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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

September 2016 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session August 13 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Funds and budget for the Replicating Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program grant.
- Funds and budget for the 2016 Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative – Generation Indigenous Initiative Support.
- Funds and budget for the Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers, and Their Families Program.
- Funds and budget for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.
- Application of the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative – Generation Indigenous.
- Amend CB-103-16 application for Early Head Start COLA funds.
- Amend CB-115-16 Budget and Recontracting of Choctaw Nation Early Head Start FY 2016-17.
- Modification #1 of the Choctaw Nation WIC Budget FY 2016-17.
- Approved Jones Academy's handbooks for the 2016-17 school year.
- Approved disposal of surplus equipment.
- Approved the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma to enter into a Hunting and Fishing License Compact.
- Approved a Water Settlement Agreement.
- Authorized Chief to place the following properties in Trust Status with the United States of America:
 - Pittsburg Co., 117.51 acres
 - Pittsburg Co., 83.48 acres
 - Bryan Co., 73.51 acres
 - LeFlore Co. 4.120 acres
 - LeFlore Co. 5.0 acres
 - Choctaw Co., 2,968 acres
 - Bryan Co. 55.04 acres
- Approved a supplemental easement and right of way with Public Service Co. of Oklahoma on tribal fee land, Hughes Ranch in Choctaw Co.
- Approved temporary construction right of way with PSO on Hughes Ranch.
- Approved assistance to local churches for improvements and/or the general welfare of the church.

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.

Faith♦Family♦Culture 3

Business 4

Notes to the Nation..... 5

Health 6

Obituaries 8-9

People You Know 13

Sports 14

Iti Fabvssa 15

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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Choctaws Hunt and Fish for Free in 2017

Tribal Members Outside of Oklahoma Will Receive Rebate to Hunt in State

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation will be providing Choctaw tribal members living in Oklahoma with Hunting and Fishing Licenses at no charge starting Jan. 1, 2017. The Nation, the State of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) have been working on a compact since the summer of 2015. Chief Gary Batton said, “I am thoroughly excited that we finally got this accomplished. It has been an educational experience for them and for me and how we can build this bridge together.” He continued, “I hope our tribal members are excited to get this.”

As of now, Choctaw tribal members living in the State of Oklahoma are eligible for the Choctaw Nation Compact License. Online applications will be available Oct. 1, 2016, on ChoctawNation.com for those 16 years old and over, but licenses will not be issued until January 2017. During the State of the Nation speech on Sept. 4, Chief Batton announced that the Tribal Council decided tribal members living outside of Oklahoma, who want to hunt or fish in state, would have half of their hunting and fishing license fees reimbursed. For those ages 15 and under, an online application will be available Jan. 1, 2017, at ChoctawNation.com. Interested tribal members can print out the

online application and mail or hand deliver it to the Choctaw Nation. The licensing process will require the following:

- Members will fill out the application and turn it in.
- Choctaw Nation will confirm membership and information.
- Choctaw Nation will send confirmed applications to the State.
- The State will issue the licenses.
- The State will mail licenses directly to Choctaw tribal members.

The Compact License will look different from Oklahoma licenses and will have the Choctaw Nation’s Seal on it.

In order to receive benefits from the Compact License, members must be age 16 or older and live in Oklahoma.

For tribal citizens under the age of 16, they can go online with a parent or guardian and fill out an application to receive their license.

All Compact Licenses will be mailed out starting in January 2017.

Choctaw Nation Compact License holders will be able to hunt and fish in all



Photo by Tina Firquain
Chief Gary Batton signs the Hunting and Fishing Compact before sending it to Gov. Mary Fallon for her signature.

77 Oklahoma counties on tribal and state land. Tribal members age 16 and over will receive the following privileges:

- An annual hunting and fishing combination license.
- A trapping license.
- A bobcat, raccoon, river otter, and gray and red fox license, i.e., furbearer license.
- A state waterfowl stamp.
- Up to four turkey licenses.
- Up to six deer licenses, exclusive of bonus licenses.
- A waived access fee to Three Rivers and Honobia Creek Wildlife Management Areas

-And a land access permit. For tribal members under the age of 15, they will receive the following:

- A hunting and fishing combination license.
- One deer license.
- One turkey license.

Joshua Riley, Policy Analyst for Choctaw Nation, said, “The Choctaw Nation wanted to give our tribal members the same privileges as a lifetime license.”

According to Riley, the main difference between a lifetime license and the Compact License is, the Compact License will have to be reissued every year

and the Compact License provides a land access permit. Riley also mentioned the goal is to be able to automatically reissue the Compact License to tribal members every year without them having to reapply. In addition to these privileges, traditional hunting and fishing methods are defined and tribal members may practice these methods like, Atlatl, spear throwing, rabbit sticks, and a blow-gun. Chief Gary Batton said, “This is who we are as Chahta people.” He continued, “We want to make sure people understand that this compact is not just about hunting and fishing, it’s our way of life. We want people to understand the Atlatl and how it was used, it is about

cont’d on page 12

Oklahoma Tribal Compact Hunting and Fishing License

License #: CH1688001192078
Confirmation #: R16350015118

Tvshka Chahta
PO Box 87378
Anytown OK, 74837
SS #: XXX-XX-XXXX State: OK
Birth Date: 08/31/16 Tribal ID#: 555555

Date/Time Sold 08/31/16

License Type	License Date	Qty
Choctaw Nation Combination Hunting/Fishing	01/01/17 to 12/31/17	01
DEER		06
TURKEY	see regulations	04

SPORTSMAN SIGNATURE (required)

Issuing Agent: ODWC/Choctaw Nation

Licenses are non-refundable. Please consult the current Oklahoma Hunting, Hunting or Waterfowl Guide for season dates and regulations. License shall not be altered, changed, transferred or reproduced.



1. Immediately after harvest and before moving the game, information must be printed below in ink.

2. Method G-(Gun)

3. Record ECheck confirmation # on your field tag.

TIME	DATE	TYPE GAME	METHOD

To report a violation of Fish & Game Law call Operation GAME THIEF.
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1-800-522-8039 - not an information number.
Rewards up to \$500



Thank you for supporting the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Starting Jan. 1, 2017, Choctaw tribal members in Oklahoma will be able to receive a hunting and fishing license at no charge. Online applications will be available on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016, at ChoctawNation.com.

Settlement Reached in Sardis Lake Water Lawsuit

By STACY HUTTO
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, along with the Chickasaw Nation, the State of Oklahoma, and the City of Oklahoma City reached an agreement on water usage from Sardis Lake after five years of negotiations and mediation. A press conference was held on the fourth floor of the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum on Thursday, Aug. 11, to announce the settlement. After the press conference a panel of experts answered questions from the audience. The dispute over Sardis Lake began when the City of Oklahoma City negotiated with the State of Oklahoma to take over the state’s debt regarding Sardis Lake in exchange for the rights to the water. Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations filed a lawsuit in federal court to protect the water of their 22 county tribal homelands in southeast Oklahoma. The tribe based their water rights claim on the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The lawsuit led to negotiations between the Nations and the State of Oklahoma with the goal of reaching a comprehensive resolution to questions over water resources throughout the Treaty Territory. Between September of 2009 and June 2010, the US and the State of Oklahoma settled the Sardis repayment litigation. The State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City came to an agreement regarding Sardis Lake and storing water from the lake. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations filed suit in federal court August 2011. Shortly after the lawsuit was filed the involved parties went into mediation, which lasted five years. At the end of the five years a compromise was made that was agreeable to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City.

During the mediation process a court ordered gag order was in place. The gag order was lifted and the details of the agreement were announced during the press conference. Terms of the agreement include: a 20,000 acre feet of water from Sardis Lake will be reserved on an annual basis for use within the 10 county area surrounding the lake, water will not be taken directly from Sardis Lake, but from the Kiamichi River near Moyers Crossing. The agreement protects Sardis Lake by outlining baseline lake levels. From April 1 through August 31, the City of Oklahoma City may have water released from City Sardis Storage whenever the Sardis Lake surface elevation is at or above 595 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL). From September 1 through March 31, the City may have water released when the Sardis Lake surface elevation is at or above 595 feet MSL. When the City of Oklahoma begins to take water from the Kiamichi River, federal conservation standards must be met. Sardis Lake currently runs at 599 feet MSL. During an average, moderate and severe drought Oklahoma City has to show they are utilizing the water correctly. “Oklahoma City lakes must be main-

Photo by Judy Allen

After five years of mediation the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, State of Oklahoma and City of Oklahoma City came to an agreement regarding Sardis Lake.

tained at 65 percent during a moderate drought and 50 percent during a severe drought. If their lakes are not at 50 percent during a severe drought they cannot draw from our water during a severe drought,” Chief Batton said.

cont’d on page 11

LOOK FOR THE LABOR DAY EDITION IN OCTOBER

Pictures from the Choctaw Nation Capitol grounds and results for many of the Labor Day weekend competitions will be in the October 2016 issue of the Biskinik.

STATE OF THE NATION

Chief Batton Summarizes a Year of Growth and Success

The Choctaw Nation’s annual five-day festival ended on a high note on Labor Day as Chief Gary Batton summarized a year of strong growth for the tribe.

“Faith, family, and culture are always at the foremost for us within the Choctaw Nation,” Chief Batton told the hundreds of people filling the amphitheater at Tvshka Homma.

“We need to ensure we remain financially strong, focusing on our tribal members and providing opportunities for them.”

Chief Batton noted that there have been strides made in sharing culture through language and cultural classes.

A new Chahta language dictionary is ready to print and more and more people are learning to bead, make baskets, dance and play stickball.

The youth stickball league has increased five times its first group of 100 youth.

“Our goal is to meet our citizens’ needs of today while making sure we protect the future for our kids and for our grandkids,” he said.

Most of the dollars earned by tribal businesses go to health, education, and tribal programs with almost 200 programs currently being offered.

Funds were invested in services, new businesses and facilities, as well as for the sustainability of the nation – all providing a better future for our kids and our grandkids.

Chief Batton recognized this year’s Outstanding Elders, Walter Phelps and Linda Watson, and spoke of the honor we have for our elders.

The senior citizens have more opportunities to travel and participate in activities.

“I also think about one of the elders who stood for us for many years. This is our first year without

the Rev. Bertram Bobb. When you looked at Bertram, you saw the type of person that he always was,” Chief Batton said.

The Rev. Bobb was a man of faith, a man of God, and represented the Choctaw people well.

Focusing on health, the Choctaw Nation increased the administration of flu shots to 23,000 and helped reduce school closures and absences in southeastern Oklahoma schools.

Health services are providing more outpatient care, and the tribe recognizes the need to constantly improve. “We need to provide the best rural healthcare in America,” Chief Batton emphasized.

Health and wellness are the reasons the Choctaw Nation promotes stickball, 5k marathons, and other fitness activities. We want our people to live long lives.

This year alone there are over 25,000 people participating in Choctaw wellness programs.

New wellness centers were opened in Smithville and McAlester this year and there are currently two more under construction in Antlers and Stigler.

One new method to increase communication and ease of healthcare will be a new Choctaw Nation Health System mobile app, available in early 2017.

This year, the storm shelter program lowered its age requirements. Choctaw homeowners ages 18-45 can get up to half off the cost of a storm shelter.

The focus on youth continues with a wide range of opportunities from culture camps to livestock shows.

The Choctaw Nation is developing more opportunities to ensure its youth flourish in school and graduate.

In the Head Start program, 96 percent of the students met or exceeded the school rating programs

to keep them above the national average. Also, the summer school expanded to 51 schools.

There were 193 Choctaw high school students in the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society.

Looking beyond high school, 9,440 scholarships were awarded for higher education.

There are over 7,000 tribal members going through the Career Development program.

One of the tribe’s newest programs, Job for the Day, has begun to grow and is giving tribal members the opportunity to find employment.

“We need to make sure we continue providing jobs and opportunities and employment for our tribal members,” Chief Batton said.

Twelve new facilities opened this year including a travel plaza, Chili’s restaurant, food distribution markets, an Early Head Start, head starts, community center, and wellness centers.

One of the newest ventures is the little Choctaw Country Market in Clayton. The next area to receive one will be Boswell.

There are another 26 facilities in various phases of planning and construction. Among them are new wellness centers in Antlers and in Stigler; head starts in Atoka, Poteau, and Wright City; and a new day care and community center in Talihina.

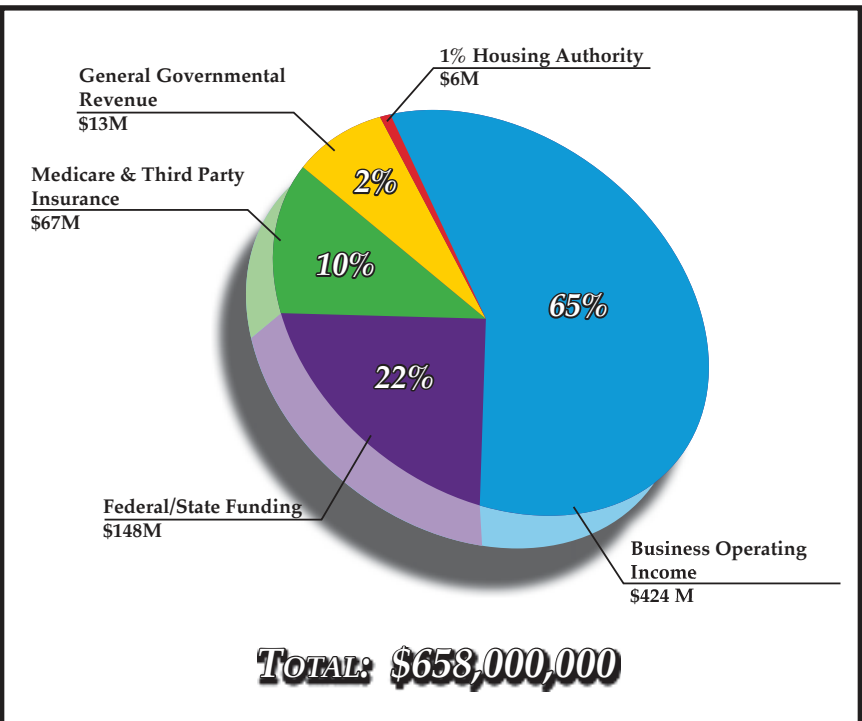
Plans are under way for a new cultural center in Durant as construction continues on the new tribal headquarters, a new regional health clinic and a new wellness center in the same area.

Expansion continues with new community centers in Hugo and Talihina; travel plaza and Casino Too facilities in Heavener, Hugo, and Stigler; and expansions of the casinos in Poteau, Grant and Atoka.

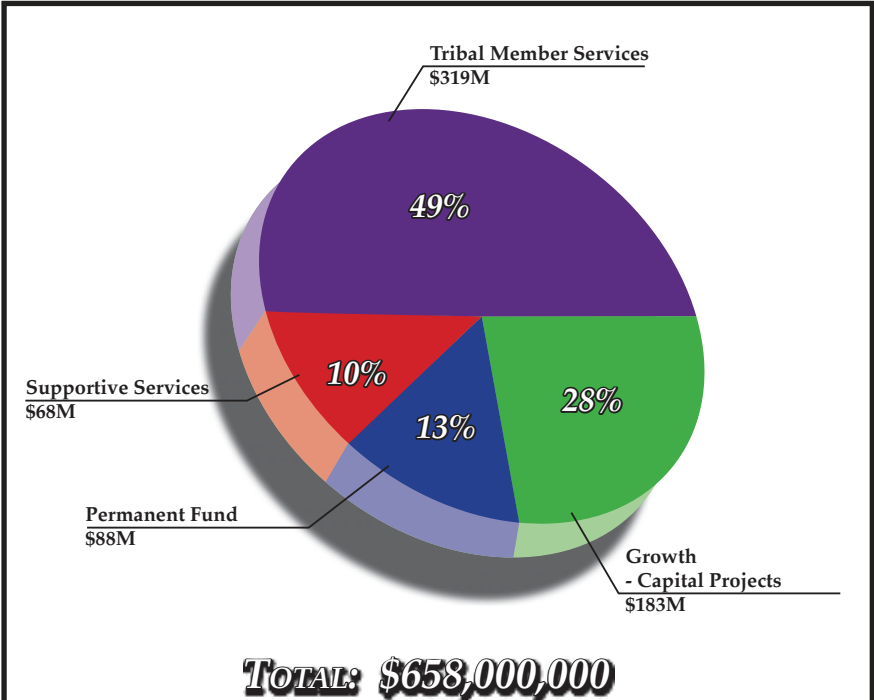
As the tribe’s growth continues, 1,000 new employees were hired in the last year.

The Choctaw Nation has 9,000 employees and plans to add another 270 this coming year with the addition of new businesses

Chief Batton said, “One of the things that we have fought very hard for—starting in 2011—is



The above graph illustrates incoming revenue for the Choctaw Nation. Success in our tribal businesses is ensuring a sustainable future for the Choctaw Nation through economic development that supports tribal services and employment opportunities.



The above graph illustrates where the money goes. The vision of “Achieving healthy, successful and productive lifestyles for a proud Nation of Choctaws” guides the Nation as it continues to develop programs and services for the best benefit of tribal members. Quarterly financials are being published in the “Biskinik” to keep you informed. The next set of quarterly financials will be published in the October 2016 issue of the “Biskinik.”



The Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival concluded with Chief Gary Batton giving the State of the Nation address to those in attendance. People unable to attend were able to watch the State of the Nation online, as it was live-streamed.

our water,” referring to a pending water agreement between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and the State of Oklahoma.

The agreement protects tribal sovereignty and it allows our voice to be heard, he said. It will help protect water resources and establish a lake level management plan at Sardis.

A big announcement brought cheers from the audience as Chief Batton explained a new compact with the State of Oklahoma for hunting and fishing licenses.

Applications will be available on ChoctawNation.com beginning October 1. The license will

be issued January 1, so it won’t be available for this year, but will be available for next year.

The Tribal Council has agreed that tribal citizens who want to travel to Oklahoma to hunt will be reimbursed half of their out-of-state hunting and fishing license fees.

The entire State of the Nation was live-streamed and the video can be watched on ChoctawNation.com.

Chief Gary Batton



V. DiNardo, decked out in his traditional Choctaw clothing, listened to Chief Gary Batton deliver the State of the Nation address on Sept. 5.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. spoke welcoming words before introducing a man he called a true servant leader, Chief Gary Batton.

Photos by Kendra Germany and Tina Firquain.



During his speech Chief Batton mentioned Lorenzo Gonzales, the 19-year-old grandson of Houston Baker. Lorenzo was recently able to add website developer to his resume. The website, mytribaljob.com helps both tribal and non-tribal members across the country gain access to jobs.



Camelia Luman was the eldest Choctaw woman in attendance at the 2016 State of the Nation address. Camelia turned 93 in May. Chief Batton presented her with an elder blanket and medal.



District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston, the Speaker of the Council, introduced his fellow Councilmen to the audience.



Chief Batton presented John Hoosier with a medal and blanket during the State of the Nation. John, who is 92, was the eldest man in attendance at the address.



During the State of the Nation address, The Johnson’s singing group performed traditional Choctaw Hymns for those in attendance.

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



Labor Day Festival a Memorable Weekend

It was great to be in Tvshka Homma for the festival. We had wonderful weather for the weekend. I always look forward to Labor Day weekend. I'm able to catch up with family and friends, along with taking in the many sporting events, as well as enjoying our Choctaw Culture. I also get a chance to say thank you for allowing me to serve as your Assistant Chief. It is a blessing and an honor.

I get the opportunity to work with some of the greatest people I know and they put in many hours during the long weekend to make Labor Day a success. Thank you to all

the Choctaw Nation employees for going the extra mile and providing another memorable festival. We appreciate all of you very much.

Yakoke to the tribal members whose talents were showcased from checkers to softball, singing, dancing and storytelling, to name a few. The art was awesome as usual. The annual art show held many traditionally crafted baskets, pottery and beadwork. The entries also included detailed paintings, wood carvings, and more. Traditional jewelry, clothing, and crafts were also available in the village and at the pow wow and the cultural building was filled with arts and crafts—everything you could imagine!

The annual Choctaw Day of Prayer and worship service were held Sunday morning in the chapel. The prayers and the messages were a wonderful way to begin the morning. We have such talented gospel singers who shared songs with us at the chapel and on the stage at the amphitheater. Even if we weren't at the amphitheater, we could hear the Christian music throughout the grounds.

Congratulations to our new royalty. Karen Crosby was crowned Miss Choctaw Nation. Savannah Herndon is our new Junior Miss and 8-year-old Isabella Muncy is Little Miss. They will be representing the Nation at tribal events during the next year. All of the district princesses were enthusiastic and showed poise and confidence as they were on the stage. I know it was a hard choice for the judges.

Chief Batton and I had the privilege to suit up and play with Tvshka Homma during the stickball tournament. The players on all of the teams have such incredible heart and determination to win. Congratulations to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) on winning the championship. MBCI also made a presentation to one of our Oklahoma Choctaw families in memory of their mother and grandmother, Lorene Blaine. Lorene was well known for her heart and how she opened it to everyone.

I hope all who attended enjoyed the festival as much as my family and I did. There were so many events and we are already looking forward to next year!



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Gary Batton follow the 2016-17 Choctaw Nation Princesses, Isabella Muncy, Karen Crosby, and Savannah Herndon as they lead Tvshka Homma out on the stickball field before their game.

Meet the Artist

Linda Parish
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016
11AM - 4PM
CHOCTAW
WELCOME CENTER
1882 HWY 69/75 | COLBERT, OK 74733
580.296.2672
ChoctawStore.com



OUR
LEGACY

Johnnie Addeane Sharer



Photo by Whitney Lautner

Johnnie Addeane Sharer sits with her faithful companion as she tells stories about her life. She keeps tabs on her family and works in her yard and garden.

By **SANDRA BERG**
Contributing Writer

In a time where things may have seemed simpler, things definitely weren't easier. And for a generation that holds every answer in their hand, it's a relief to sit back and listen to someone who isn't impressed by new technology. Johnnie Addeane Sharer did life the old way—she lived it.

With her family around her and her little dog happily snoozing on her lap, Johnnie, 92, smiles as she prepares to tell me about her life. She is quiet and unassuming. With a grace that only comes from years of living without, she comes across as practical and humble, and I frequently have to remind myself that women have taken on an entirely different role in American society during her life and she played a significant part in that revolution!

She was born Johnnie Addeane Wright in Stigler, on July 12, 1924. Her parents were Myrtle Robinson (Choctaw) and Marion Wright. She had one sister named Freda.

Johnnie grew up in Oklahoma and was raised primarily in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. As she begins to describe what it was like to grow up half Choctaw in the young State of Oklahoma, it's clear that although her family didn't have a lot, she remembers her childhood fondly. "Our house had a big fireplace that provided the only heat in the winter," she tells me. "My sister and I wore long dresses that went all the way to the floor to help keep our legs warm."

Johnnie enjoyed playing Annie Over and Ring Around the Rosie on the schoolyard. Other favorite childhood games included hopscotch and jumping rope. Johnnie recalls she was frequently "not chosen" for activities. "In history," she says, "you just got along easier and advanced faster as a Caucasian." When asked how that made her feel, Johnnie shrugs and continues matter-of-factly, "You just accepted it and moved on." She says her experiences taught her to be self-reliant and made her determined to succeed. A theme you will see frequently throughout her life story and one that is echoed in the Choctaw tribe's vision statement.

One of her most vivid childhood memories is of attending a family reunion when she was five years old. She was bitten by a Copperhead snake. An aunt immediately put a tourniquet on the bite while a hunter found and killed the snake. She said he then slit the snake open and put it on the bite. A doctor eventually showed up and said there was nothing else he could do for her. That was 87 years ago! She says she is still scared of snakes today.

Other, less traumatic, memories include watching her mother cook old Choctaw favorites such as wild onions with eggs, frog legs, hominy with lye, and Indian fry bread on an old wooden stove, which was the only cooktop they had. She also evokes the values and Choctaw culture around community that was passed down from her family. "Mother would often cook and invite families over that had even less than we did." As the matriarch, Johnnie still enjoys getting her family together to share a meal.

Johnnie also learned how to sew from her mother and from taking home economics courses during high school. She said she didn't have a "store-bought" dress until she was out of high school. In addition to classes, she was involved in her school's 4H program and enjoyed playing basketball and softball, and even tried pole-vaulting. She takes great pride in being the first member of her family to graduate from high school.

After high school she moved to Tulsa and then, just like many women during that time, she postponed her immediate dream of marrying and having a family and joined the Women's Army Corps when she was only 21. During WWII, members of the WAC were the first women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the United States Army. Although many people immediately think of Rosie the Riveter, there were many areas in both the military

and industrial sectors in desperate need of resources. "In order to compete in life, you have to learn to just accept things a lot of times," Johnnie said. "For example," she continued as she flashed me that smile again, "I've always been very ambitious, but when I worked for the Women Army Corps and later in business, I had to change to follow instructions." Johnnie spent 18 months performing various accounting and administrative functions to aid the United States during the war and then continued her education by attending business college for two years.

Johnnie met her first husband, Lawrence Kelly, at a Thanksgiving party. She was married to him for 30 years before he passed in 1976. They had three children, Kathryn, JoAnn, and Cynthia, all born in Tulsa. The family lived primarily in Oklahoma, but did move to New Jersey for one year. The family all grins as they reminisce about how Johnnie frequently found herself alone with the three girls as Lawrence traveled a lot for his job. One of her daughters, JoAnn, recalls her mom as always being adventurous and particularly brave. She loaded all three girls up in the family car late one night to go and pick up their father at the airport in "the city." Another daughter, Cindy, fondly recalls taking a family trip to the World's Fair in New York and then visiting Washington, D.C., and touring the White House.

It's clear to see that just like her mother, Johnnie set an example and passed down her daring spirit and work ethic to her daughters, as they all three graduated from college and became successful in their own right. Cynthia is a CPA and owns her own



Photo Provided

Johnnie Addeane Sharer, the daughter of Myrtle Robinson and Marion Wright, was born in Stigler on July 12, 1924.

business, JoAnn is a nurse, and Kathryn was a professor of psychology.

In 1980, Johnnie married Harry Sharer and was married to him for 31 years. Harry had four children of his own. She and Harry traveled frequently all over the United States and particularly enjoyed visiting the missions in California. He passed in 2011. She says her secret to long and happy marriages are being able to listen and not complain. "I haven't found a marriage yet that's perfect," Johnnie says.

Johnnie enjoys keeping tabs on her six grandchildren and working in the garden. She beams as she tells me she "knows how to work the earth." Her yard is beautiful and she smiles mischievously as she tells me how at the age of 81 she installed the brick pavers. The gardening is relaxing to her and helps pass the time. "I like the 'old' flowers like zinnias and hollyhocks," she says.

As I prepare to leave, I ask Johnnie her advice or counsel to others and once again she tells me in her straightforward-style, "don't be ashamed of yourself and work hard."

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

BUSINESS

First Choctaw Country Market Officially Open for Business in Clayton

By **KENDRA GERMANY**
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Country Market in Clayton officially opened its doors on Aug. 9, 2016, with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Choctaw officials, state and city leaders, along with tribal members and the general public gathered in front of the Choctaw Country Market for the ceremonies.

The opening of the Country Market is a part of the ever growing and expanding vision of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and its leaders.

“It is a part of the vision of our tribal council. We could not do this without their support,” said Chief Gary Batton. “They want to make sure that our smaller communities thrive and do well.”

The 11,000 square-foot store offers fresh food and produce to an area previously known as a food desert.

“You had to drive 40 miles to get groceries. To have fresh fruit and vegetables right here in Clayton, Oklahoma, and provide healthy food to our community is going to be phenomenal,” said Chief Batton.

The Country Market is a part of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s vision of healthier, successful, and productive lifestyles, according to Chief Batton.

According to Thomas Kanuch, Executive Director of CNO Business and Construction,

the development of the Choctaw Country Market in Clayton has taken around two years to complete.

“The Business Development team started looking at this [property] about two years ago, when it was going into foreclosure,” stated Kanuch.

According to Kanuch, the construction process was relatively quick, but extensive.

“It was about a 10-month long project from start to finish. We ended up stripping the [existing] building down to the studs, and starting completely over with a new slab, plumbing, and everything,” said Kanuch.

The first of its kind; Choctaw Country Market combines the convenience of a travel plaza with the necessity of a grocery store.

According to Kanuch, the Business Development team noticed a need for grocery operations in the market from a competitive standpoint.

“We really saw a need to combine the two, grocery and convenience,” said Kanuch.

The Choctaw Country Market offers more than just fresh food to customers.

The store is also equipped with a 10 pump, auto and truck fueling station on site. Affiliated Foods supplies food and convenience products for the store.

Choctaw Country Market offers made-to-order meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus pre-packaged meals to go at the



Photo by Diedre Elrod

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and District 7 Councilman Jack Austin Sr. stand alongside fellow Councilmen, state officials and Country Market employees at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the Clayton Choctaw Country Market on Aug. 9, 2016.

deli. Adding to the economic growth of the area, the store created 24 jobs, with more positions anticipated. More locations are anticipated throughout the 10 ½ counties in the future. “We’ve got some heavy growth plans with this model. We see it in at least four or five

more locations,” said Kanuch. “This is a really great business model for our organization.” The Clayton Choctaw Country Market is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For more information visit www.ChoctawCountryMarket.com, or call 918-569-7577.

HB2261 Aims to Protect Native Artwork

By **KENDRA GERMANY**
Choctaw Nation

A new State law, set to take effect in Oklahoma in November, aims to protect the integrity and legitimacy of Native American art in Oklahoma.

Thanks to HB2261, anyone that markets artwork and goods as “Indian” must now be a registered member of a federally recognized tribe.

This requirement goes against former state and current federal acts, which also recognize state recognized tribes and individuals that are certified as Indian artisans by an Indian tribe.

According to the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, “It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization, resident within the United States.”

The former Oklahoma American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974 followed the same guidelines.

HB2261 also adds preforming arts and literature to the list of authentic “Indian” art that is now protected under the measure.

HB2261 will now make it more difficult for non-tribal artists to falsely market their art and goods as “Native” or “Indian.”

Authored by State Representative Chuck Hoskin (D-Vinita) and State Senator John Sparks (D-Norman), both Cherokee Nation citizens, the measure passed the House with a vote of 90-0. The bill also passed the Senate 31-15.

The Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) unanimously passed a resolution in support of HB2261.

ITC is made up of elected leaders from the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes.

Oklahoma is home to 39 federally recognized tribes and more than 500,000 tribal members.



Photo by Kendra Germany

HB2261 will protect Choctaw Artists like Linda Bryant. She is an out-of-state Choctaw who sells her art in the State of Oklahoma at Choctaw festivals and events like the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.

According to Verree Shaw, Marketing Director for the Choctaw Nation, HB2261 not only benefits artists, but also consumers.

“Protecting the integrity of Native American art is vital to the culture of our people and other Native American nations,” said Shaw. “This law and proof of artists’ memberships in federally recognized tribes protects the credibility of their product. This law also ensures that buyers will be purchasing authentic Native American art.”

Chief Gary Batton has also expressed his support for HB2261.

“I think it will help our Choctaw artisans by assuring that everyone’s artwork is authentic and culturally relevant, while providing a good market,” said Chief Batton.

HB2261 will take effect in November. The bill aims at closing loopholes and protecting not only the integrity of Choctaw artwork, but the artwork of Native Americans in many different tribes in the State of Oklahoma.

For more information on how to ensure you are not buying or selling misrepresented artwork, visit www.iacb.doi.gov.

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

To apply for these positions or see other job postings in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, visit www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com



Choctaw Recruiting

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Choctaw Nation Human Resource Recruiting
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Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and you must reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580.924.8280 Ext. 2161 or toll-free (800) 522-6170. If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the: Coalgate Community Center • Sept. 19 • 9 – 11 a.m.



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 Plazas 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

DAVE RAMSEY'S

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Derek Hines
Wealth Advisor

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6:00-7:30pm on Mondays
Chahta Foundation
3915 N 1st • Durant, OK

register TODAY @ 580.745.8133

NOTES TO THE NATION

LETTERS

Yakoke (Thank You)!

Hello, Chief Batton. My name is Sierra Tims and I am a Pre-Nursing sophomore at the University of Oklahoma. I wanted to express my gratitude to you and all of the Choctaw Nation for supporting me throughout my college career. Without you and the many Choctaw Nation Higher Education, Career Development and Vocational Rehab counselors, I would not be able to afford or attend the university I have always dreamed of attending. Through scholarships and vocational rehab from the Choctaw Nation, I have been able to focus on my school work without having to be in a constant panic about how I will pay for it. With all of the support from you and the Choctaw Nation counselors, I am able to begin my sophomore year with a 3.75 GPA. I could not have accomplished this without the Choctaw Nation. Thank you so much for the effort that you put towards encouraging and supporting Choctaw students on our journey through college. I am so honored to be a part of the Choctaw Nation and I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to attend college!

Sierra Tims

I would like to thank the Choctaw tribe for having the eyeglass and hearing aid assistance program. I want to thank Kaylie at the Tribal Office for assisting me through the process. She was friendly, helpful and patient. She made the process move smoothly. I am thankful that the tribe has someone like her helping its members.

Robert Caldwell
San Antonio, Texas

I would like to thank the Choctaw people for sending my birthday card this year. To my surprise, Jane Semple-Umsted painted a beautiful picture of my great-great-grandfather Peter P. Pitchlynn. It made my birthday very special.

Mike Wagner

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

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy receiving the Biskinik. I live in West Texas, but my heart is still in Oklahoma. Although I was born in Oklahoma City, my mom and grandmother were both born in Durant. I have one question: I enjoyed the chaplain's editorial in the Biskinik and was wondering why his column is not in the paper any longer? Thank you for allowing my input. Keep up the excellent reporting of the news of the Choctaw Nation.

Margaret Aubrey Spradley
Odessa, Texas

Editor's Note: The Chaplain's Corner was written by Reverend Bertram Bobb, who passed away on Dec. 11, 2015. His last Chaplain's Corner was published in the December 2015 issue of the Biskinik. In response to numerous requests, the Chaplain's Corner columns are being compiled in a bound volume so Brother Bobb's messages can be shared and continue to inspire people.

We are thankful for the excess equipment we received from the Talihina Choctaw Community Center. We appreciate the help from Kenny Bryant, Laura Durant, Ruthie Samuel, and Eddie Watson. They made it possible for a smooth transition to Rock Creek Church in Honobia. Yakoke!

Rock Creek Church Members
Honobia, Oklahoma

We would like to thank everyone personally for the overwhelming support provided in so many different ways and for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

The Patty Family

Thank you very much for the storm shelter. My wife's sister and brother-in-law survived a tornado, so she is very concerned about stormy weather. Again, thank you. It is very much appreciated.

David Post

I would like to challenge everyone to send Kevin Stafford cards. We lost everything in a tornado and he was on life support two months ago. He had to be mediflighted to Tyler, Texas. Hopefully he will be home soon. He is the grandson of Mary Sue Alexander (Baker). I also want to thank the Choctaw tribe for paying for the funeral of my much loved grandson, Issac Nicholas Strafford.

Sandra Lee Hawkins
1415 NW 44th St.
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505

Taylor Family Enjoys Oregon Community Meeting



We just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed meeting Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. at the meeting in Eugene, Oregon. Every aspect of the meeting was interesting and informative, as we learned traditions and new words. All the Choctaws were so nice and friendly and made us all feel like family. We really appreciate all you are doing toward education and health services for the people. These are two especially important aspects of what will help the members. Thank you for taking pictures of the Taylor family, Joe and Carolyn, with the Chief and Assistant Chief. Two other members of our family, Kevin and his son Mason, are also Choctaw. They were fascinated to learn some of the history of the tribe. Thank you again for coming to Eugene and hopefully you will come again next year, as we would be honored to have you here.

Joe, Carolyn, Kevin, and Mason Taylor
Eugene, Oregon

EVENTS

Annual Jones Family Reunion

Saturday, September 17
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
City Park,
Talihina, Okla.

The Annual Jones Family Reunion for the descendants of Cephus Jones, Betty Jones Thompson, Reba Jones Meashintubby, Wilburn Jones, Edward Jones, Eugene Jones and Jackson Jones will be held in the City Park in Talihina.

For more information or directions contact,
Kathy Leach at 918-839-5737
Joyce Purser at 972-424-7477

Annual Old School Reunion

Saturday, October 1 at 8 a.m.
Dwight Mission
near Sallisaw, Okla.

Former Dwight Mission students are invited to the first Annual Old School Reunion. Registration and meet and greet starts at 8 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m. Dwight Mission alumni are encouraged to attend the meet and greet to catch up with old classmates.

For more information contact,
Levada Smith Wildcat at 918-773-3096

Choate Family Reunion

Saturday, October 8 from 11-2 p.m.
420 Rid Street
Seminole, Okla.

Decendents of Dave and Dora Choate; Lou Gene, Bessie, Alice, Elmer, Irene, Bud, Willian and Namoi Choate are invited to the potluck family reunion. Please bring a dish.

For more information call,
Billy Craig, (405) 398-4877 or Teresa, (405) 380-2307

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: \$2500
CAS match: \$4900
Total saved: \$7400
Starting earning money TODAY! Contact Choctaw Asset Building
866-933-2260 • choctawcab.com

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, divorcees, 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. For questions contact Samantha Guinn at 580-380-8149.

September Community Center Schedule

9-1 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3
9-8 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
9-13 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3
9-22 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3
9-27 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

October Community Center Schedule

10-6 Hugo Tribal Services Center: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-11 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
10-20 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3
10-27 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3

CHOCTAW COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE
• 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.
NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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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.



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation						
October 2016						
Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday			Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday		Idabel by appointment	
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115			Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Durant 8:00-4:30	4 Talihina 10:00-2:00	5 Antlers by appt.	6	7 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	8
9	10 Durant 8:00-4:30	11 Poteau 11:30-1:00	12 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	13	14	15
16	17 Durant 8:00-4:30	18	19 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	20	21 Wright City by appt.	22
23	24 Durant 8:00-4:30	25 Wilburton by appt.	26 Crowder by appt.	27	28 Atoka & Coalgate by appt.	29
30	31					

HEALTH

Meal Time Fun For Busy Families

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito, As summer draws to an end, school and work are back in the forefront. With all the daily rush of work, school-work, and activities meal time and meals can easily be lost and forgotten. Yet, tradition has taught us, mealtime is so very important. This is the time when we can sit together and talk with one another, learn what is happening in each other's daily lives, laugh and make memories to last a lifetime. Meals do not have to be fancy. Something as simple as a peanut butter sandwich on wheat bread, sliced apples and carrot sticks will work. Also, giving our children a role at mealtime makes for more fun in the kitchen and around the table. Choosemyplate.gov has a list of fun activities to include for the entire family in the daily mealtime events. Here are some of the activities to do with kids.

For Preschool and Elementary aged kids, include games like Food Critic. Kids are much more likely to try new foods when they get to take the lead. In this fun game, kids get to pick a new food at the grocery store, taste it, and rate it like a food critic.

Another fun activity is Dance Party (MP3). Get moving and have fun with this tune that teaches kids about the five food groups in an upbeat way. For a fun twist, have kids make up a signature dance move for each food group and do it each time that food group is mentioned.

MyPlate Printable Activities and Coloring Sheets are also a fun activity for small children. Print these activity sheets for kids to learn more about healthy eating, including a coloring page, word scramble, crossword puzzle and more.

Activities for tweens and teens include games like Kid's Restaurant. Let the kid(s) be the chef. Kids get to plan out the meal, design a menu for you, and prepare the dish. Use this printable template to get them started.


Another fun activity is the MyPlate Challenge. The SuperTracker interactive tool is a great way for kids to find out what and how much to eat and track their foods. You can also use SuperTracker to create an interactive MyPlate Challenge for your family. Encourage healthy eating and physical activity through friendly competition.

Growing a garden can also be a fun activity. Get tweens and teens involved in family meals with gardening. You can start small, with a window herb box in your kitchen or a garden in your yard.


So, get started, have some fun around the table tonight. Ask everyone if they could be any animal what would they be and why or if they could go anywhere in the world where would they go, the rainforest, the arctic, the mountains, the ocean...where and why. These conversations help us to know each other better and bring joy to our lives.

Another thing that can bring joy to our lives is food, good food. Try this simple yet tasty recipe from the USDA.

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 3507.
Revised in November 2011



Fruity Fun Chicken Salad Cups

Author: USDA

Fruity Fun Chicken Salad Cups are a fun to eat recipe.

Recipe of the Month

This chicken salad, served in adorable lettuce cups, helps make summer fruits and vegetables fun to eat.


- Ingredients
- 1 can all white meat chicken (10oz)
 - ½ cup strawberries (diced)
 - 1/2c fresh spinach (chopped)
 - ¼ cup green onions (thinly sliced)
 - ¼ cup plain fat free yogurt
 - 4 teaspoons yellow mustard
 - 2 teaspoons dry oregano leaves (or dry dill weed)
 - ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 12 small romaine or bibb lettuce leaves (small)

- Instructions
1. Drain canned chicken.
 2. In a medium bowl, combine chicken, strawberries, spinach, and green onions.
 3. In a small bowl mix together the yogurt, yellow mustard, oregano or dill, and black pepper.
 4. Gently fold the dressing into the chicken mixture.
 5. Measure ¼ cup of chicken salad into each lettuce leaf.

Prep time: 20 mins

Nutrition Facts		
Serving Size 6		
Amount Per Serving		
Calories 58	Total Fat 2g	Sodium 6mg
Dietary Fiber 1g	Sugars 1g	Protein 7g
Calcium 35mg	Iron 1mg	Potassium 145mg
Total Carbohydrate 4g		

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



Distracted Driving is Dangerous Driving.

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting & Talking on the Phone
- Eating & Drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting the radio

Ten percent of all drivers 15 to 19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. (NHTSA)

In 2014, 3,179 people were killed, and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Visit www.distraction.gov for more information.

Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Outreach Services

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: 400 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443
Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

September
ANTLERS
Market open weekdays September 1-30, except for:
Closed: September 5, 28-30.
Cooking with Carmen: September 9 & 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays September 1-30 except for:
Closed: September 5, 28-30.
Cooking with Carmen: September 12 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays September 1-30, except for:
Closed: September 5, 28-30.
Cooking with Carmen: September 6 & 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER
Market open weekdays September 1-30 except for:
Closed: September 5, 28-30.
Cooking with Carmen: September 14 & 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays September 1-30, except for:
Closed: September 5, 28-30.
Cooking with Carmen: September 1 & 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

October
ANTLERS
Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:
Closed: October 10, 28-31.
Cooking with Carmen: October 14 & 24 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays October 1-31 except for:
Closed: October 10, 28-31.
Cooking with Carmen: October 7 & 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:
Closed: October 10, 28-31.
Cooking with Carmen: October 11 & 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER
Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:
Closed: October 10, 28-31.
Cooking with Carmen: October 3 & 21 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:
Closed: October 10, 28-31.
Cooking with Carmen: October 5 & 26, 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.

NURSERY NEWS

Cooper D. Stowers

Cooper D. Stowers was born 3:34 p.m. on July 20, 2016, in Denison, Texas. He weighed 7 pounds 8 1/2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Cooper was born to proud parents Justin and Caitlin Stowers.



Cody Allen Sheppard

Cody Allen Sheppard was born at 12:40 a.m. on June 29, 2016, at South Crest Hospital in Broken Bow. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces, and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Cody was born to proud parents Matthew and Melissa Picard Sheppard. His grandparents are Ray and Kathy Sheppard of Broken Bow, and Richard Allen and Tina Picard of Broken Bow.



Zane Tucker Russell

Zane Tucker Russell was born on June 28, 2016, at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas. He weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces, and was 22 1/2 inches long.

Zane was born to proud parents Kiley James Russell and Elizabeth Gates Russell of Sherman. He was also welcomed into the world by his big brother, Knox Leon Russell.


Zane is the grandson of Donald and Pamela (James) Wells of Caddo, the late Michael Russell of Sherman, Edie Balogh Gates of Port Richey, Florida, and Tucker Gates of Denison. He is the great-grandson of Dan and Patty Wells of Caddo, and Betty Ballew of Denison.

Zane is the paternal great-great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee, the late Rufus L. James Sr. of Harts-horne.



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.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start is now Accepting Applications in your area!

CNO Head Start provides a fun, safe learning environment for children where they will feel love, acceptance and understanding. The goal is to prepare each child for kindergarten and to excite them about learning.

We Offer
For Children:

- Social Interaction
- Health & Nutrition
- Quality Child Development Practices & Activities
- Vision & Dental Screening

For Families:

- Referrals to Community Resources
- Parenting Classes & Other Education

To enroll or for more information, stop by your local CNO Head Start or call: 800-522-6170 Extension 2219

Head Start focuses on the whole child intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially, with respect for the family as partners in education. Head Start provides language and literacy, school readiness and age appropriate activities. We also serve children with disabilities and/or special needs.

Choctaw Nation W C



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

EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION—

YAB Helps Student Focus on Future Plans

By
Tiffany Noel, Antlers

I had chronic sinus infections from birth, having my first sinus surgery before I was two years old. Due to the sinus infections, I could not hear well and could not speak clearly, which required tubes being implanted in my ears and speech therapy.

My parents were concerned with my lack of being able to retain information, learning my alphabet, and reading in the first grade, so I was held back in case it was a developmental delay.



Tiffany Noel, Antlers (center) was presented the first place award by YAB Antlers' chapter members Shania Lawrence (left) and Chapter Representative Brooklyn Moore (right).

In the second grade my parents took me to NSU Optometry Clinic in Tahlequah to be evaluated for learning disabilities.

I was found to have been seeing double (two of everything: letters, words, math problems, tables, chairs, etc.) all of my

life due to weak muscles in my left eye. I was also diagnosed with a severe perceptual disorder, scoring age four on the Jordan Reversal Test and I was age nine. The doctor said I would need vision therapy for at least a year.

There were two parts to the vision therapy: physical therapy to strengthen my eye muscles and cognitive therapy to teach my brain it had a right and left side. My parents drove me every Saturday to Tahlequah, over three hours one way, for vision therapy for a year, every other Saturday for six months, once a month for six months with home therapy and eventually to every three months, six months, and yearly for a total of seven years of therapy.

I also was given glasses with a prism to help correct the double vision and had to use a slant board in school and out of school to do work.

Homework was done on a large 4x6 foot dry erase board hung in my room and then written down on paper, which required hours each night to complete.

Even though I was bullied at school for wearing glasses and writing on a three inch slant board to correct my perceptual disorder and sometimes didn't want to get up and go to therapy on Saturdays, I continued to do what my doctors, therapists and parents encouraged me to do.

I now can speak clearly, only have to wear glasses for reading, use a one inch binder instead of a three inch slant board to write on when needed, am a member of the National Honor Society, have a 3.78 grade point average and rank third in my senior class.

I still have to read chapters ahead to keep up in class, but feel I have accomplished so much already thanks to all who have believed in me and encouraged me to believe in me too.

Considering I couldn't read in the second grade, I am so blessed to say my future educational goals are to attend Murray State College to attain my Registered Nursing Degree. I will complete my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, continuing on to earn a Surgical Nursing Degree.

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board CDIB Scholarship first place essay. The writer, Tiffany Noel, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. The second and third place essays will be in upcoming issues.



Dodd Earns Bachelor of Science in Exercise Studies from OKCU

Harley J. Dodd graduated from Oklahoma City University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Studies/Kinesiology on May 6. While attending OKCU, Dodd was able to assist in reviving the Kinesiology club on campus. He is a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha OKCU chapter. Dodd was awarded Athlete of the Year his entire college career. At the end of his four years in college, Dodd was honored to have the Athlete of the Year award named after him in legacy. Assistance in scholarships from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department made it possible for Dodd to achieve the accomplishments and awards he worked toward. Dodd was also the 2012-13 awardee of the American Indian Foundation federal scholarship. He was grateful to have been awarded the scholarships to be able to complete his education to date. Dodd graduated with a 3.10 GPA and has been employed as a physical therapist technician with Human Performance Center since his sophomore year of college. He plans to apply for Physical Therapy school and continue into graduate school to become a Physical Therapist. Dodd is the great-grandson of the late Edmund Cleveland Noel, an original enrollee. He is the grandson of Lawrence Cleveland Noel of Edmond.



Hart excels in engineering

Megan Hart, daughter of Jim and Virginia Hart, of Glenpool, was selected as 1 of 20 high school students to attend a week long engineering study at the University of Arkansas.

The first day Megan won the contest of building the tallest structure using only newspaper and coasters.

Megan will be a senior at Cascia Hall in Tulsa.

She plans to attend college next year studying chemical engineering.



Wilson Accepted into TTU Masters Program

Michael Alvarez Wilson, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, graduated from the Jerry S. Rawls School of Business at Texas Tech University on May 21, with a Bachelors Degree in International Business. Michael has been accepted

into the Masters program at TTU, and will pursue his Masters of Public Administration in the upcoming fall.

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!



Sarah Sampson Makes Dean's List

Sarah Sampson from Paul's Valley made the Dean's List for the Spring 2016 semester at Rochester Institute of Technology. Sampson graduated this spring with a BFA in Professional Photographic Illustration from RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

CHOCTAW STAR

Spring Semester Deadline
October 1, 2016

Email: star@choctawnation.com

Mail: PO Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

High School Student Services
A Choctaw Nation Education Program

Autavia Ammons
Alyson Houston
Anamika Gentry
Pamela Alary

Levi (Holly) Kirk
Michael Roberts
Pachy Mankley

Our Goal: To assist our students with academic information to promote education and/or career path beyond high school.

Requirements for eligibility:

- Students must be tribal members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and verified by the High School Student Services staff.
- Each student must have a Parent Permission form on file with the Choctaw Nation High School Student Services program. (one-time application)
- Any student, 9th-12th grade, attending an accredited high school.

What services are available?

- ACT reimbursement
- ACT Workshop information
- College Prep Study guides
- College Fair
- Notification of event dates

Student Success Planner with Choctaw Nation Education Program Information which includes:

- Higher Education
- Career Development
- CSA (Choctaw State Building)
- STAR
- Choctaw Foundation
- FAISA
- Choctaw's Promise Information
- Adult Basic Membership application

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
High School Student Services
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210
800-522-6170 ext. 4705

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the following locations. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she prepares you to take the GED test. 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. Classes meet three days each week for approximately nine weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE/GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Beginning date for all classes is October 17, 2016

Atoka County Atoka Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	McCurain County Bethel Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Coal County Coalgate Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Smithville Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
	Wright City Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

2016-2017 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	January 2017 - March 2017
Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Monday, Jan. 2, 9 a.m. - noon Poteau, Carl Albert State College, Ollie Building
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Durant, Headquarters South Building	Tuesday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m. - noon McAlester, Eastern Okla. State College, Clark Bass Building
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m. Idabel, Southeastern Okla. State University, McCurtain Co. Campus	Tuesday, Jan. 3, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Durant, Headquarters South Building

TRAIL OF TERROR STARTS AT DUSK!

CHILDREN'S GAMES

COSTUME CONTEST

7 P.M.

AGE DIVISIONS:
0-3, 4-7, 8-10, 11-17

HARVEST CARNIVAL

2016

OCTOBER 21, 2016

TVSHKAHOMMA

PRIZES

FOOD

BINGO
50 CENTS

CAKE WALK
\$1

For more information contact Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach at 1-877-285-6893

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 ssaapplication.choctawnation.com

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDS

BEGIN JULY 1ST 2016

OBITUARIES

Dora Fisher Layman

Dora Layman (Fisher), 62, passed away at home on Aug. 1, 2015. She was born Feb. 19, 1953, to Anias and Matilda (Thompson) Fisher in Talihina.

Dora married Donnie Layman Sr. She enjoyed family reunions, playing games at casinos and shopping at flea markets.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Mary Weaver and Lahoma Ott; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lorene Layman and Alonzo Layman; brothers-in-law, Clonnie and John Layman.

Dora is survived by her husband, Donnie Layman Sr. of the home; son, Donnie Layman Jr. of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Lenora and husband Ronnie Cox of Checotah, and Verna and husband Richard Watt of Gladstone; one niece, Tiffany Watt; two nephews, Jason Cox and Ed Walker; one great-nephew, Gavin Cox; and one great niece, Nate-lyn Walker.

Services were under the direction of Brumley-Mills Funeral Home.

Freddie Gross “Fred G.” Roland

Freddie Gross “Fred G.” Roland, 83, died Aug. 12, 2015, in Bartlesville. He was born Sept. 20, 1931, to Fletcher “Fred” Milton and Della May (Doll) Roland.

Fred developed a love of horses, which stayed with him all of his life while raising his horse, Buck. He was also a four-year letterman in football. After a walk-on tryout for Bud Wilkinson’s OU Sooners didn’t pan out, he attended a university in Colorado on a football scholarship until a back injury, sustained in a car wreck, cut his career short. After learning to walk again, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1951 from the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California, having earned the rank of Seaman Apprentice. He obtained his real estate broker’s license and received EEG/EKG technician training in Galveston, Texas, later working as the EEG/EKG technician at Central State Hospital (now Griffin Memorial Hospital) in Norman until he retired. Fred used his knowledge of athletics to help mentor his daughters’ softball and track teams. He followed all their activities like band concerts, cheerleading events and Girl Scouts. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, cooking and watching all sports, especially the Triple Crown and his beloved OU Sooners.

Fred is preceded in death by his parents, Fletcher “Fred” Milton and Della May (Doll) Roland; his former wife, Mary Frances Roland; and his daughter, Angelique Sickman of Lindsay.

He is survived by three daughters, Rachel Oaks of Bartlesville, Suzanne Gibbens of Colorado and Sabrina Roland of Tulsa; six grandchildren, Zac Gibbens, Jeff Gibbens and Kyle Gibbens of Colorado; Jessica Sickman and Jordan Sickman of Tyler, Texas and Ariel Napier of Orlando, Florida; four nieces and nephews and one grandson.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Walker Brown Funeral Home.



Dustin “Dusty” Young Holbird

Dustin “Dusty” Young Holbird, 33, of Salonia Community, passed away June 23, 2016. Dusty was born March 28, 1983, to Johnny Lewis and Drucella Janet (Brown) Holbird in Talihina.

He attended Leflore High School and graduated with the Class of 2001. After graduation, he began logging and owned and operated Holbird Logging Company. Dusty was a hard worker, providing for his family.

Dusty was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Y.K. and Mary (Noah) Brown; paternal great-great grandparents, Earl and Flossie Holbird; uncles, Sam Holbird and wife, Stacy, and James “Sonny” Brown; cousin, Jonathan Brown; grandfather-in-law, Barney Hardaway, grandfather-in-law, Bill “Hornet” Marable; and infant son, Augustus Cash Holbird.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah (Marable) Holbird; three children, Kate McKenzie Holbird, Cole Young Holbird and Rhett James Holbird all of the home; parents, Johnny and Drucella (Brown) Holbird of Red Oak; brother, Shawn Lewis Holbird and wife, Mary of Red Oak; paternal grandparents, Johnny P. Holbird and Faye (Luna) Holbird of Red Oak; nephews, Kyle Lewis Holbird, Eric Riley Holbird and Caleb Alan Holbird; great-niece, Zainee Renee Holbird; aunt, Dorothy Coffey and husband, Bennie of Red Oak; uncle, Kenneth Brown and wife, Connie of Wilburton; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Billy and Karen Marable of Pickens; brothers-in-law, Robert Marable of Pickens; Justin and Brittany Young of Broken Bow, John Young of Tuttle and Todd Young and Shonda of Antlers.

Services were entrusted to Hones Harkins Funeral Home. Interment was held at the Holbird Family Cemetery, Salonia Community.



Dwayne Jackson

Dwayne Jackson, 62, passed from this earth on May 30, 2016. Dwayne was born Nov. 5, 1954, and raised by Edward and Alma Faye Rainwater in Lubbock, Texas, along with his brothers, Ed Rainwater and Gerald “Jerry” Jackson; and sisters, Linda, Roma and Tina.

He graduated as a proud Dunbar Panther in 1971. He then served our country as a member of the Air Force. He had a very adventurous life traveling all over the country. He became a Grand Champion in Chess and is featured in a Chess Masters video game. He loved painting, wood-working and horticulture.

Dwayne is preceded in death by both parents and his brother, Ed.

He is survived by brother, Gerald “Jerry” Jackson; sisters, Linda, Roma and Tina; Cedrick Jackson; Clineter Darden; Octobias Darden; Daren Jackson; Danny Jackson; Melanie Anderson; and 15 grandchildren.

Robert Louis Moses

Robert Louis Moses, 91, passed away on May 20, 2016. Robert was born Nov. 9, 1924, to Lula Belle and Ike Moses in Grant.

When he turned nine years old, his father passed away leaving Bob as the head of the household. From then on, he was known as “Pap” by his siblings. Bob joined the Navy when he turned 18, serving in the Pacific on the USS Argonne, the USS Luzon, and the USS Cascade. On Aug. 22, 1947, Bob married the love of his life, Lorena. Soon after Bob started a 34 year career for the US Post Office. After retiring from the Post Office, he did motor home delivery, airport shuttles between Chico and Sacramento, and some outside contract work with the Post Office. He was a long time member of the Esplanade Baptist Church, serving as a deacon for over 50 years. Bob was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and would travel to see the Chief at the yearly gathering. Bob was also a strong supporter of the Republican Party, and already had his vote-by-mail ballot ready to go for the upcoming election. Bob and Lorena loved to travel. They managed to hit almost every state that could be driven to. He had a love of games, especially Checkers and Dominoes.

Bob was preceded in death by Adam Wittsell; Erick Wittsell Jr.; and Larry Wittsell.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years; three daughters, Pat (David) Meinberg of Durham, Robin Wittsell of Orland, and Jackie (Moe) Whitchurch of Chico; grandchildren, Justin (Kulvir), Bradley (Jamie) and Scott (Melissa) Meinberg, Brian (Jenn), Erick (Courtney) and Shelly Wittsell, Moe III (Azzurra), Robie (Rene) Whitchurch and Sarah (Donald) Gramps; 16 great-grandchildren; and sister Alma Laney.



Richard Dean McIntosh

Richard Dean McIntosh, 58, passed away May 22, 2016. He was born Sept. 24, 1957, to Richard and Patricia McIntosh.

Richard graduated from Robert A. Millikan High in 1976, and played basketball on the Freshman Reserve Basketball team and played football for the Millikan Rebels. He was a member of the North Long Beach Christian Church and served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and received the Man of the Year Award. Later, he attended Bixby Knolls Church in Long Beach, California. He was married to Pamela Ingram for seven years.

Richard is preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Sue McIntosh; William Joseph McIntosh; Julie Ann Hudson and her son Jason.

He is survived by his father, Richard Lee McIntosh; older sister, Lori Lee Pistey and her husband, Wayne Robert Pistey and their children, Matthew Wayne Pistey and Allison Nicole Pistey; younger brother, David Paul McIntosh and his wife Cyndi McIntosh (now Lowe), and their children, Corey, Kyle and wife Tara and their child, Valor; Breanna, Megan, Daniel, Cammie, Sadie, Manny, and Benjamin; aunts, uncles, and cousins in the following states, Arizona, California, Iowa, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Utah.

Interment was held at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Whittier, California.



Wayne E. Barker

Wayne E. Barker, 77, passed away June 30, 2016, in Tulsa. He was born Oct. 26, 1938, to William and Mary (Henson) Barker in Quinton.

Wayne was a talented musician. He played the guitar in the Navy and around the Tulsa area with different groups and friends.

He is preceded in death by two brothers, Junior and Jack Barker; one sister, Billie Murdock; and his parents.

Wayne is survived by three sisters, Marie Hammontree of Amarillo, Texas, Helen Smith and husband, Howard, of Tulsa, and Jimmie Spicer and husband, R.T. of Abilene, Texas; two brothers, Eddie Barker and wife, Jaunita, of Longtown, and Kenneth Barker and wife, Sallie, of Kansas City, Missouri; numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mallory-Martin Funeral Home & Crematory of Stigler.

Robert Lewis Wardrobe

Robert Lewis Wardrobe, 71, passed away July 17, 2016, in Coalgate. He was born Feb. 1, 1945, to Robert and Ilene (Argo) Wardrobe in Coalgate.

Robert graduated from Coalgate High School in 1964. He later attended Okmulgee Tech OSU, receiving an Associate’s Degree and graduating in 1973. He married Cora Wardrobe on Aug. 15, 2001 in Eurika Springs, Arkansas. Robert proudly served his country in the Army. He was a pipe fitter at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and retired in February 2004. He was a member of the Coalgate VFW and the Masonic Lodge. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting.

He is preceded in death by parents, Robert and Ilene (Argo) Wardrobe; and brother, Delbert Lee Argo.

Robert is survived by wife of the home, Cora Wardrobe; son, Bobby Wardrobe and wife Tawnia of Coalgate; daughter, Kelly Williams and husband Greg of Longview, Texas; stepchildren, Chris Rainey and wife Stacy of Ada, and Jerica Thompson and husband Jason of Coalgate; brother, Henry Ringles and wife Arlene of Coalgate; grandchildren, Kerstyn, Braelynn, Braxton, Jaxton, Braedy, Thomas and Karlee Wardrobe; great-grandchildren, Blaydon, Bryleigh, Rocco and Tucker Courson; along with many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service in Coalgate. Interment was held at Woodman Cemetery.



Roberta Lea Guenzel

Roberta Lea Guenzel, 88, passed away June 14, 2016, in Tomball, Texas. She was born June 5, 1928, to John and Exie Patterson in Durant.

Roberta grew up and attended school in Durant. After graduating from high school, she attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University and obtained a degree in education. She then moved to Crawford to begin her career as a school teacher. On Oct. 29, 1955 she married R.C. Guenzel of Reydon. After living in Colorado for a short time, she and RC moved back to Reydon. She began teaching first grade in Cheyenne until she retired. She loved teaching, and over a 40-year career, she had as many as three generations from individual families pass through her first grade class. She also loved teaching children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Reydon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, R.C.; parents, John and Exie; her brother and sister.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Josephine Welch (formerly Guenzel); a nephew and his family; and several nieces.

Interment was held at White Rose Cemetery.



Connie Adrian Krebsbs

Connie Adrian Krebsbs, 89, passed away June 9, 2016. He was born to Elsie Mae and Edmond William Krebsbs on January 25, 1927, in the Folsom-Coleman area of Oklahoma.

He was the first born child of Edmond, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He attended Coleman schools and graduated from Kenefic High School in 1944. In October following his high school graduation, Connie was drafted into the United States Army Air Force. After basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, and United States Army Training Center Field Artillery at Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas, he was shipped to Stuttgart, Germany, in February 1945. After Connie was honorably discharged from the Air Force on Feb. 20, 1947, he worked as a carpenter helper for Betchel Corporation, who contracted from Southern California Edison to build eight power stations on the river below Huntington Lake. Connie married Carol Printz, with whom he had two children. After they divorced, Connie married Marjorie Rankin in January 1968. They were married for 41 years before her death in 2009. Connie loved to fish and camp out at Huntington Lake where he took his barge out on the lake, catching their dinner for the evening. Connie always wanted to be around his family as much as he could. He took great pleasure in attending his grandchildren’s and grandnephew’s sporting events.

Connie is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Marjorie; brother, Gerald; brothers-in-law, Jim Eaton and Bob Denton; nephews, Wesley Krebsbs, Bradley Krebsbs, Donald Krebsbs and Randy Eskew.

He is survived by his daughter, Ronda Walker and her husband Doug; grandsons, Daniel and Derek Walker, his great-grandchild, Catherine Walker; great-great-grandchild, Kendrick Dutra; his son, Keith Krebsbs, and grandson Samuel Krebsbs.

He is also survived by his step son, Gary Rankin and his wife, Diana; step grandchildren Brian Rankin and his wife, Valerie and step great-grandchildren, Caitlin Rankin, Austin Rankin and Emily Rankin and step grandsons, Chad Rankin and Aaron Rankin and children. Connie is survived by his sisters, Audrey Denton and her children Linda Brady and husband Mike, Royce Denton, sister Wanda Eaton and her sons Mike Eaton, Steve Eaton and his wife Candi, Bernie Eaton and his wife, Lisa. Sister Sharon Eskew and her husband, Richard and their children, Kenny Eskew and Darren Eskew and his wife, Tammy; his brother, Norman Krebsbs and his wife, Betty and their son Kevin and his wife, Ranell. Also, Gerald’s children, Melony Parkin and Brent Krebsbs. Connie is also survived by many great nephews and nieces and great-great nephews and nieces.



John Elbert Fields

John Elbert Fields, 62, entered into rest June 29, 2016, in Houston, Texas. John was born March 6, 1945.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Rosewood Funeral Home.



Wanda L. Witt

Wanda L. Witt went to be with the Lord on July 8, 2016. She was born to Samuel and Mable Burris in Blanchard.

After graduating from Blanchard High School, she married the love of her life, Virgil Witt. They spent 62 wonderful years together. She worked for many years as an admin clerk at Tinker Air Force Base. Wanda was a loving wife, devoted mother, cherished sister, and loyal friend.

Wanda was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Virgil; brother, Tony Burris; sisters, Loretta Wilson, and J. Joan Thomson.

She is survived by daughter, Pamela (Witt) Stewart; brothers, S. Burnett Burris and wife Bonnie, Terry D. Burris and wife Diane, Perry R. Burris; sisters, Karen McConnell and husband Jimmy, C. Jennifer Kniss, Diana Simms and husband Charlie; and many other beloved family members and friends.

Arrangements were made by Vondel L. Smith & Son Mortuary. Interment was held at Resthaven Cemetery.



OBITUARIES

Joe Kirk “Captain Kirk”

Joe Kirk “Captain Kirk”, 64 of Bennington passed away July 16, 2016, in Durant. Joe was born Nov. 4, 1951, to A.J. Kirk and Doris Mae (Helbach) Kirk in Oklahoma City.

He graduated from Bennington High School and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Joe married Vickie Ann McAlester in Durant on June 7, 1971. Joe proudly served his country in the United States Army where he was honorably discharged. He later served his community as a police officer for 25 years. Joe had a gun repair shop, taught concealed weapons classes, loved fishing, hunting, lots of shooting, and was a member of the Three Valley Motorcycle Club.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Jackie Kirk.

Joe is survived by his wife of the home; children, Laura Matthews and husband Matt of Bennington, son, Shannon Kirk and wife Jeanne of Bennington; three brothers, Johnny Kirk of Durant, Gene Kirk and wife Ruth of Durant, and Robert Kirk and wife Denise of Hugo; three sisters, Kathy Townsend of Bennington, Susan Williams and husband Jackie of Roberta, and Karen Olive of Mead; and five grandchildren Alyssa Matthews, Zane Hutchinson, Zackry Hutchinson, Andie Matthews, and Ava Kirk; and many other loving family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service in Durant. Interment was held, with the Durant Police Dept. Honor Guard, at Bennington Cemetery.



Bettie C. Arnold Reynolds

Bettie C. (Arnold) Reynolds, 80, of Tulsa, passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2016. She was born Sept. 26, 1935, to Graland and Lula Myrtle (Casey) Standridge in Muskogee.

Bettie was a member of Eastwood Baptist Church. She retired as manager of sales from Home Interiors. Bettie enjoyed working in her yard, shopping, reading the Bible, and staying in touch with numerous friends and family. She also enjoyed traveling, watching her grandson play football, dining at Cracker Barrel, talking on the phone and satisfying her sweet tooth.

Bettie is preceded in death by her parents; first husband of 47 years, Lindy Arnold; and brother, Garland Wayne Standridge.

She is survived by husband, Melvin Reynolds of 11 years; son, Chad Arnold and wife Traci, of Avant; stepsons, Randy Reynolds and wife Rebecca, of Broken Arrow; Russell Reynolds and wife Kathleen, of Magnolia, Texas; grandchildren, Zachary Arnold of Avant, Grant, Kendall and Shelby Reynolds of Broken Arrow, Chelsea and Madelyn Reynolds of Magnolia, Texas; sisters, Anna Lue Denny and husband Bob of Edmond, and Garlena Vickers and husband Mike of Heavener.

Arrangements were made by Moore’s Eastlawn. Interment was held at Greenwood Cemetery in Eufaula.



Billy Donald Mourney

Billy Donald Mourney, 84, of Mountainburg, passed away Friday, July 1, 2016, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born March 29, 1932, to Elbert and Zelma Farrill Mourney in Whitefield.

He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a retired builder.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Mourney of the home; three daughters, Marcie Payne and husband Virgil of Mountainburg, Arkansas, Anne Mourney and partner Eric Robinson of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Ginger Martin and husband Brook of West Fork, Arkansas; two sons, Billy Mourney Jr., and Mark Mourney and wife Jeanette, all of Mountainburg, Arkansas; one sister, Helen Ary of Muskogee; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Edwards Van-Alma Funeral Home of Van Buren, Arkansas.



Patricia Ann Seyler McKinney

Patricia Ann McKinney (Seyler), 64, died peacefully at her home in Eagletown on May 11, 2016. Patricia was born on Oct. 19, 1951, to Norvin and Marie McKinney in Talihina.

In the 1950’s, Patricia and her family participated in the BIA Relocation program and moved to Oakland, California, where she spent her youth. In 1965, she graduated from Samuel Ayer High School, in Milpitas, California. After moving to San Jose, California, she began working for Santa Clara County as a social worker, helping American Indian people transition from reservation life to urban life in the Bay Area. In 1982, she returned to her home in Eagletown, pursuing her studies in nursing. She the served the people of McCurtain County as an LPN.

Patricia is preceded in death by parents, Norvin and Marie; grandparents, Moses and Minnie Ashalintubbi of Eagletown.

She is survived by her children, Timothy Tate and Alicia Nevaquaya, of Apache and Eagletown; Joshua and Ashley Garrett, of Clayton; grandchildren, Ariel Garrett, Sage Gibson, Mikah Gibson, and Justice Garrett; stepchildren, Chris and Diane Teehee, Niki Garrett Humphrey and family, of Arkansas; sister, Brenda Hadley (Bryant), of Eagletown; special niece, Jennifer Watson (Lonnies) and family, of Broken Bow.

Interment was held a Panki Bok Cemetery.



Liz Beth McCurtain Estel

Liz Beth McCurtain Estel, 83, passed away peacefully May 30, 2016, in Rockledge, Florida. She was born July 26, 1932, to Frank Allen McCurtain and Jimmie Martha Duke.

Liz was known for her creativity. Her talents spanned from oil paints to food, and she loved to sing along with the late greats. She always had eye-twinkling smiles, was always blowing kisses and giving hugs to everyone. Her greatest passion (after her husband, children and mystery novels) were chocolates and jelly beans. Liz passed on her love and artistic talents to those around her.

She was the loving wife of Arthur John Estel. Mother of eight children, 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She was also sister to Nannette Wallace, and aunt to numerous nieces and nephews.

Liz is preceded in death by husband, Arthur John Estel; her grandparents; father, “Arty,” sisters, Kathleen Sherrod Young and Dawn Sherrod Torres.

She is survived by her children, Russell Sherrod, Gary Sherrod, Kristi Estel De Seve, Lesli Estel Asbury, Charles Estel and Stacey Estel.



Curtis Lee Spybuck Stewart

Curtis Lee Spybuck Stewart, 57, went to be with the Lord on June 14, 2016. He was born July 14, 1959, to Dora Peters and James Spybuck in Talihina.

He was a devoted Minister of the Lord and faithfully published the True Messenger each month. He was a proud member of the Oklahoma City Choctaw Alliance. He was a soldier for the Lord and Heaven opened up and rejoiced his homecoming.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Dora Mae Peters; his father, James Cody Spybuck; his stepfather, Billy Joe Peters; and grandparents, Bessie and Tom Stewart.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Teresa Stewart; children, Sarah, Stephanie and Zachary Stewart; his sister, Sherrie Stewart; his aunt and uncle, Cora and Wayne Stewart; his aunt, Dorothy Holden; his uncle, Larry Spybuck; nieces and nephews, Jennifer Flores, Elvia, Erica and Julian Rios-Rios; Kerri Kucera, Walter Farris III and Austin Farris; Clinton and Korey Waddy; great nephews, Fabian, Adan, Efren and Jovanny Flores; Rodrigo Rios-Rios, August Slover; special great niece, Heidi Hedrick (baby Heidi) and numerous other cousins and family members.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services. Interment was held at Kulli Tuklo in Idabel.



Delora Mae Kendig

Delora Mae Kendig, 86, passed away May 20, 2016. She was born on March 2, 1930, in Oklahoma.

Delora lived her life by being involved wholeheartedly with her family. She was beloved by all that knew her.

She is preceded in death by husband, Euel Kendig and other family members.

Delora is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Jim Henson; grandchildren, Tim Henson, Kym and husband Ivan Garza; great-grandchildren, Zac Kent and wife Olivia, Tusney and husband Matt Barulich, and Alora Ngeksiri; great-great-grandchildren, Kayley, Emily, Patrick Barulich, and Nathan Kent; and brother and sister-in-law Bob and Linda Eskew of Oklahoma.

Interment was held at Wasco Cemetery.

Michael Dale Shoemaker

Michael Dale Shoemaker, 53, passed away on June 4, 2016, at his home in Talihina. He was born Oct. 8, 1962, to Edward Dale and Billie Ruth James Shoemaker in Pawnee.

Michael had many hobbies including fishing, hunting, and watching the Thunder play. He also loved spending time with family and sharing stories with those around him.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, William and Roberta James, Herman and Glenis Shoemaker; uncle, Coy; aunt, Loretta Shoemaker; Uncle, Ephriam James; Aunt Dianna Woods.

Michael is survived by his significant other, Dorothy Baker of Talihina; parents, Dale and Billie Shoemaker of Bixby; sister, Cheryl Arenella of Bixby; brother, James Shoemaker of Denison, Texas; uncle, Jack Shoemaker of Talihina; uncle, Jim Shoemaker of Talihina; uncle, Steve Shoemaker of Talihina; niece, Racheal Arenella; nephew Matthew Arenella; and a host of cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service. Interment was held at Muse Cemetery.



Forrest Eugene “Gene” Youree

Forrest Eugene “Gene” Youree, 93, went into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Jan. 28, 2016. He was born April 22, 1922, to Harry and Myrtle (Beal) Youree in Blue.

Gene was raised in Utica, graduating in 1941. He served our country with the Army Air Corps from 1942-1945 during WWII at the European Theater and Normandy Beach receiving an Honorable Discharge. His education continued at Murray State School of Agriculture in 1947, Oklahoma A&M College in 1951, and he worked on his PhD at National Christian University of Dallas in 1975. Gene married the love of his life, Berniece Martin, on Feb. 11, 1942.

Gene was an educator as teacher, principal, and school administrator for several schools in Cobb; Estancia, New Mexico; Plainview; Ardmore; and Sherman, Texas. He taught Ag, Math, and was involved with the Administration. Gene was a lifetime member of the VFW, the Texas Teacher Association, Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association, and 2072 Qtr Masters Trucking Company, which he attended every year. He was a very active member of the Forest Avenue Baptist Church since 1971 where he taught adult bible studies. He enjoyed reading, studying his Bible and attending Sunday services.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Berniece Martin; his parents; and sisters, Lucille Robnett, Myrtle Fay Carr, and Juanita Lahan.

He is survived by his sons, Gary Youree and his wife, Elaine of Heavener, and Lanny Youree and his wife Lisa of Denison, Texas; daughters, Becky Enders and husband, John of Sherman, Texas; and Paula Youree of Denison, Texas; sisters, Patsy Trostle of Sherman, Texas, and Dean Sweeney of Durant; grandchildren, Andrea Enders, Christi Thompson, Bryan Youree, Melissa Phaff, Logan Youree, Christy Ludeman, Mikah Kelo, Holly Bernard, Lacy Roland, Chuck Enders, and Becky Jeffers; 24 great grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Services are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home. Interment was held at Highland Cemetery in Durant.



Velma Dean Seymour

Velma Dean Seymour, 84, of Moore, passed away May 28, 2016, in Oklahoma City. She was born August 21, 1931, to Flim and Viney Frazier Watts in Rattan.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed quilting, making dishcloths and gardening. Velma and Coleman Seymour were united in marriage on August 29, 1949, in Paris, Texas.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a sister, Merle Smithson.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry Seymour and wife Patti of Banning, California; daughter, Sandra Mathis of Moore; grandchildren, Melissa Casarez, Cheryl Vogler, Amy Pippenger, Brad Seymour, Laurie DeSouza and Shelley Bates; and a host of great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held by Moore Funeral and Cremation. Interment was held at Rattan Cemetery.



Jimmy Huggins

Jimmy Huggins, 71, passed away on June 12, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was born on July 5, 1944, to Alando and Opal Huggins in Durant.

He attended Durant High School, and then joined the Air Force, serving overseas on the island of Guam during the Vietnam War. Jimmy married his high school sweetheart, Pamala, in 1964. When his Air Force enlistment ended, Jimmy worked for Pacific Gas and Electric in California. Later, the family returned to Oklahoma, where Jimmy worked for Oklahoma Gas and Electric as an auditor. As an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, he enjoyed spending time camping and fishing on Lake Texoma.

He is survived by his two sons, a daughter, and his wife, as well as seven grandchildren.



Mary Frances Bell Olivo

Mary Frances Bell Olivo, 87, passed away on July 4, 2016, in Holdenville. She was born on June 28, 1929, to Thomas Watt Bell and Bettie Wilson Bell in Allen.

Mary attended Round Prairie Grade School, near Allen, and was a graduate of Atwood High School. She married Don Olivo on March 23, 1948, in Holdenville. Mary worked alongside her husband at their store in Allen until 1964. Then she stayed home raising her children and later retired from Komar with over 20 years of dedicated service. She loved spending time with her family and friends, and she was proud of her Choctaw Native American heritage.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband, Don Olivo; her parents, Thomas and Bettie Bell, and her 15 siblings. She is survived by her children, Marilyn Olivo Coulson of Oklahoma City, and Terry Olivo and wife Tacy of Allen; grandchildren, Kala Olivo Sharp, Lana Olivo Beasley, Matthew Coulson, and Michael Coulson; great-grandchildren, Grace Beasley, Jae Sharp, Ben Beasley, and Sam Sharp; a nephew that was very special to her, Steve Bell; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services are under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville. Interment was held at the Allen Cemetery in Allen.



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

Single Mom’s Day Out a Success in McCurtain County

By MELISSA CRESS
Choctaw Nation

Women In McCurtain County got a summer break for a day of pampering.

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia partnered with Totally Cosmo Beauty School in Broken Bow to bring the “Single Mom’s Day Out” event to the McCurtain County area on July 16.

The Single Mom’s day Out is a confidence building experience, as well as a fun day of fellowship that was open to the public.

This event was in honor of Erica Martinez a former student of Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia who passed away last year.

The Single Moms received a free

haircut, eyebrow wax and nails painted all for free.

This year’s event was a success with around 18 ladies in attendance. Seven of this year’s Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia (COTH) students were there to help volunteer with cleanup.

We also had two of last year’s COTH students present to help out.

Special thanks to Debbie Elliott the owner of Totally Cosmo for the use of her facility for the event.

Volunteers from Totally Cosmo that day were students Breanna Wallace and Charisse Butler, Receptionist Rebecca Elliott and Instructor Sharon Wesley.



Photo by Melissa Cress

Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia and Totally Cosmo Beauty School in Broken Bow partnered together for a “Single Mom’s Day Out” Event. The event, which was held in honor of former Chahta Ohoyo student Erica Martinez who passed away last year, was a success. Single mothers received much deserved pampering during the event.

Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia

CHOCTAW WOMEN LEADERS

APPLICATION INFORMATION		
NAME:		
DATE OF BIRTH:	COUNTY:	PHONE:
CURRENT ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:
PLEASE LIST YOUR TRIBAL AFFILIATION:	RACE: <input type="radio"/> Hispanic <input type="radio"/> Latino <input type="radio"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="radio"/> Asian <input type="radio"/> African American <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> White	GENDER: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

List three things you expect to gain from being part of this program:

In order to benefit from this program you will be required to attend trainings/coaching sessions in the Broken Bow area and some may be held during the day. Will your schedule allow time for this? If no, please explain.

Is there any other reasons that you foresee that could prevent you from attending the required trainings?

Must provide copy of CDIB
Applications must be received by: October 31, 2016, to be eligible for the Dec, 2016-Sept, 2017 trainings
Email or fax applications to: email mcress@choctawnation.com fax 580-326-0115
For more information contact Melissa Cress, Director 580-326-8304 ext 6031
Choctaw Nation Outreach Services

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer." If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9922 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov."

Choctaw University presents

Choctaw Women in Leadership Conference

8:30 am	Registration
9 am	Opening General Session
9:30 am	Session 1: Native Women in Leadership
10:30 am	Break
11:00 am	Session 2: Choctaw Woman: Fountain of Life
Noon	Lunch
1:30 pm	Session 3: Wonder Woman Material: Finding the Balance
2:30 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Closing Session

TUESDAY, September 20
Choctaw Event Center

Register by visiting:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSNJCLS>
Contact:
Shawn Young
syoung@choctawnation.com • 580-924-8280 X2481

Become a Choctaw Women’s Leader Today

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia Program is seeking Native American women in the McCurtain area is looking to improve their Leadership skills, gain knowledge in home ownership, entrepreneurship, and energy efficiency.

The program is an effort to help Native American women in the McCurtain County area become more employable, marketable, and self-sufficient. Participants will be taught leadership entrepreneurial skills and become experts in homeownership, financial literacy, and energy efficiency measures.

This program is made possible through a United States Department of Agriculture grant, a partnership with Choctaw Nation Outreach Services, and The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation. Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia can serve Native American women with CDIBs who live in McCurtain County.

Participants will receive the following training:

- Entrepreneurial.
- Homeownership.
- Leadership.
- Energy efficiency.
- Traditional Choctaw cultural activities.

If you or someone you know are interested in applying in the program stop by the Choctaw Nation Tribal Services office in Hugo to pick up an application today. Application deadline is Oct. 31, 2016 for the 2016-17 year. Women will enjoy fellowship with each other, as well as learn many things to help them in their future. For more information contact Joey Tom, Senior Director, or Melissa Cress, Director, at 1-877-285-6893.

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

This is the last month to cash your WIC and Senior Farmer’s market checks. Please note how many checks you have and find your list of authorized farmers and be sure to cash them by October 31, as this is the last day to redeem your checks for fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables grown by farmers in your area. If you cannot find your list of farmers, please call to request another list.

Contact: 1 (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280 Ext: 2303

JOBS →

Connect with local employers!

Career Fair

October 4, 2016
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Kiamichi Technology Center • Seminar Center
107 S. 15th St. (Just off Jackson) • Hugo, OK

For more information, contact:
Becky Hilton • 580.775.4590

Groundbreaking Held for Grant Casino and Resort Expansion

The community of Grant may have started as a railroad stop in the late 1800s, but today it is a big getaway and gaming destination in southern Oklahoma and north Texas—and it’s about to get bigger.

The Choctaw Nation officially broke ground Thursday for a major expansion of the Choctaw Casino Resort in Grant. The 10 a.m. ceremony was held on site at the existing Choctaw Casino Resort, located eight miles south of Hugo at 1516 U.S. Highway 271.

Tents were set up and umbrellas at the ready, but a balmy breeze won out during the ceremony. Overcast skies did not dampen the excitement of the state and area government officials, tribal leaders and members, and supporters in attendance at the event.

Chief Gary Batton, said, “We’re creating 80 new jobs and we are wanting all of those to be tribal members, because we want to empower our tribal members to succeed.”

The progress in Choctaw County was also noted by District 8 Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson and others who addressed the crowd.

David Rawls, City Manager and Economic Development Director of Hugo, said, “This is going to impact the city of Grant tremendously, as well as, the city of Hugo and the county. I know how hard the Choctaw Nation works and the

efforts they put in and I am very proud of them.”

Grant, established on the Frisco Railroad in Indian Territory became home to the Choctaw Casino Resort in this century. The facility has proven so successful that expansion is needed. Open daily 24 hours, the casino’s current 68,235 square foot gaming space features 1,272 gaming machines and ten table games, poker included. The property also has popular restaurants, including The River Bar & Grill and the Firehouse Buffet. The hotel has 60 rooms, and the complex includes a Travel Plaza and Smoke Shop.

The Grant expansion will add a new 96-room hotel

tower that features 23 luxury suites; an expanded swimming pool and outdoor bar nestled in a tropical garden; an exclusive new poker room; 125 additional slot machines; delicious new food and beverage options, including a new 155-seat bar and grill easily accessible from both the casino floor and from an outside entrance; an addition of 48 seats to the renowned Firehouse Buffet;

a convenient new “Grab & Go” coffee shop; and a new lobby and check-in that will create a true arrival experience for hotel guests.

Completion of the project is expected to be in July 2017. Entertainment in the month ahead includes Xtreme Fight Night: Live MMA, a Dodge truck giveaway, and the summer ends on \$250,000 in prizes.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

On Thursday Aug. 18, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and District 9 Councilman Perry Thompson are joined by state and local officials as shovels are turned on construction of additions to the Choctaw Casino Resort in Grant.

Sardis Lake Water Settlement Announced

cont’d from page 1

“They have to be good stewards in their area and make sure they adhere to their lake level plans so we can be assured our water will be utilized correctly,” continued Chief Batton.

During the mediation process, Chief Batton advocated for conservation efforts and to ensure lake level management plans were in place so no harm came to Sardis Lake or the Kiamichi River.

Before Oklahoma City can draw from the Kiamichi River they will start talking to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations to make sure the checklist of conservation standards are being met. To ensure lake level management in their area is in place and they are adhering to their conservation plan.

Chief Batton said that was the Nations way of making sure Oklahoma City was held accountable.

In addition to protecting the water in Southeastern Oklahoma, the settlement solidified the Choctaw Nation’s sovereignty.

Chief Batton said in the past because of the tribe not having the resources to protect their sovereignty this [water being taken from

Sardis Lake] would have already happened. Due to the Choctaw Nation having the ability to have the resources, to have the legal authority, that they were able to fight it and were able to assert out sovereignty.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations were able to show they are sovereign nations.

According to Chief Batton, the Choctaw Nation would not even be in the mediation process if the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma did not understand and accept that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations have sovereign rights.

“The mere fact we are a part of this agreement shows that we are asserting our sovereignty.

The agreement for Sardis Lake sets precedent for Oklahoma and allows the Choctaw Nation to look to the future regarding water rights in Southeastern Oklahoma.

The agreement is only the first step. The Choctaw Tribal Council approved the agreement during the Tribal Council meeting in Tvshka Homma on Saturday, Aug. 13. The Chickasaw Legislature, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Oklahoma City Council and the

Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust must also approve the agreement. Ultimately, the United States Congress and the President of the United States must approve the agreement.

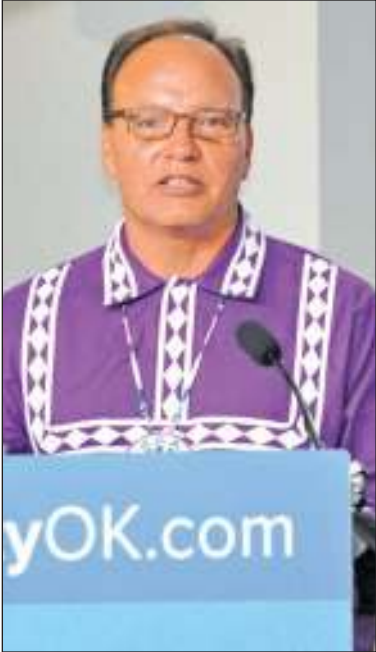


Photo by Stacy Hutto

Chief Gary Batton speaks during the press conference announcing a settlement agreement regarding Sardis Lake.

WILL CLINIC PREPARATION CLINIC

OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, INC. (OILS)

WILL BE HOLDING A FREE WILLS CLINIC. WE WILL PREPARE YOUR WILL

AT THIS CLINIC

October 27, 2016

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Investment Center

210 Chahta Road

Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728

AND

October 28, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center

2408 E. Lincoln Road

Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

TO REGISTER FOR THE CLINIC CALL 1-800-658-1497

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED SO CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. at 1-800-658-1497.

Criminal Records Expungement Clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS)



This Specialized clinic is for individuals who need a criminal record expunged to seal the record in order to protect their privacy, broaden employment opportunities, housing qualifications and other necessities where the criminal record is causing a barrier. At this clinic OILS staff attorneys will assist individuals in assessing their qualifications for an expungement.

Date: Oct. 28, 2016
Time: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Choctaw Nation Community Center
2408 E. Lincoln Road
Idabel, Ok 74745

Registration is limited so call as soon as possible
To Register for the clinic call 1-800-658-1497

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. at 1-800-658-1497.



Friends of the Heritage Horse Foundation Herds
— a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization —
cordially invite you to the

Salt Creek Choctaw Horse Pasture and Education Center

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Friday, September 23 at 10:00-11:30 am
Highway 93 at Salt Creek Road, Hugo, Oklahoma

Come celebrate with us the miracle of Salt Creek Choctaw Horse Pasture, a new home for some of the Heritage Horses of Oklahoma and an Educational Center for learning about their journey.

Guest Speakers, Refreshments, and Workshops about and with horses.

RSVP online: bit.ly/2aUFNFA or (317) 409-6517

Visit TheSpiritOfBlackJackMountain.com
Cover Photography by Neil Chapman

Mother Mound is the Heritage Home for all Choctaw People

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma may occupy 10 1/2 counties and identify as Oklahoma Choctaws, but all Choctaw people come from Nanih Waiya.

Nanih Waiya is a mound located in Mississippi between the Choctaw communities of Bogue Chitto and Crystal Ridge.

The mound currently stands at 25 feet high, 218 feet long and 140 feet wide, about the same measurements recorded in history.

This place is more than just a mound, “The site plays a central role in the tribe’s origin stories and is considered the heart of the Choctaw people,” according to Choctaw.org.

Under the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the mound was ceded to the United States government in the 1830s with the signing of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

In 1973, the mound was listed in the National Historical Registry and the mound was returned to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in 2008.

Mitzi Reed, Director of the

Wildlife and Parks Department for the Mississippi Choctaws, said, “This is considered our Mother Mound, this is where we established our tribes and it became our home.”

Nanih Waiya is called Mother Mound because in Choctaw tales, it gave birth to the Choctaw people.

There are different stories of Choctaw origin and most people relate to one story more than the others. Each story focuses on different aspects of the Choctaw peoples’ journey.

According to “Choctaw Tales,” a book collected and annotated by Tom Mould, the myths accomplish different goals.

“There is a sacred tie between the community and these stories that transcends the mundane,” wrote Mould. “For many, that sacred tie is symbolized by the Nanih Waiya mound. The mound remains a sacred spot in both the mental and physical landscapes of the community today.”

Reed said people come out at all times of the year and leave offerings on the steps of the mound.



A trailmarker near the Nanih Waiya caves where the CYCC was working on making a trail from the caves to the Nanih Waiya mound. The land surrounding the mound and the caves is full of lush greenery and wildlife.



Photos by Tina Firquain

The sign posted next to Nanih Waiya describing its history. A staricase was built along the side of the mound so visitors can easily walk up the mound and take in the view from the top.

Choctaw Hunting and Fishing Licenses

cont’d from page 1

trapping, and how we learn to trap. It is also important that we pass on to our future generations because these are becoming a lost art. It is important to keep our way of life. I think we accomplished what we wanted in this compact.”

While using the Compact License, tribal members will have to obey State and Tribal hunting and fishing laws and regulations. Whose law you are under will depend on whose land you are on at the time.

Oklahoma laws and regulations can be found at wildlifedepartment.com.

According to the Compact in Article II, Part 1 (b), Choctaw Nation will “Enact tribal legislation that is equal to or more restrictive than the official requirements for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife conservation as established by Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes and implement administrative rules.”

Licenses will expire on Dec. 31 of the calendar year issued and will be reissued in January the following year.

The Hunting and Fishing Compact is a temporary agreement and will expire Dec. 31, 2019.

The compact is temporary to allow the State and the Nation assess how effective and beneficial it will be.

Along with the privileges of the license, the Nation hopes to be adding new jobs in order to meet the processing demand and to expand and define a Choctaw Nation Wildlife Department.

The compact is going to cost the Nation up to \$375,000, according to Riley.

Chief Batton said, “The dollars will be coming from our General Operating Fund, which is funded through our tribal businesses. This is relatively low because we are paying \$2 per person for each license.”

The \$2 will help the ODWC get a rebate from the State.

Also, Choctaw Nation will be donating \$200,000 to the ODWC that will go directly towards their conservation efforts and will pay \$75,000 yearly for administration costs to help process the applications.

“We are providing some conservation fees because we as Native Americans have always been the first conservationists,” continued Chief Batton. “So we feel this is a small amount in regards to the protection of the environment as a whole and still giving us the opportunity to have hunting and fishing for our tribal members.”



If You’re A Choctaw Veteran, We Want You.

Tell us your story for a video library. Send your information to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Advocacy. veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com

Contact Roger Hamill
Deputy Director
(800)522-6170 ext. 2160

Dillard Brings Traditional Mound to Atoka

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard facilitated the creation of a mound on the Atoka Campus of the Choctaw Nation.

The idea of creating mounds and items of cultural significance in each district has been talked about by the Tribal Council and the Tourism Department for several years, but the funds have never been available.

The Atoka mound was possible due to the construction of the Choctaw Nation’s Atoka Head Start.

To build the head start, dirt had to be removed from the site and Councilman Dillard saw this as an opportunity to start the mound project.

“Rather than having the field dirt hauled off site, we just started piling it up and saving it to create this mound experience,” Dillard said.

The Choctaw Nation Facilities Department is providing manpower and fuel. The City of Atoka provided eight to ten loads of dirt for the project and delivered it to the site as well.

Dillard plans on having steps built on the side of the mound, as well as creating a small path for golf carts and wheelchairs. He also wants to put



Photo by Tina Firquain

District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard with community member Jim Lloyd on the wheelchair ramp on the back side of the Atoka Mound.

a brush arbor on top, plant grass and incorporate other plants, like fruits.

Dillard stated the mound is not to serve any spiritual purposes, but to be a connection with Choctaw history and heritage.

Jim Lloyd, a member of the Choctaw community in Atoka said, “This brings us back and is a touch with our

past that shouldn’t be forgotten.”

The mound will not be finished for a while, but Dillard hopes when it is completed, community singings and dinners will held on top of the mound.

“We’re creating something of cultural significance that we all can be proud of,” Dillard explained.

Labor Day Recycling

The Choctaw Nation Recycling Center set up a “Going Green” tent at the Labor Day Festival.

This year the group gave out 4,980 t-shirts. Friday, Saturday and Sunday they ran out of their allotted number of shirts before 4 p.m. and had to close their tent early.

This year the group was able to recycle 8,783 pounds and they are continuing to bring in more recycling from the festival.

Tracy Horst, Director of Project Management, said, “We had a very good year at the booth and greatly appreciate all who came by and all who volunteered to make it a success.”

(Top left and bottom right) The Going Green booth at Labor Day traded recyclables for t-shirts during the Labor Day Festival as an awareness of the importance of stewardship of our environment. (Left) The Going Green mascot, Luksi, was represented by a full-size photo-board. Cheyenne Tisho of Shawnee peeks through the face cut-out for a photograph.

Photos by Judy Allen



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Vanderbeck is a Notable Notary and Lawyer

The National Notary Association selected Shirley Vanderbeck as an honoree for the “National Notary of the Year.”

Vanderbeck is a Certified Notary Public (NP) and a Certified Notary Signing Agent (CNSA). She often volunteers for an array of lineage organizations by notarizing applications for prospective members free of charge.

Vanderbeck has been a notary for about 50 years and she has been in the legal profession for even longer.



Thomas Heymann, president and CEO of the National Notary Association, Shirley Vanderbeck and Milt Valera, Founding Editor & Publisher of the National Notary Magazine.

Gladys Holt is 90

Gladys Bowden Holt of Stillwater celebrated her 90th birthday on July 25 with her family. Holt and her family traveled to St. Louis and Branson, Missouri, to celebrate. The group attended two St. Louis Cardinals’ games, where the Cardinals noted her birthday on the scoreboard. In Branson, she dined with her family at the Branson Landing before sharing cake and ice cream. She also attended the shows *Moses* and *Jersey Nights* to wrap up the trip.



Kuykendall Celebrates One Year of Life

Oakley Iris Kuykendall turned 1 on September 8. She is the daughter of Kasey and Brittini Kuykendall, of Durant and granddaughter of Billy and Cindy Kuykendall of Cartwright. Her parents, grandparents, Uncle Joshy, and older siblings Avy, Zayden, Riley, Roman, and Talon would all like to wish her a happy first birthday as well as wishing Avy a happy birthday this month, also.



(Back row, left to right) Ronald Hicks, Carson Parks, Andrew Nash, James Cox, Colton O’Conner, Zeph Nord, Director-Dustin Stark. (Front row, left to right) Chief Batton, Sarah Baggett, Tristin Hawkins, Amanda Perez, Dan Cartisano, Dalton James, Gabe Louis.

Choctaw Nation IT Summer Internship Program Completes Successful Second Year

The Choctaw Nation Summer information technology internship program just completed its second year. Participants from around the United States applied for this opportunity, that is designed for current college students interested in a business or IT discipline.

Any students who apply must be a Choctaw tribal member and/ or Choctaw CDIB and a permanent U.S. resident. There are other minimum requirements for the internship that are available once the application process opens up at the beginning of the spring semester.

The internship is based in Durant with opportunity to work with the Government, Housing, Health and Commerce segment of the Choctaw Nation. The internship runs for 10 weeks during the summer and housing is available for those located outside the Durant area.

The Choctaw Nation IT internship creates a long standing relationship between the participants in the program and the Choctaw Nation itself. Students are integrated into ongoing projects and everyday situations that the IT department is involved in Application Development, Project Management, Service Desk Support, Infrastructure Engineering, Security Monitoring, and Quality Assurance (QA) Testing.

Participants also have the opportunity to learn about the Choctaw culture during field trips and classes designed to enhance tribal knowledge and leadership skills. All participating students are encouraged to return and work for the Choctaw Nation after their college career ends. Within the past two years, three students have been hired as full-time employees.

If you are interested in learning more about this internship, please email: itinternship@choctawnation.com.

National Association of Legal Professionals as the “National Award of Excellence” recipient, the highest honor given by that organization. The award was based on her career, knowledge of legal procedures, dedication to produce the best work possible and contributions to the community.

Vanderbeck contributes her time to the Los Angeles County Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House and House of Ruth for Battered Women and Victims of Domestic Violence; she also provides toiletries for men and women being deployed for military service.

She has always lived by the motto “You will never get to second base if you keep one foot on first,” and she said this is something she has told her children and grandchildren.

Following her motto, in the 1950s, Vanderbeck was a fierce competitor in roller-skating. She said, “It taught me dedication to a goal and discipline, stretched me beyond what I thought were my capabilities and even through lots of trial and error, you can eventually come out on top as a winner.”

Vanderbeck is from La Verne, California, and on her mother’s side is related to Chief Pushmataha, who served as chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1800 to his death in 1824.



(Left to right) Della Eisel, Barbara Turner, Judy Bryant, Carol Kemp, Kathleen Goins, Jan Francis, Jonette Dunlap, and Stormy Bryant.

Elders Visit Mississippi and Alabama

Elders from the Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance in Oklahoma City visited the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Fair at Philadelphia, Mississippi, on July 14.

The elders were able to meet visiting princesses from the Chickasaw Nation and the Choctaw District 4 Junior Miss Maddison Cosey.

They also visited the Moundville Archaeological Park at Moundville, Alabama, where they climbed Mound D, which is referred to as Chief’s Mound.

Stormy Bryant, a member of the group, said, “The personnel at the Moundville Park were extremely gracious and helpful and were really impressed that a group of Choctaw elders would come to visit, much less, climb all the way to the top of the largest mound.

Willis is First Runner-up

Akieley Willis, 8, was the first runner-up in the Little Miss Kiamichi Owa-Chito Choctaw Princess Pageant in June 2016. Her brother, Ashur Willis is very happy for his sister.

She is the daughter of the late Christina Willis and Kerry Willis of Wright City.



Battiest Recognized at Wheelock

Lawrence Battiest received a commendation at Wheelock Academy on July 20.

The Wheelock Cemetery Council (WCC) presented the commendation to Battiest and his work crew in recognition of good citizenship and work to

improve the Wheelock cemetery.

Christine Hack, Wheelock Cemetery Council President said, “The purpose of the recently formed WCC is to solicit and manage future pledges, endowments, and cash contributions that can be made for the purpose of cemetery maintenance and upkeep.”

Battiest works as a groundskeeper for the cemetery and always pays careful attention to his work and leaves the grounds looking good.

District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston said, “Congratulations to Lawrence. He has always proved to be a hard worker and he always does a good job. I know this because of my personal knowledge of him through the years.”

Johnsons Celebrate Shared Birthday

On July 28, 2016, Floyd Johnson, of Holdenville, turned 55. He shared his birthday with his daughter, Kimberly Naydean Johnson who was born on his birthday.



Gibson Turns 84

Henry Gibson would like to tell everyone who helped him celebrate his birthday, “Yakoke.”

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals. If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact:

*The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Angie Ansel, Payroll and Employee Services Accountant or by phone, 580.924.8280 x2467.*

Maranda Williams
Cindra Wright
Rebekkah Heath
Charles Russell
Jasmine Taylor
Gilbert Dale
Roger Edwards
Kelsey Danford
Alisa Chapman
Amber Garrett
Chelsie Turner
Guillermo Santos
Cicilia Mateo
Kristin Mings
Alyssa Wilson
Natasha Jones
Nakeshia Capehart
Rosie Mae Martinez
Emily Everitt
Jermaine Jimmerson
Marlene Conner
Jeremy James

CHOCTAW NATION VETERAN'S CEMETERY
THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA HONORS THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

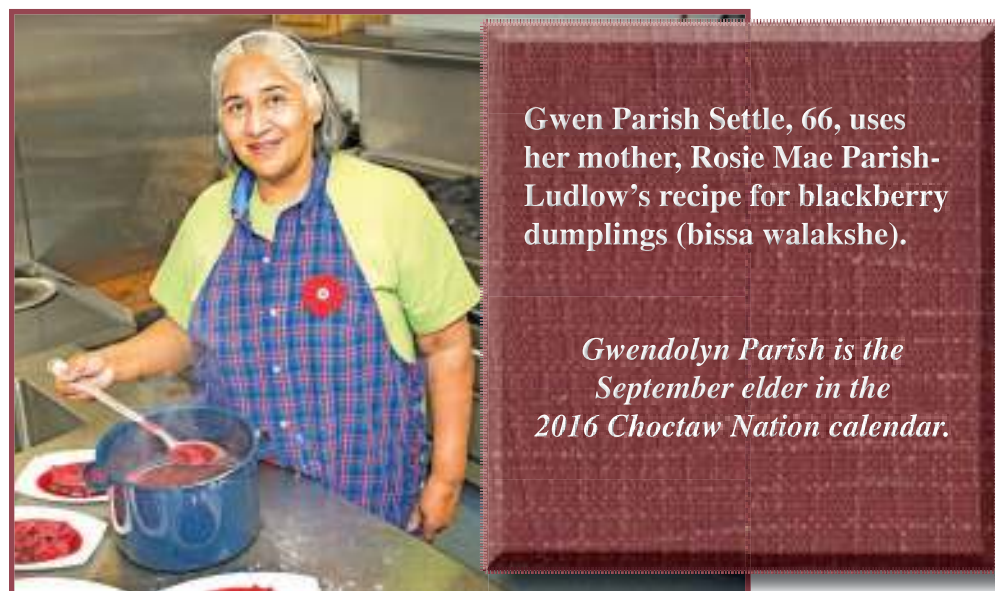
CHOCTAW VETERANS CEREMONY

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

YAKOKE TO ALL OUR VETERANS!

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture

A group photo of six people, three men and three women, standing and sitting in front of a backdrop featuring the 'SHS' logo and the words 'DANCE' and 'SPORTS'. The three people in the back row are standing, while the three in the front row are sitting at a table. The man on the left in the back row is wearing a black t-shirt with 'DANCE AND SPORTS' printed on it. The man in the center back row is wearing a black polo shirt. The man on the right back row is wearing a light-colored polo shirt. The man on the left front row is wearing a dark polo shirt. The man in the center front row is wearing a grey t-shirt and a baseball cap. The woman on the right front row is wearing a patterned top. The backdrop has 'SHS' logos and the words 'DANCE' and 'SPORTS' repeated.



PRE-HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION

**ARE YOU CONFUSED ABOUT HOME LOANS?
FIRST TIME HOME BUYER?
IS THERE A FINANCE PACKAGE AVAILABLE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?
NOT SURE WHERE TO START?
NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR CREDIT?**

Come to our pre-homeownership class to learn the important steps in the home buying process.

No Fees. All materials furnished. Preregistration is required
Classes are listed below please contact:

***Sheila Ramirez at 800-522-6170 ext. 4127 or
sramirez@choctawhousing.com to register.***

Shelbie Crow 580-579-4068 scrow@choctawhousing.com	Carrie Blackmon 580-317-7303 cblackmon@choctawhousing.com McAlester 10/11/2016 Durant 10/15/2016	Susan Shelton 580-372-3738 shelton@choctawhousing.com Battest 10/13/2016 Hugo 11/03/2016 Broken Bow 11/17/2016 Idabel 12/15/2016	Beckie Johnson 580-372-4154 bjohnson@choctawhousing.com Poteau 10/01/2016 Poteau 11/03/2016 Talihina 12/06/2016

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. Box G
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

Bigfoot 5k/1mile Run



**Honobia, Ok.
Saturday, October 1, 2016**

2016 Bigfoot Festival will be held at the Christ 40 Acres in Honobia, Ok. at the intersection of the Indian Trail Highway and State Highway 144, on Saturday, October 1st.

1 hr. time limit on 5k course.

- Event category will be 5k run/walk or 1 mile fun run/walk.
- Registration begins at 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM at the entrance of Christ 40 acres.
- Race begins at 9:00 AM at the entrance of Christ 40 acres.
- Photographer by Sept. 20th and you will receive a T-shirt.
- Casual participants will receive a T-shirt based on availability.
- Awards for 5k participants only - 1st-2nd & 3rd place male & female in each age category (5 year age groups). Ages 18 - 92nd to 10th place medals for overall male & female.
- Register by mail no later than September 30, 2016.
- After Sept. 30th you **MUST** register on site! **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
- Contact: Cherokee Nation (800) 343-7026 ext 0044 or 0075.
- Ch course will consist of a one mile on dirt, challenging course!

Name: _____ Race day age _____ Date of birth _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Male _____ Female _____

 If you plan on pushing a child in a stroller, please list name and circle shirt size for child:
(not for use for child in stroller, runner or person carried at one time during the race)

Name of child in stroller or wagon: _____

T-Shirt Adult (Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X **YOUTH** XSXL (2-4) SXL (6-8) Med. (10-12) Lg. (14-16) XLg. (18-20)

Circle One: 5k Run 1 mile fun run/walk


Waiver of Liability: I agree that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and agree to hold the Cherokee Nation harmless for any injury or loss suffered by me or anyone involved in participating. I understand that the Cherokee Nation is not responsible for any injury or loss caused by the negligence of those parties. I understand that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I agree full permission for the organizers to use photograph of me or any child in the Bodanik or other Cherokee Nation promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Street: _____ Date: _____


Parent or Guardian must sign if under 18 years.


Mail registration form to:
Cherokee Nation Healthy Lifestyle
c/o Cherokee Way
Tulsa, OK 74171

 Oklahoma Tobacco Highway
1 800 QUIT NOW

 Imagine
the
possibilities . . .

**Choctaw Nation
Of Oklahoma's
Educational Talent Search
and
High School Student Services
are co-hosting a
FREE ACT Prep Workshop
For Grades 9—12
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Kiamichi Vo-tech, Durant, OK
8:30 am—Noon**





***You must be pre-registered and a Talent Search or High School Student
*Support Services participant in order to attend this workshop. ETS students,
*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. HSSB students,
*please call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 4105 to register or obtain program information.**

CHOCTAW COLLEGE CONNECT

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.
Event concludes at 1:30 p.m.

◆

November 5, 2016
Choctaw Event Center

◆

Registration opens August 1, 2016 at
www.choctawcollegeconnect.com

A CHOCTAW EXCLUSIVE EVENT

 **Choctaw Nation**
"Faith • Family • Culture"

A Link To Your Future

make better beverage choices

10 tips to get started

What you drink is as important as what you eat. Many beverages contain added sugars and offer little or no nutrients, while others may provide nutrients but too much fat and too many calories. Here are some tips to help you make better beverage choices.

- 1

drink water
 Drink water instead of sugary drinks.
 Regular soda, energy or sports drinks,
 and other sweet drinks usually contain a lot of
 added sugar, which provides more calories than
 needed.
- 2

how much water is enough?
 Try your thirst be your guide. Water is an important
 nutrient for the body, but everyone's needs are
 different. Most of us get enough water from the foods we eat
 and the beverages we drink. A healthy body can balance water
 throughout the day. Drink plenty of water if you are very
 active, live or work in hot conditions, or are an older adult.
- 3

a thrifty option
 Water is usually easy on the wallet. You can save money
 by drinking water from the tap at home or when eating out.
- 4

manage your calories
 Drink water with and between your meals. Adults
 and children take in about 400 calories per day as
 beverages—drinking water can help you manage your calories.
- 5

kid-friendly drink zone
 Make water, low-fat or fat-free milk, or
 100% juice available in your home.
 Have ready-to-go containers filled with water or
 healthy drinks available in the refrigerator. Place them
 in lunch boxes or backpacks for easy access when
 kids are away from home. Depending on age, children can
 drink ½ to 1 cup, and adults can drink up to 1 cup of 100% fruit
 or vegetable juice* each day.
- 6

don't forget your dairy**
 When you choose milk or milk alternatives, select
 low-fat or fat-free milk or fortified soy milk. Each type of
 milk offers the same key nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D,
 and potassium, but the number of calories are very different.
 Older children, teens, and adults need 3 cups
 of milk per day, while children 4 to 8 years old
 need 2½ cups and children 2 to 3 years old
 need 2 cups.
- 7

enjoy your beverage
 When water just won't do—enjoy the beverage of
 your choice, but just cut back. Remember to check the
 serving size and the number of servings in the can, bottle, or
 container to stay within calorie needs. Select smaller cans,
 cups, or glasses instead of large or supersized options.
- 8

water on the go
 Water is always convenient. Fill a
 clean, reusable water bottle and
 toss it in your bag or briefcase to keep your
 thirst through the day. Reusable
 waters are also easy on the environment.
- 9

check the facts
 Use the Nutrition Facts label to choose beverages at
 the grocery store. The food label and ingredients list
 contain information about added sugars, saturated fat, sodium,
 and calories to help you make better choices.
- 10

compare what you drink
Food-A-Pedia, an online feature available
 at www.SuperTracker.usda.gov, can help you
 compare calories, added sugars, and fats in your favorite
 beverages.
** Milk is a part of the Dairy Group. A cup = 1 cup of yogurt or
 ⅓ ounces of natural cheese, or 2 ounces of processed cheese.

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
(USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.)

GoToYour.ChooseMyPlate.gov
for more information

DGI SheetNo. 19
Revised January 2016



Iti Fabussa

Choctaw Family

Last month, the writers of Iti Fabussa received a request from a reader asking us to write an article about the way Choctaw families were organized in the past and about the roles of the different family members. The following presents what we know about Choctaw families as they were 100 years before the Trail of Tears.

The Choctaw family has always existed within the larger parameters and world view of Choctaw society.

In the 1700s, Choctaw society was divided into two parts, or two moieties that functioned together. For example, members of one moiety assisted members of the other moiety through the mourning process when a family member died. Similarly, when Choctaw people were tried for murder, one moiety was the prosecution, the other the defense. Choctaw men and women had to select their spouse from the moiety opposite to his or her own. In bringing the two moieties together under one roof, marriage created balance in Choctaw society. This is reflected in the Choctaw term for family “chuka achafa,” which literally means “one house.”

A husband and wife lived together under one roof, but

the arrangements were often different than in Euro-American society. The couple generally lived near the wife’s family or sometimes with her parents. At times in the past, there was a taboo against a Choctaw man making eye contact with his mother-in-law. If they lived in the same house, a partition was set up to keep this taboo from accidentally being broken.

Because of men’s dangerous responsibilities on the battlefield and in hunting, there were more Choctaw women than men. Choctaw society addressed this problem by allowing a successful man to marry multiple wives if he so desired, although many men chose to marry only one woman. Men who married multiple wives most often chose sisters. Sisters married to the same man never lived under the same roof, but sometimes lived in adjacent houses. Occasionally, a man would marry unrelated women, and keep multiple households with them in different villages. When a man with multiple wives died, each woman considered herself the head of her own household. Marriage was consensual, and could end as informally as a woman setting her former husband’s weapons outside the home, or it could last for a lifetime.

When children were born,

they inherited their mother’s moiety; in essence this was equivalent to the way that we inherit our father’s family name today. At Tribal functions, the children took part in the activities of their mothers’ moiety, while their father took part in the activities of his own moiety. If a mother died, the children went to live with her family, rather than with their living father, in order to stay within their own moiety.

A husband and wife did not refer to each other by name, because to do so would have been considered disrespectful. Instead, they would use “ahattak” (my husband), or “satekchi” (my wife). If the couple had children, they would refer to each other as “my child’s father” or “my child’s mother.” Having never heard them spoken, children often did not know their parent’s names, referring to them simply as “aki” or “sashki” (my father or my mother).

Choctaw family structure was much broader than today’s concept of a nuclear family; it reflected the community-based lifestyle of a Choctaw village. Children referred to their mother’s sisters and father’s brothers’ wives as “mother.” All of these women were of the same moiety as the biological mother and children. Although a mother would

usually be closest with her own biological children, all of the women that a child called “mother” ultimately had some responsibility for raising that child. Mothers were responsible for making sure that their households had food every day, making sure that their homes were in good repair, tending their family’s agricultural fields, and educating their daughters. Daughters would spend most of the day with their mothers, observing and later taking part in their daily activities, and through the process, learning the many skills necessary to one day take care of their own households.

Children referred to their father’s brothers and mother’s sister’s husbands as “father.” All of these men were of the opposite moiety as the children. A father was responsible for protecting his community and family on the battlefield. He was also responsible for hunting to provide meat for his wife(s) and children. However, the most important male figures for children were their mother’s brothers, which they called “amushi.” Because they were of his own moiety, a man had more of a role in raising and educating his sister’s children than his own. Choctaw uncles were responsible for correcting their nephews, although discipline was quite light compared to European standards. Uncles, or respected elder men would spend daylight hours with male youth, supervising games and contests between them that would sharpen

their skills for survival on the hunt and in battle. As boys matured, they were taken on hunting trips with their fathers or uncles, and eventually began to participate in Tvshka Chipunta, or small defensive units that patrolled Choctaw lands.

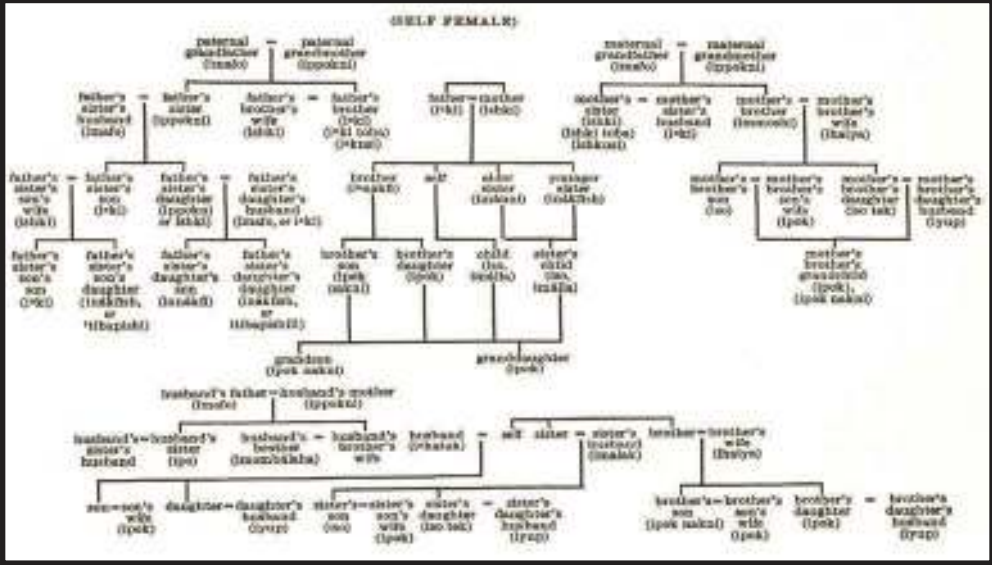
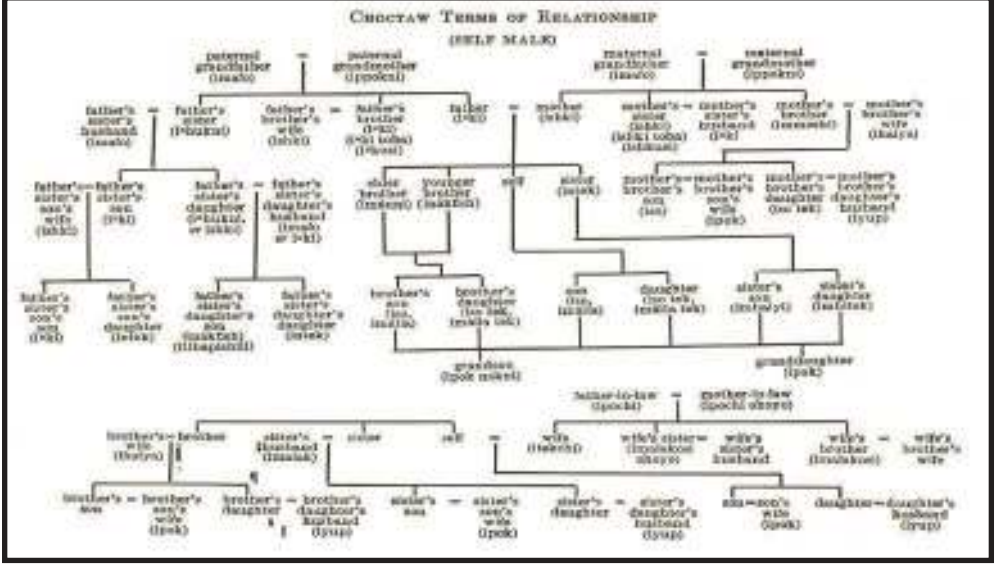
The traditional Choctaw family system may be a bit different from what most of our readers are used to seeing, but it shares many similarities with the traditional family structures of other Native American communities as well as other groups from around the world. The Choctaw family structure described before was adapted to the time and place, in which it existed. The way that it was set up and the way that daily activities were carried out allowed children to interact with a broad range of family members of different generations, experiences, and knowledge to draw from as they were growing up. It created a way of living such that elderly people, in looking back at their lives, had spent nearly every day working, laughing, and sharing life experiences with family. The concept of moiety provided Choctaw individuals with an extended family system, through which they could find relatives in any Choctaw village or household and receive assistance, when needed. In a time when slaving raids, attacks, and European diseases took huge numbers of Choctaw lives, this family structure, which assigned children multiple mothers and multiple male care takers, helped families to physically endure the loss


of providers and continue on.

In the 1800s, through influence from missionaries and other Euro-Americans, who conceived of families as paternalist, nuclear households, Choctaw family structure changed. The Choctaw moiety system was discontinued after the Trail of Tears; plural marriage has not been practiced since about that time, and for more than 100 years, Choctaw people have inherited their father’s last name.

Today, the structure of Choctaw families is in many ways identical to that of the diverse people who now live around us, but a little bit of the ancient still remains.

Through church, social activities, and regular phone calls, many Choctaw families maintain close ties with relatives that Euro-American society would considered to be quite distant. There are humorous and recent stories of young Choctaw people, who in talking with their grandmother, have been horrified to learn that someone they thought they might have a crush on was a sixth cousin-and vowed to marry someone from outside the tribe. In modern Choctaw households, it is not uncommon for children, parents, grandparents, and perhaps even aunts, uncles, and cousins to live under one roof, or as nearby neighbors. Through this, as well as participating in the larger “family” of the Choctaw Nation, we retain a spirit of Choctaw family and community that is timeless.





Pathways to Success

The Next Step Initiative is designed to assist Choctaw tribal members who are working, or on social security, retirement or disability. If you have been denied Food Distribution for making too much money, the Next Step Initiative may be able to help. This initiative issues vouchers to local grocery stores. It is not only for groceries but other necessity items of the household.

Through this program you will learn about financial freedom and healthy living. Everyone needs help at some point in time. Having a set income or making the same amount each week or month and not knowing how you will feed the family or yourself for the week or month is a sad feeling. As you get started on our program we will let you fix a budget, watch a webinar and just see what the possibilities are to having financial freedom.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ MINIMUM OF ONE (1) CHOCTAW TRIBAL MEMBER IN HOUSEHOLD
- ▶ NO HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SNAP PROGRAM (FOOD STAMPS)
- ▶ RESIDE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA (10 1/2 COUNTIES)
- ▶ MUST BE A WORKING HOUSEHOLD (SOME EXEMPTIONS APPLY – SSI, SS, GA, RETIREMENT, ETC.)
- ▶ INCOME BRACKET IS ABOVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION INCOME REQUIREMENTS - CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Note: All qualifications are established on individual basis. In order for an accurate assessment, please call a Next Step Social Worker at your local Food Distribution Center listed below.

Durant Food Distribution Center (580) 924-7773
Antlers Food Distribution Center (580) 298-6443
McAlester Food Distribution Center (918) 420-5716
Poteau Food Distribution Center (918) 649-0431
Broken Bow Food Distribution Center (580) 584-2842



Choctaw Nation Division of Commerce

Department of Economic Development

Small Business Development Services

The CSBDS provides business assistance to Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs that want to start or expand their business.

Choctaw Tribal members that utilize the services will receive specialized technical assistance through one-on-one business counseling, training workshops, an extensive network of business assistance programs and educational networking opportunities. Assistance offered includes, but is not limited to:


- Business Planning
- Access to Financing
- Marketing
- Business Counseling
- 8(a) Certification Assistance
- Business Taxes
- Business Registration
- Minority Business Registration
- Bid Assistance

September Events Calendar:
(Please contact CSBDS for more details)

Sept 9 McAlester: Tax Workshop 9:00-12:00
Sep 16 Antlers: Tax Workshop 9:00-12:00
Sept 22 Durant: Tax Workshop 9:00-12:00

Visit www.ChoctawSmallBusiness.com to register today!

bhamilton@choctawnation.com or 580-924-8280 ext.2901



ANNUAL ALL NIGHT GOSPEL SINGING

Saturday, October 22, 2016


First Indian Baptist Church
608 West Tyler Street
McAlester Oklahoma

Supper 5:00 PM.
Convention Class Singing 6:00 PM.
Group Singing 7:00 PM.

MC: Joe Coley
Wilburton, Oklahoma

All solos, duets, trios, quartets, church choirs and listeners are welcome.

I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO UNTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.



Chahta Anumpa

Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Language Background:

As in all ancient cultures, time was measured by the movement of the sun and its corresponding shadows cast upon the ground at intervals throughout the day. The Choctaw word for time is "hoshikvni". It is a compound word made up of "hosh" meaning "sun" and "kvni" meaning "moving". It is pronounced as it is written but in speaking it is often pronounced "hoshikvni" with the first part of "hosh" dropped.

Vocabulary:

look - hoshna look	road - hacheta	evening - oppa
eat - hopeni	grocery - hopeni	to buy - chopena
to go - hi	come get up - hosh	dog - offi
food - upa	make - nan ala	to hear - hahla
work - hoshna	sleep - hosh	like - vapt
you get on ready dressed - chah vishna	soon - hoshna	see with - pise
morning - onashini	what - nanta	not - hosh
you - ish	future tense - a chig	
just now - hi		

Numbers:

1 - ashvna	7 - ashvna
2 - naha	8 - ashvna
3 - hoshna	9 - ashvna
4 - naha	10 - ashvna
5 - hoshna	11 - ashvna
6 - hoshna	12 - ashvna

Time/Location:

just before - hosh
a little after - ashvna
thence - hosh
before - hosh
after - ashvna
around - hosh

Activity Worksheet: Translate the Choctaw sentences to English utilizing the vocabulary words.

Hvshikvni nanta hosh ... ? (What time do/did/will you...?)

- ... hoshna ish hoshvna tuk? **What time did you read the paper?**
- ... hoshna chopena ish hi chig?
- ... ish hosh?
- ... chah offi ish hosh?
- ... nan ala ish hosh?
- ... hoshvni ish hi?
- ... ish hosh?
- ... ish hosh?
- ... chah vishna chig?
- ... TV ish hosh?
- ... onashini ish hosh?
- ... ish hoshna tuk?

Answers will be in next month's issue.

www.choctawschool.com

WANT ALL THE LATEST IN CHOCTAW NEWS & EVENTS?

Keep in touch with fellow Choctaws through the Biskinik and our social media sites. Stay up-to-date with:

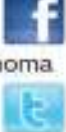
- Cultural events
- Education assistance
- Birth announcements
- Obituaries
- Tribal Council updates
- Choctaw success stories
- And more!

Subscriptions and submissions are free services to members of the Choctaw Nation.

Address Change or Sign Up:
800.522.6170
Ext. 2116 or 2409 or 2310 or
Abentley@choctawnation.com

To Submit Stories:
biskinik@choctawnation.com
or
Choctaw Nation
Attn: Editor
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Visit the Choctaw Nation on:
www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma
[@ChoctawNationOK](https://twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK)



Community Meetings

Tacoma & Eugene



During the Community Meeting in Eugene, Oregon, four generations of the Caldwell family, Gabe Buehler, Christina Buehler, Earl Caldwell Sr., Summer Caldwell, Nicole Chetwood, Joseph Chetwood, Cindy Caldwell, Ella Biehler, Vincent Buehler and Autumn Buehler had their picture taken with Chief Gary Batton (far right) and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. Earl was born in Rufe, Oklahoma.



Keosha Ludlow, Sharon Dodson, Brad Joe, Mandy Lawson, Jared Tom, and Mike Scott teach the Raccoon Dance to a group of kids in Tacoma, Washington.

Photos by Lisa Reed



Tom Davies shares a story with Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin during the Tacoma Community Meeting.



Glenna Logan Creasy and daughter-in-law Sheila of Toledo attended the cultural gathering in Eugene. Glenna was raised in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma.



Chief Batton welcomes Billie Stearns of Eugene to the cultural meeting. Stearns celebrated her 91st birthday in June.



Nashoba and Kenji Tiner check out the bows on the traditional weaponry table in Eugene.



Artist Adrian Hanson and her daughter, Sophia, display Adrian's art in Tacoma.



Linda Shutters admires the beadwork on display with Keosha Ludlow and Gennavie Tom at the Community Meeting in Tacoma.

2016-17 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant - A Live Streamed Success with New Faces to Represent the Nation

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation 2016-17 Princesses are Little Miss Isabella Muncy from District 6, Junior Miss Savannah Herndon from District 8, and Senior Miss Karen Crosby from District 7.

The pageant was host to many new contestants along with a new style of pageant production.

This year, there were a total of 28 contestants, 11 in the Junior and Little Miss categories and six in the Senior Miss category.

Choctaw Nation Cultural Services, along with the new BiskinikTV crew put on the pageant and reformatted the program to mirror other pageants.

The pageant was also live streamed with commercial breaks and backstage interviews with BiskinikTV hosts, Candace Perkins and Seth Fairchild.

Chief Gary Batton said, "I was so excited that we were able to live stream the princess pageant and highlight our BiskinikTV. This is a first for Choctaw Nation, and more importantly, it allowed our tribal members across the nation to share in our culture."

The senior contestants took the stage first. They gave their introductions; MC Nic Charleston gave their biographies and Candace Folsom read their dress descriptions. The contestants were then asked randomly chosen questions. After answering the question the ladies performed their talent.

Many of the senior contestants sang, but Gennavie Tom chanted while beating a hand drum and Cherish Wilkerson signed the Lord's Prayer.

The junior contestants followed the same stage performances as the seniors. Many of them sang as well, but Raven Noriega and Savannah Herndon played

the Native American flute.

The Little Miss contestants were the last to walk the stage and they did not have a talent portion. When asked their on-stage questions, each gave their answer confidently.

Little Miss Choctaw Nation Isabella Muncy from Red Oak is the eight-year-old daughter of Dustin and Meagan Muncy. She attends Red Oak Elementary School. Muncy enjoys singing, dancing, playing outside, and playing with her dog. She also likes to take tumbling class and attending the Chata Anumpa class.

Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Savannah Herndon from Soper is the 14-year-old daughter of Thomas and Angela Herndon. Herndon attends Soper High School. She enjoys reading and cheerleading. She is very involved in her church and she likes to spend time with her family, friends and her animals.

Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby from Wright City is the 18-year-old daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth Crosby. She graduated from Wright City High School and now attends Carl Albert State College. Crosby enjoys reading, camping, fishing, and hunting, as well as math, cooking, beading, and singing. She plays softball and basketball and is learning to speak Choctaw.

The exiting royalty for the Choctaw Nation are Little Miss Ariana Byington, Junior Miss Loren Crosby, and Senior Miss Neiatha Hardy. They will still be involved in the Choctaw culture, but will no longer represent the Nation as royalty.

Chief Gary Batton said, "As always, the Princess Pageant is my favorite night of the festival because it highlights our faith, family, and culture. The new princesses are as beautiful and talented as ever and I am sure they will be great ambassadors for the Choctaw Nation."



Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., along with Councilmen District 8, Perry Thompson; District 7, Jack Austin, Sr.; and District 6, Joe Coley pose with 2016-17 Choctaw Nation Princesses. (front from left) Junior Miss Savannah Herndon from District 8, Senior Miss Karen Crosby from District 7, and Little Miss Isabella Muncy from District 6.



(left) Little Miss Isabella Muncy and her parents share their excitement after she was crowned 2016-17 Little Miss Choctaw Nation. (above) Little Miss contestants line up backstage ready to take the stage.



Senior Miss Karen Crosby (left) sang "Hymn 121" as her talent and Junior Miss Savannah Herndon (right) played an original song, "Evening Prayer" on her Native American flute as her talent for the 2016 Princess Pageant.

Photos by Deidre Elrod



All the contestants of the 2016-17 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant before the show began. There were a total of 28 princesses competing to be ambassadors for the Choctaw Nation.