Houston up to Chicago. According to Patterson, “This portion of the highway has interstate type traffic with an average of 4,800 trucks traveling through a day.” When multiple trucks are stopped at a light it takes so long for them to start back, that by the time a truck gets to the next light it is red again. This problem causes congestion for commercial and general traffic traveling through the area. The congestion not only causes delays, but it makes for unsafe travels. “This is a high impact



Photo Provided
Chief Gary Batton (far right) speaks with Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) (left) and Anthony Echelle (center) from the Oklahoma State Dept. of Transportation about plans to widen Highway 69/75 in Bryan County during Mullin’s recent visit.

location,” said Patterson. “From 2010 to 2014 there were 346 collisions in this area, and 63 percent of the collisions occurred at an intersection in Calera.” The main concern of this project for all involved is creating a safer corridor. Calera Mayor Mike Hearon said, “Safety has always been a priority for

travel through Calera.” He continued, “The process has been pretty seamless to address all the concerns.” Hearon sees growth is coming to Calera and the surrounding areas and said the road construction will help by staying ahead of the growth. “I appreciate ODOT cont’d on page 13

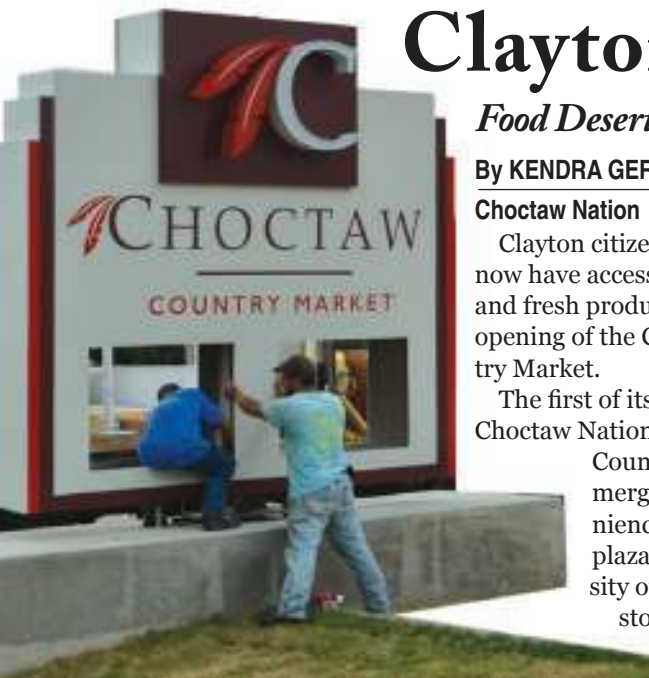


Photo by Tina Firquain
Workers put the final touches on the Clayton Country Market sign a week before the opening.

Aug. 3 and a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Aug. 9. According to Tim Locke, General Manager of Choctaw Country Market, the Clayton location is the first of what will hopefully be many within the 10 ½ counties. “This is a brand new venture, the first of what we hope will be many grocery stores we plan on providing throughout the nation,” said Locke. Targeted areas are locations, like Clayton, that do not have access to the necessities, such as fresh produce and meats. For those who live in a small town like Clayton, it can be difficult to purchase groceries and basic food staples. According to Chief Gary Batton, a resident of Clayton, the Choctaw Country Market will benefit an area where it can be difficult to obtain fresh food and groceries. “The opening of the Choctaw Country Market will help the community by providing food to an area that has been classified as a food desert,” said Chief Batton. Prior to the opening of the Choctaw Country Market, location and distance were issues for those living in the area. “You have to drive 40, 50 (minutes), even an hour sometimes,” commented Locke. “That’s one of the things we’re trying to key in on, is to make sure we’re providing the necessities for the township. I think we’re going to be able to do that.” Choctaw Country Market will offer everything from fresh produce and meats, to ice bagged on site, and gasoline. “We have six gas pumps and two diesel pumps. So we can service both small diesels, to full logging trucks and 18 wheelers,” said Locke. According to Chief Batton, the market will also provide economic growth for the town of Clayton. “With the opening of the Choctaw Country Market, the Choctaw Nation has provided more than 20 jobs to an economically depressed area,” said Chief Batton. A total of 24 jobs were filled with the opening of the market, a number Locke sees growing. “I think our business is going to be greater than what we anticipated. Just to provide the level of customer service we want to do, I’m sure there will be more [jobs] in the future,” said Locke. According to Locke, what makes Choctaw Country Market unique and such an exciting venture for Choctaw Nation can be broken down into

Clayton Market Opens to Public

Food Desert No More! Nation Delivers on Fresh Fruits, Veggies, Meat, & More

By KENDRA GERMANY
Choctaw Nation

Clayton citizens and visitors now have access to groceries and fresh produce with the opening of the Choctaw Country Market. The first of its kind for the Choctaw Nation, Choctaw Country Market merges the convenience of a travel plaza and the necessity of a grocery store. The market opened its doors to the public with a soft opening on

three parts. “First and foremost, is customer service and being available for the community,” said Locke. “What sets us apart and makes us unique is our butcher. Having a butcher available to do those specialty cuts.” The final thing that Locke feels is really going to set Choctaw Country Market apart from any other store in the area is the fresh produce. Finding fresh produce in such a remote part of the country can be difficult. Choctaw Country Market will make those hard to find items, like fruits and vegetables easier to obtain for those who live in the area. Chief Batton believes that the Choctaw Country Market will be a boost not only to the nation, but also for his hometown of Clayton. “We hope that people spending their dollars locally will be an economic boost to the area,” said Chief Batton. Being a local, Chief Batton is excited for the convenience of the market as well. “My family and I are so excited to have the ability to shop in our hometown again. The market will allow us to do all of our shopping in one location,” said Chief Batton. “This will save time for us and allow us to have more time together as a family, a rare treat with all of our busy schedules.” Conveniently located at the intersection of Highway 271 and Highway 2, the Choctaw Country Market will be a one-stop shop for locals and visitors. Clayton will no longer be referred to as the food desert—the Choctaw Country Market will bring fresh food and convenience to the community.

Heavener Scores Recyclables

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation is a “green” nation and keeps recycling a priority. With this in mind, the Nation has donated building materials that were not needed for construction. The Heavener Soccer Association was given metal siding and lumber from the Clayton Country Market construction. The association was created out of the need for more youth soccer teams in the surrounding areas. There are nine fields in Heavener, were children play almost every Saturday during soccer season. Having one portable toilet on the grounds was a problem. Lance Winlock, project manager, for the Choctaw Nation Construction Department, saw a need for more facilities for the association. Winlock coaches a soccer team at Heavener. Among the players on his team are his grandson and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.’s son. Winlock saved materials from the Clayton Country Market demolition in case the materials could

be used. Since the materials were not needed for the market, Winlock decided to get approval to donate the materials to the Heavener Soccer Association. The process took about three months. Winlock had to submit paperwork and prove that Choctaw Nation was not receiving anything in return for the materials. Many people donated their time to move the materials once the approval went through. The Heavener Soccer Association is now building a concession stand and bathrooms for the soccer fields. This donation of materials has opened a new avenue for Choctaw Nation to “go green.” “We should take this approach on anything we tear down,” said Winlock. The Talihina Community Center construction project is taking the old community center down and making a new larger community center on campus grounds. The Choctaw Nation is giving materials from the old building to all the local churches that need the resources.



Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



The Future of the Tribe is Found in Our Youth

The Choctaw Nation has always looked for the greater good and I see it more every year as the summer programs for youth continue to expand. Investing in our youth is investing in our future.

The Partnership for Summer School Education started in Bryan County, expanded to schools in the 10 1/2 counties and will be expanding even more. Developed for kindergarten through third-graders, POSSE provides hands-on instruction in math and reading for the students. Statistics are showing that many of the students reach the desired levels after the second year of attending the summer school and not needing the third. POSSE is making a difference.

According to research, students who are not reading at grade level by the end of the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school. It's a crucial point and I'm thankful for the POSSE program and the dedicated staff who work closely with the students, parents and schools to boost the children's academic success. POSSE expanded this year to 23 sites offering summer learning opportunities for students from 51 schools. In 2017, the program will continue its expansion to include students from all 85 school districts in the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program is geared to help Native youth develop skills, resumes, and begin their careers. The youth are provided jobs during the summer, positions that help prepare them for the workforce. There were 926 eligible applications received by the deadline and 862 young men and women participated in the program this year. It's encouraging to see how several are so successful they are retained to work part-time in their positions while they go to college.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program not only builds their self-esteem but also builds their confidence that they can compete and be a productive citizen in the workforce. I've watched several of the youth grow up and now they are finding employment not only for the Choctaw Nation but also for other employers. They are improving their communication skills, work ethics, and learning what is expected in a good employee.

The Choctaw Nation summer camps registered 3,138 total attendees this year. They started in early June with stickball camp. The stickball camp was followed by golf, softball, baseball, football, basketball and culture camps. They are excellent opportunities for the kids to develop sports skills, learn to work as a team, and learn more about the Choctaw culture. Again, the kids are growing up to step into leadership roles on the field and as adults.

A new school year will be starting soon, and there are programs available to students throughout the United States such as the Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) program that provides incentives for academic achievements. STAR awards are presented every year to Choctaw students in 2nd through 12th grade who have straight A's, made A's and B's, or have perfect attendance.

POSSE, STAR, and summer camps are just a few of the programs we have that contribute to student successes and the desire to continue their education. More students are applying for scholarships and attempting college credits while still in high school.

The youth programs epitomize what it is to be Choctaw—to learn how to prepare for life and to put faith, family and culture first.



Kids in the POSSE summer program learn new skills, such as these boys, who discovered the joys of birdwatching.



Brother Bertram Bobb Lives on in the Hearts of Those He Guided

The Labor Day Festival is right around the corner. As I was reading the schedule I realized that this is the first year I can remember that Brother Bertram Bobb will not be a part of the activities. I have a lifetime of memories of Bertram. My grandfather had property in the same area as the Bobb family. Our families knew and respected each other.

I attended the Bertram Bobb Bible Camp during the summer. My family would camp nearby at Pine Creek Lake while I was at the Bible camp in Ringold. We kids had a great time at the camp—learning about God, swimming, canoeing, and making lasting friendships. Bertram would be there, visiting with us, joining in activities, and bringing messages at the worship services. We had classes during the day, services at night, and our parents would attend the end-of-camp banquet.

Founded by Bertram in 1970 as part of Christian Indian Ministries Inc., the camp is still an inspiration for youth.

Growing up in the Choctaw Nation, I saw Bertram doing everything. He was an icon in the Choctaw Nation. He was at dinners, singings and events, and he joined in tribal initiatives—always representing the Choctaw Nation and the Choctaw people to the highest good.

His spiritual stability, faith, and uncanny leadership led many people to the right path. He always had a soft-spoken greeting, a handshake, and words of welcome. He counseled others, listening and offering advice that always had a foundation in God's word.

Bertram wrote the Chaplain's Corner, sharing his spiritual messages through the Biskinik every month. In response to many requests, the Chaplain's Corners are being compiled in a bound volume so his messages can continue to be shared.

I'm thankful to have known Bertram. He was influential to thousands in his lifetime, and he set an example for us all. He embodied the Choctaw values.

As Tribal Chaplain, he would be asked to open events with prayer and he liked to begin by singing Hymn 48. At the Labor Day ceremony this year, we will have the memory of Bertram in our hearts, the sound of Hymn 48 echoing in our minds.

As we reflect on the many things Bertram represented in his lifetime, we can know that his strength and spiritual wisdom are still guiding us.



By RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

GM “Choc” Charleston has seen a lot of history, Choctaw and otherwise, during his lifetime.

Choc was born on a ranch in Stephens County just east of Duncan on his father's allotment land. His dad moved the family into town in 1929 so they could attend school and learn English.

Anyone speaking Choctaw in class would be hit with a rubber hose by the teacher.

“Consequently, I didn't speak any Choctaw because I didn't want to be whipped by that hose,” Choc said.

Choc's father was a Presbyterian minister and the only time he spoke Choctaw was at the dinner table. He could preach in Choctaw and English.

A skill acquired by Choc's grandson, Nic Charleston. Nic works at the Choctaw Language department with the Choctaw Nation and often gives speeches speaking in both Choctaw and English.

“Somebody's going to carry on this Choctaw language so you're elected.” Choc told his grandsons. When his youngest grandson Nic was a little older he moved from Boston to Oklahoma City to be close to Choc and his wife Billie.

After Choc starting taking him to the Choctaw churches and council, Nic told him ‘Papa, I have found my people.’ He took lessons and worked with books and tapes and taught himself to speak Choctaw within a year.

In 1943, Choc was inducted into the military at Ft. Sill, and he would eventually join the 739th Tank Battalion as a tank driver. He would see combat in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Holland. He was among the troops who helped destroy the Siegfried Line, a series of barricades along the western border of Germany. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge chasing German tanks back across the border.

It was during military leave that one of the most significant meetings of his life would occur. Dreaming of his grandmother's cooking, he called her up and invited himself to a most wanted meal. There, he met an old friend from childhood. Billie, who is Cherokee, would become his wife in the blink of an eye.

After dinner, he walked her home, and as they were parting he said, “Why don't we get married.”

They'd never even been on a date.

When he got back to Ft. Knox, he said he would get her a ring and send it to her. But arriving back on base, he realized he



Photos Provided

GM “Choc” Charleston on horseback at the age of 11 in 1934.

GM “Choc” Charleston

only had five dollars. He stumbled onto a dice game so he turned his five dollars into seventy-five and made it to Louisville to buy an engagement ring.

So Choc's mom and Billie met him in Kansas City. And after getting permission from Billie's mom, they had an impromptu marriage ceremony. Choc said, “I've blamed my mom ever since. But it's been 71 years so I guess we made it.”

His GI bill never came through and he struggled to make ends meet while attending college after getting home. Eventually, he went to work for a store where they made him assistant manager. Making \$300 a month—Choc said it seemed like a fortune.

Then he was approached by some men who wanted him to open a store in Comanche. Which he did for a while. Then he moved to the oil fields, first as a salesman, rapidly moving up the ladder.

Not crazy about working in the oil fields, Billie talked him into doing something else.

That's when they opened the Choctaw Trading Post, a well-known gift shop in Oklahoma City that offered unique native-made items. He eventually sold it on Jan. 1,



Choc and his wife Billie have been married for 71 years.

1989, and he's “been out of work ever since,” according to Choc.

His nephew Ed McCaskill from San Marcos, Texas, worked for him at the store.

McCaskill said Choc was always there for him during the good times and the bad. He was even there for him when he didn't know he needed him. But Choc knew.

“There are people in your life that have meant so much to you . . . you tell them if it weren't for you where might I be,” said McCaskill. “Whenever I reflect on my life, there was Choc.”

Choc also instilled a sense of the Choctaw culture with McCaskill, introducing him to pow wows and native festivals.

And thanks to Uncle Choc, he has made the culture a part of his life he can hand down to his children and grandchildren, “It seems to be the mat that keeps weaving itself into your life.”

To see the video version of this story, visit ChoctawNation.com.

Faith Based Events and Artist Performances During Labor Day Festival

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3
10:30 a.m.

Choctaw Hymns in Choctaw Village

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

National Day of Prayer & Worship, Chapel
Worship Services at Chapel
Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheater
Traditional Choctaw Hymn Singing, Chapel
Jason Crabb, Amphitheater
Francesca Battistelli, Amphitheater

10:00 a.m.
Noon

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m.

Meet the Artist

Sarah & Lynda Sawyer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016
11AM - 4PM

CHOCTAW
WELCOME CENTER
1882 HWY 69/75 | COLBERT, OK 74733
580.296.2672

ChoctawStore.com

HEALTH

Back to School With Healthy Habits

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito, August is the peak of summer, and now it is time to go back to school. With all the time spent preparing for back to school, sometimes, healthy lifestyles can be derailed. Paige Waehner, of verywell.com, has some very useful tactics for keeping healthy lifestyles when all around us is a whirlwind of activities. Get ahead of the game by establishing a routine for exercise and meals prior to the back to school shopping begins. Make a weekly calendar of work, family and other responsibilities so you know what's on your plate. Look for times you can squeeze in exercise. Doing shorter workouts throughout the day can be as effective as continuous exercise. Even if you only find 10 minutes here or there, that's 10 minutes you'll be moving instead of sitting. Plan what you'll do and gather what you need the night before. Pack your gym bag or put your exercise clothes next to the bed so you can put them on as soon as you get up.

Integrate exercise with other activities. If your child is at soccer or football practice, use the time to jog or walk around the field. If you're at the mall, add a few laps of walking to burn extra calories. Set up a home gym. Even if you prefer a health club, having some basic equipment available (think resistance bands, an exercise ball and some dumbbells) as well as a few quality workout videos means you're always ready for a workout. Keep extra gear at work or in the car. If you can find a few minutes at lunch or on the way home from work, squeeze in a quick walk at a nearby park or around the parking lot. You probably already know that experts recommend walking 10,000 steps a day and you wouldn't believe how hard that is if you have a sedentary job. Clip a pedometer to your belt, and you'll instantly walk more just to meet your goal for the day. Consider Partner Training - By enlisting a friend to do it with you, you'll have added accountability to exercise. Create Efficient Workouts - Another way to motivate yourself is to create a workout schedule that fits in your life. If you plan long workouts that never seem to materialize, it's time to create workouts that make sense. If you're short on time, stick with strength training moves that give

you more bang for your buck. Compound movements that work multiple muscle groups will help you save time as well as add functionality to your workouts. For cardio, increase the intensity for shorter workouts. Think of it this way: The shorter the workout, the harder you can exercise. If you only have 20 minutes, exercise at a higher intensity than usual or try interval training. Whatever you do, don't wait until later to get back to your exercise routine. The longer you wait, the harder it gets. Make a commitment and do something today. It's never too late to get started. Meal planning is just as important. By writing out your family's favorite meals and foods, making sure to include lean protein, whole food starch such as beans, corn, whole wheat or brown and wild rice, non-starchy veg, fruit and fat free dairy. Make a weekly menu from these favorites and include one new recipe or food every week. Enlisting the entire family to help plan the menu can help to prevent mealtime struggles. Try this quick and easy recipe from Diabetic Living, for full flavor and bushel of nutrients.



Spanish-Style Rice

Author: Erin McHenry

Spanish-Style Rice is a refreshing summertime recipe.

Recipe of the Month

This light rice side dish is quick and easy. Add some chicken to make the low-calorie, low-fat recipe a full meal.

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped green sweet pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2- 1 whole medium fresh serrano chili pepper*, chopped (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 8.8 ounce pouch cooked brown rice or 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1/2 cup chopped tomato
- 1/4 cup chopped pitted green olives
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh cilantro

Instructions

1. In a large skillet heat oil. Add sweet pepper, onion, and, if desired, serrano pepper to skillet. Cook over medium heat for 3 to 5 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute more.
2. Stir in cooked rice, tomato, green olives, and salt. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until heated through. Stir in cilantro and serve immediately. Makes 5 (1/2 cup each) servings

Prep time: 20 mins

| Nutrition Facts | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Serving Size 1 ball | Servings Per Container 16 | |
| Amount Per Serving | | |
| Calories 123 | Calories from Fat 63 | |
| Total Fat 7g | Saturated Fat 1g | Trans Fat 0g |
| Cholesterol 0mg | Sodium 6mg | |
| Dietary Fiber 2g | Sugars 7g | Protein 3g |
| Total Carbohydrate 14g | | |

Because chili peppers contain volatile oils that can burn your skin and eyes, avoid direct contact with them as much as possible. When working with chili peppers, wear plastic or rubber gloves. If your bare hands do touch the peppers, wash your hands and nails well with soap and warm water.

I hope you all enjoy this refreshing summer recipe served with grilled chicken! For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext.: 6959.

NURSERY NEWS

Lyza Christine Pennington

Lyza Christine Pennington was born to proud parents, Michael and Lonni Pennington of Caddo. She was born on April 11, 2016, at 7:03 p.m. at AllianceHealth hospital in Durant. Lyza weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.



Lyza is the granddaughter of Donald and Pamela Wells of Caddo, the late Michael Russell of Sherman, Texas, Sylvia Murphy of Broken Bow, and the late Rick Pennington of Broken Bow. She is the great-granddaughter of Dan and Patty Wells of Caddo and Margaret Bender of Broken Bow. Lyza's paternal great-great-grandfather was an original Choctaw enrollee, the late Rufus L. James Sr. of Harts-horne.

It was love at first sight ...

NURTURE
your baby
with your
LOVE, your
WARMTH,
your **MILK.**

Babies were born to breastfeed.
Give your baby the only thing she needs:
your breastmilk and nothing else.

For more information about how you can give your baby the milk made just for her, call 1-800-522-6170 ext 2507.
(Based on Recommendation #1)

Choctaw Nation
Child Care Development
Stigler

Full time spots open for 2 and 3 year olds.
Call 918-967-5005 to get your child enrolled now! We accept Choctaw Nation, DHS, Subsidy and Private Pay.

Caring Van
Labor Day
2016

Tooth decay is one of the most common preventable diseases seen in children.

FREE
Free varnish offered to anyone 6 months – 18 years of age!

Fluoride varnish is a safe protective coating painted on teeth to help prevent new cavities, and to help stop cavities that have already started.

Look for the Caring Van at the exit of the Healthy Living tent at Labor Day.
Fri. noon-8pm • Sat. 8am-8pm
Sun. noon-5pm

| CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION | |
|--|---|
| WAREHOUSES & MARKETS *** HOURS *** Open 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thursday Antlers: 200 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443 Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773 Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431 | |
| AUGUST ANTLERS Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. DURANT Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McALESTER Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. POTEAU Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | September ANTLERS Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. DURANT Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McALESTER Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. POTEAU Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. |

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

| Choctaw Nation WIC | | |
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| | | |
| WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN | | |
| Site | Hours | Days |
| Antlers (580) 298-3161 | 8:30-4:00 | Every Tues. |
| Atoka (580) 889-5825 | 8:00-4:30 | Every Mon., Wed., Thur., & Fri. |
| Bethel (580) 241-5458 | 8:30-4:00 | 1st Tues. |
| Boswell (580) 380-5264 | 8:30-4:00 | Every Fri. |
| Broken Bow (580) 584-2746 | 8:00-4:30 | Daily, except 1st Tues. & 2nd Thurs |
| Coalgate (580) 927-3641 | 8:00-4:30 | Every Wed. |
| Durant (580) 924-8280 x 2257 | 8:00-4:30 | Daily |
| Hugo (580) 326-5404 | 8:00-4:30 | Daily |
| Idabel (580) 286-2510 | 8:00-4:30 | Mon., Thur., & Fri. |
| McAlester (918) 423-6335 | 8:00-4:30 | Daily |
| Poteau (918) 647-4585 | 8:00-4:30 | Daily |
| Smithville (580) 244-3289 | 8:30-4:00 | 2nd Thur. |
| Spiro (918) 962-3832 | 8:00-4:30 | Every Wed.-Fri. |
| Stigler (918) 967-4211 | 8:30-4:00 | Every Mon.-Wed. |
| Talihina (918) 567-7000 x 6792 | 8:00-4:30 | Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. |
| Wilburton (918) 465-5641 | 8:30-4:00 | Every Thur. |

Choctaw Nation Division of Commerce
Department of Agriculture

Acting as the liaison between tribal members and local, state and federal programs

Increasing opportunities for agriculture enterprises

Fostering youth, family and community agriculture development

Connecting community members to science based education programs

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE LABOR DAY FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 2nd - 4th

Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach, along with our partners, will be located in a tent across from the cafeteria during the festival. Stop by to learn more about our programs or get answers to your agriculture related questions. We look forward to assisting those who want to succeed in agriculture in the Choctaw Nation!

WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Community Meetings

Colorado Springs



The Cannon family, Amber, Mark, Edward and Ema, visited with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. in Colorado Springs on Friday, July 15. Ema was fascinated with Chief Batton's medallion.



Blake Zearpos and his dad Jeff were among the first people to arrive at the Colorado Springs Community Meeting. Blake got his tribal membership card while at the meeting.



Waddel Hearn, a Choctaw dancer, grabs a partner from the audience during the Stealing Partners dance. Choctaw social dances are used as a way to meet new people.



Ashley Benson from Higher Education visits with Jeremy Oaster, while Ellie and Bekah (far right) Oaster look through the bags from the Higher Education table.



Oklahoma transplant and Aurora, Colo. resident Linda Bryant displayed gourds she had painted.



(From left) Aidan, Lucas and Andrew Speers get into a stickball scrum before the Colorado Springs Community Meeting begins.

Photos by Stacy Hutto

Wichita



(From left) Sharon Dodson, Lillie Roberts and Brad Joe sing a hymn during the Wichita Community Meeting on Sunday, July 17 as Chief Batton looks on. The Community Meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



Mandy Lawson shows Samantha Humble how to play Stickball during the Pre-Program Cultural Activities in Wichita.



(From left) Cindy Kidd, Diannia Glazier and Debra Miller were the first to choose seats at the Make and Take tables. Once the Community Meeting was over they had made beaded necklaces they were able to take home. The Make and Take tables were a crowd favorite in Wichita and Colorado Springs.

Photos by Stacy Hutto

For more pictures from the Wichita and Colorado Springs Community Meetings please visit choctawnation.smugmug.com or the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Facebook page.

Veterans Lunch



(Above) Veterans were honored at a Veterans Lunch on July 6, in Crowder. (Below) The District 12 princesses sign a gospel song in sign language during the Crowder Veterans Lunch.



Janice Hedrick blessed the meal at the Veterans Lunch in Crowder before handing the microphone back to Walter Phelps.



Councilman James Frazier visits with Lloyd Morris at the Veterans Lunch in Crowder. Morris served in the US Army and held the ranking of Private First Class.



Councilman Frazier laughs with Leon and Shirley Cloud during the Veteran's Lunch in Crowder.

Photos by Stacy Hutto

Iti Fabussa

By JOSEPH WOLF
Contributing Writer

We can gain much wisdom when we visit with elders. Lessons on life are deeply imbedded in the oral histories they offer and the documents they leave behind.

On May 23, 2016, two staff members from the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department went to visit with a Choctaw elder, Joan Cooper, in Poteau, Oklahoma, to speak about her Choctaw family stories. Ms. Cooper, who is half Choctaw, grew up around Heavenr most of her life (her great-grandfather founded Heavenr) and told us stories about her great-great-grandfather Rev. Willis Folsom who lived near Pocola, Oklahoma.

Rev. Willis Folsom was a Methodist Minister who preached sermons and interpreted Choctaw, alongside other missionar-

ies and ministers.

Rev. Willis Folsom was born (1825) in Mississippi, the son of McKee and Eumertachre Folsom. As a young child, Rev. Folsom moved along with his parents to the new land as of then, the Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation (I.T., C.N.), now present day, Oklahoma. Throughout the years, Rev. Folsom resided in or near Pocola, C.N. just a couple of miles north of Backbone Mountain.

Around 1851, Rev. Folsom became an ordained minister and was licensed to preach. He preached the Gospel throughout the Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation. His diary begins Aug. 11, 1856, with solemn dedication to the Lord.

Rev. Folsom writes: "I do hereby most solemnly consecrate myself to my Heavenly Father to seek a blessing of a clean heart, holiness of heart, without which no man shall see the

Lord. I do sincerely forsake all my sins and do heartily repent and bewail my manifold transgressions. O my God, cleanse me from all inward sin by the application of the blood of the Lamb! My Lord, grant it. Amen."

For the next several years, he seems to have been employed as interpreter for the missionaries and traveled far and wide through his nation and often into other tribes. There were times Rev. Folsom did not get to preach and this upset him greatly; we learn of his struggle through his diary.

In one of his entries, Folsom shared:

"January 22nd 1860: Did not preach today. Went to New Hope, but was not invited to preach; so I went to Fort Coffee thinking they would invite me to preach, but was not invited. I felt very bad to have traveled twenty-eight miles and back and not get

to preach."

Folsom faced devastating and tough times during his ministering the Gospel. These included discovery of the loss of his child as he returned home from preaching one evening, and the destruction of his house in 1861, burned by Confederate soldiers who also drove away his stocks, but he did not give up.

He shares a struggle with us: "Horse strayed or stolen; so I walked to Short Mountain and back, twenty-two miles, to my appointment. Six joined the church. Warm time."

Years go by. The year 1885 finds Rev. Folsom as busy as ever, traveling widely, preaching, interpreting and exhorting, with seldom more than a day at home. On Aug. 28, he returned home from a long absence to find his wife very sick and we learn of her death three days later on Aug. 31, 1885.

Folsom shared:

"Wife went away this morning. We have been together in many trials for a long time. O my God, Help me to bear patiently all thy doings. On September 5th,

this day Brother Shapard preached my wife's funeral."

After the death of his wife, Rev. Folsom kept on preaching far and wide, but on Oct. 28, 1894, we read the last entry. It is written in a strong, firm, clear hand.

Folsom wrote: "New Hope, Sunday night, Matthew XI 28-30. Had much liberty; nine came for prayer; two converted; been happy all day."

Of going through some tough times in his life, Folsom never gave up preaching the Gospel to the Choctaw and Chickasaw people; Rev. Folsom did God's work. We can learn a great lesson of perseverance. In the year of 1897, Rev. Willis Folsom passed from his life in Skullyville, C.N. and was laid to rest near his home in Pocola, C.N. We acknowledge Rev. Folsom as one of the greatest ministers, interpreters, and leaders within the Choctaw Nation.

Ms. Cooper shared with us some great, phenomenal stories about her great-great grandfather Rev. Willis Folsom at her home

in Poteau, Oklahoma. If you are in the area, we encourage you to visit Rev. Folsom's historical marker, located just three miles south of Pocola, Oklahoma, on the Y of Hwy 112 and Love Street, and the oldest church in Pocola (continue on Love St. going straight south from the Y, go a couple of miles down, on the right corner is the Methodist Church where Rev. Willis Folsom preached).

This visit was part of the Historic Preservation Department's continued efforts to collect Choctaw History through oral stories and documents.

As the new Community Liaison, I think tribal members play a vital role in our mission to preserve this important history.

If you would like for me to come and meet with you so you can share your Choctaw stories of places, family, sites, historical events, and figures, etc., I will be more than glad to sit with you.

I want to hear your side of history! Yakoke!

The new Community Liaison, Joseph Wolf, can be reached at 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2559.

NOTES TO THE NATION

LETTERS
Yakoke (Thank You)!

I love the newspaper! My mother was a Roebuck and is related to the McCurtains. Thank you to the Chief and Tribal Council for all you do for the nation and thanks also for the lovely Christmas ornaments.

Bonnie Lynn Mangus
Rives Junction, Mich.

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for everything they have done for me while attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Thank you for the scholarships, clothing allowance and laptop. I could not have done it without your support.

Laci LeFlore
Durant, OK

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the storm shelter they provided my family in Texas. I was able to qualify for the aboveground shelter because of a disability. It is reassuring to know we have this sage place to go in case of a storm. One of the many great services available to the Choctaw Nation and we will always be grateful for the assistance.

Toby Taylor

Makenzie Adele Cline, a great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Etha May Spring Robinson, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin on Saturday, May 21 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nutritional Science. She plans to attend graduate school. Makenzie and her family members are very thankful to the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance with her graduation.

Donald Ruth

I want to thank you for my beautiful cellar. My husband passed away and it helps to know I will be protected. I wish he could have seen it, but I know he is happy and well in Heaven. He had not been well for sometime, but I know he wanted my Downs Syndrome son and I taken care of, so thank you for this gift. I am proud to be a Choctaw! My mother was an original enrollee. Thanks again.

Helen and Mike James
Quinton, OK

It is with the upmost gratitude that I thank you for the assistance I have received through my school career from the Choctaw Nation. It is because of your generosity that I now have a Master's Degree in Reading. I have been given the knowledge and experience I need to assist students who struggle with reading and writing. I will be staying in a third grade classroom where I can use my area of expertise to guide first time state testers to success as well as fill in educational gaps. Teaching is a fulfilling and worthwhile career and I am truly blessed to be working in the Educational Field. Without the support of the Choctaw Nation, I would have never achieved my dream. I will be taking my certification test to be a Reading Specialist in the near future and I hope to continue to further my career in assisting students in achieving their educational goals.

Raegan Martin-Teakell
Lawton, OK

Searching for 1954 National Guard Picture

Does anyone have a 1954 National Guard group picture from Poteau, Oklahoma? The group picture was taken upon completion of training at North Fort Hood, Texas. The Company back then, and maybe still is, Company I 180th Infantry Division, commanded by Capt. Ed Connaughton. First Lt. Carl Stevens was the Executive Officer. My picture was stolen from me in Houston, Texas 10 years ago. I cherished the picture then and I still do as it was my first National Guard picture with friends of my age and hometown. Please write to me if you can reproduce a copy of the group picture and send it to me by mail. Please write to me first before sending the picture. Thank you.

Jerry Thompson
344 Jodi Drive
Durant, OK 74701

Need more cash for the cost of college?
Choctaw Asset Building now serves tribal members outside of Oklahoma!
A college matched savings program is available for eligible Choctaw college students!
Earn Money for Saving Money!
Education Fund -
Your savings: \$2000
CAP match: \$4000
Total saved: \$6000
Starting earning money TODAY! Contact Choctaw Asset Building 866-933-2260 • choctawcab.com

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

Table with 7 columns: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Rows include dates and events like 'Antlers by appt.', 'Wright City by appt.', 'Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.', 'McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.', 'Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.', 'Wilburton By appt.'.

EVENTS

Rasha 2016 Family Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
898 Mary Niblack Rd.
Ardmore, Okla.

The family reunion will be held at the Ary Niblack Church. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish, or drinks and an item for the silent auction. To order a Rasha family shirt call Serena Underwood at 918-820-2629.

For questions contact

Laura Holbrook..... 580-221-7950
Mikeal Popkess..... 832-4213436
Kim Hume..... 405-250-2134

Homers Chapel
Community Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.
Cornerstone Indian Baptist Church
off SH 70 in Bennington, Okla.

The meeting is to discuss and share stories, thoughts and ideas about the future of Homers Chapel, an old Choctaw Church near Boswell.

For more information call,
1-800-522-6170, ext. 2559 or ext. 2216

Samuel Family Reunion

Saturday, August 6
Willis Loop,
Battiest, Okla.

Worship service will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch and games. Please bring lawn chairs, Bingo prizes, your favorite dish and drinks for your family.

Choctaw Nation GIS Moves to Durant

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma GIS Department has moved from the Construction Administration Building in Hugo to Durant. The new address is 1209 W. Main St., Durant, Okla., just south of Salita's Mexican Restaurant. For GIS or mapping needs contact Choctaw Nation at 1-800-522-6170. Manager Dustin Holt can be reached at ext. 2965, GIS Specialist Cale Russell can be reached at ext. 2966 and GIS Technician can be reached at ext. 2671.

Coalgate Community Center Closed

The Coalgate Community Center will be closed August 8-16 in order for the floor tiles to be replaced. Field Office worker Louise Ott will be in the Councilman, CBSW and CHR office located at 401 S. Broadway, Coalgate, Okla. and will continue to be available to assist clients. For questions about the closure or assistance contact Ott at 580-927-1076.

CHOCTAW COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?
• The Choctaw clothing grant is a "one-time only" allowance.
• A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00 to 4.00.
• A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00 to 2.99.
• Students earning a semester GPA of 1.99 or less can re-apply once a semester GPA of 2.00 is achieved.
• A COLLEGE transcript is required to apply. Applicants must be full-time students and must have completed at least one semester of college prior to application.

Are you interested in stepping up to help your community? Are you interested in learning more about Choctaw culture and activities for better health? IF so, Yappalli might be right for you...

Are you:

- A woman and an enrolled Choctaw tribal member
- 18 years of age or older
- Currently reside in tribal district 6 or 7.
- Interested in increasing your activity levels and improving your BMI or reducing weight
- Interested in changing your relationship to tobacco, alcohol or other substances?

This 2 year-long program includes meeting individually and as a group to improve your body weight, activity levels, or reduce substance misuse; discuss traditional stories related to health; travel the Choctaw Trail of Tears; and create healthy events in your community

This project is supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse under award number R01DA037176.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available to provide assistance with simple legal documents free to all Choctaw members. Examples of matters that the attorney may be able to assist with:

- Family law (adoption, divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications

Contact the community center to confirm the attorney will be there before traveling. The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters.

August Community Center Schedule

August 4 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3
August 11 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
August 16 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3
August 25 Durant: 10-1 & 2-3

September Community Center Schedule

September 1 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3
September 8 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3
September 13 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3
September 22 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3
September 27 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Poteau Community Center Events

8/5 Indian Taco Sale, \$7 a plate, 11 am-1 pm
8/9 Homebuyers Education Class 1-7 pm
8/17 Health Fair 10 am

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We will accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and above. Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries.

News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We do not post wedding announcements.

We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Notes to the Nation Submissions

Send thank you notes and event notices to:
Biskinik, Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

or email to: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
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Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer
Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Ronni Pierce, News Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
Kendra Germany, Reporter/Photographer
Tina Firquain, Reporter/Photographer

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
580-924-8280 • 800-522-6170
Fax 580-924-4148
www.choctawnation.com
email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Deadline for articles and photographs to be submitted is the first day of each month to run the following month.

Editor's note: Views and opinions in reader-submitted articles are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.



EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION—

YAB Helps Student Focus on Future Plans

By
Tyler Wickson

Halito! My name is Tyler Wickson and I am a senior at Hugo High School. I've been very active in the Youth Advisory Board for two years in the Hugo chapter. My advisor is Angie Smith.

My future educational goals and plans are still taking shape. I've been leaning toward two plans for my future. My first goal coming into senior year was to major in criminal justice and get a bachelor's degree and then train to become a police officer. I've talked to other nearby



police officers and asked how they've become one so I have some people to ask for advice on working to this goal. The only thing is that my family thinks I could choose a better and safer career goal as being a police officer has become even more dangerous from getting killed in the line of duty to now where a police officer's job and the way they do their job is even more watched and criticized.

In this day and age the media watches for police officer stories and videos and this could lead to your reputation or your future being tarnished just for the mistake you made.

A new goal I've been thinking of is majoring in political science and history at Eastern Oklahoma State. With this degree I could choose to get an associates degree and try to find work with that, but I think it would be way better to go for two years and get the feel of how this major suits me, if it does I plan to transfer to Southeastern or the University of Oklahoma to continue my major. With this major I can choose to either follow a career as a high school or middle school history teacher or try to become a politician. One of the reasons I've been thinking of becoming a politician is from when I went to Washington D.C. this past September and I got to experience the city and how politicians who work there do their job and I've always had a love for leading. Being a YAB member has instilled this in me and I think that maybe one day I can grow into a great positive leader for my Tribe, my State, or even my Country.

My backup plan is to use this degree to try and get a teaching degree with history and then try to become a high school or middle school history teacher. My favorite subject is history and I know so much and it interests me so much I would love to teach other kids, preferably middle school kids history.

These three plans are my educational and future plans. Of course this can change at any moment I could find a career choice that suits me more but at this moment I plan to head into this summer and my first semester of college with these career goals in mind. My parents always told me to just find something I would love to do so that's what I'm trying to do to find a career that would suit me and that I would love to do for the rest of my life.

I know for a fact that I want to be a leader. YAB has changed my life and helped me in my decision this being my final year it's sad to leave because I love YAB but I know that I have a great future because of this group and I know the younger kids that are in YAB have an even brighter future! Yakoke!

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship third place essay. The writer, Tyler Wickson, was awarded a \$500 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tushka Homma on Wednesday, April 20. The first and second place essays were in the June and July 2016 issues.



STUDENT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY FUND

NEED MONEY TO BUY SCHOOL OR ACTIVITY CLOTHING?

- Applications for 2016-2017 School Year available July 1st 2016 and will end May 1st 2017. Each student with a tribal membership can receive this one time per school year.
- \$100 Assistance available Nationwide for Choctaw Tribal Members attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade High School Students.
- Apply Online at ssafapplication.choctawnation.com

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDS BEGIN JULY 1ST 2016

COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2016 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost free to families. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post- Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.jonesacademy.org or write to:

Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartsborne, OK 74547

Alexis Mosley of Durant Selected as STARlight Student

The Choctaw Nation Success Through Academic Recognition Program's STARlight opportunity selects a STAR student according to participation and academic standing. Recent Durant High School graduate Alexis Mosley was selected as a STARlight student. Mosley's mother frequently visits the Choctaw Nation and was told about the STAR program by an employee. Mosley has received a STAR award every year and always looks forward to them. She said she

loves getting Walmart gift cards since she visits there frequently. The incentive pushed her to always have good grades and get rewards for those grades. A piece of advice Mosley has for future STAR students is to always strive for A's and never underestimate yourself because the STAR program cares about your future. For those interested in the STAR program, email thamill@choctawnation.com or call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2597 or 2573 for more information.

Former Miss Choctaw Nation Earns Associate's Degree

Callie Curnutt, the daughter of Bruce and Francine Curnutt, graduated from Carl Albert State College in May with an Associate's Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant Program. She is an active member of District 4 and served as Miss Choctaw Nation 2013-2014. She finished an internship at OU Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City on May 27. Her plans for the future are to become employed at a Choctaw Nation Healthcare facility.



Arnold Graduates UTA Magna Cum Laude

Cody M. Arnold graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington on May 13. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Art in English with a Secondary Education Certification. Since his sophomore year at UTA he has received assistance from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department, which helped him achieve his goal of becoming a high school English teacher. Arnold will begin teaching high school English at Lake Ridge High School in Mansfield, Texas in August 2016.



Photo Provided

The Ardmore Choctaw Language class graduated June 6. Seated in front (from left) are Crystal Hampton and Lillian Vaughn, instructor. Pictured back (from left) are Ricky Dobbs, Luther Wooley, Carrie Williamson, Don Dickson, Lucretia Dickson, Vonya Lang and Assistant Director Teresa Billy.

Lee Receives Manufacturing, Engineering Scholarship

On June 16, Travis Lee graduated from Laguna Hills High School with recognition from the State of California's Senate as the 13th Annual Distinguished Student for Saddleback Valley Unified School District. In 2013, 2014 and 2015 Lee was honored with the Marine Corps Commander's award for his work with their Toy's for Tot's Native Americans program in addition to his work with the Southern California Indian Center helping out with their Pow Wows. He has also completed over 400 hours of service in his community. Lee was a member of the National service group, Lion's Heart, all four years in high school and served as president of his chapter in 2015. Furthermore, Lee was awarded their highest honor, the Torchbearer's award, in 2015 and 2016 and was a recipient of the President's volunteer service award in 2015 and 2016 as well. In the summer of 2015, Lee was chosen as one of two hundred of Native American, Alaskan and Hawaiian heritage students across the country to attend the College Horizon Program at Stanford University. He is also a member of AISES, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and received a scholarship in manufacturing, engineering and technology. Travis would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all their help and support throughout the years that has helped him achieve his goals. Travis will be attending Purdue University in the fall of 2016, studying Aerospace Engineering. He is the great-grandson of an original Dawes enrollee, Wellington Folsom Bonner.



Wood Graduates Cum Laude

Claire Wood recently graduated Cum Laude from the University of Tulsa. She studied finance through the Collins College of Business and received minors in French and Art. While in college Woods was involved in Greek life, Student Association, the TU Pom Squad, the Orientation program as Orientation leader, tennis lessons for children and volunteer activities in the Tulsa area. She was names a TU Top Ten Freshman her freshman year and received scholarship awards through her sophomore and junior years. Woods was also supported through Choctaw Nation Career Development, Higher Education, as well as technology and clothing allowances from the nation. During her senior year Woods continued to be active on campus. She was names Homecoming Queen and was a top 20 candidate for the Jess Chouteau Outstanding Senior award, which recognized TU's top 10 graduating seniors. To prepare herself for her future career, Woods interned at ONEOK Inc. and Frontier Energy Services. She will be continuing her education at TU with the MBA program starting the Fall of 2016.



Ferguson Earns PhD in Agricultural Science

Connor Ferguson received a PhD in Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland in Gatton, Queensland on Friday, June 3 and returned to the United States to begin his career as an assistant professor and Plant Protection Specialist at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Plant and Soil Sciences from Oklahoma State University. While at Oklahoma State he was named 2011 Outstanding Senior. Ferguson received his Master's Degree in Agronomy in 2013 at the University of Nebraska. While he was at the University of Nebraska he was offered a PhD fellowship in Australia. In August 2013, Ferguson moved to Australia to start his PhD and while at the University of Queensland he was named a UQ International Scholar, which provided full tuition over the duration of his PhD. During his nine year college career, Ferguson received Higher Education Scholarships.



2016 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID). The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

October - December

Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Broken Bow, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Building

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

SPORTS

McKinney Earns Alex Battiest Award During All Star Game

Jarrin McKinney played in the Native Revision All Star Football game in Arlington, Texas. During the All Star game McKinney played quarterback and running back on offense and middle linebacker on defense.

While playing high school football in Valliant, he played running back on offense and middle linebacker on defense.

During the All Star game, McKinney played on the Red Hawks. The Red Hawks faced off against the Blue Eagles and won 21-20.

The game came down to the last play and the Red Hawks shut down the Blue Eagles attempt to score when the defense blocked the Blue Eagles offense from making the two point conversion.

During the Native Revision All Star game McKinney

received the Alex Battiest Award for his off the field accomplishments and for his leadership on the field.

Each summer McKinney works through the Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program at his school. He helps improve his school each year.

He had given countless commu-

nity service hours to the members of his community and the surrounding communities though the Hire-A-Bulldog program within the football program.

Members of the football team often aid in yard work, haul lumber and build various buildings.

McKinney graduated high school with a 3.94 GPA, was an Oklahoma Scholar and a member of the Indian Honor Society.

McKinney's plans for the future include playing football as a member of the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison football team in Shawnee, where he will play linebacker. The OBU Bison are a Division II team.

While at OBU, McKinney will study Biochemistry and sees premed in his future.



Photo Provided

Jarrin McKinney is pictured with the Battiest family as he receives the Alex Battiest Award for his off the field accomplishments, as well as his leadership on the field during the Native Revision All Star Game in Arlington, Texas.

Macy Horn Accepts OU Scholarship



Choctaw tribal member Macy Horn, 15, Mesa, Arizona, verbally accepted a scholarship to play soccer at the University of Oklahoma. Horn is currently a freshman at Red Mountain High School and a U15 player for the SC Del Sol Soccer Club. She is the daughter of Greenwood and Heather Horn and the great-granddaughter of Green D. McCurtain. Horn is also the great-great-granddaughter of Greenwood McCurtain, principal chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1896-1910. She is proud and excited to be able to represent OU on the pitch.

Zach Hodge Named San Diego Section Player of the Year



Zach Hodge, No. 18, is a midfielder for the Poway Titans who was recently named the San Diego Section Player of the Year. The Poway Titans lacrosse team is currently ranked first in the State of California and 13th in the Nation. Hodge, a member of the Choctaw Nation, is the second consecutive player in the last two years from Poway High School to be named Player of the Year.

Hampton Scores Bronze at Gymnastics State Championship

Kylee Ann Hampton, a seventh grade student at McCall Middle School in Atoka and a member of the Big CATS Competitive Gymnastics Team, placed second All Around Bronze 12 and up at the Oklahoma State TAG Championship on Sunday, May 1. In addition to gymnastics, Hampton is also the District No. 10 Little Miss princess, participates and has medaled in Track and Field, played seventh grade basketball and is a member of the Youth Advisory Board. She is the daughter of Willard and Marcia Ragland and Ronnie and Stephanie Hampton Jr.



Loman Places Second at Oklahoma Youth Expo Livestock Show

Kirklan Loman, a senior at Jones Academy, exhibited the second place heavyweight and premium sale qualifying Duroc barrow at the 2016 Oklahoma Youth Expo. This event, known as the World's Largest Junior Livestock Show, was held March 14-18 in Oklahoma City. Over 2,000 barrows were entered in the show with 65 selected for premium sale honors. Kirkland and his barrow "Big Red" were among this elite group of champions. "Big Red" was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Loman is from Haworth.

Other students from Jones Academy participating in the event were Cody Clark from Ponca City and Kasey Ludlow from Smithville. Pictured are, Joe Snedden, RALCO Nutrition; Brandon Spears, Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor; Kirklan Loman; Braylon Spears; and Jones Academy Superintendent Brad Spears.

Singleton Competes at Karate Grand Nationals



Kayla Singleton competed at the invitational karate Grand Nationals in Boies City, Louisiana on July 8-9. She competed in Forms and Sparring. Singleton placed second in forms and third in sparring. The Team USA coach presented her with the awards. Singleton will be competing in San Antonio at the Open Nationals in Musical Forms, Musical Weaponry, Traditional Forms and Sparring in October.



Heller Oil Inc. is seeking to locate Deanna Kay Bohanan Stamm (Stamm), an heir of Impson Bohanan and Kelsey Dan Bohanan. If anyone has any information, please contact Scott Heller at the following phone number and/or email scott.helleroilinc@gmail.com Office (580) 226-5218 Cell (580) 220-9279.



Ruthie recalls playing playing basketball during her time at Wheelock Academy. She is 89 years old.

Ruthie Williston is the August elder in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.



Imagine the possibilities . . .

Choctaw Nation Of Oklahoma

Educational Talent Search

Announces our first fall, 2016

ACT Prep Workshop

for

Grades — 9—12

Thursday, September 8, 2016

8:30 am — Noon

Kiamichi Tech Center — Hugo, OK



You must be pre-registered and a Talent Search participant in order to attend this workshop. Please check with your high school counselor to register or to obtain an application or contact the ETS office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2711.

Choctaws ... Growing with pride, hope and success

50th TALENT SEARCH

TRIO

Don't have anyone to give your box tops to? Here's how you can help!

Each year, the Choctaw Nation will select a school district within the Nation to be the recipient of the Box Tops Program.

It's easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops!

It's simple: Buy the products; clip the Box Tops; drop off or send the Box Tops to the Choctaw Nation and help earn cash for things the school needs like: school supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.

Send to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Jerry Tomlinson
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

Yakoke to all of the Biskinik Readers for all of your Box Top contributions!

You are making a difference!

For further information, contact Jerry Tomlinson at 580.924.8280; ext. 2904

10 tips

Nutrition Education Series

be an active family

10 tips for becoming more active as a family



Physical activity is important for children and adults of all ages. Being active as a family can benefit everyone. Adults need 2½ hours a week of physical activity, and children need 60 minutes a day. Follow these tips to add more activity to your family's busy schedule.

1 set specific activity times

Determine time slots throughout the week when the whole family is available. Devote a few of these times to physical activity. Try doing something active after dinner or begin the weekend with a Saturday morning walk.



2 plan ahead and track your progress

Write your activity plans on a family calendar. Let the kids help in planning the activities. Allow them to check it off after completing each activity.



3 include work around the house

Involve the kids in yard work and other active chores around the house. Have them help you with raking, weeding, planting, or vacuuming.



4 use what is available

Plan activities that require little or no equipment or facilities. Examples include walking, jogging, jumping rope, playing tag, and dancing. Find out what programs your community recreation center offers for free or minimal charge.



5 build new skills

Enroll the kids in classes they might enjoy such as gymnastics, dance, or tennis. Help them practice. This will keep things fun and interesting, and introduce new skills!



6 plan for all weather conditions

Choose some activities that do not depend on the weather conditions. Try mall walking, indoor swimming, or active video games. Enjoy outdoor activities as a bonus whenever the weather is nice.



7 turn off the TV

Set a rule that no one can spend longer than 2 hours per day playing video games, watching TV, and using the computer (except for school work). Instead of a TV show, play an active family game, dance to favorite music, or go for a walk.



8 start small

Begin by introducing one new family activity and add more when you feel everyone is ready. Take the dog for a longer walk, play another ball game, or go to an additional exercise class.



9 include other families

Invite others to join your family activities. This is a great way for you and your kids to spend time with friends while being physically active. Plan parties with active games such as bowling or an obstacle course, sign up for family programs at the YMCA, or join a recreational club.



10 treat the family with fun physical activity

When it is time to celebrate as a family, do something active as a reward. Plan a trip to the zoo, park, or lake to treat the family.





United States Department of Agriculture

Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information.

DG TipSheet No. 29
April 2013
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OBITUARIES

Alice Pauline Frazier

Alice Pauline Frazier, 82, of McAlester, passed away on April 24, 2016, at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa. Alice Pauline Frazier was born on Dec. 26, 1933 in McAlester to Isaac and Lena Mae (Betsey) King.

She married Rev. Gilbert Frazier on Jan. 19, 1952 in McAlester. Alice worked as a provider for the Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services for many years. She enjoyed quilting and watching western movies and going to Choctaw classes with her daughter. She also liked gospel singing, especially at Cornerstone when her children and niece sang.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Isaac and Lena Mae King; her husband, Rev. Gilbert Frazier; three sons, Lonnie Frazier, Michael Frazier and Aaron Frazier; a daughter, Stella Frazier Walker; a grandson, Dakota Walker; sisters, Louella Mae Frazier and Minerva McDaniel; and brothers, Jasper King and Genett Barcus.

She is survived by daughters, Lisa Frazier of the home and Janice Bitsoi and her husband Deswood, of McAlester and Shelli Daily; grandchildren, Jordy Frazier, Jayde Frazier and Jrue Frazier; great grandchildren, Truth Frazier, Adrian Frazier, Trinity Frazier and Jayce Frazier; a sister-in-law, Gladys Barcus; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley-Mills Funeral Home of McAlester. Interment was at Isaac King Cemetery.



Robert Warren Thompson

Robert Warren Thompson passed away on May 31, 2016 at his daughter's home in Tualatin, Oregon.

He was born in Los Angeles, on June 24, 1940 to Warren Thompson and June Roach Thompson.

Robert was part of the 1963 University of Southern California baseball team, which won the National Collegiate World Series.

Robert's grandfather, Onyx Roach, and his great grandmother, Joanna Choate Roach, his great great grandmother, Tennessee McCann, and his great great great grandmother, Jense Beams who walked the Trail of Tears.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Thompson of El Paso, Texas; daughters, Susan Fee and husband, Wade, of Tualatin, Oregon; and Kymbreyann Borden and husband, Les, of MacKenzie Bridge, Oregon; granddaughter, Elizabeth Ancheta and great grandsons Jaden and Camron Padilla, of Sherwood, Oregon, and grandson, Matthew Fee, of Eugene, Oregon.



Anna Beth “Ann” Elder

Anna Beth “Ann” Elder, 82, passed away June 2, 2016 in Longview. She was born March 7, 1934 in Soper to Noble Calvin Stephenson, Sr. and Rena Louise Page Stephenson.

She graduated from Soper High School and married Miles Patrick Elder. She worked as a merchandiser for American Greetings cards. She was a very active member of her church, teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and loved to read and study her Bible.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Michael Elder and one brother, Calvin Stephenson Jr.

She is survived by her son, James Elder and his wife Shaynee of White Oak; daughter, Susan Elder of Longview; grandchildren, Zack Elder of Dallas, Texas, Ashley Elder of Dallas, Texas; sisters, Peggy Hill and her husband Charles of Farmington, New Mexico; Pat Howerton McGee and her husband Gregory Charles; Nelda Graves of White Salmon, Washington; as well as her special friends: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burcham.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Lakeview Funeral Home.



Carolyn Aline (Thompson) Sims

Carolyn Aline (Thompson) Sims, 57, passed away on May 26, 2016, in Walters.

Cara was born on May 9, 1959, to Buford Thompson and Pauline Taylor at Oklahoma City. She attended Ninnekah Elementary School, Pioneer Elementary School, and was a graduate of Chickasha High School in 1977. She married Cecil Sims in 2002, but they have been together since 1988. For most of her life, she was a professional dry cleaner and also worked as a caterer. She was most proud of being a housewife and extending her home to children as a foster parent for many years. Cara loved to cook, sew, and work on costume designs. She enjoyed going to the casino and was a die-hard New York Giants and Thunder fan.

She is preceded in death by her parents, uncle, Clifton Taylor; aunt, Bertha Taylor; sister, Sharon Davis; and brother, Ronnie Thompson.

Cara is survived by her husband of 28 years, Cecil Sims, of the home. Two daughters, Bridget Rooker of Walters and Brittany Rooker of Oklahoma City; and one son, Michael Thompson of Oklahoma City; Sisters, Trudy Schultz and husband Pat, Pauline Underwood, Darlene Vanderloos and husband Bill, Loretta Thompson, and Lola Mae Musick and husband E.J.; brother, Ringo Thompson; seven grandsons, Dominique Thompson, Deon Thompson, Avery Thompson, Azariah Thompson, Braden Moiser, Patrick “Nate” Moiser, and B.J. Palmer; three granddaughters, Roselyn Thompson, Madison Thompson, and Jada Norflett; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home in Ardmore. Interment was at Nelda Cemetery.



Bobby “Bruce” Miller

Bobby “Bruce” Miller, 86 passed away on May 23, 2016, in Rogers, Arkansas. He was born on Dec. 28, 1929, to William Warren and Annie (French) Miller in Atoka County.

He graduated from Stringtown High School before going to college and earning a bachelor's degree.

Bruce was a aircraft maintenance instructor and civil servant and retired after 30 years from Sheppard Air force in Wichita Falls, Texas and owned a cattle ranch in Ti Valley, for 45 years. Bruce also proudly served his country in the Army during the Korea Conflict.

He married Norma Raye (Adams) on May 12, 1983 at Fayetteville, Arkansas. Bruce was a member of Ti Valley Baptist Church. He loved hunting, was an avid fisherman and the greatest joy of his life was working with his cattle.

Bobby is preceded in death by his parents, William and Annie (French) Miller; first wife, Bertha Elizabeth Miller; step son, Jimmy Ray Fox and three brothers and one sister.

Bobby is survived by wife, Norma Raye Miller; daughters, Diana McCray and husband Kenny of San Antonio, Texas and Sherry Loveless of Wichita Falls, Texas; stepdaughters, Telisa Fox of Snyder and Linda Griffin of Bella Vista, Arkansas; 13 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; along with nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service of Atoka. Internment was held at Redden Cemetery in Stringtown.



Aaron Thomas Strokes Jr.

Aaron Thomas Strokes Jr. died Feb. 9, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. He was born on Nov. 15, 1959 to Aaron and Susan Stokes in Tacoma, Washington.

He grew up in and attended high school in Los Angeles, California. He moved to Portland in his late teens.

He met Grace Petrella in 1984 and they married in 1986. He was blessed with two sons, Nicholas and Gabriel.

He worked at various jobs in his youth and settled on becoming an auto locksmith, a job he enjoyed.

Aaron had a number of passions, with music and bass playing topping the list. He loved reading, good food, particularly barbecue, BBC TV and dreaming of travel. Even though he drove for a living, he enjoyed taking long rides with his wife and visiting places like Hood River, Silverton and Multnomah Falls.

He loved his family best, and had a deep affection for his pets.

Aaron is survived by his wife, Mary Grace; his sons Nick and Gabe; as well as his siblings Lonnie Dillon and Bambi Hartlett.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home in Portland.



Allen Dale Estabrook

Allen Dale Estabrook, 50, passed away on May 14, 2016. He was born on July 17, 1965, to Frederick and Mary Yvonne (Cox) Estabrook in Albany, Oregon.

Allen was a resident of Wade. He worked as a truck driver for Best Fender. He enjoyed going to the Choctaw Casino and loved playing with his grandchildren.

Allen was preceded in death by his mom, Mary Yvonne Estabrook Cox; sister, Ruth LaVerne Gonzales; brothers, Brandon Estabrook and David Estabrook; and step-grandson, Troy Coburn.

He is survived by his daughter, April Dill and husband Matt of Calera; grandchildren, Alison Dill of Calera, Abigail Dill of Calera, Alexis Dill of Calera, Amber Dill of Calera, Marshall Dill of Calera; significant other, Mary Vandenburg of Wade; father, Frederick Estabrook and wife Betty of Oregon; sister, Chistine Dillard of Mapleton, Oregon; brothers, Kevin Estabrook of Terrebonne, Oregon, Dan Estabrook of Burns, Oregon and James Estabrook and wife Michelle of Oklahoma City; step-son, Bg Vandenburg of Durant; step-granddaughters, Aspen Vandenburg of Durant, Esperonza Hernandez and husband Omar of Durant, Mercadez Zapote of Durant, Rosalynna Hernandez of Durant, and Faith Hernandez of Durant; step-daughter, Almeita Smith and husband James of Durant; step-grandchildren, Brandi Coburn and Levi Smith of Durant; and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home in Durant.



Eli Tom Jr.

Eli Tom, Jr., 87, of Talihina, passed away on April 14, 2016. He was born June 9, 1928, to Elias and Missie (Paxton) Tom in Keota.

His parents Elias and Missie Tom, three brothers and one sister precede Eli in death.

Eli is survived by four sons, Steve Tom of Bedford, Texas, Stanley Tom and wife, Peggy, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Stuart Tom of Arlington, Texas, Seth Tom and wife, Melissa, of Flushing, New York, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Hattie Ruth James

Hattie Ruth James, 81, passed away on Oct. 29, 2015. She was born Aug. 14, 1934, to Stinnes Pistubbee and Lizzie (Tonubbee) Pistubbee in Boswell.

Hattie worked as a nurse for Choctaw Nation at CHR for many years and as a home health nurse.

She made many friends in the community. Her hobbies included fishing and traveling. After she retired she spent most of her time keeping up with OU sports, visiting her grandchildren, picking blackberries for her delicious cobblers and sitting on the porch with her furry companion she named Big Boy.

Her parents preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Calvin Pistubbee and Raymond Pistubbee.

Survivors include two sons, Derrell James and David James, both of Okmulgee; two daughters, Cheryl Washington of Calera, and Lisa Wolbert of Soper; two sisters, Rena Six of Arlington, Texas and Inell Bailey of Hugo; 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Restland Cemetery in Boswell.



Gaytha Lynne (Crittenden) Hicks

Gaytha Lynne (Crittenden) Hicks, 56, passed away on March 3, 2016, in Atoka. Gaytha was born Jan. 16, 1960, to Aaron and Gladys Virginia (Anderson) Crittenden in Talihina.

Gaytha attended Norman School and Rose State College. She worked at Tinker Air Force Base for 14 years. She married Randy Hicks in June of 1996 in Luther.

Gaytha was of the Baptist faith. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation. Gaytha loved reading, OU football, traveling, family gatherings and the beach.

Gaytha is preceded in death by her husband, Randy Hicks; father, Aaron Crittenden; brother, Steven Doyle Crittenden; maternal grandparents, Thomas Anderson and Susan Fisher; and paternal grandparents, Steve and Ida Crittenden.

Gaytha is survived by children, Melissa Servais of Wilburton, and Kate Hicks of Tulsa, Jeremiah Hicks of Oklahoma City, Jessica Hicks of Sheldon, Washington, Janet Hicks of Oklahoma City and Julie Hicks of Virginia; mother, Gladys Crittenden of Atoka; sister, Lois Bethards and husband Mike of Benton, Arkansas; nieces Jennifer Bethards of Benton, Arkansas and Lisa Bethards and husband Alex of Benton, Arkansas; grandnephews Lane Bethards of Benton, Arkansas and Leo Bethards of Benton, Arkansas.

Arrangements were made were under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service in Atoka. Internment was at Bethany Cemetery in Atoka.



Harriet O’mine (Curry) Williams

Harriet O’mine (Curry) Williams, 94, passed away on March 13, 2016, at Mayo Clinic Health System Hospital in Mankato, Minnesota. Harriet was born Nov. 28, 1921 in Denver, Colorado to Frances and Lewis Choate.

She was the grand daughter of Christopher C. and Amanda Choate. Her parents later divorced and her mother married George D’Allemand Curry, who adopted Harriet at the age of 9.

On Sept. 9, 1940, she was united in marriage to Matthias Williams. In 1961 they moved from Mankato to Kasota and resided there until 2013. Harriet retired from the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center in 1985 after 34 years.

Her passion was art and she was an accomplished painter and weaver. She also loved to travel. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Harriet was preceded in death by her parents, husband Matt; son, Richard; and two infant grandchildren.

She is survived by four sons, Merlin (Alice) of Burlington Kansas, Maynard (Shirley) of North Mankato, Ronald (Beverly) of Marion Iowa, Matthias Bradley (Cheryl) of Garden City; and one daughter, Barbara Heller (Dale) of North Mankato; one sister, Helen Curry Johnson of Apple Valley; 16 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Mankato Mortuary in Mankato.



Molly Jean Billy

Molly Jean Billy, 71, of Garland, Texas passed away on June 3, 2016, at Baylor Medical Center of Garland. She was born on Dec. 16, 1944, to John and Salena Edward McCoy in Talihina.

She graduated from high school and then received her certified nurse aid training working in nursing homes in Rockwall, Texas. Molly was a member of Graham Street Baptist Church.

She is survived by three children, Daniel Billy and wife, Teresa of Paris, Texas; Danita Whitaker and Randy Gibbs of Bogata, and Daneice Isham and Henry Hilary of Dallas, Texas; eleven grandchildren, Saleena Kuelengal, Staci Lott, Jasmine Strange, Jaymee Strange, Abby Isham, Jordan Isham, Brittany Jones, Joseph Jones, Janine Jones, Mallie Billy, and Daniel Billy III; ten great-grandchildren; one sister, Pauline Wesley of Paris, Texas; and one brother, Jimmy Wesley of Hugo.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Fry-Gibbs Funeral Home in Paris.



OBITUARIES

Dennis Frank Battiest

Dennis Frank Battiest a resident of Durant, passed away on May 31, 2016 at the age of 67. He was born July 25, 1948 in Oklahoma City, at Tinker Air Force Base to Eldridge and Ruth (McKinney) Battiest.

Dennis was a man full of life, wisdom and surprises. He was always a traveler, no place could hold him for long, and he never seemed to meet a stranger. His Zest for life kept him moving, meeting people, and going many places. He was an artist and songwriter who expressed his existence. He was a free spirited explorer of life. Dennis always loved the outdoors and shared his world with all creatures believing we were all God's creation. His lifetime dream was to go south as far as he could, Australia was where he always wanted to be.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Eldridge and Ruth Battiest; brother, Kenneth Battiest; stepson, Charlie Childers.

Dennis is survived by his son, David Kilwein and wife Sissy of Coppers Cove, Texas; daughter, Jennison Dodd of Tishomingo; step-children, Earnest Mullens of Ardmore, and Jeannie Childers of Oklahoma; grandchildren, Cheyenne, Uriah, Isaih, Elijah and Molly Kilwein all of Coppers Cove, Texas; great-grandchildren, Levi of Coppers Cove, Texas; sister, Leila Susan Battiest of Durant; brother, Glen Battiest of Anderson, Missouri; and ex-wife, Cherry Beauliea of Coppers Cove, Texas.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home in Durant.



Roscoe Marris

Roscoe Marris, 78, of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, passed away on May 2, 2016. He was born on Oct. 12, 1937 in Ardmore, to Wood Marris and Jane (Baptiste) Marris, both full-blooded Choctaw Native Americans. He was raised by his maternal grandmother, Frazine (Frave) Baptist. He attended school in Plainville and graduated from Plainville High School, and received his vocational training and degree as a baker at Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Roscoe married and moved to Kansas City, Kansas and worked at Wolferman's Bakery. With his first wife he had three beautiful children, Melvin Lee, Johnathan, and Karen.

He moved to Colorado during the late 1970's and settled in west Denver near Deliverance Tabernacle where he later accepted Jesus Chirst as His Lord and Savior. Years later he moved to Westminster and met his second wife, Rowena Pollock at a small Westminster chิร์ch in 1991. They were married on May 23, 1992 and resided in Edgewater until movin in 2004 to Highlands Ranch. He attended Rocky Mountain Bible Institute in Arvada. His passion to serve the Lord led him to become an active participant in Reconciliation Coalition for all Native Americans, a team who met and prayed for the reconciliation of the Native American Indian and white man. Through this organization Roscoe attened conferences in Oklahoma, Colorado, South Dakota, New Mexico and Canada.

Roscoe had the opportunity to teach the Choctaw Language for a semester, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He spoke Choctaw fluently and loved visiting with other Choctaw friends in his first language. Many a time he would pray in Choctaw, which is a most beautiful language.

Besides studying God's Word, Roscoe loved music, gardening, baseball and fishing.

He was preceded in death by three children; grandmother; both parents; brother and wife, Richard Morris and Susie; nephew, Terry Morris; father-in-law, Jim Johnson; brother-in-law, Ron Johnson; and multiple cousins.

Roscoe is survived by his wife, Rowena, several cousins, including Myrtle Ray Chotkey of Oklahoma City, Wanda McCulley of Broken Arrow, and Kenneth Baptist of Ardmore; one niece, Janine Morris; two grand-nephews and their families. He is also survived by two stepdaughters, Adana and Pat Conway of Washington; their sons Matthew and Michael, and Brenda Grizzle of Colorado; her two sons, Samuel and Paul and her daughter Grace.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary & Cemetery in Centennial, Colorado.



Terry Lynn (Phillips) Williams

Terry Lynn (Phillips) Williams, 62, passed away on May 17 2016. She was born Feb. 19, 1954 in Talihina to Kathrine Leigh Phillips and was raised by her grandmother, Emma Phillips of Boswell.

Terry Lynn had worked as a home health provider for many years. She loved reading, being with her family and going to church when she could. Terry Lynn was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Boswell.

Terry Lynn was preceded in death by her mother, Kathrine; Granny Phillips, five brothers, Larry Wayne Phillips, Floyd Clark Jr., Michael Dewayne Clark, Jimmy Joe Clark, and Cameron Booth Clark and sister, Linda Marlene Clark.

Terry Lynn is survived by her husband, Larry Joe Williams; two sons, Stacy Williams of Altus, and Marty Williams of Carsbad, New Mexico; step daughter, Robin Acuna of Olney, Texas; sisters, Donna Pierce of Boswell; Billie Sue Paskin of Powderly, Texas, Shirley Clark of Glenpool, and brothers, Ronnie and Kevin Clark of Boswell. She is also survived by grandchildren, Morgan Smith and husband, Samuel of the home, Clayton Williams of the home, Emily Williams of Durant; Jesse, Chelsey and Leslie Acuna of Olney, Texas; great grandchild, Emma Smith of the home; several nieces and nephews.

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



Lewis Ward Cobb III

Lewis Ward Cobb III, 77, of Crescent City passed away on Feb. 21, 2016.

Born on Aug. 11, 1938, in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma, Lewis was the first of Mary Ivans Cobb's and Lewis Ward Cobb II's five children.

When family and friends talk about Lewis, they most often talk about his gifts of knowledge, and how he inspired a thirst for knowledge and creativity in others.

Lewis graduated from Misdwest Valley High School, and served in the Air National Guard for three years. He started his family and worked as a chemist in the San Francisco are until 1962 when he started Northeast Louisiana University Pharmacy School in Monroe, Louisiana.

Although he had a long successful career helping others as a pharmacist in Shreveport, Louisiana, his faith in Christ and his family were most central in his life. He was an ordained deacon and served for many years at Broadmoor Baptist Church, in Shreveport, Louisiana. When his children were young, he always made time to read with them. He moved to Klamath Glen in 1990 and married Brenda Cobb in 1991.

Lewis was preceded in death by daughter, Kathryn Tenee'; father, Lewis Cobb II; and mother, Mary Ivans Cobb.

Lewis is survived by and was the deeply loved father of Melanie Cobb Griffis and Lewis Ward Cobb IV. For 25 years, he was the dearly loved husband of Brenda Cobb, and stepfather to Jennifer and Jeff McBride, Kelly Patterson, Cyndi and Cory Countess. He was "Papa" to Kobe, Shelby, Miranda, and Corey Countess, as well as to Nicholas and Jenna McBride, and Ashton and Tyler Patterson. Lewis's siblings, Delece Kemp, Rodney Cobb of Lacey, Washington, Steven Cobb and Linda of San Francisco and Jonathon and Lillian Cobb of San Francisco.



Shari K. Ruch

Shari K. Ruch, 72, passed away on June 10, 2016. She was born on March 14, 1944 in Corvallis, Oregon.

She lived most of her life in Fresno, California and for the past six years resided in Talihina.

Shari was most loved for her giving spirit. She had an amazing sense of spontaneous and fearless adventure, as she would do anything, try anything and go anywhere. She had the best sense of humor, uncontrollable laughter and there never was a dull moment with her "Lucy" antics. Shari loved her Friends as they were especially dear to her heart and enjoyed talking to anyone she did not know, as if they were "Friends." She was a proud Native American and Tribal member. Her fondest memories were as a teenager, living abroad in Hanau, Germany.

Shari was preceeded in death by her father, Elbert C. Harrison and brother, Dennis L. Harrison.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry L. Ruch; children, Debra G. Webb and Robert J. Forzetting; mother, Mozelle I. Gatewood; son-in-law, Adrian D. Webb; daughter-in-law, Brooke A. Forzetting; and brother Cecil E. Harrison.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Chaney Harkins Funeral Home in McAlester



Preston Lee Taylor

Preston Lee Taylor, 69, passed away on May 3, 2016 in Hugo. He was born May 3, 1947, to Josephine Lincoln (Wesley) Taylor in Wright City.

Preston married Evelyn James on April 1, 2016 in Paris, Texas. He was a truck driver for 27 years and had also worked at the Grant Choctaw Casino. Preston enjoyed church singings, picking wild onions, fishing, and hunting. He also enjoyed watching the Texas Rangers, Dallas Cowboys and OU, but most especially he enjoyed spending time with his wife, his family and his friends.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Alice Fay Rodriquez and two brothers, Alford Ray Taylor and Joe Freeman Taylor.

Preston is survived by his wife, Evelyn James Taylor; son, Jimmy Ray Taylor and wife, Sherry of Soper; daughters, Angela Ann Gaffney and husband, Pat of Suntag, Mississippi, Christy Taylor of Dallas, Texas, and Norma Jean Taylor Adams and husband, Greg of Hugo; sister, Rhoda Mae Rivas of Dallas, Texas; nine grandchildren, Ricky Rodriguez, Melissa Rodriguez, Amber Torres, Cassie Sorrels, Lisa Little, Jeremiah Ray Taylor, Christan Taylor, Connor Adams and Courtney Hopper; nineteen great-grandchildren; his favorite sister-in-law, Wynona James.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Miller & Miller Funeral Home in Hugo. Interment was at Hampton Chapel Cemetery.



John W. "Sheriff" Samuel

John W. "Sheriff" Samuel, 81, passed away on May 16, 2016 in Tulsa. He was born on March 01, 1935 in Beachton, Oklahoma to Lawrence Austin Samuel and Nora Cusher Samuel.

John proudly served his country for 15 years in the United States Navy. He was also was in the Landscaping profession for 30 years. He loved being outdoors, hunting, fishing and the rodeo. One of the many things he was good at was "telling stories" to family and friends, which kept their interest. He was an avid Oklahoma Thunder and OU Sooner fan. Most of all he loved spending time with family and friends. John was a loving brother, uncle and friend to all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by both parents, Lawrence and Nora Samuel; brothers, Lawrence W. Samuel, Raymond Samuel, Robert Samuel, and Randall Samuel.

John is survived by brothers Richard Samuel and wife Leona of Smithville and Ray Samuel and wife Betty of Bixby; eight nephews; 13 nieces; numerous great-nieces and great-nephews; great-great-nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the drection of Beasley-Wood Funeral Home in Mena, Arkansas. Interment was at the Beachton Cemetery.



Myradelle Saint

Myradelle Saint, 88, passed away on March 9, 2016, in Coalgate. Myradelle was born on May 12, 1927, to Claude and Alta (Wylie) Harkins in Tupelo.

Myradelle worked for First American Bank of Stonewall as a bank teller for more than 50 years. She grew up in Tupelo but had made her home in Stonewall since 1952. She married GW (Bill) Saint June 30, 1951, at her families original allotment homestead. Myradelle loved to garden, read, and home design. She was a good friend and wise in counsel, kind and considerate of her loved ones till the end.

Myradelle was proud to say "I am Choctaw," as was her grandfather, Chief George Harkins. Her father, Claude Harkins was an original enrollee and Myradelle was known among her family as the authority on Harkins history.

She was preceeded in death by her husband, GW (Bill) Saint.

Myradelle is survived by daughter, Dana Saint of Mexia Texas; and a son, William C. "Bill" Saint and wife Rebecca of Stonewall. Two grandsons, David Saint and wife Cindy and their two children William Tanner and Alyssa Jean of Stonewall; Charley Saint and fiancée Ashly Patterson of San Jose California. Plus many friends and cousins from across the United States and beyond.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Smith-Phillips Funeral Home in Ada. Interment was at Byrd's Prairie Cemetery south of Tupelo.



Roy O'Dell (Boog) Pierce

Roy O'Del (O'Dell) Pierce, 84, passed away on April 24, 2016, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa with his family by his side. He was born on Dec. 31, 1931, to Dee and Lillie Pierce in Choctaw County.

He was grateful to be of Native American heritage.

He was raised in and around Boswell. On April 9, 1952, Boog married Marzell Babb in Hugo.

Together they raised two children, Michael Dale Pierce and Michyl Gail Pierce Crider. They moved to Elgin, Kansas where he worked at the Chapman-Barnard Ranch; later, Boog worked as an equipment operator for Chataqua County. They lived in Elgin for several years with Dee and Lilly Pierce and in their own home before moving to Pawhuska, where he worked for the state highway department. After retirement Boog and Marzell moved to Durant to be near Marzell's mother. He continued to live in Durant until his heavenly journey to be with Jesus.

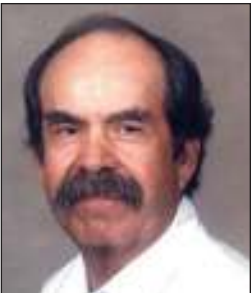
Boog was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Pawhuska. During that time, he became friends with Dick and Avon Bogard. However, his heart was in Good Springs Church where he attended throughout his life.

Later, Boog donated money for the concrete foundation for the new fellowship hall after a fire destroyed it.

Music was a big part of Roy's life. He played the piano, guitar, steel guitar, and many other instruments by ear and he played the base guitar many times for different occasions. He played with a few bands, but in later years he provided gospel music with other musicians to nursing homes and Senior Citizen Centers in and around Durant.

Boog was also a woodworker, making shadow boxes, trash cans, tray table stands, airplanes and wagons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dee and Lillie Pierce in 1994; his brother Roscoe Ray (Sonny) Pierce in 1990.



Roy is survived by his wife, Marzell Pierce of Durant; his two children, Michael Dale Pierce and wife Bonnie of Talihina, and Michyl Gail Pierce-Crider and husband Dale Crider of Sand Springs; two sisters, Shem Chessier of Sedan, Kansas and Maxine McCoy also of Sedan, Kansas; five nephews, Raymond Pierce (Paula) of Flower Mound, Texa, Richard Pierce (Margret) of Farmington, New Mexico, O'Dell McCoy, Allen McCoy and Floyd Halderman; two nieces, Lillie Ann Walls and Carmen Loftin; grandchildren, Jamie Dale Pierce (Porter), Joshua Roy Pierce (Alicia), Regan Smith (Riley), Steve Crider (Maria) and J.D. Crider (Brandi); great-grandchildren, Joe Smith, Jacob Smith, Jordan Smith, Keilani Smith, Katie Quaid, Aria Pierce, Sarah Crider, Raquel Crider, Nehemiah Crider, Megan Davis, Jason Davis and Nolan Crider; three very special surviving uncles, Elmer Pierce, Sam (Skeeter) Pierce and Pat Pierce; and very special friend, Pat McCurry of Wapanucka.

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

Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes or other official sources. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Notices may be edited for space limitations.

Send official obituary notices to:
Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702
email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

BUSINESS

Once in a Lifetime Opportunity Opens Door to Future

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

Lorenzo Gonzalez isn't your typical 19 year old. A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Lorenzo works a total of three jobs, and can now officially add website designer to his long list of accomplishments.

Lorenzo moved to Stigler when he was 11 years old. After his family fell on hard times he and his mother moved to the small town in Haskell County in hopes of a better life.

"If we hadn't moved, I don't think I would be here today," said Gonzales. "I mean that both in the Choctaw Nation and here on earth."

It wasn't until his move to Stigler that he discovered his love for his Choctaw roots and became heavily involved in the Choctaw community. Lorenzo is very proud of his Choctaw heritage, but that isn't the only reason he is thankful for the move to Stigler.

"Growing up in the city, there are a lot of bad things you can get involved in. I'm glad we moved to Stigler. I truly am," said Gonzalez.

Things really started to change in Lorenzo's life last summer when President Barack Obama visited Durant.

Lorenzo was among a select group of students hand picked by President Obama himself.

Lorenzo was president of the Choctaw Nation's District 5 Youth Advisory Board for five years.

According to Gonzalez, his sponsor and director, Martina Hawkins, contacted him, saying she had a great opportunity for him.

Hawkins submitted Lorenzo's name to be considered to meet with the president before his address in Durant.

A White House representative soon contacted Lorenzo, informing him that he had been personally selected by the president to be a part of a small group of students to meet with President Obama.

"It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to speak to a sitting president, for him to hear my views not only as a young American, but as a young Choctaw," said Lorenzo.

On the day of the meeting, Lorenzo remembers trying to play it cool while waiting for the president.

"I tried to be calm and cool, because you know it's just the president," laughed Gonzalez. "Finally the president walks in. I just looked at him, and I was in shock of how tall he was."

After his meeting with the president and sharing with him about his ideas and life, Lorenzo went to the Stigler News Sentinel to be interviewed about his experience. That is where he met Linus Williams, president of Stigler Printing (Stigler Printing is also the printer for the Biskinik).

After hearing Lorenzo tell his story, and hearing about his hard work and determination, Linus offered him a job on the spot.

"He asked if I had a job," said Lorenzo.

When Lorenzo informed Linus that he had multiple jobs, Linus asked if he would like another.

"I told him, I could fit that in somewhere," laughed Gonzalez.

Linus recalls being impressed with Lorenzo that day he came in for that interview.

There was a sense of humility. He was such a humble guy, and he was telling a very honest story in a very honest way. That's so unique in anyone, whether you're young or old," said Williams.

Linus had been sitting on the idea of a job search website that would benefit the Native American community and tribal job seekers. Lorenzo seemed like the perfect fit for the endeavor. Lorenzo then began the journey of developing the website MyTribalJob.com. The website which went live on July 22, helps both tribal members and non-tribal members across the country. The site is free and serves as job site and a Native scholarship and grant search site. The creation of MyTribalJob.com was Lorenzo's first experience with website design. According to Gonzalez, the experience was challenging, but a great learning experience. "I'm used to working in the service industry. Just setting at a desk, typing in data and looking up stuff was different. Having the website implemented and creating it was different as well. But, I am glad to get that knowledge under my belt," said Gonzalez. "I try to utilize it every day."

Lorenzo plans on attending Connors State University in the fall, majoring in allied health. However, he also plans on continuing his education even further.

"I'll probably go back for business administration, because I see a future working with Linus and continuing My Tribal Job," said Gonzalez. "Whatever endeavors he has, I want to help accomplish that."



Lorenzo Gonzalez works on the website MyTribalJob.com at his work station at Stigler Printing in Stigler.



(From left) Jodi Pratt of Bare Metal Standard Oklahoma, Michelle Meza of Rosewood Industries, Sage Kimberly Miller of Safer America, Charlotte Burris of BCW Group, Boyd Miller, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Preferred Supplier Program Director, Stephanie Elder and Carla Mallory of Gallant Background Checks, and Bailey Walker, Chickasaw Nation Preferred Vendor Program Director.

Preferred Suppliers Attend Diamonds & Dreams Banquet in Tulsa on June 9

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

The fourth annual Diamonds & Dreams banquet was held on June 9, 2016 at the Tulsa Country Club. The annual event celebrates the "shining accomplishments of women."

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma partnered with REI of Oklahoma with representation of businesswomen from the Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program.

The event, spearheaded by Barbra Rackley of REI, showcased the successful women from all over the state of Oklahoma. Talk show host and Durant native Whitney Reynolds was the

special featured speaker during the event.

Barbra Rackley is the REI Women's Business Center Director. In collaboration with the CNO Preferred Supplier Program, developed the women owned certification program. The program has assisted numerous Native Women owned companies in becoming competitive in the marketplace. The program offers continued training, business development and Woman Business Enterprise Certification.

Boyd Miller, Preferred Supplier Program Director, represented the Nation and the program during the Diamonds & Dreams event.

"It was an honor to have so

many successful Choctaw and Native American Successful women in business represented at this year's event," said Miller.

Members of the Preferred Suppliers Program in attendance of the event included Jodi Pratt of Bare Metal Standard Oklahoma, Michelle Meza of Rosewood Industries, Sage Kimberly Miller of Safer America, Stephanie Elder and Carla Mallory of Gallant Background Checks, Ginger Sloan of GTClean Facility Services, and Sherea McDonald of Medical Billing and Coding.

To find out more on the Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program visit the website preferredsuppliers.choctawnation.com.

Tomorrow's Hope Project

The primary goal of the Tomorrow's Hope Project is to raise awareness and provide education on suicide prevention. We seek to aid the reduction of overall suicide rates across the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 county service area and beyond. For more information on our program or to schedule an education training, please call: Talihina Behavioral Health Clinic at 918-567-3065. The demographics for suicide victims are diverse. Risk is even greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change. Some common warning signs that someone is at risk for suicide are included, but not limited to the following:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

Suicide is preventable! If you, or someone you know is at risk, call the national lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). With help comes hope.

"This newspaper article was written in part under a grant number 1H79SM062902-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS."

CHOCTAW

TRAVEL PLAZA

Choctaw Travel Plaza Store Manager

Durant, Grant and Poteau, Oklahoma

REQUIREMENTS

- Two (2) years retail/food service management experience with significant P&L and supervisory responsibility. Applicants with a relevant college degree may be qualified if they have experience in retail/food service.
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment with demonstrated ability to juggle multiple competing tasks and demands.
- Three (3) years experience in a high volume/high traffic Travel Center/Truck Stop experience preferred.

Choctaw Nation offers generous benefits

Employee Prescription Program

Employee Health Clinic

Choctaw Travel Plaza is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act.

Interested applicants please apply online or at your local Choctaw Casino.

careers.choctawnation.com

HOT JOBS

August 2016

Get HIRED!

Every month the Biskinik will spotlight open job positions in the Choctaw Nation. For job objectives, primary tasks, as well as required education, skills and experience, visit www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com.

| Position | Location |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Network Architect | • Durant |
| • Environmental Protection Specialist | • Durant |
| • IT Business Analyst | • Durant |
| • Database Administrator | • Durant |

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presented by **Derek Hines**

Cost (including books): **\$100**

beginning September 12, 2015
6:00-7:30pm on Mondays

Chahta Foundation
3915 N. Est - Durant, OK

register TODAY @ 580.745.8133

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Davila Published in Stone Soup

Devon Lily Davila, an 11 year old from California, wrote the short story, “High Dive,” which was published in the July/August edition of Stone Soup. The literary magazine publishes writing and art by children from different cultures all over the world. It once devoted an entire issue to art, stories, and photographs created by Navajo children living on a reservation. It is one of the most highly regarded children’s magazines in the United States and has been referred to as “The New Yorker of the 8-13 set” by Curriculum Administrator. Stone Soup is available in print by subscription, and Devon’s story can also be read online at stonesoup.com/article/high-dive.

Devon is the daughter of Amber Sturdivant, granddaughter of Jack Sturdivant, great-granddaughter of Chame “Curly” Sturdivant of Ada, and great-great granddaughter of two original Choctaw enrollees, Claude Osa Sturdivant and Reita Oliver, the latter of whom was a descendant of Nathaniel Folsom and Ahnichi Ohoyo.



Holloway Celebrates 102 Years of Life

Suzanne Holloway turned 102 on June 16. She was born in 1914 and grew up in Antlers. She is the last of her siblings and lives in an independent living senior community in Oklahoma City. Holloway is a proud Choctaw and taught her three daughters, Mary Richard, Susan Holloway and Judy Whittlesey about their heritage. Her children are very proud of her and said she has been a good example to them and her grandchildren.

Vietta Recognized

John Vietta received recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars across the U.S. and on state level as VFW National Firefighter in Oklahoma City on June 11. His career and continuance to excel in his profession has been recognized by the VFW. As a tribal member, he represents his tribe with heart, respect, and gratitude.



Richard to be inducted into Honor Society

Jennifer Richard, a 2010 alumna of the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), who earned a master’s in early childhood education, was inducted into the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society on April 28 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Richard is a swansea at UCO Ph.D. student and her work is titled “Embracing the Past, Empowering the Future: Head Start’s Role in the Preservation of the Choctaw Culture for the Tribe’s Youngest Members.” She makes her home in Oklahoma City.



Hutson is 87

Alice Hutson turned 87 on May 22. The Atoka resident was at the Choctaw Community Center for the Veteran’s Lunch.



Choctaw Nation Employees Become Better Leaders for the Community

Four Choctaw Nation employees graduated from Leadership Durant 2015-16 on June 16. They participated in the year long course through the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce. During the year, participants engaged in community activities, volunteering, and monthly meetings where they traveled to local business and government offices to gain a better understanding of how the City of Durant functions. They were encouraged to build their leadership skills through team building exercises and group events.

The graduates celebrated their achievement with a pool party at the home of Greg and Donna Seay and a meal provided by State Representative Dustin Roberts.

Pictured (from left) are Hayley McIntyre, Choctaw Nation Indian Child Welfare; Ashley Norman, Choctaw Casino and Resort; Tara Boydston, Choctaw Nation Education Department; and Ahmad El-Katib, Choctaw Nation Small Business Development.

Beal Makes Art for Grandfather

Kaitlin Beal, 15 years old, has been drawing all her life. She taught herself to draw and all her art is inspired by her love of animals. This love of animals makes her want to be a veterinarian when she is older.

Beal drew the picture of an elk for her grandfather because he likes to hunt. Beal said, “I’ve always loved the regal elk, and it was fun capturing that in my drawing.”



Thomas turns 86

James Ovanuel Thomas will be 86 on Aug. 30. His grandfather, Daniel “Tuck” Chris Bench, was an original enrollee who in later years raised water-melons in Boswell. James tells many stories of his grandfather “Tuck.” James is proud to be Choctaw.



Choctaw Nation Owa Chito Princesses

From left to right: Senior Princess: Desiree Noah, daughter of Reggie and Katie Baker, Broken Bow. Junior Princess: DezaRae Simmons, daughter of Nashoba and RaeAnne Simmons, Seminole. Little Miss Princess: Danika Tom, daughter of Ronnie and Crystal Tom, Broken Bow.



Virginia Mann of Marlow celebrated her 90th birthday on July 7. She is the daughter of Willie Mae (Henderson) Whitehead, original Choctaw enrollee. Virginia is also the fifth generation great-granddaughter of Chief Mosholatubbee. She is very proud of her Choctaw heritage. Virginia taught school for 31 years and is active in retirement.

St. Clair Celebrates Sweet 16

Kendra Kay St. Clair is turning 16. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Debra St. Clair Jr., of Calera.

Her little brother Kenneth would like to wish her a very happy birthday on Aug. 8.

Kendra is in her second year as the Bryan County Youth Advisory Board secretary, where she holds more than 300 volunteer hours. She is currently volunteering at summer school in Calera for Bryan County children.



She plays basketball and softball for Calera Public Schools, and is a straight A student. She had the privilege of going with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma basketball team to Kansas playing in the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Tournament with the Winnebago Tribe and many other Native Teams across the Country. The Choctaw Nation girl’s team won third place in the tournament.

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We will accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and above. Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries.

News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We do not post wedding announcements.

We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

People You Know Submissions
Biskinik, Attn: People You Know
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@choctawnation.com

**Coming Soon
New Exhibit**

**The Choctaw Nation Museum and Gift Shop
will be closed to the public
Aug. 22 – Aug. 29,
for the installation of a new exhibit.**

The new exhibit, about the history of the Capitol Building, will be available for visitors to enjoy during the 2016 Labor Day Festival.

Choctaw Nation 2016

Farmer's Market

Fresh | Local | Organic

The Choctaw Nation Farmer's Market has begun and will run until produce is no longer available. The Choctaw Community Centers in Durant, Atoka, Antlers, Hugo, McAlester, Broken Bow, and Idabel, all hold farmer's markets Wednesdays, when produce is available around 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or until produce sells out.
Please call your center before arriving to Farmer's Market.

Assistance Available

The Choctaw Nation WIC FMNP still has farmers' market checks available at the Durant, Hugo, McAlester and Poteau sites. You do not have to wait on your WIC appointment to get your farmers' market checks.
All senior farmers' market checks have been distributed and funds are exhausted. Participants who have received their WIC and senior farmers' market checks, please utilize the list of farmers that was given when you received your checks and get your fresh fruits and vegetables while produce is still available.
Contact: 1 (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280 Ext: 2303

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016
10:00 A.M. - TVSHKA HOMMA**

YAKOKE TO ALL OUR VETERANS!

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2016 PRINCESS PAGEANT

The 2016 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival begins with the Princess Pageant on Sept. 1 at the amphitheater in Tvshka Homma. Each talented young lady will compete within her respective division for the titles of Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Miss Choctaw Nation 2016-17.

Each contestant qualified to appear in the pageant by winning their district pageant. They also finished their interviews with the pageant judges before the pageant at the festival.

They will each be judged in personality, goals as princess, beauty and poise, traditional dress, and traditional accessories. All junior and senior contestants are also required to compete in the traditional talent category.

This year the event will be livestreamed on Choctaw-Nation.com starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1., from the amphitheater on the capitol grounds at Tvshka Homma.

Senior Miss Division



Mandy Steele, District 1

Mandy Steele from Idabel is the 19 year old daughter of Roger and Shanna Steele. Mandy graduated from Haworth High School in 2015 and plans to become a physical therapist in the future. Mandy volunteers at the Choctaw Community Center. She enjoys running, walking, and doing 5Ks. She also likes spending time with her family.



Vanessa Jefferson, District 2

Vanessa Jefferson from Broken Bow is the 22 year old daughter of Austin and Linda Jefferson. Vanessa attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is a junior. She enjoys playing softball and basketball with her nieces and nephews. She also loves spending time with her family at family functions.



Karen Crosby, District 7

Karen Ann Crosby from Wright City is the 18 year old daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth Ann Crosby. Karen attends Carl Albert State College. She enjoys reading, camping, fishing, hunting, reading, math, cooking, beading, and singing. She also likes to play softball, basketball, learning to speak Choctaw, and spending time with friends and family.



Gennavie Tom, District 9

Gennavie Tom from Durant is the 21 year old daughter of Jimmy and Betty Tom. Gennavie graduated from Broken Bow High School in 2014. Gennavie enjoys playing stickball and working on her beadwork. She also likes being with her family and friends.



December Pittman, District 10

December Pittman from Atoka is the 19 year old daughter of Bradley Pittman and Julie Lambert. December is a 2015 graduate of Stringtown High School. December enjoys fishing, swimming, singing, dancing, and getting to know others. She also likes to spend time with family and friends.



Cherish Wilkerson, District 11

Cherish Ann Wilkerson from McAlester is the 22 year old daughter of Dennis and Dena Cantrell. Cherish attends Eastern Oklahoma State College and is a sophomore. Cherish enjoys going to pow wows, riding horses, community service, going for walks, reading, going to the movies, and learning about different cultures. She also likes to watch stickball, take pictures, travel, and spend time with family and friends.

Next Step

To assist Tribal Members reach the next step of self-sufficiency through supplemental assistance and financial advice.

Eligibility:

- (One Choctaw Tribal Member in Household)
- (Reside in Choctaw Nation Service Area)
- (Must be a Working Household) (income exception apply)
- (Income Based)
- (No Household Members Receiving TANF)

Please call to schedule an in-person appointment.

Foley (918) 643-4901

McAlester (918) 420-2716

Tulsa (918) 304-2779

Broken Bow (918) 564-2642

Atoka (918) 292-3442

Choctaw Royalty

Attention All Former Choctaw Nation Princesses

If you served as a Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, please send your contact information to:

Kerry L. Steve, Cultural Services

Email: ksteve@ChoctawNation.com

(800) 522-6170 Ext. 4090

Junior Miss Division



BreAnna Jefferson, District 1

BreAnna LaDawn Jefferson from Miller-ton is the 17 year old daughter of JoAnna Jefferson. BreAnna attends Valliant High School and is in the 12th grade. BreAnna enjoys learning beadwork, learning the Choctaw language, and playing softball for the Valliant Lady Bulldogs. She also likes playing stickball with her team, Hiloha Osi.



Krystal Noah, District 2

Krystal Noah from Broken Bow is the 16 year old daughter of Katie Baker. Krystal attends Broken Bow High School and is in the 9th grade. Krystal enjoys reading, helping others, and learning more about her culture. She also likes spending time with friends.



Madison Cossey, District 4

Madison Jade Cossey from Spiro is the 14 year old daughter of Karla McGee. Madison attends Spiro High School and is in the 9th grade. Madison enjoys basketball, band, stickball, track, reading, swimming, and competitive sports. She also likes to sing, dance, and travel during the summer.



Juanita Gonzalez, District 5

Juanita Gonzalez from Stigler is the 16 year old daughter of Victoria Baker Gonzalez. Juanita attends Stigler High School and is in the 11th grade. Juanita enjoys going for walks, swinging at the park, helping with YAB, singing with her grandfather in Choctaw, and cooking. She also likes to spend time with family and friends.



Raven Noriega, District 6

Raven Noriega from Wilburton is the 13 year old daughter of Raymond Noriega and Crystal Kinley. Raven enjoys reading, writing, and drawing. She also likes to spend time playing with her cousins.



Alisha Hardy, District 7

Alisha Hardy from Wright City is the 17 year old daughter of David and Sarah Trusty. Alisha attends Wright City High School and is in the 12th grade. Alisha enjoys beading, playing stickball, going to pow wows, singing in Choctaw with her family, and reading the bible. Alisha also likes to attend Choctaw gospel singing and spending time with family and friends.



Savanna Herndon, District 8

Savannah Jane Herndon from Soper is the 14 year old daughter of Thomas and Angela Herndon. Savannah attends Soper High School and is in the 9th grade. Savannah enjoys reading and cheerleading. She also likes to spend time with her family and friends as well as her animals.



Josephine Gilmore, District 9

Josephine Gilmore from Durant is the 16 year old daughter of Kenny and Joyce Gilmore. Josephine enjoys 4-H club, lacrosse, Choctaw Nation YAB, and competing in pow wows. She also likes to share what she knows about stickball and showing her Choctaw pottery made in Dr. Ian Thompson's class.



Kylee Hampton, District 10

Kylee Ann Hampton from Caney is the 13 year old daughter of Ronnie and Marcia Hampton. Kylee attends McCall Middle School and is in the 8th grade. Kylee enjoys learning more about her culture, traveling, and meeting new people. She also likes to go hunting and fishing and spending time with her family.



Alexis Futsicha, District 11

Alexis Chyan Futsicha from McAlester is the 13 year old daughter of Jonathan Futsicha and Jacqueline Washington. Alexis attends Puterbaugh Middle School and is in the 7th grade. Alexis enjoys band, 4-H club, Native American club, softball, Girl Scouts, orchestra, and sleeping. She also likes spending time with her sister.



Reanna Allen, District 12

Reanna Lynne Allen from McAlester is the 17 year old daughter of Charles and Vaness Allen. Reanna attends Indianola High School and is in the 11th grade. Reanna enjoys painting, being outdoors, going to church, and being with her nieces and nephews. She also likes spending time with family and friends.

Gospel Singing Photos Wanted

The Biskinik is looking for pictures from traditional Gospel Singings. Pictures from Choctaw churches, as well as other churches would be appreciated.

Any pictures sent in **WILL NOT** be returned. Pictures can be emailed, mailed, or brought to the Biskinik office at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant. Email to biskinik@choctawnation.com or mail to P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702.

Little Miss Division



Baylee Byington, District 1

Baylee Grace Byington from Idabel is the 10 year old daughter of Presley and Suzanne Byington. Baylee attends Denison Elementary School and is in the 5th grade. Baylee enjoys attending and participating in Choctaw Dancing and Native American pow wows. She is attending beading class and is learning to play the Native American flute. She loves children's church and spending time with family and friends.



Liyah Cleckler, District 2

Liyah Marie Cleckler from Broken Bow is the 10 year old daughter of Mindy Shomo. Liyah attends Bennett Elementary and is in the 4th grade. Liyah enjoys reading and helping people with their pets. Liyah also likes spending time with her mom, her sister, and two brothers. she also enjoys church and spending time with family and friends.



Maggie Smith, District 3

Maggie Cicelle Smith from Talihina is the 11 year old daughter of Kevin and Malinda Smith. Maggie attends Talihina Elementary School and is in the 5th grade. Maggie enjoys cooking, reading, sewing, and playing the piano and clarinet. She also likes to design clothes, play the piano at the Talihina nursing home, and reading to kindergarten children.



Gracie Mattox, District 4

Brooklyn Gracie Mattox from Howe is the 11 year old daughter of Jesse and Lacey Mattox. Gracie attends Howe Elementary School and is in the 5th grade. She enjoys reading, swimming, beading, playing outside, Choctaw social dancing, and learning about her culture. She also loves to tell people about her bees and is a beekeeper.



Isabella Muncy, District 6

Isabella Muncy from Red Oak is the 8 year old daughter of Dustin and Megan Muncy. Isabella attends Red Oak Elementary School and is in the 3rd grade. Isabella enjoys singing, dancing and playing outside. She also likes to take tumbling and attending the Chahta Anumpa class.



Arayleah Clay, District 7

Arayleah Nicole Clay from Antlers is the 8 year old daughter of Kerry Clay and Brandy Sigler. Arayleah attends Antlers Elementary School and is in the 3rd grade. Arayleah enjoys playing basketball and softball. She also likes to ride horses, skating, playing stickball with Neshoba Homma, and spending time with her friends and family.



Mya Thomas, District 8

Mya Elizabeth Thomas from Boswell is the 9 year old daughter of Lynsey and Sammie Jo Thomas. Mya attends Boswell Elementary School and is in the 4th grade. Mya enjoys going to church, signing, painting, and doing any arts and crafts. She also likes to play outside and being with all her animals.



Kenzie Wilson, District 9

Kenzie Wilson from Durant is the 9 year old daughter of Kevin Wilson and the granddaughter of Pamela Wilson. Kenzie attends Durant Middle School and is in the 7th grade. Kenzie enjoys cooking, drawing, playing the piano, swimming, and attending Choctaw Nation summer youth camps. She also likes playing with her friends.



Hailie Pittman, District 10

Hailie Brooke Pittman from Atoka is the 12 year old daughter of Eric and Rachel Pittman. Hailie attends McCall Middle School and is in the 6th grade. Hailie enjoys cheerleading, basketball, being a SWAT member, student council, and track. She also likes to read and spending time with family.



Jenessa Dugger, District 11

Jenessa Faith Dugger from Hartshorne is the 10 year old daughter of Jerry and Michele Dugger. Jenessa attends Hailleyville Elementary School and is in the 5th grade. Jenessa enjoys softball, basketball, Girl Scouts, 4-H club, and cheer squad. She also likes going to church, kids rally, and spending time with friends and family.



Cherokee McCoy, District 12

Cherokee LeAnn McCoy from Coalgate is the 11 year old daughter of Thomas McCoy. Cherokee attends E.E. Emerson Elementary School and is in the 5th grade. Cherokee enjoys softball, basketball, the Choctaw language class, and cultural events. She also likes Choctaw traditional food and Indian tacos.

Tvshka Homma Makes Stickball History with Mississippi Win

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

The official Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma stickball team, Tvshka Homma, was invited to the World Series Stickball Championship in Choctaw, Mississippi held in July 2016.

This year marked the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, which is where the World Series of Stickball is hosted.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has been invited to the World Series for the past seven years.

On Tuesday, July 5, the Tvshka Homma 35 and Over team faced Oka Homma's 35

and Over team. Both teams fought hard, but at the end of the hour-long match, Oka Homma was victorious.

Tvshka Homma played against the Warriors, which is just one of many Mississippi teams, on Wednesday, July 6.

A wet field caused by rain prior the game resulting in players sliding and falling as they fought to get the ball to the post.

Tvshka Homma scored and the Warriors tried fighting back and gain possession of the ball. At the end of the game, Tvshka Homma came out victorious, beating the Warriors 5-2.

They also made history that night, as Oklahoma Stickball has never beat a Mis-

issippi team on Mississippi's home field.

Tvshka Homma advanced to the next round of the World Series where they faced the Mississippi team Unified.

Team Tvshka Homma played Unified on Monday, July 11. At the end of the game Tvshka Homma was at the bottom of the scoreboard with a 9-4 loss to Unified.

Tvshka Homma will play again as a team during the Choctaw Labor Day Festival. The first day of the Stickball Tournament is Friday, Sept. 2. The tournament starts at 7 p.m. at the Stickball Field.

The tournament continues on Saturday, Sept. 3 on the field north of the carnival at 8 p.m.

The Championship game will be played on Sunday, Sept. 4 at the Stickball Field. The Championship game is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

Prior to the Championship game a Stickball exhibition will be held on the Capitol lawn at 5 p.m.

A children's stickball exhibition will be held at the Stickball Field at 7 p.m.

A women's stickball exhibition will be held at 8 p.m. on the Stickball Field.

Among the activities in the Choctaw Village on Saturday, Aug. 3, is Stickball Skills at 10:30 a.m. and Stickball at 1 p.m., where festival goers can learn how to play stickball.



Photo by Tina Firquain

Choctaw Nation's stickball team, Tvshka Homma, played in the World Series Stickball Championship in Choctaw, Mississippi. The championship was held in July at the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. Tvshka Hooma made history when they beat the Mississippi stickball team, Warriors with a final score of 5-2. It was the first time the Oklahoma team beat a Mississippi team in Mississippi. Tvshka Homma will be back on the field, with the home field advantage, during the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma on Friday-Sunday, Sept. 2-4.

FASTLANE
cont'd from page 1

bringing Choctaw Nation, Durant, and Calera together and presenting a plan and addressing all our concerns," said Hearon.

Before the grant, construction was expected to begin in 2026, now Patterson said construction would be able to begin as soon as 2019.

Patterson said this is a high priority project and he, along with other officials are going to make a new eight-year plan now that the funds are coming in.

The State of Oklahoma submitted three different locations for the FAST-LANE grant, however this project had no other funding available. Patterson believes this fact, along with Chief Batton's contributions, were key in Bryan County receiving the third largest of all 18 grant awards.

Chief Batton traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx to discuss the project and the concerns of the Choctaw Nation.

"The Choctaw Nation is building a new 500,000 square-foot Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma office complex on 80 acres adjacent to the section of US 69/75 proposed for the improvement in the FASTLANE grant application," according to an Economic and Demographic Data

sheet provided by the Choctaw Nation to the DOT.

The campus is under construction and will consolidate more than 30 Choctaw Nation offices.

North of the Choctaw Casino on the future campus area, the Choctaw Nation Durant Regional Medical Clinic is being built. The clinic will be 174,000 square



Photo by Tina Firquain

Traffic headaches and congestion in the US Highway 69/75 corridor between Durant and Calera may soon be coming to an end. With the FAST-LANE grant, construction on overpasses, addition of service roads and the elimination of traffic lights is set to begin in 2019.

feet and will be completed around July 2017.

On the northwest corner of the Choctaw Road and highway intersection, the Choctaw Nation will be building a cultural center beginning February 2017.

Most of the traffic for the Choctaw Na-

tion will be traveling through the project area causing high volumes of traffic.

"The improvements to US 69/75 will improve the access and safer mobility to these facilities for visitors, residents, and freight moving into and through the region. Additional resort development expansion is also being discussed that will increase the number of visitors and the demand for goods transport," also stated in the Data sheet.

Chief Batton helped show the DOT the importance of improving the road conditions through Calera and by the Choctaw Casino.

Patterson said, "Without Chief Batton, I don't think this grant would have been given. The State of Oklahoma appreciates the huge effort given by the Choctaw Na-

tion and Chief Batton."

While at the Inter Tribal Council (ITC) quarterly meeting in Norman on July 7 and 8, Chief Batton announced the award of the grant to Bryan County and thanked Senator Inhofe and Congressman Mullin.

Adding to his comments at ITC, Chief Batton said, "Durant and the Choctaw Nation have experienced tremendous growth over the last few years. Improvements made from the FASTLANE grant funds will help reduce safety concerns, save lives, and enhance economic development as well as provide a gateway to Choctaw Country. This is a prime example of what can be achieved with cooperative partnerships between the Choctaw Nation, the State of Oklahoma, and the federal government."

Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna
◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆
Lost Keys - Dialogue

Read the dialogue with a partner. Don't rush through the Choctaw. Practice fluency!

| | |
|--|--|
| Speaker 1: Vm isht tiwa yvt akania tuk. | I lost my keys. |
| Speaker 2: Katimma ho? | Where? |
| Speaker 1: Kanimma ihokano chukka anuka kahmayya. | They are lying somewhere inside the house. |
| Speaker 2: Chi shukcha ish ahoyo tuk q? | Did you search (check) your pockets? |
| Speaker 1: A. | Yes. |
| Speaker 2: Chi kaa ish ahoyo ho? | Did you search (check) your car? |
| Speaker 1: Ak piso tuk. | I didn't see them. |
| Speaker 2: Keychain atakali ho? | Is it on a keychain? |
| Speaker 1: A. Atakali chito. | Yes, it is big one. |
| Speaker 2: Keychain yvt pisa katiohmi? | What does the keychain look like? |
| Speaker 1: Tohbi micha hish gsha. | It is white and furry. |
| Speaker 2: Chukfi iyyi ishi. | It has a rabbit's foot. |
| Speaker 2: Ome. Isht tiwa lawa hosh takohmayya ho? | Oh. Does it have a lot of keys? |
| Speaker 1: Keyu, peh tuchina. | No, just three. |
| Speaker 2: Aiimpa opakna gsha ka ak piso. | I don't see them on the table. |
| Speaker 1: Kanimma ittonla ka ak ikhvno. | I don't know where they could be lying. |
| Speaker 2: Isht tiwa atampa ish ishi kiyo ho? | You don't have extra keys? |
| Speaker 1: Keyu, Mat a kania tuk. | No, I lost those also. |
| Speaker 2: Ome. Ke hohoyo. | Ok. Let's keep looking. |
| Speaker 1: Shiloh! Issa! Et vma! | Shiloh! Stop it! Give them to me! |
| Speaker 2: Nanta hosh katimmi? | What is going on? |
| Speaker 1: Ahochi/ahachi li! | I found them! |
| Speaker 2: Katimma ho? | Where? |
| Speaker 1: Ofi yvt isht washoha hosh anta tuk. | The dog was playing with them. |

www.choctawschool.com

*Choctaw Elders
age 80 & up . . .*

You have stories to tell,
let us preserve them.

Contact: Deidre Elrod,
800-522-6170 delrod@
choctawnation.com

CHOCTAW
COUNTRY MARKET

NOW OPEN
6 AM TO 10 PM DAILY

When traveling through Clayton to the Labor Day Festival, be sure to stop by the new Choctaw Country Market. Stock up on fresh groceries and prepared foods, visit our deli for made-to-order meals, fill up on gas and ice and enjoy our counter service restaurant with dine-in seating. We have everything you need for your weekend in Tvshka Homma!

LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 271 AND HWY 2 IN CLAYTON, OK

Biskinik Monthly Language Lesson – April 2016

Toffahpi
SPRING

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| N N P A S Z A O A I I M N N | Y V B M N K P P H A W V | Z M S H L I Q B Z O H S H O C | O B V H T I K M G E A U L K E | A P K U I U B G I B F H I C F | Q G H K S T X E H N F S X H P | B S D H A V Q X S O O N K A O | E W I J S H D M W H T M K M I | L A C H A Z G J I H A K A I F | H O F F V L I K S W N I D L O | P O I W O F A I O L V A W I U | U O N P J J H Y X Z X T R W E | I T N O H S O H N M I V C V | Q E I F X U N G U A I A O D U | Z C K A Q W T F O W A N A G T | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AKAKUSHI -chick | AKSHISH -root | CHUKFI -rabbit | FOWI -bee | HIMONA -new | HOFFVLI -hatch | HOSHONTI -cloud/s | HVSHI TOMI -sunshine | LACHA -wet | LAKNA -yellow | LIBESHA -warm | MAHLI -wind | MALATHA -lightening | NIHI -seeds | OFFO -grow | OMBA -rain | OKCHAKKO -blue | SHUSHI -bug/s | SHUTIK -sky | OKCHAMALI -green | OMBA -rain | PARANLI -bloom | TOFFAHPI -spring | TOWA -ball | SHVPO -hat | OKCHAKKO was misspelled as OKKAHCKO |

CHOCTAW
COUNTRY

During the 2016 Labor Day Festival, take your photo with all five photo ops located throughout the festival grounds including the famous Giant Chief's Chair!

Share your pics using
#choctawcountry

www.ChoctawCountry.com



3-on-3 Basketball

Team Name _____
Contact _____
Address _____
City/ST/Zip _____
Phone _____

Entry form must be postmarked by August 25:
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball, ATTN: Kerry Steve
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
or fax to 580-920-9908

Co-Ed teams must have either 3 boys and 2 girls or 3 girls and 2 boys.
Teen players who are 18 must still be in high school
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 TEAMS

Saturday, Sept. 4

Category / Division
circle one:

4 MAN ROSTER

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| WOMEN ALL STARS | AGES 18 & UP |
| MEN YOUNG GUYS | AGES 18 TO 35 |
| MEN OLD TIMERS | AGES 36 & UP |

5 MAN ROSTER

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| MINI COED | AGES 9 TO 11 |
| TWEENS COED | AGES 12 TO 14 |
| TEENS COED | AGES 15 TO 18 |



TOUGH TOUGH CHOCTAW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
Registration at 4:00 p.m.
Event begins at 5:00 p.m.

Prizes awarded for First and Second Places.
First T-shirts to participants.

Contact Waddel Hearn
800.522.6170 (ext.2524)
whearn@choctawnation.com

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL
Choctaw Nation



During the Labor Day Festival four Choctaw Nation HSA dentists will be providing oral cancer screenings in the Healthy Living tent. The four dentists doing oral cancer screenings will be William E Bart DDS from Hugo clinic, Breck L Bennett DDS and Tawana Bourlier DDS ,from McAlester clinic, and Al Grzech DDS from Poteau clinic. Oral cancer is a very aggressive disease. Early detection is vital in saving a patient from destructive surgery and/or a patient's life. Most patients are unaware of the early symptoms of oral cancer.



Chief Batton's Youth FITNESS CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
Registration at 5:00 p.m.
Event begins at 6:00 p.m.

This annual event promotes fitness and health in a fun and challenging atmosphere. The challenge will conclude with a tug-o-war contest and each participant will receive a free T-shirt.

Contact Waddel Hearn
800.522.6170 (ext.2524)
whearn@choctawnation.com

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL
Choctaw Nation

Horseshoes

Saturday, Sept. 3
Tvshka Homma



Registration 8 to 9 a.m.
Single elimination tournaments begin at 9:30 a.m.
Men, Women, Youth (up to 13) and Seniors will start at the same time and play concurrent.
There is a limit of 32 women and children, and 64 men (seniors play with the men's group).
A singles tournament will be held for women, youth and men (seniors), a doubles tournament for women and men (seniors), and a ringers championship for women, youth and men (seniors).

2016 Bow Shoot Schedule

TVSHKA HOMMA CAPITOL GROUNDS

Long Bow ◊ Recurve Bow ◊ Self Bows ◊ Handmade Bows ◊ No Compound Bows

Sunday, Sept. 4 Labor Day Festival
8 a.m. at the Choctaw Village



For Information, please call:
Les Williston
(580) 982-6564



TERRAPIN (LUKSI) RACE

Saturday • September 3

Due to the heat, the safety of children and their families, staff, and the terrapins, there has been a change of time for the "Luksi" race.

Prizes for best dressed & fastest terrapins
Gift bag for every entry with a terrapin

Registration begins: 9:45 a.m.
Race starts: 10:30 a.m.

14TH ANNUAL CHIEF BATTON LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday, September 4, 2016

Team Cash Prizes

1st Place _____
2nd Place _____
3rd Place _____

Individual Prizes


Closest to Pin _____
Longest drive _____


- Hosted by Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton, OK
- 9 hole, Par 36
- 4-person Mixed Scramble, 18 holes
- Teams selected by Handicap, 100% Blind Draw
- First Group will tee off at 9:00am, 2nd group at 1:30pm
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time.
- No requests for partners.
- Mulligan tickets are available for \$10 each, maximum 2.
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)

Deadline to Enter: August 29th; No applications or requests will be taken prior to July 18th. First 72 Registered Golfers Will be Accepted

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Handicap: _____ Shirt Size: _____
(Valid Handicap Card required) Tee Time: 9am or 1:30pm
Mulligan Purchased: Yes or No (circle one)

Mail Entry Form to Nate Cox, 2101 West Arkansas St., Durant, OK 74701
Enclose Money Orders or Cashier's Check Payable to: **14th Annual Gary Batton Labor Day Golf Classic**
For More Info, please contact Nate Cox at (580) 340-1633 or Gregg Robinson at (580) 916-0510.





Labor Day 2016

Shirts & Souvenirs

Labor Day T-shirts

Children Shirt Size Choices:
Children S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16)
Adult Shirt Size Choices:
Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, XXX-Large, XXXX-Large

| Size | Color | Quantity | Subtotal |
|------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Heathered Charcoal or Black | x \$15 = | |
| | | x \$15 = | |
| | | x \$15 = | |
| | | x \$15 = | |
| | | x \$15 = | |

Labor Day Caps

| Color | Quantity | Subtotal |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| Black/Silver | x \$12 = | |

Labor Day Visors

| Color | Quantity | Subtotal |
|-------|----------|----------|
| Grey | x \$12 = | |

Labor Day Bags

| Color | Quantity | Subtotal |
|-------|----------|----------|
| Black | x \$10 = | |

Grand Total = \$ _____

To order, send payment in the form of cash, money order, or cashier's check with completed form to:
*** NO PERSONAL CHECKS ***

Labor Day T-Shirt
PO Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702


Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____



LABOR DAY FESTIVAL 5K RUN

SEPTEMBER 3, 2016
8:00 A.M.
TVSHKA HOMMA

Race day registration is from 6:45 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. at the race starting line, located at the Capitol Museum.
Pre registration for all entrants must be postmarked by August 28, 2016.
Pre Registration..... \$ FREE
Race Day Registration..... \$ FREE

DETACH AND SEND ENTRY FORM TO:
CHOCTAW NATION
ATTN: SHANE HADDOCK
5K ROAD RACE/WALK
P.O. BOX 1210
DURANT, OK 74702-1210

AGE as of September 3, 2016 _____

PRINT NAME _____ M _____ F _____
GENDER

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

AGE, CATEGORIES AND AWARDS:
12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, and succeeding 5 year age brackets (up to 70 and older for women, and 75 and older for men). Top three finishers in each age bracket for men and women will receive medals.

RACE DIRECTOR: Shane Haddock
ASST.: Kathy Bench
1-800-522-6170 ext. 2258 or 2122
or 580-924-8280 ext. 2258 or 2122

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL
Faith • Family • Culture

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

2016

Watch our website and Facebook page for event information.
Saturday 9 p.m.
To be announced

All Concerts at the Amphitheater

Neal McCoy
Friday 7 p.m.

Scotty McCreery
Friday 9 p.m.

Ronnie Milsap
Saturday 7 p.m.

Jason Crabb
Sunday 7 p.m.

Francesca Battistelli
Sunday 9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 1-5 • TVSHKA HOMMA
CONCERTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ARE ALLOWED ON CHOCTAW SACRED GROUNDS.

WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

HIGH TEMPERATURES are expected during the Labor Day Festival. It is recommended to take the proper precautions to stay safe in the heat. Here are a few hot weather safety tips to help those who plan on attending the Choctaw Labor Day events.

HYDRATE

Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

PROTECT SKIN

- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.

REST OFTEN

- Try to rest as often as possible in shady areas.
- Avoid strenuous activity, and take breaks if you are participating in outdoor sporting events.

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:

- Infants and young children.
- People aged 65 or older.
- Those who are physically ill, especially heart disease or high blood pressure.

Festival Map





FESTIVAL RV/TENT CHECK-IN TIMES

RVs and tents check-in at the same gate. The gate is not locked. Times people will be at the gate is as follows:

| | RVs | Tents |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Wednesday (8/31) | 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. | 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. |
| Thursday (9/1) | 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. |
| Friday (9/2) | 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. |
| Saturday (9/3) | 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. |
| Sunday (9/4) | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |

NEW EXHIBIT - CHOCTAW NATION MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

| | Museum | Gift Shop |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Thursday (9/1) | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Friday (9/2) | 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. | 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. |
| Saturday (9/3) | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. |
| Sunday (9/4) | 12 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | 12 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Monday (9/5) | 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. | 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. |

CHOCTAW VILLAGE

Saturday

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Choctaw Dancing |
| 10:30 a.m. | Stickball Skills |
| 10:30 a.m. | Choctaw Hymns |
| 11:00 a.m. | Storytelling |
| 11:30 a.m. | Rabbit Stick Throw |
| 1:00 p.m. | Stickball |
| 1:30 p.m. | Language |
| 1:45 p.m. | Corn Game |
| 2:15 p.m. | Choctaw Dancing |

Sunday

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1:00 p.m. | Rabbit Stick Throw |
| 1:30 p.m. | Storytelling |
| 2:00 p.m. | Corn Game |

Join us in the village for traditional food sampling, crafts, and demonstrations during the festival.

INTER-TRIBAL POW WOW

Friday (9/2)

Schedule

- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. – Gourd Dance
- 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. – Break
- 6 p.m. - Gourd Dance
- 7 p.m. - Grand Entry

Adult Men and Women

- 19-49 years / Golden Age – 50 years & over
- Men – Straight / Traditional / Fancy Dance / Grass
- Women – Cloth / Buckskin / Jingle Dress / Fancy Shawl
- 1st \$500 / \$2nd \$400 / 3rd 300 / 4th \$200 / 5th \$100

Senior Boys and Girls

- 13-18 years
- Senior Boys – Straight / Traditional / Fancy Dance / Grass
- Senior Girls – Cloth / Buckskin / Jingle Dress / Fancy Shawl
- 1st \$150 / 2nd \$125 / 3rd \$100

Junior Boys and Girls

- 7-12 years
- Junior Boys – Straight / Traditional / Fancy Dance / Grass
- Junior Girls – Cloth / Buckskin / Jingle Dress / Fancy Shawl
- 1st \$150 / 2nd \$100 / 3rd \$100

Tiny Tots

0-6

Reserved parking for staff, dancers & drum groups across the road in the Village Parking.

Booth & Fee Information: Willard Polk or Sue Folsom (580) 924-8280

Free admission; bring your lawn chairs; drums welcome; all princesses invited; alcohol & drugs will not be tolerated; not responsible for theft or accidents.

THURSDAY

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Capitol Museum Opens |
| 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Museum Gift Shop Hours |
| 7:00 p.m. | Princess Pageant, Amphitheater |

Your attendance at the Labor Day Festival is permission for your photograph and video footage to be taken and used in publications by Choctaw Nation.

No alcohol, drugs or dogs allowed at the Choctaw Nation Capitol grounds at Tvshka Homma.

Schedule subject to change.

FRIDAY

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Capitol Museum Hours |
| 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Museum Gift Shop Hours |
| 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | CCA, Crafts for youth at playground |
| 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Education tent open |
| 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Mobile library at playground |
| 10:00 a.m. | Arts and Crafts exhibits open |
| 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Going Green tent open |
| 11:00 a.m. | Choctaw social dance on Capitol lawn |
| Noon-5:00 p.m. | Quilt entries at Information Center |
| Noon-6:00 p.m. | CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open |
| Noon-8:00 p.m. | Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers |
| 2:00 p.m. | Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn |
| 5:00 p.m. | Registration for Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge, on Council Chambers lawn |
| 6:00 p.m. | Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge, on Council Chambers lawn |
| 6:00 p.m. | Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn |
| 6:00 p.m.-Midnight | Carnival opens |
| 7:00 p.m. | Stickball Tournament at Stickball Field |
| 7:00 p.m. | Pow Wow Grand Entry on Capitol lawn |
| 7:00 p.m. | Fast-Pitch Tournament at Red Warrior Park |
| 7:00 p.m. | Neal McCoy, Amphitheater |
| 9:00 p.m. | Scotty McCreery, Amphitheater |

SATURDAY

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| 6:30-7:45 a.m. | 5k registration, Capitol Museum |
| 8:00 a.m. | 5k Race begins and ends at Capitol Museum |
| 8:00 a.m. | Fast-Pitch Tournament continues |
| 8:00 a.m. | Fittest Choctaw Registration, Council Chambers lawn |
| 8:00 a.m. | Co-ed Volleyball Tournament Check-In |
| 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. | Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers |
| 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. | 3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball registration |
| 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Daycare & YAB, Crafts for youth at playground |
| 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Education Tent open |
| 9:00 a.m. | Horseshoe Tournament |
| 9:00 a.m. | Co-ed Volleyball Tournament |
| 9:00 a.m. | Quilt Show at Information Center |
| 9:45 a.m. | Terrapin Race Registration at playground |
| 10:00 a.m. | 3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Tournament |
| 10:00 a.m. | 12th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show opens, second floor of Capitol Museum |
| 10:00 a.m.-Noon | Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum |
| 10:30 a.m. | Terrapin Races, playground |
| 10:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m. | Choctaw Village activities (see schedule) |
| 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Going Green tent open |
| 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. | Capitol Museum Hours |
| 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | Museum Gift Shop Hours |
| 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. | CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open |
| Noon-Midnight | Carnival opens |
| 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | Mobile Library at playground |
| 4:00 p.m. | Tough, Tough Choctaw registration, on Council Chambers lawn |
| 5:00 p.m. | Tough, Tough Choctaw contest, on Council Chambers lawn |
| 7:00 p.m. | Ronnie Milsap, Amphitheater |
| 8:00 p.m. | Stickball Tournament at field north of carnival |
| 9:00 p.m. | See Choctaw Nation Facebook Prior to Festival for Announcement, Amphitheater |

SUNDAY

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| 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | National Day of Prayer & Worship, Chapel |
| 8:00 a.m. | Bow Shoot, Choctaw Village |
| 8:00 a.m. | Fast-Pitch Tournament continues |
| 8:30 a.m. | Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship Services at Chapel |
| 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Going Green tent open |
| Noon | Gospel Singing begins at amphitheater |
| Noon | Domino/Checker Tournament registration |
| Noon-2:00 p.m. | 12th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show, Capitol Museum |
| Noon-4:30 p.m. | Capitol Museum Hours |
| Noon-4:00 p.m. | Museum Gift Shop Hours |
| Noon-5:00 p.m. | Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers |
| Noon-6:00 p.m. | CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open |
| Noon-Midnight | Carnival opens |
| 1:00 p.m.-3 p.m. | Mobile library at playground |
| 1:00 p.m. | Domino/Checker Tournament |
| 1:30 p.m. | Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton |
| 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. | Choctaw Village activities (see schedule) |
| 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | Mobile Library at playground |
| 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Education Tent by Outreach Services Youth Activity |
| 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | Choctaw Code Talker Assoc. Board, Council Chambers |
| 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum |
| 4:00 p.m. | Choctaw Dancers, Capitol lawn |
| 5:00 p.m. | Stickball exhibition, Capitol lawn |
| 7:00 p.m. | Children’s stickball exhibition, stickball field |
| 7:00 p.m. | Traditional Choctaw Hymn Singing, Chapel |
| 7:00 p.m. | Jason Crabb, Amphitheater |
| 8:00 p.m. | Women’s stickball exhibition, stickball field |
| 9:00 p.m. | Championship stickball game, stickball field |
| 9:00 p.m. | Francesca Battistelli, Amphitheater |

MONDAY

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| 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | Capitol Museum Hours |
| 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | Museum Gift Shop Hours |
| 9:00 a.m.-Noon | CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open |
| 9:30 a.m. | Cultural Activities, amphitheater |
| 10:00 a.m. | - 9:30 a.m. Storyteller Tim Tingle |
| | - 9:45 a.m. Traditional Singing- The Johnsons |
| | Labor Day official ceremonies, amphitheater |
| | - Posting of Flags- Choctaw Nation Color Guard |
| | - The Lord’s Prayer in Sign Language- Choctaw Royalty |
| | - Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges |
| | - State of the Nation Address by Chief Gary Batton |
| | - Door Prize Drawings |
| 11:30 a.m. | Free lunch for everyone, cafeteria |
| Noon | Pick up quilts from Quilt Show |
| Noon-3:00 p.m. | Carnival opens |