



BISKINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

October 2016 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session September 10 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

A new Council Speaker was voted in. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Approved a Service Line Agreement with PSO on Land USA Trust in Pushmataha Co. Oklahoma.
- Approved an easement on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land with O.G.&E. in Bryan Co. Oklahoma.
- Approved an investment in Austin, Texas, real property development.
- Approved reconciling Capital Projects and bills for FY15 and FY16.
- Amended CB-114-15, corrected the source of matching funds.
- Funds and budget for the Native American Library Services Basic Grant.
- Funds and budget for the Talent Search Program.
- Modification #1 of the Funds and budget for the National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Grant.
- Funds and budget for the Injury Prevention Program.
- Approved the rescission of CB-100-92 and CB-097-97.
- Approved to dispose of surplus equipment.
- Approved the FY17 Operating and Capital Projects Budgets for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Approved the FY17 Consolidated Tribal Government Programs Budgets for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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

Officers for 2016-17 are as follows:
Council Speaker, Delton Cox; Secretary, Ron Perry; and Chaplain, Joe Coley.

Faith•Family•Culture	2
Sports	4
Notes to the Nation.....	5
Iti Fabvssa	6
People You Know	8
Health	9
Obituaries	10-11
Labor Day	14-20

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.

Digital Copy
Scan this code with your smart-phone to go online for this issue and archive copies of the BISKINIK: <http://www.choctawnation.com/news-room/biskinik-newspaper-archive/>



Photos by Choctaw Nation

Shane Sparks helps a young Angus calf get its footing on the Daisy ranch. The ranch in Daisy is one of seven ranches owned by the Choctaw Nation.

By KENDRA GERMANY
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma adds raising Cattle for Certified Angus Beef (CAB) to its ever-growing list of business ventures.

Since 2014, the nation has purchased and is maintaining nearly 65,000 acres of ranch land with the goal of raising and distributing CAB. The Choctaw Nation also uses these ranches to expand the nation's reach in other agricultural areas such as pecan production.

According to Shannon McDaniel, Executive Director of Agriculture, the Choctaw Nation currently owns and operates seven ranches throughout southeastern Oklahoma. The ranches are located in Daisy, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, Sawyer, Tom, and Tvshka Homma. These ranches vary in size and operational purpose.

According to McDaniel, the ranch in Daisy is the largest in size, and the ranch in Hugo is currently the smallest.

"Some of the ranches are predominantly just for cattle, being Tvshka Homma and Daisy," said McDaniel. "Idabel is much more diverse, because it has about 1,800 pecan trees, plus cattle. We do our



Photo by Ronni Pierce

District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard, District 5 Councilman Ron Perry, Chief Gary Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. honor Maricie Smith and Eugene Branam (center) as the latest recipients of Outstanding Choctaw Elders.

Smith, Branam Named Outstanding Elders

By RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

Thirty-three seniors from southeastern Oklahoma vied for the honor of being the 2016 Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elder on September 27 at the Choctaw Casino Magnolia Ballroom.

Maricie Smith from Atoka in District 10 and Eugene Branam from Stigler in District 5 were accompanied by their respective Councilmen, Anthony Dillard and Ron Perry, as they accepted their trophies and posed for photographs.

A packed house filled with the elders and their

families listened to Chief Gary Batton deliver a welcoming speech then watched performances from the newest Choctaw Royalty.

Senior Miss Karen Crosby sang The National Anthem, a cappella, Junior Miss Savannah Herndon played Evening Prayer on the flute, then Little Miss Isabella Muncy joined them for the Lord's Prayer sung by Scott Wesley.

Complete biographies for each of the Outstanding Elders will be in the November edition of the Biskinik.

'Top-of-the-Line' is the Goal for Choctaw Nation Agriculture

hay production there as well."

According to Chief Gary Batton, getting involved in the agriculture business was natural for the Choctaw Nation.

"We have been in the agriculture business since 1975. However, to raise Certified Angus Beef has been a new thing for us," said Chief Batton. "To us, the Choctaw Nation, providing Certified Angus Beef is a part of our overall vision of achieving healthy, successful, and productive lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaw people."

According to McDaniel, the cattle owned and raised by the Choctaw Nation is top of the line.

"When you look at these animals, you see probably some of the best cattle in the nation. Not just Oklahoma, not just within the tribe," said McDaniel. "That has been very intentional and well thought out."

In order for beef to be marked as CAB, it has to pass a series of quality tests.

According to Certified Angus Beef's website, "To earn the Certified Angus Beef brand name, cattle must first be Angus-influenced, with a predominantly black coat." Then the beef must pass the CAB's 10 exacting specifications under the categories of marbling and maturity, consistent sizing, and quality appearance and tenderness.

Once beef has passed all of those standards, it is ready to be called Certified Angus Beef.

McDaniel is confident in having the best of the best cattle on the market.

McDaniel also stated that this wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of employees of the Choctaw ranches.

"Each day, they look for certain things, they look for animal health. They have all been through beef quality assurance training, so they are all certified. They all know what to look for each day," said McDaniel.

For Chief Batton, raising cattle seemed like a natural business for the Choctaw Nation to get into.

"For those of us who grew up in southeastern Oklahoma, ranching is in our blood," said Chief Batton. "The Choctaw people have always been agriculture pro-

ducers. They have always raised their own livestock. Adding Cattle to the mix just seemed like a natural thing to do."

According to Janie Dillard, Executive Director of Gaming, once production and distribution of the CAB begins, it will be served throughout the Choctaw Casinos and other food outlets within the Choctaw Nation.

"Being able to take our Certified Angus Beef back into our restaurants to be served to our guests on a daily basis is something to be proud of," said Dillard. "Our Certified Angus Beef will be served in our 1832 Steakhouse, in every one of our food outlets in our casinos, and in our cafeterias for our



Choctaw Ranch employees get ready to feed the cattle at the Choctaw Ranch in Daisy. This ranch is the largest owned by the Choctaw Nation and consists of approximately 45,000 acres.

tribal members and employees. It is all apart of our vision."

According to Chief Batton, the Choctaw people were among the first conservationists.

"We want to protect this wonderful land, from the water we drink to the air we breathe. It is a part of who we have always been. We want to be sure and protect and sustain our land, our animals and our wildlife. That is who we are as the Choctaw people," said Chief Batton.

According to McDaniel, the first wave of production will start in March.

"We will probably have some that goes into production starting in December. We'll either sell them or they will go into the feed lots," said McDaniel.

The public can look forward to hopefully seeing Choctaw beef on the shelves as soon as March.

Standing Strong With Standing Rock

By RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

On a cold and rainy September day, representatives from the Choctaw Nation arrived in Bismarck, North Dakota, to collect supplies for the Sacred Stone Camp at Standing Rock Reservation.

"We're getting into the winter months up here in North Dakota," said Jeff Hansen, Director of Emergency Management. "Right now temperatures have already dropped into the 50s and it will quickly decline from there. So we want to make sure these folks are taken care of, are staying warm, and are not at risk while they are fighting for what they believe in."

And what they are fighting for and over is water.

Energy Transfer Partners plans on building a 1,200-mile oil pipeline through Lakota reservation land. The pipeline, which has the capacity to pump half a million barrels of crude oil through



Photos by Payton Guthrie

Choctaw Cody Wilson, originally from Idabel now living in Idaho, was just one of many Chahtas making their way to Standing Rock to show their support.

the line daily, will run a portion of the proposed pipeline under the Missouri River which runs across Lakota land. The citizens of Standing Rock Lakota Reservation oppose the pipeline over potential oil spills under the water source and other ecological concerns.

"I received a request from Chief Batton and my executive director to make contact with the tribe and see how the Choctaw Nation would be able to assist," Hansen continued. "We've been coordinating with the [Lakota] tribe's Emergency Manager, Elliott Ward, to discuss some of the items they

needed."

Once in Bismarck, the group made several shopping stops buying sleeping bags, generators, chain saws, and propane heaters, things needed to survive a long North Dakota winter.

The continuous rain prevented the supplies from being delivered directly to the camp so the group was diverted to the Lakota Nation's administrative offices where they presented a letter from Chief Batton to Tribal Councilman-At-Large Charles Walker.

"All the assistance coming in from all the nations, it's humbling," Walker began. **cont'd on page 6**

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



Combining the Past and Present to Plan for the Future

and the state to create a plan that will preserve and protect Sardis Lake water. The pending agreement has been passed in the U.S. Senate and will now be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Protecting Sardis will ensure there is enough water for residents. It ensures there is enough water for economic growth and development of recreation, fish, and wildlife uses. Most importantly, we have the right to say how much water stays in the lake.

Another important agreement made this year is the Nation's hunting and fishing compact. It, too, upholds our sovereignty and gives tribal members the opportunity to obtain a Choctaw Nation hunting and fishing license. We learned a lot during the process. We continued to build our relationship with the state while expressing what is important for tribal members.

With the hunting and fishing compact we will be able to use traditional Choctaw weapons such as the atlatl, one of the oldest weapons recorded to be used by Indian tribes. The atlatl is used to propel a dart, sometimes up to 100 miles an hour. I would like to see the atlatl become popular again among Choctaw hunters. Tribal members can also practice traditional hunting and fishing methods using blowguns, rabbit sticks, and spears. The usage of these tools, the same wielded by our ancestors, honors the culture of all Choctaw people.

The Choctaw Nation has purchased 2,556 acres of land since April 2014—including over 900 acres this year—bringing the total owned by the tribe to 71,523 acres. We have added to our ranches and bought land for economic development.

Starting Black Angus cattle herds on our ranches has optimized tens of thousands of acres, generating a renewable revenue stream for the tribe. The tribe's herd currently consists of 2,100 Black Angus cattle and they have begun producing calves. Ranch operations also include producing hay and pecans.

Choctaw people were farmers and it's important to remember the health and economic benefits of growing our own food. Farm-to-table practices will eventually allow the tribe to provide beef and produce in our markets.

I see a unique mingling of ancient Choctaw culture, centuries of tradition, and modern lifestyles to define who we are today—a Nation of people who do not forget, who stand strong, and who keep our eyes to the future.



October is Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This month can be viewed through an array of colors representing many facets of our lives.

Fall is a time of change reflected in the beautiful foliage that signals the end of warmer temperatures and the approach of winter. I look forward to the Fall Fest held for Choctaw elders every year by the Community Health Representatives. The elders are bussed to McAlester for a day of educational information, fun entertainment and lunch. They thoroughly enjoy their daytrip.

And, our family has a great time at the Outreach Services' Harvest Carnival at Tvshka Homma where the haunted trail is a favorite. The kids (and a few adults) wear their

costumes and enjoy the games. The carnival is scheduled for Oct. 21 this year.

October is the kickoff for many health and awareness campaigns. Flu shots are available, so please find time to visit a clinic for yours or check with your field office to see when a health representative will be at your center. Last year, through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 23,987 doses of flu vaccines were administered. This made a marked difference in school closures within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

October is also recognized as the month to raise awareness of the domestic violence problems in our country. Native women are more victimized than any U.S. segment. Statistics show that 64 percent of American Indian women will be assaulted in their lifetime. We encourage everyone to wear purple during the month of October to show others how ending domestic violence is important to you. The Choctaw Nation has programs available to address domestic (family) violence. Please log on to ChoctawNation.com for more information.

Pink is a popular color year round. In October it stands out as a reminder that it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In 2016, there are more than 2.8 million women with a history of breast cancer in the United States. This includes women currently being treated and women who have finished treatment.

Choctaw Nation Health Services has several events planned including Paint the Town Pink on Oct. 15 in Talihina. The activities include a pancake breakfast, bike ride, trail ride, and March on Main Street.

Caring for others is a characteristic of most people. Gathering in fellowship or to educate about real life problems are ways we can improve elder care, our family units, and the future for our youth. Yakoke to all who devote their time to helping others.



Photo by Judy Allen

Above: The pending Sardis Lake Agreement is being considered in Washington D.C. The agreement will protect the lake for future generations. Below: The TI Valley Ranch is one of many Choctaw Nation ranches.



Photo by Choctaw Nation

Capitol Museum Opens New Exhibit About Choctaw Council House

By Tina Firquain

Choctaw Nation

The Labor Day 2016 Festival was host to many new things including the Choctaw Capitol Exhibit in the Museum building.

Regina Green, Director of the Choctaw Nation Museum, worked with her colleagues to put together the exhibit in the entry of the building.

The placement was important because Green wanted to keep the spaces architectural style and keep it welcoming while giving some history. "I thought it was important for people to realize what they are walking into," said Green.

The team spent about nine months conducting research, talking to elders and historians, and finding the images.

Green came up with the idea of making this exhibit because she wanted to share her love and knowledge of the building with others who visit the museum. She said, "This is the history of the Capitol building. It has a lot of good information that, I think, no one is really aware of."

The Capitol building was built in 1884. According to Green, the Capitol building



Photos by Tina Firquain

Above is a photo of the Council House in Tvshka Homma with documents and artifacts from when it was first used as the Choctaw Council House and below is the name of the section of the exhibit which lies behind the encased documents.



On both sides of the Council House photograph are informational panels about the history of Tvshka Homma and the building. Some of the information provided on the panels is not otherwise available to the public, according to Green. Information includes, "Builder H. T. Jackman contracted to construct the new building for \$30,000," and "A college in Durant purchased the property with the intention of building a museum from the brick on their campus. Action by the Choctaw Advisory Council repurchased the building and saved it from this tragic end."

Below the Council House photograph are documents, a proclamation by the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Jefferson Gardner, from Aug. 20, 1896, and a book of the laws of the Choctaw Nation from 1886 to 1891.

Artifacts from the building also sit under the photograph on display.

Opposite the exhibit is a TV monitor playing videos about the Choctaw Culture today.

Green has a fondness for the building that pushed her to create this exhibit.

She said, "I have always had a love for this building and when I was a child the building was still in disuse." She continued, "This place is so important to me and to all the Choctaw people. I think it will be very meaningful to a lot of people."

Green shared that she believed when the builders were working, "they put their heart and soul in it."

The Choctaw Capitol Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on holidays.

Other features include a Lighthorsemen, Trail of Tears, and Choctaw Code Talkers exhibit with self-guided tours; also an art gallery and gift shop. The museum phone number is (918) 569-4465.



A video of how the Choctaw Culture is being kept plays opposite of the exhibit.

brought a town to the area that was quite large, but then became more of a rural area. In the 50s the brick helms used for the building were later repurposed for barbecuing during the Labor Day festival.

The building was closed after statehood and fell into disuse but reopened as a Museum in 1972.


The Choctaw Capitol Museum Building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1970.

The exhibit consists of large black and white photos of the Choctaw Council House with its original members and 51 members of the Final Session from November 1905.



(Top Right) A photograph of the Final Session of the Choctaw Council from November 1905. (Bottom Right) A slab protrudes from the wall under the Choctaw Council Members' photo listing the members with a diagram of the photo to easily locate certain members. (Left) A brief history of Tvshka Homma is displayed on a panel as part of the exhibit.





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

2016 Labor Day Art Show Winners

Heritage Awards



Wynona Jo Billie and her Traditional Dress.



Kay Jackson won for her Rivercane Cross and Choctaw Egg Basket.

Jewelry



(Top Left) Margaret Riley Santham's Kaleidoscope Belt and Bead Set won first place. (Above) Theresa Renegar won second place for Umba. (Bottom Left) Chester Cowen with his collar, Diamondback Rattle Snake has her Back.



Sculpture



Lyman Choate won first place for We Are One With Nature, second place for Rebirth, and third place for Parade of the Stars.



Painting



(Above) Charles Dye Jr. with his first place painting, Choctaw Stomp Dance. (Right) Nancy Rhoades with Keeping Traditions Alive won second place.



(Above) Candace Shanholtzer with her painting, Chahta Girl in Blue.



Pottery



(Left) Carolyn Bernard Young won first place for Spirits Rising and second place for Terrapin Races Rabbit II. (Below) Evangeline Robinson won third place for Cat Serpent Effigy Bowl.



Graphics



Debra Irvin won first place and People's Choice for We Are Choctaw and second place for The Little Choctaw Dress (right).



Third Place was Kara Canfield with Watonlak Hvshi-Crane Month

Basketry



(Top Left) First place was Choctaw Harvest Gathering Basket by Susan Locke Charlesworth. (Above) Kay Jackson with her Basket Cross won second place. (Bottom Left) Susan Locke Charlesworth's Inside Outside Choctaw tote won third Place.



Best of Show

Karen Clarkson won Best of Show at the Labor Day Art Show for Uncle Willie's Birth which is based upon the June 1902 birth certificate of Willie George Nail.



Cultural



(Far Left) First place is Laura Pickens' Fish Trap. (Left) Cliff Wilson Jr. won second place for Warriors' Game. (Right) Jarvis Johnson placed third for his Stone War Axe.



SPORTS

Tvshka Homma Makes Semifinals at Labor Day Festival

By Charles D. Clark

Choctaw Nation

Tvshka Homma, the official team of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, made a good showing during the stickball tournament held during the 2016 Choctaw Labor Day Festival, but hit a roadblock in the semifinals.

The tournament featured teams from across the area and as far away as Mississippi.

During the semifinals Tvshka Homma met Mississippi contenders, Beaver Dam.

The winner of the match would advance and play in the finals against the formidable MBCI—Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

While Tvshka Homma made a strong showing, Beaver Dam advanced to the championship game with a final score of 2-6.

The Sunday, Sept. 4 game got under way at 9 p.m. on the Stickball Field at Tvshka Homma.

The Tvshka team wore blue; Beaver Dam wore red.

The bleachers were filled and the crowd spilled out onto folding chairs and sideline blankets.

Less than four minutes into the first quarter Beaver Dam made it to the scoreboard with a straight, hard shot to the top of the pole by Dana Clemmons.

Tvshka quickly answered with its own point, courtesy of Brandon Dixon.

With under four minutes to the close of the first quarter, Isaiah Mingo put another point on the board for Beaver Dam.

Before the night was over Mingo would add two more, garnering him half of Beaver Dam's points.

The second quarter's only score came less than a minute after play began. Mingo again.

A total of five infractions in the first quarter and four in the second quarter indicated what a rough-and-tumble game it was.

The first half was all Beaver Dam offense versus Tvshka defense.

The teams went into their halftime break with

the score standing at Beaver Dam, 3 and Tvshka, 1.

When the teams started the second half, Tayshaw Mingo put a point on the board for Beaver Dam 40 seconds into the third quarter.

A steady stream of points over the 15 minute quarter from Randell York and Isaiah Mingo put a nail in the coffin for Tvshka.

The hometown favorites had no answer and the defense was wearing down.

Garrick Stoliby was able to put one more point up for Tvshka in the fourth quarter.

It would be the final quarter's only point.

But by then, Beaver Dam had complete control of the field. The game wrapped and the Mississippi team advanced to the finals.

The action of the teams and the enthusiastic support of the crowds have inspired more and more Choctaws to take up the traditional sport.

Win or lose, the teams are benefitting each time they take the field.



Tvshka Homma and Beaver Dam players scramble for the ball during the Labor Day Tournament.



Tvshka Homma's defense works to get the ball from Beaver Dam and away from their goal post during the semifinals game of the 2016 Labor Day Tournament.

Photos by Kendra Germany and Tina Firquain



Tvshka Homma and Beaver Dam battle for the ball during a scrum. Both teams played hard during the game, but Beaver Dam won and advanced to face MBCI in the Championship game.



Above: The women's teams played hard during the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma. Below: Children of all ages played during the Exhibition games held on the Stickball Field next to the carnival.




Newly crowned Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby sang the National Anthem before the semifinal games. Tvshka Homma faced off against Beaver Dam to determine which team would move on to the finals on Sunday, Sept. 4.

Henry Rodriguez, 78, sits on the porch of his home in Hugo, Oklahoma.

Henry Rodriguez is the October elder in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.





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. HSSS students, please call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 4105 to register or obtain program information.

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Fax: 800-920-1821



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



A Link To Your Future

10 tips
Nutrition Education Series

cut back on your kid's sweet treats

10 tips to decrease added sugars



Limit the amount of foods and beverages with added sugars your kids eat and drink. If you don't buy them, your kids won't get them very often. Sweet treats and sugary drinks have a lot of calories but few nutrients. Most added sugars come from sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, juice drinks, cakes, cookies, ice cream, candy, and other desserts.

1 serve small portions
It's not necessary to get rid of all sweets and desserts. Show kids that a small amount of treats can go a long way. Use smaller bowls and plates for these foods. Have them share a candy bar or split a large cupcake.

2 sip smarter
Soda and other sweet drinks contain a lot of sugar and are high in calories. Offer water, 100% juice, or fat-free milk when kids are thirsty.

3 use the check-out lane that does not display candy
Most grocery stores will have a candy-free check-out lane to help moms out. Waiting in a store line makes it easy for children to ask for the candy that is right in front of their faces to tempt them.

4 choose not to offer sweets as rewards
By offering food as a reward for good behavior, children learn to think that some foods are better than other foods. Reward your child with kind words and comforting hugs, or give them non-food items, like stickers, to make them feel special.

5 make fruit the everyday dessert
Serve baked apples, pears, or enjoy a fruit salad. Or, serve yummy frozen juice bars (100% juice) instead of high-calorie desserts.

6 make food fun
Sugary foods that are marketed to kids are advertised as "fun foods." Make nutritious foods fun by preparing them with your child's help and being creative together. Create a smiley face with sliced bananas and raisins. Cut fruit into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters.

7 encourage kids to invent new snacks
Make your own snack mixes from dry whole-grain cereal, dried fruit, and unsalted nuts or seeds. Provide the ingredients and allow kids to choose what they want in their "new" snack.

8 play detective in the cereal aisle
Show kids how to find the amount of total sugars in various cereals. Challenge them to compare cereals they like and select the one with the lowest amount of sugar.

9 make treats "treats," not everyday foods
Treats are great once in a while. Just don't make treat foods an everyday thing. Limit sweet treats to special occasions.

10 if kids don't eat their meal, they don't need sweet "extras"
Keep in mind that candy or cookies should not replace foods that are not eaten at meal time.



NOTES TO THE NATION

LETTERS

Yakohe (Thank You)!

Elder Thankful For Wisdom Blanket



I wanted to thank you for the wonderful Wisdom Blanket. It was such a surprise. I just had my 90th birthday on September 4, with my family. I also want to thank you for the Christmas ornament you send each year. I put them all on one wreath; it's my Choctaw wreath. Thank you again for the Wisdom blanket, I am so proud of it.

LaJuana Jack (Curry) Jweid

I was present at this year's Labor Day festival and what an awesome event it was. I was there on Saturday and the crowd of people was the most I have ever seen there. Probably because of Toby Keith being there. Anyway, I toured the Arts and Crafts building and saw some fantastic artwork and crafts throughout the building. There was this one particular female artist, who had paintings of stickball players, horses with riders, some going away and some coming forward. I would like to find out how to get in touch with this artist. I live in Alabama and I wasn't able to go back there on Sunday. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

David Harris
david@balloons.com

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

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

Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Ronni Pierce, News Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
Kendra Germany, Reporter/Photographer
Tina Firquain, Reporter/Photographer

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

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



I wanted to take time to thank Chief Batton for his service to the Choctaw Nation. He and the Assistant Chief made themselves available to all at the Labor Day Festival. As a result, my son and I had the unexpected opportunity to have a nice conversation with him. We are from Ohio and it was the first time my son had been to the festival. He was quite impressed with the museum, the grounds, but especially the kindness of the Chief. We are big Buckeye fans and were wearing our buckeye necklaces that day as it was football Saturday. In a spontaneous gesture, he took off his buckeye necklace and asked Chief Batton if he would accept it as a gift. The Chief did graciously wear it, but said he probably would not wear it the day Ohio State plays Oklahoma. The volunteers that make the festival successful were impressive and did a great job. We enjoyed the two days we were there and regret we could not attend the final day.

Janis (Wade) Vargo
Huber Heights, Ohio

Mr. Dosh, thank you very much for the recent donation made to our school on behalf of the Choctaw Nation. We appreciate your support and all the efforts the Nation makes to improve our schools and communities.

Karen Hedgecock and staff
at West Ward Elementary
Colbert, Oklahoma

Mr. Dosh, thank you for providing a wonderful meal. It is with tremendous gratitude that I write this letter on behalf of the Durant Independent School District to express my deepest appreciation to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the generous donation providing resources to our students. Thank you again for your generosity.

Duane Merideth
Superintendent of Schools
Durant, Oklahoma

I am looking for the family of Riley Dean Rasha, my biological father. I am looking for any of my brothers or sisters so I can connect and get to know my father's side of the family. I got to talk to my father a few times through the mail before he passed away and am looking for a connection with family.

Ruben Rodriguez #556308
JHCC J-1-137 D
P.O. Box 548
Lexington, Oklahoma 73051

What a wonderful account of the interview with Johnnie Addeane Sharer. I hope this article is one of many to come. I have been gathering family stories for quite a few years. How I wish I had the luxury of doing a full interview with my ancestors. I have come across interviews of family members in the Oklahoma Historical Society Federal Writers' Project collection that gave me treasured insights into family members' lives. I know in three or four generations from now this story will be a special find for our descendants. Thank you for a great asset to Choctaws everywhere.

Cheryl M. Jones
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I would like to say thank you from myself and my family to the Choctaw Nation. It was such a blessing to be able to get a place for my family to have safety and protection from the storms. With the voucher provided by the Choctaw Nation we were able to purchase a safe room that will not only protect our family, but will allow us to give a safe place for our wheelchair-bound elders next door. I would also like to say thank you for the beautiful Choctaw car tags. I never realized I had so many Choctaw brothers and sisters in the Tulsa area. I am grateful to be a part of such a great nation.

Jeri Campbell

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!

Starting earning money TODAY! Contact Choctaw Asset Building 866-933-2260 • choctawcab.com

EVENTS

Hawkins Family Reunion

Saturday, October 8
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
700 N. Mississippi, Ada, Okla.

Potluck meal begins at noon.
For more information,
Steve Paniagua, 580-665-2977

Jones Academy Reunion

Saturday, October 15
Hartshorne, Okla.

Jones Academy alumni are invited to attend the reunion.
Registration begins at 10 a.m.

For more information call,
Robert Wilson at 918-931-2016
Paulette Wilson at 918-931-2012

Annual All Night Gospel Singing

Saturday, October 22

Supper at 5 p.m. and singing begins at 6 p.m.
First Indian Baptist Church
608 W. Tyler St.
McAlester, Okla.

The Emcee will be Joe Coley. Conventional Class Singing will start the night, followed by Group Singing at 7 p.m. All solos, duets, trios, quartets, church choirs and listeners are welcome.

Nanah Chito United Methodist Church Annual Singing

Saturday, October 22
Singing from 7-11 p.m.
Supper from 5-6:30 p.m.
Four miles east of Wright City

The Emcee will be Henry Battiest Sr. and featured singers and groups include ReDefine from McAlester, Battiest Boys from Broken Bow, the Johnsons from Durant and Scrap Irons from Connerville.

For more information or directions contact,
Mike Davis at 580-320-7985
Bernie Davis at 580-320-7984
Henry Battiest at 580-306-7158

Hunting and Fishing Clarification

The front page story of the September 2016 issue of the Biskinik titled, Choctaws Hunt and Fish For Free in 2017, incorrectly stated, "Choctaw Nation Compact License holders will be able to hunt and fish in all 77 Oklahoma counties on tribal and state land." The correct statement is **"Hunting and fishing will be open to compact hunters in all 77 counties in Oklahoma. That does not include tribal land."**

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

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

Contact the community center to confirm the attorney will be there before traveling. The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. For questions contact Samantha Guinn at 580-380-8149.

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

November Community Center Schedule

11-3 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3
11-10 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
11-15 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

November 2016

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Idabel by appointment

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	3	4 Antlers by appt.	5
6	7	8	9 Talihina 10:00- 2:00	10	11	12
13	14 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	15 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	16 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	17	18	19
20	21	22 Poteau 11:30-1:00	23	24	25	26
27	28 Wright City by appt.	29 Crowder by appt.	30 Wilburton by appt.			



Iti Fabussa

Issuba Vmbinili

Tvshka: Choctaw Lighthorsemen



National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Peter Pitchlynn was made head of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen and tasked with removing whiskey from the Choctaw Nation. The Choctaw Lighthorsemen were the original Choctaw Tribal Police.

During this past annual Choctaw Labor Day festival you may have noticed the many men and women with our Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department directing traffic, working security, locating lost children, and providing the Tvshka Homma grounds with the overall presence of safekeeping.

The goal of Public Safety is to serve and protect, as well as to aid the community. Servant leadership through law enforcement is not a new concept, but has been passed down from the original Choctaw police, Choctaw Lighthorse.

In 1820 the Choctaw chiefs were forced into the Treaty of Doak’s Stand. While having to cede more lands, the chiefs set aside funds to be used for the future. Some of these funds were used to create the Choctaw Lighthorse.

The Choctaw Lighthorse were a group of men given the responsibility of being the principle law enforcement in the Choctaw Nation.

Throughout the early 1800s Choctaw society began to change as it adapted to pressure from American settlers. Some of these pressures include intermarriage, schooling and education, interaction with missionaries, and reliance on Euro-American trade goods.

While against the law, traders were making their way into the

Choctaw Nation and selling alcohol to the community.

By 1824, Peter Pitchlynn was made the head of the Lighthorse and tasked with the removal of whiskey from the Choctaw Nation.

By 1826, laws were created against the selling of liquor, theft, adultery, and murder. The punishment for breaking a law was 39 lashes.

Continued pressures from American settlers pushed the United States into passing the Indian Removal Act and forcing the Choctaw chiefs to sign the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, leading to the removal of thousands of Choctaw people.

After the Choctaw people were removed to Indian Territory, the Choctaw leadership met in 1834 to create a new constitution. This constitution reestablished the laws created in Mississippi and raised the number of Lighthorsemen to 18, six elected for each district.

By 1860, additional laws were added for treason, arson, perjury, rape, murder, grand larceny, and kidnapping.

In 1866 the death penalty was changed from hanging to shot until dead.

The Lighthorse were selected due to their respect and involvement in the community. On a few accounts, some Lighthorsemen were not even Choctaw by blood, but they had married in and proved themselves members of the Choctaw community.

It was the duty of the Lighthorsemen to assist the community in times of need. During the American Civil War, renegades ravaged the Indian Territory, leading to the destruction of many parts of the

Choctaw Nation. While many of the men were at war, the Lighthorsemen acted as home guards by protected the community and aiding families any way they could. The years following the Civil War were rough as some of the most notable stories about the Lighthorse come from this era.

The lighthorsemen travel light. They carried only essentials, and their Choctaw ponies were able to traverse rough terrain. They wore traditional clothing like turbans, leg-

Treaty of 1866, the U.S. Marshals were the only law enforcement agency who had jurisdiction to enter Choctaw lands to catch outlaws.

Many times, the Marshals would work with the Choctaw Lighthorse to capture non-Indian outlaws fleeing justice within the Choctaw Nation and take them back to Fort Smith.

Please keep an eye out for the next two issues of the Iti Fabvssa. We will be presenting more on the subject of the Lighthorsemen.

If you are descended from a



Photo courtesy of Leon Chase Phillips Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma

Pictured are a group of Choctaw Lighthorsemen. The Choctaw Lighthorsemen traveled light, carrying only essential items. Their Choctaw ponies were able to cover rough terrain. A red ribbon attached to their hat signified they were a Lighthorseman. Later, they would carry badges similar to the U.S. Marshals.

gings, moccasins, and breechcloths mixed with American shirts, hats, boots, and pants.

They carried traditional weapons like clubs, tomahawks, and bows, as well as flintlock or cap pistols and shotguns. A red ribbon attached to their hat signified their status as a Lighthorsemen; later, they carried badges similar to the U.S. Marshals.

Following the Civil War, after the

cont’d from page 1

He continued by thanking the Choctaw Nation on behalf of his people.

“As our values teach us, we value life, so all the way down the Missouri, the Mississippi, we think about them too.

“Mni wiconi [Water is life]. Anything that lives cannot exist without water. We are one with everything that has a spirit whether it’s trees, a blade of grass, animals. Everything. We’re not going to receive the benefits of what we are standing up for today. It’s our children and their children and their grandchildren. First and foremost, we think about them.”

When the rain stopped, the

group made their way to the camp and found several Choctaws volunteering their time alongside other Native Americans.

Cody Wilson was one such Choctaw. Working now for the Coeur d’Alene tribe, living in Idaho, he was about to push off from shore into the Missouri River with a canoe flotilla headed to Sacred Stone Camp. A former Choctaw language facilitator in Idabel, he now works in vocational rehabilitation.

“You’ve got all these tribes,” Wilson said, “and these aren’t their waterways. They all came to support it by putting their traditional canoes on the water.

“We’ve got people from Alaska,

from all different tribes mainly coastal and Pacific Northwest who brought their canoes down.”

“It’s a good feeling knowing we have so much support because when we have our tribal nations come together although we come from different backgrounds, we come from different whatever had happened to our people in the past, we’re still here in the fact that we exist,” said Walker.


“We stand here today in unity with our people.”

Hundreds of tribes from across the nation have contributed to the Standing Rock people and to the community at Sacred Stone.

“This fight is everyone’s fight,” Hansen said.



The official Choctaw flag was sent by Chief Gary Batton and delivered to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe along with supplies and equipment. The flags at the Sacred Stone Camp are from tribes and nations around the globe and represent the worldwide commitment and support for the Standing Rock cause.



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 ½ 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

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

Oct 6 Wilburton: Small Business Community Day
Oct 13 Hugo: Small Business Community Day
Oct 27 Durant: OK Tax Workshop

Visit www.ChoctawSmallBusiness.com to register today!

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



Imagine the possibilities . . .

Choctaw Nation Of Oklahoma

Educational Talent Search And HSSS


FREE

ACT Prep Workshop For Grades 9–12


Tuesday, October 11, 2016

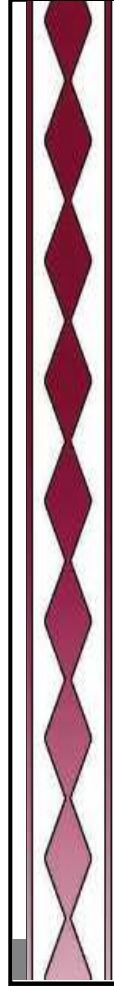
8:30 am–Noon

Kiamichi Tech Center–Durant



You must be Choctaw or a Talent Search student to attend the workshop. Pre-register by calling 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2711. Check with your high school counselor or call our office for a new Talent Search application. (New students may apply at this time.)





Chahta Anumpa

Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Kinship Terms		
Vocabulary		
kvta hosh – Who (is)	chi/chi - your	hokni – aunt
nakfi – brother	iki – father	ishki – mother
i tek- sister	mafo – grandfather	pokni – grandmother
ohoyo – woman, wife, girlfriend	moshi – uncle	a - my
hattak – man, husband, boyfriend	j kana – friend	i hohchifo – his/her name

Directions: Practice with another person reading the question and answer sets for each kinship term. Fold the paper in half and take turns asking and giving answers.

Q. Kvta hosh chi hokni?	Q. Who is your aunt?
A. Δ hokni i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My aunt’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chi nakfi?	Q. Who is your brother?
A. Δ nakfi i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My brother’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chiki?	Q. Who is your father?
A. Δ ki i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My father’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chi tek?	Q. Who is your sister?
A. Δ tek i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My sister’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chippokni?	Q. Who is your grandmother?
A. Syppokni i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My grandmother’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chimaf?	Q. Who is your grandfather?
A. Vmafo i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My grandfather’s name is _____.

Q. Kvta hosh chimoshi?	Q. Who is your uncle?
A. Vmoshi i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My uncle’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chin ohoyo?	Q. Who is your woman/wife/girlfriend?
A. Vin ohoyo i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My woman/wife/girlfriend’s name is _____.
Q. Kvta hosh chi hattak?	Q. Who is your man/husband/boyfriend?
A. Δ hattak i hohchifo yvt _____.	A. My man/husband/boyfriend’s name is _____.

Answers for September’s Lesson

1. What time did you read the paper?	7. What time do you (go to) sleep?
2. What time will you go buy groceries?	8. What time do you bathe?
3. What time do you get up?	9. What time will you be ready?
4. What time do you feed your dog?	10. What time do you watch TV?
5. What time do you listen to music?	11. What time do you eat (in the) morning?
6. What time do you go to work?	12. What time did you cook?

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

EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION— YAB Member Sets Goals For Future

By

Wade Young, Wright City

My educational plans are to attend Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee and pursue an associate's degree in electrical technology. The electrical technology field is of interest to me because I will be able to utilize my problem solving skills while learning how to correctly program and calibrate machines.

Manufacturing will continue to grow and there will need to be people who can create and maintain these machines. With this degree, I can also work in the field of food processing, fuel processing, etc. These are necessary fields to keep America running strong. I will be able to use this degree for that purpose.



Photo Provided

Wade Young (right) from Wright City was presented the second place award by YAB McCurtain Representative Claire Young (left).

This degree provides hands on training through a paid internship, which will provide me with the skills and knowledge to be job ready upon graduation.

There are a number of careers in the electrical technology field: including control systems technician, automation technician, electrical/electronic maintenance technician, and instrumental technician. There is a high demand for each of these fields, which opens the door for many job opportunities.

I have set two short-term goals for myself to maintain throughout college that will enable me to reach my long-term goal of becoming an electrical technician.

First, I want to uphold a 4.0 GPA in my college classes. By attending my classes, studying hard, and staying motivated, I know that I will be able to meet this goal.

Second, I want businesses and companies to take notice of me during my internship. Through my ability to learn quickly and my strong work ethic, I will be able to prove that I am capable and deserving of being in this field of work.

I want to be successful in everything I do and that includes the job I obtain. After I graduate from OSU-IT with my electrical technology degree, I want to find a job that creates possibilities for its employees. I know that starting out, I will not be working at the highest level.

But, this is a challenge that I look forward to facing. I want to work my way up to a managerial position. Through this, I will be able to positively impact my field of choice by utilizing the experiences I gained while working to obtain that position.

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board CDIB Scholarship second place essay. The writer, Wade Young, was awarded a \$250 scholarship. The first place essay was in the September 2016 issue of the Biskinik and the third place essay will be in the November 2016 issue.



Peterson Graduates from OSU

John-Richard "JR" Chaske' Peterson recently graduated from Oklahoma State University on May 7, 2016. He earned a bachelor's in business administration, with double majors in management and marketing.

JR has been accepted to Marquette University School of Law in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he will pursue a juris doctor degree in sports law.

He is the son of Patricia and David Peterson of Dallas. JR is the grandson of Rebecca Tubby and Richard Lester, and Elizabeth and John Peterson. He is the great-grandson of Melvina Tubby, and Alice Pitchlynn and Preston S. Lester.

JR and his family would like to acknowledge the support he received from the Choctaw Nation during his undergraduate studies, plus the nation's continued support during his legal studies at Marquette University.

Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship Accepting Applications

By **KENDRA GERMANY**
Choctaw Nation

The Chahta Foundation is currently accepting applications for the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship.

The Chahta Anumpa (Choctaw Language) Teacher Education Scholarship is a full scholarship provided to dedicated and capable Choctaw students attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Students who apply must be interested in completing a teacher education program, while working closely with the School of Choctaw Language.

Applicants must take course work at SE that leads to a bachelor's degree in Education within the time awarded. Upon certification, the scholarship recipient will become a Choctaw language teacher.

"We're looking for students who have a Choctaw CDIB, have an interest in teacher education, and who want to be a Choctaw Language teacher," said Director of the Choctaw Language, Jim Parrish.

The School of Language is looking for students who are committed in furthering their education, as well as learning in-depth about the Choctaw language and culture.

"Our purpose is to train people to become Choctaw Language teachers. We now offer 18 hours of Choctaw Language at Southeastern, so the appropriate training is available," said Parrish.

The most recent recipient of the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship Kelly Anderson is very thankful for the assistance he has received though the Choctaw Nation and the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship.

Kelly, the son of Katrina and Morgan Anderson of Broken Bow, is a Junior at SE. He graduated from Broken Bow High School, and his goal is to become a teacher.

According to Kelly, the scholarship has been a tremendous help.

"It is a great opportunity to learn. I'm interested in and love the Choctaw language," said Anderson. "It is an educational scholarship, so it helps and everyone around here helps me."

Kelly works at the Choctaw School of Language part-time.

"I work here part time a few days a week," said Anderson. "They make sure I do my homework first. Mr. Parrish is always on me about that. After I do my homework, I do whatever is needed around here."

Kelly is very passionate about the Choctaw language and culture. He encourages anyone that applies to be the same way.

"You've got to have an interest and passion for it and an interest in learning," said Anderson.

The criteria to apply for the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship are as follows: the student must have completed 24 college credit hours, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, have a Choctaw CDIB, and meet Southeastern Oklahoma State University admission requirements.

The scholarship requirements are as follows: the student must attend SE, work part-time at the School of Choctaw Language, and complete 18 hours of Choctaw Language.

"Ideally, we would like for the student to already have some Choctaw language experience, whether learned at school or in the home," explained Parrish.

This scholarship provided by the School of Choctaw Language includes full paid tuition. It includes tuition, fees, books, a living stipend

of \$1,500 per month, tutoring, testing fees, relocation assistance stipend (if necessary), and lap-top computer and printer.

After the recipient of this scholarship has gained his or her teaching certification from the State Department of Education, the recipient will incur a service obligation to teach in the Choctaw Nation School of Choctaw Language.

According to Parrish, the purpose of working closely with the School of Choctaw Language is to get a good idea about what's involved in being a Choctaw Language teacher and working with the department every day.

"They will gain experience working firsthand with our teachers who are native Choctaw speakers, and they have the opportunity to learn in-depth the structure of the language, increase their speaking abilities and participate in activities to revitalize the language," said Parrish.

The application and related information concerning the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship can be found on the Chahta Foundation website, www.chaftafoundation.com. The scholarship will be awarded to one individual and will begin in the spring semester of 2017 at SE. The application deadline for the scholarship is Nov. 15, 2016.

For more information, contact the Chahta Foundation at (580) 916-5693, ext. 2546.



Photo by Kendra Germany

Kelly Anderson of Broken Bow is the most recent recipient of the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship. He is passionate about the Choctaw Language and culture. Kelly wants to become a Chahta Anumpa teacher.

Chahta Anumpa Aiiikhvna School of Choctaw Language

Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

APPLICATIONS DUE : NOV. 15, 2016

Criteria to Apply

- Completed 24 credit hours by Dec. 2016
- Must have Choctaw CDIB/Membership
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Must meet SE admission requirements
- Completed application packet

Scholarship Recipient Benefits

- Paid tuition, fees, and books
- Living stipend of \$1,500 per month
- Tutoring
- Paid testing fees
- Relocation assistance stipend (If necessary)

Scholarship Requirements

- Attend SOSU
- Work part-time at the Language School
- Complete Rhetoric 1 Class
- Complete 18 hours of Choctaw Language

Payback

- After receiving his/her teaching certification/licensure from the State Department of Education, participant will incur a service obligation to teach in the Choctaw Nation School of Language one year for each year of scholarship support received with a minimum service period of two years.
- Failure to complete the degree or service payback will result in a required cash payback to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Application form available at
ChataFoundation.com

Please submit all applications to the
Chahta Foundation
P.O. Box 1849
Durant, OK 74702
Phone: 580-916-5693 x2546
Fax: 580-745-9023
scholarship@chahtafoundation.com

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.

Coal County

Coalgate
Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

McCurtain County

Bethel
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
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

Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Building
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Idabel, Southeastern Okla. State University, McCurtain Co. Campus

January 2017 - March 2017

Monday, Jan. 2, 9 a.m. - noon
Poteau, Carl Albert State College, Ollie Building
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
McAlester, Eastern Okla. State College, Clark Bass Building
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Building

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Miss Kansas Preteen Visits the 2016 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant



Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby and Ishta Wabaunsee getting ready to participate in social dancing at the Choctaw Village during the 2016 Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.

Ishta Wabaunsee, Miss Kansas, went to Tvshka Homma to attend the annual Labor Day Festival and support the young women and girls who competed in the 2016 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. She won the title of the 2016 National American Miss (NAM) Kansas Preteen and she will be competing in the National Pageant in Anaheim, California, representing Kansas. Wabaunsee said,

“It’s been a long journey. For five years I have had to build my confidence and believe in myself and believe that I can do anything.” Wabaunsee competed in four competitions to win her title, which included formal wear, a personal introduction, an interview, and a community involvement portion. During the Princess Pageant, Wabaunsee had a live interview with BiskinikTV host Candace Perkins. The interview was part of the livestreamed pageant

produced by the Choctaw Nation Cultural Department and the Choctaw Communications Department. Being a title holder puts Wabaunsee in a role model position. During her interview Wabaunsee said, “Believe in yourself. Anything is possible. Just have determination and keep going.” This is the message she wants to spread while she holds her title. Ishta is the granddaughter of Margaret Battiest Hernandez of Broken Bow



and the late Leo B. Jefferson, formerly of Idabel; and great-granddaughter of the late Clara Jefferson of Broken Bow.



Celestine Graduates from Fort Jackson

Autumn Celestine was inducted into the Army National Guard of Oklahoma on July 29, 2015. She completed basic combat training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 60th Infantry Regiment (“River Raiders”). Autumn graduated April 28, 2016.

Pvt. Celestine was then assigned to 144th Quarter Master Brigade for “Golf Company” to complete Advanced Individual Training. She graduated on July 7, 2016, with a promotion to the rank of E-2. Upon returning to Oklahoma, Autumn has been assigned to Delta 700 Forward Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Division (“Thunderbirds”) in McAlester. She will continue her education at OU in Norman as well as enrolling in the ROTC program. She has expressed a desire to try out for Airborne School.

A graduate of Tushka School, Autumn is the daughter of Ron and Marilyn Scott of Atoka and Walter and Kathy Celestine of Houston, Texas. She is the granddaughter of the late Lawrence and Ruth Brown of Panama City, Florida, and the late Walter Celestine Sr. and Doris Battiest of Livingston, Texas. Autumn’s maternal grandfather was a Korean combat veteran. Her stepfather, Ron Scott, is a Vietnam combat veteran currently serving in the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

Meely Travels to Africa on a Mission Trip

Tommy Meely, along with Robert Taylor and Robert Sale, went on a mission trip to Africa for a three-day revival. Meely met Sale at Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry. Meely believes that meeting Sale was all part of God’s plan as he felt a strong call to go to Africa already. Pastor Taylor from Ardmore Durwood became part of the team and the three found support from many churches. They traveled to Africa and met with the Shimalba and the Nekale people. The crowds grew rapidly and became larger with each passing night of the revival. Meely said, “They were very receptive. It was a joyful time,” about the Nekale village. This was Meely’s first mission trip. Not long ago, Meely said he was bouncer at a night club and he got tired of his life. He later declared his life to God and is happy about his decision. According to Meely this experience has become part of his testimony and there are still things he is trying to process. This trip to Africa changed him. Meely is also thankful to the Choctaw Nation for the help and support that was given to his team. *Originally reported in the Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma City.*



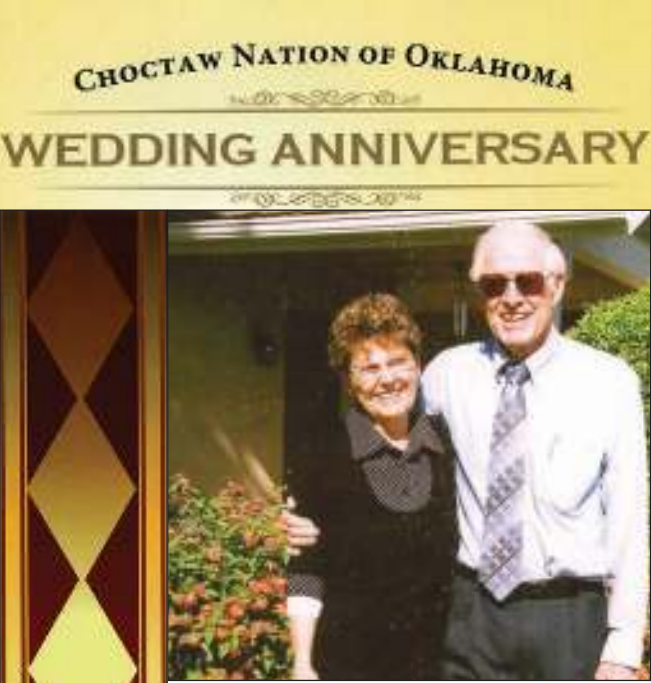
Tommy Meely, center, enjoyed visiting children in the Nekale village.



(Left to right) Whitney Lautner, Billy Stephens, Ben Benson, Chase Henson, Jana Boykin, Kristin Ceder, Eli McHenry, Tony Stoltzfus, and Brian Hillibrand. Other members present but not in photograph were Teresa Eagle Road, Nancy Jefferson, and Billy Eagle Road.

Choctaw Cycling Takes to the Pavement

Choctaw Nation Cycling participated in the Red River Bicycle Rally at Pottsboro, Texas, on Aug. 13. Recently, several members rode in the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure in Tulsa. In addition to participating in these events, members rode the 8, 25, 44, 65, 88, or 100 mile routes on the south shores of Lake Texoma. The Choctaw Nation Cycling goals are to improve physical fitness, promote healthy activities, encourage injury prevention, and encourage others to participate. This group invites all interested in healthy living and riding bicycles to participate and/or join Choctaw Nation Cycling. For more information on the Choctaw Nation Cycling team, contact Nancy Jefferson or Tony Stoltzfus at (918) 567-7000; for more information on the Trail of Tears Riders, contact Teresa Eagle Road at (918)567-7000.



Brumley’s Rejoice in 65 Years of Marriage

Bud and Carolyn (Johnson) Brumley celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with friends and family by their sides. The two were married on Sept. 2, 1951, and raised three daughters. It is very important to the couple to be with family as much as possible. Since retirement, they have traveled on mission trips to Russia, China, Israel, and many other countries. They have both served God most of their lives. Bud and Carolyn were surprised with out-of-town relatives and the Wayland Brumley Band. Bud sang “I’ll Fly Away” with the band as the last song of the night.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marjorie Brent is 90

Marjorie Brent celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 14, 2016, with her dog Maggie Mea. She was born and raised in Durant. Her father was a doctor and her mother was a stay-at-home mom. She was the youngest of seven children. She has a daughter, Jamie, and two adopted sons, Thomas and the late Joe. She owned two businesses in Durant, a children’s clothing store and Jimmy’s Auto Supply.



Kelley is Blessed with 90th Birthday

Martha Kelley turned 90 years old on Aug. 27, 2016. She celebrated her special day with family and friends at Golden Corral. Her family wishes her a very happy birthday.



Ferrall Celebrates 87

Newana Carlene (Crowder) Ferrall turned 87 on Sept. 17, 2016. She is the daughter of Carl Albertan Crowder. She grew up on her father’s allotment land in Blanchard. Her family wants to wish her a happy birthday.



Johnston turns a Fabulous 50

Danna K. Johnston of Washington state celebrated her 50th on Aug. 20, 2016. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original Choctaw enrollee Blanche Colbert Allen. She is an adoring horse rider and spends time with her husband, her Arabian horse, and her three Chihuahuas.



Davis Celebrates her Sweet 16

Jera Juliann Davis, of Texarkana, Texas, is 16. Her birthday was June 27, 2016. Her parents are Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana and her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.



Harley is 13

Kendon Cain Harley celebrated his 13th birthday on Aug. 2, 2016. Siblings Thunder, Kelsey, Kylan, Thurman, and Katalina wish their brother a happy 13th birthday along with his parents.



CHOCTAW VETERANS CEREMONY

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

YAKOKE TO ALL OUR VETERANS!

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture

HEALTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Photo provided

Choctaw Nation Health Services employees in Talihina showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month last year.

By **ERIN ADAMS**
Choctaw Nation

Halito,
October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This topic hits very close to home for many of us. Seeing the effects first hand have motivated many to take action to fight this every changing disease. One of the best ways, we as individuals, can take action is to “Check Ourselves.” The Avon Foundation for Women promotes the “Check Yourself” global movement. This movement aims to raise awareness and start conversations about how women and men can take action for their own breast health through screening, detection, and treatment. Screening guidelines vary by country and media reports about early detection can sometimes be confusing. This campaign is intended to help you better understand some of the common factors that can influence your personal breast cancer risk, and teach you not only about your risk. It also teaches about what actions you can take starting today.

It probably comes as no surprise that being a woman is the greatest risk factor associated with breast cancer. Yes, men can get breast cancer as well, but they account for only 1 percent of cases diagnosed annually. Other general risk factors relate to age and certain ethnic backgrounds. Your personal breast cancer risk is based on many specific factors. Some are biological, others are lifestyle related and can be managed. Knowing your own unique set of risk factors is a critical step of Check Yourself and of being proactive when it comes to your breast health. Many breast cancer risk factors are in your control, including those related to diet, alcohol use, hormone replacement use, tobacco consumption, and exposure to certain environmental elements. Learn about the important steps you can take to improve your health and lower your risk for breast cancer.

If screening guidelines and media headlines confuses you, you’re not alone. That’s why it’s so important to know your risk factors and your body. Armed with this information, a doctor can help you to determine when to start screening, how often to screen, and what screening tests to use.

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!

Experts generally agree that the earlier a breast cancer is found, the better the chances for a positive outcome. Yet, the diagnostic tools and screening processes are not perfect. Also, there are some types of breast cancer that no matter how small the group of cells are when you find them, they still can be aggressive, spread to other parts of the body and not respond well to therapy.

After an initial screening, a doctor may suggest a breast biopsy, where a small piece of tissue is extracted for testing. There are a number of different types of biopsies. Check out our comparison chart for a description of each procedure, accuracy rates, the use of stitches, scars and future mammograms, the use of anesthesia, and recovery.

The period following a breast cancer diagnosis is about education, options and decisions. You need to partner with your doctor and learn as much as possible about your type of breast cancer, specific telltale “markers” and treatment options.

Many types of support are available to you. Learn about resources to help you face daily challenges related to work, family care, even transportation to medical appointments, as well as options for counseling and financial assistance.



Greek Chicken with Tomatoes, Peppers, Olives, Feta

Author: *The American Cancer Society*

From Celebrate! Healthy Entertaining for Any Occasion.

Recipe of the Month

Lemon, mint, and a garnish of crumbled feta cheese bring the flavors of Greece to this easy chicken dish. If fresh Roma tomatoes aren’t available, canned tomatoes will provide the same cancer-fighting nutrients and vivid color.

To make Greek seasoning salt, combine:

- 2 teaspoons of garlic salt
- 2 teaspoons of lemon pepper
- 2 teaspoons of oregano
- 2 teaspoons of dried mint

Ingredients

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into bite-sized pieces½ cup strawberries (diced)
- ¼ cup flour
- 8 teaspoons Greek seasoning salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, sliced lengthwise
- 1 green pepper, cored, seeded, and sliced lengthwise into strips
- 3 Roma tomatoes, cut into eighths
- 3 tablespoons Kalamata olives, chopped
- 3 tablespoons feta cheese, crumbled

Instructions

1. Dredge chicken in flour mixed with 4 teaspoons of Greek seasoning.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat and add chicken, sautéing for 3 to 4 minutes until cooked through.
3. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.
4. Add onion to skillet and saute until tender, about 2 minutes. Add bell pepper and cook another 2 minutes.
5. Return chicken to skillet and cook 1 to 2 minutes, sprinkling with remaining Greek seasoning. Mix in tomatoes.
6. Remove from heat, transfer to serving dish, and sprinkle with olives and feta cheese.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 8
Amount Per Serving
Calories 210 Total Fat 9.5g

For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext.: 6959.

NURSERY NEWS

Allison Gail Deela

Allison Gail Deela was born at 5:33 p.m. on Jan. 22, 2016. She weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and was 18.2 inches long.

Allison was welcomed into the world by Murrell, Julie, and big brother Hayden.

Allison is the granddaughter of Allen and Reba Hunnicut, and Glenn and Sueann Deela.



Ezekiel ‘Blue’ Hopaii Salazar

Ezekiel “Blue” Hopaii Salazar was born at 5:06 p.m. June 14, 2016, at Ada at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. He weighed 9 pounds 4.5 ounces and was 20 3/4 in long.


Ezekiel lives in Durant with his sister Audrina and parents Adam, who is Choctaw/Seminole, and Kandace Folsom, who is full-blood Choctaw.



Ezekiel is the grandson of Arnold and Janie Salazar of Duncanville, Texas, and Cooper Eugene Folsom and Vicky Folsom of Dallas.

He is the great-grandson of Steven and Irene Frazier of Seminole, Mack and Lena Frazier of Dallas, and Cooper and Lucille Folsom of Talihina.

It was love at first sight ...



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

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

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

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

Head Start is the Best Start

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 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
Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842
McAlester: 3244 Afullotha Hina, (918) 420-5716

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.

November

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:
Closed: November 11, 23 (Closing at 12:00 p.m.), 24, 25, 29 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: November 10 & 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays November 1-30 except for:
Closed: November 11, 23 (Closing at 12:00 p.m.), 24,25, 29 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: November 1 & 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:
Closed: November 11, 23 (Closing at 12:00 p.m.), 24,25, 29 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: November 7 & 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays November 1-30, except for:
Closed: November 11, 23 (Closing at 12:00 p.m.), 24,25, 29 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen:November8 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Novemberr 1-30, except for:
Closed: November 11, 23 (Closing at 12:00 p.m.), 24,25, 29 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: November3 & 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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

OBITUARIES

Jodie Modell Parker

Jodie Modell Parker, 90, departed this life July 19, 2016. He was born April 28, 1926, to Cora and Joseph Parker in Sulphur.

Jodie grew up during the Great Depression and told his grandchildren about the days of having to walk barefoot to school three miles because they could not afford shoes. He graduated from Sulphur High School in 1947. At the age of 17, and with a “minor’s release,” Jodie enlisted in the United States Navy. Honorable service included tours in the Philippines and Mariana Islands during World War II. Jodie met Lila Meeks and they married in Gainesville, Texas on April 11, 1947. Jodie worked for the Oklahoma Indian Department and later for the Civil Service. He loved his morning routine of gathering with his buddies at the coffee shop. Jodie found the most joy in his grandchildren. More than anything, he loved attending their sporting events and school activities. He also found great enjoyment in taking his bird dogs quail hunting, and going fishing with his grandkids and nephew, Randy. Together, Jodie and Lila enjoyed many trips to Las Vegas and Branson with friends and family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Cora Parker; two brothers, John and Eugene Parke; two sisters, Josephine and Peggy; and a half sister Susie.

Jodie is survived by his wife, Lila of Oklahoma City; daughter, Donna Rozneck and husband Paul of Evergreen, Colorado; daughter, Vickie Stewart and husband Jerry of Oklahoma City; grandson, Jason Rozneck and wife Malette of Edmond; grandson, Adam Rozneck of Arlington, Texas; granddaughter, Isabelle Stewart of Oklahoma City; great-granddaughters, Kennedy and Ridley Rozneck of Edmond; as well as a large and beloved extended family.

Arrangements were made under the direction of DeArman Funeral Home Sulphur. Interment was held at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Caral Dean Parker

Caral Dean Parker, 82, passed away June 18, 2016 at Mannford. He was born September 6, 1933, to Fred and Mary (Locke) Parker in Hugo and lived for over 40 years in the Hugo area.

His career in law enforcement began in Lubbock, Texas as a policeman. He then moved on to the Texas Highway Patrol and finished as Chief of Police in Hugo. Parker then worked for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission as a fuel inspector until his retirement. Parker was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was a member of the Hugo Rotary Club. He loved getting together with family and friends, watching baseball, and fishing. Caral was a long time member of the Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Richard Parker; brothers, Adrian Parker and Dwight Parker; sisters, Shelva Sue Houchens and Maleace Hill.

Caral is survived by two sons, Garry Parker and wife, Robbie of Hugo; Tim Parker of Reno, Texas; two daughters, Pam Baldwin and husband, Gene of Joplin, Missouri; La Donna Johnson and husband Cory of Mannford; brother Jim and wife, Linda of Slaton, Texas; sister Ann Shannon of Hugo; grandchildren, Angela Parker, Laura Pillow, Derrick Parker, Will Smith, Heather Smith-Zelaya, Sandy Hall, Holly Parker, Justin Fiester, Haley Johnson, Cory Johnson, Jr., and Jackson Johnson; great grandchildren, Alex Pillow, Evelyn Pillow, Landon Parker, Makyla Hall, Kaylee Smith, Kylie Smith, and Nicolas Zelaya along with many other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Miller and Miller Funeral Home. Interment was held at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hugo.

Billie Ruth (Turnbull) Roberts

Billie Ruth (Turnbull) Roberts, 96, passed away August 13, 2016 in Durant, Oklahoma. She was born July 26, 1920, to William Perkins and Ruth (Park) Turnbull on the Turnbull Ranch, east of Caddo.

She was the last surviving sibling of brothers Timothy (Buck) and Wilman (Poncho) Turnbull and sister Jean Turnbull. On November 22, 1936, she married her husband of 42 years, Jack B. Roberts. They made their home in Roberta, where they brought up their four children. Billie attended Blue Schools, Russell Training School in Durant and Chilocco Indian School in Newkirk, Oklahoma. She had a life-long love for music and was pianist at Roberta Baptist Church for a number of years. In the 1950s, she formed the Texoma Ladies Quartet with Geneva Loftis, Lorene Anderson and Eva Thorton; they sang together for over 30 years. She began working as a deputy to the County Clerk of Bryan County and was later elected County Clerk, a position she held for 17 years. Upon retirement, Billie served the Choctaw Nation for over 20 years as a board member of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority. She was a member of Roberta Baptist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Ohoyohoma Club. She was a former board member of the Three Valley Museum and former officer in the County Clerk’s Association of Oklahoma.

Billie is preceded in death by husband; parents; siblings; son, Timothy; and granddaughter, Karen Thomas.

She is survived by son, Billy Jack and wife Pat of Roberta; daughters Rutha Thomas and husband Lyman of Wellington, Kansas, Kay Green and husband Jimmy of Roberta; grandchildren, Steve Roberts and wife Kay Lynn of Roberta, Tracie Falcone and husband Keith of Austin, Texas, Taresa Heimer and husband Eric Heimer of Wellington, Kansas, Bill Roberts of Maine, Annette Goodwin and husband Mike of Roberta, Michael Green and wife Cristal of Durant, Richard Roberts and wife Tina of Durant, and Dana Roberts of Durant; 11 great grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service in Durant. Interment followed at Highland Cemetery.



Linda Lowman

Linda Lowman, 64, of Idabel, passed away Aug. 17, 2016, in Paris, Texas. She was born Aug. 11, 1952, to daughter of Anthony and Rena Bohanan in Talihina.

Linda attended the Buffalo Presbyterian Church and enjoyed teaching children in church, singing, playing softball, and spending time with her family. Linda and Jimmy Lowman were married April 10, 1985, at the Broken Bow Pentecostal Church.

She was preceded in death by parents; son Allen Battiest; brothers Solomen Stewart, Lewis Kaniatobe, Kenneth Bohanan and Earl Bohanan; and sisters Mary Ward and Ruthie Bohanan.

She is survived by husband Jimmy Lowman of Watson; sons Aaron Battiest of Tulsa, Jimboy Lowman and Trina of Watson, and Lyndon Lowman and Stephanie of Watson; grandchildren Channing Battiest, Chasity Aaron, Layla Denise Lowman, Jessamyn Aria Lowman, and Lyndon Andre Lowman; sister-in-law Darlene Noahubi and husband Alton, sister-in-law Jackie Lowman and husband Ronnie; brothers-in-law Leroy Lowman and wife Pat of Oklahoma City, and Jerry Lowman and wife Shirley of Watson; and a host of nieces, nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow.



Joel O. Jones

Joel O. Jones passed away on July 25, 2016. He was born Feb. 10, 1922, to Jesse and Mary Jones in Chickasha.

Joel served in WWII; he participated in the D-Day plus three invasion landing on Omaha Beach 2nd Armored Division Hell on Wheels under General Patton. He reenlisted in 1951 in the Korean conflict. In 1953, he married Marie Henderson Stotts in Duncan. Joel was a roughneck in the Oklahoma oil fields until he moved to Texas City, Texas with his family in 1968. They became members of the First Baptist Church of Texas City, Texas. Recently Joel was a citizen of The House of Study in Texas City. He worked as a pipefitter and later as an operator at Amoco Oil Company where he retired in 1987. After retiring he spent his time with several hobbies and with his family. Joel loved to travel and camp throughout the United States with his wife and children. He also attended his WWII reunions. He developed his natural artistic abilities through painting and drawing, which were self taught. Joel won several awards at area art shows in the 1990’s. He continued this hobby until becoming blind in his later years. His latest project was drawing a gallery of the Presidents of the United States through George W. Bush. Joel loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grand children, who were the loves of his life and his greatest joy in his later years.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Mary Jones; his wife, Marie Jones; and one grandchild Katelyn R. Jones.

Joel is survived by his seven children, Jolene Lewis (Don), Donna Rochell (Doyce), Dean Jones (Cheryl), Gene Jones, Joe Jones (Angela), Debbie Brasher (David) and Roy Jones (Sharon); 20 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Internment was held at Galveston Memorial Cemetery.



Marvetta A. Taylor

Marvetta A. Taylor, 76, passed away Feb. 25, 2016, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was born June 19, 1939, to Albert and Pauline Rex in Buckeye, Arizona.

She was a life-long resident of the Haw Creek community and a member of the Big Creek Baptist Church. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She was a retired Teacher’s Aide at Hodgen Public School.

Marvetta is preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Pauline Rex; stepmother, Thelma Rex; one brother, Kenneth Rex; and brother-in-law, Eley Bourquet.

She is survived by husband, Bobby Taylor of the home; two daughters, Glynis Gore of Poteau, and Tammy Hickman and husband Joe of Page; three sons, Greg Anthony and wife Joy of Poteau, Duane Taylor and wife Sheila of Haw Creek, and Mark Taylor and wife Carrie of Haw Creek; three sisters, Dalphnia Beckman and husband Richard of Aurora, Colorado, Marlene Borquet Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Iva Atkins of Albuquerque, New Mexico; two borthers, LeRoy Rex and wife Sue of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and David Rex and wife Carrol of Colorado Springs, Colorado; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members.



Jeanine (Cooke) Sharp

Jeanine (Cooke) Sharp, 84, passed away Aug. 17, 2016, in Idabel. She was born Nov. 30, 1931, to Wilson and Geneva (Hawkins) Battiest in Hochatown.

Jeanine was a Jehovah Witness and lived in DeQueen for 20 years. She enjoyed raising cats and dogs, gardenin in her flower beds, visiting with her friends, and spending time with her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Lewis Cooke; and Son Lowell Cooke.

Jeanine is survived by sons Duane Cooke and wife Deborah of Broken Bow, Darryl Cooke of Plane, Texas; daughter Diane Richbourg of Broken Bow; brother Quentin Gattiest and wife Carol of Ohio; sister Jolene Robinson and husband John of Ponca City; eight grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow. Internment was held at Broken Bow Cemetery.



Moses C. Jones

Moses C. Jones, 79, passed from this life July 29, 2016. He was born April 11, 1937, to Joe Jeffrey Jones and Adeline Christie Jones in Valiant.

Moses was proud of his Choctaw heritage and he was pastor at Church For All Nations in Broken Bow. Moses served in the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Shirley Beatrice Cox and Moses were married in Millerton on Nov. 18, 1995. Moses pastored churches in Oklahoma and Colorado and ministered as an evangelist to congregations from all nations and tribes. McCurtain County was always the first place in his heart. Preaching the Gospel of his Creator was the passion and heart of his. Loving the children of God was the first thought of all the moments of his day. He taught from his life and understood the pain, fear, and needs of people. The same devotion he extended to people revealed itself in the world of construction. He was a builder and a mender of buildings and people.

His is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; daughters, Carolyn, Beverly and husband Danny, Sherry, Annette, Marie; sons, Dennis, Dwayne and wife Terri, Danny and wife Gaylene; 16 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and special nieces and nephews.



John Lloyd Roberts

John Lloyd Roberts passed away July 5, 2016. He was born to George and Lola Roberts in Talihina.

John was very proud of being Choctaw Vietnam Veteran. The family moved to Brawley, California in 1945, he graduated from Brawley Union High School in 1961. He was a gifted athlete, his senior year he was the only athlete to letter in football, basketball, baseball, and track and field. When attending Imperial Valley College he played on a championship football team and was inducted into the Imperial Valley Football Coaches Association “Hall of Fame” for his leadership and talent. Drafted into the Army in 1965, he was selected for Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. John received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and four commendation medals all with distinguishing “V” for Valor in combat. John also received three Purple Hearts for injuries he received in combat and four Army Commendation medals for Meritorious Service in his military career. In 1969, he married Susan and continued his military career until 1975. After the Army, he was involved in several business ventures in Southern California until 1981. At that point, he and the family moved to San Ramon and he became the owner of Livermore R. V. and Shell Center. Shortly after that, they joined their local Presbyterian Church. He was dedicated to serving the church in any capacity and served on Session several times. Later, he and Susan became charter members of San Ramon Presbyterian Church and he continued his service there. He closed his business in 2000 and eventually became the Facilities Manager at their church. He enjoyed working at the church and being with people of faith. After his retirement in 2009, he enjoyed golfing and being a grandfather to his two grandchildren.

Joel is preceded in death by his parents and his brother George Noland Roberts.

He is survived by his wife Susan; son Scott; daughter Denise and Shane; grandchildren April and Brady O’Quinn; brother Bruce and Bev Roberts; and numerous family members.

Internment was held at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dalton Ky Irvin

Dalton Ky Irvin, 25, passed from this life on August 5, 2016 in Bixby. He was born on June 28, 1991, to Kyle D. Irvin and Cindy Jo Darrough in Tulsa.

Dalton was a member of the 2010 graduating class of Bixby High School. He had recently begun working at Darrough Air Conditioning and Heating Co. He was proud of his heritage. He was loved by family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Don Irvin.

He is survived by his mother, Cindy Darrough and fiancé’ Joel Stinson, of Bixby; his father, Kyle Irvin of Bixby; his sister, Philly Ketchum and husband Dustin of Bixby; half-brother, Josh Jacobsen of Owasso; maternal grandparents, Jack and Karren Darrough of Tulsa; paternal grandmother, Sue Irvin of Bixby; his beloved nephew, Lew Ketchum and numerous other family members and longtime friends.



Everett Dale Sperling

Everett Dale Sperling, 83, died on July 26, 2016 after a long illness. He was born Oct. 18, 1932, to Clabe Sperling and Zena Stanton in Lawton.

He is a member of the Pine St. Church of Christ in Oroville.

He is survived by his wife Donna; daughter Susan Gist of Oroville; son David Sperling of Gridley; granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Scheer Memorial Chaple. Internment was held at Memorial Park Cemetery in Oroville.



Elline Faye Morris

Elline Faye Morris, 92, passed away peacefully Nov. 19, 2015. She was born May 8, 1932.

She was the loving wife of Sherman Morris and the mother of four children, Douglas Morris, Myrna and Jim Niccolson, Donna and Barry Mitchell, and Joni and Matthew Cardinali, D.D.S. She was also a grandmother and great-grandmother.



OBITUARIES

Lynda Gardner Haislip

Lynda Gardner Haislip, 65, passed away June 16, 2013, in Sherman, Texas. She was born on October 8, 1947, to L.D. and Catherine Eileen (Wilson) Gardner in Hemet, California.

Lynda was very talented; she published three books and wrote songs.

She is preceded in death by her father L.D. Gardner; sister Clarissa Gardner.

Lynda is survived by her sons Jami Haislip of Bokchito, Joey Dean and Elitha McBride of Bokchito, and Gerry Brent Haislip and wife Michelle of Durant; daughter Sherri Bragg of Bennington; 16 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; mother Catherine Gardner of Calera; brothers Gary Gardner, Darrell Gardner and wife Carolyn, Jessie Gardner and wife Brandi, Bennie and Nelson Gardner, Robin Gardner, Delbert Gardner; sister Jeynell Eubanks.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home in Durant. Interment was held at Bennington Cemetery.



Ruth Ella (Medell) Hannan

Ruth Ella (Medell) Hannan, 86, died peacefully July 25, 2016. She was born March 30, 1930, to Everett Lee Medell and Elvia (Coburn) Medell in Bennington.

Ruth graduated from Bennington High School and initially attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She married John Hannan Jr. in 1950. Ruth returned to college earning her Bachelor degree in Education from Oklahoma Panhandle State University. She became a substitute teacher in Gruver ISD, then worked for Perryton ISD as a third grade teacher, where she remained until she retired in 1989. She was a loving, hardworking, generous and independent mother who pursued excellence. Ruth loved quilting and oil painting. She was passionate about her relationship with Jesus Christ. She was a generous, witty, fun-loving individual who loved playing games such as 42 and Bridge. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Colbert for 17 years. She loved her Sunday School friends and taught kindergarten to adult's Sunday School all of her adult life. She was both a student and a teacher in Bible Study Fellowship for over 10 years. She was a member of Durant Garden Club, Newcomers of Durant, Red Hat Club and several Bridge clubs.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and five siblings, Kenneth, Mary Lou (Speer), Yvonne (Harmon), Richard and Lavern (White).

Ruth is survived by her sons Bobby A. (Bob) and Karen Hannan of Broken Arrow; John S. (Steve) and Michelle Hannan of Capulin, Colorado and Richard L. and Marta Hannan of Lafayette, Louisiana; brother-in-law Nathan White; grandchildren Dr. Natalia Hannan, Veronica Hannan and Kael Greco, James and Teri-Rae Hannan, Mark and Nicole Hannan, Melissa and Danny Perry, Christine and David Flores; four great-grandchildren; along with 12 nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service in Durant.



Mildred Ashalintubbi

Mildred Ashalintubbi, 84, passed away Aug. 15, 2016, in Idabel. She was born March 9, 1932, to Mose and Minni (Dyer) Ashalintubbi in Eagletown.

Mildred was an enlisted Elder Commissioner of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC) to the General Assembly form 1996-2007. She served as moderator of the Choctaw Presbyterian C. P. C., and served as president for the C. P. Women's Ministry. In 2004, she went on a mission work trip to the Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. In 2007, she was nominated outstanding Choctaw Elder of District two for Choctaw Nation. She enjoyed her cats, flowers, gardening, traveling, picking wild onions, going out to eat, watching and listening to Gospel music, and visiting with her friends. She also loved her grandchildren and spending time with them.

Mildred is preceded in death by her mother and father; son Alan Jason Jones; sister Marie McKinney; brothers Marland, Moses Jr., Melvin and Melton Ashalintubbi; granddaughter Melinda Kay Berry; nephews David Wayne Ashalintubbi and Verolyn Ashalintubbi; niece Trish Seyler.

She is survived by daughter Winona Berry of McAlester, her children, Raymond Berry and Lance Berry; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Panki Bok Cemetery in Eagletown.



Shari Ann Gaines

Shari Ann Gaines, 71, died Aug. 1, 2016, after a long struggle with ovarian cancer. She was born in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Shari moved to Spring, Texas with her husband, Robert A. Gaines II. Shari was a member of The Fellowship of The Woodlands, Woodlands, Texas campus.

Shari was preceded in death by her foster parents Ruth and Scott Withrow of Shreveport, Louisiana; brother Brady Mc Collough of Shreveport, Louisian; son David Pierpont of Denver, Colorado.

She is survived by husband Robert; daughter Jennifer Pierpont of Aurora, Colorado; sister Kathy Hiller of Shreveport, Louisiana; brother Bob Davis of Akron, Colorado; three step children Rob Gaines, Kristen Nangle and Ryan Gaines and their spouses, six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Karl Gordon Nelson

Karl Gordon Nelson, 60, died on April 12, 2016. He was born to Isham P. and Gloria J. Nelson in Dallas, Texas.

His grandparents were original enrollees, Isham Pushmataha Nelson Sr. and Kathrynne Flinchum Nelson. Karl was raised in Dallas, Texas and graduated from W.T. White High School in 1973. He was a starter on the varsity basketball team throughout high school and was named District 11 Sophomore of the Year for Basketball in 1971. He attended Paris Junior College on a basketball scholarship. He also went to Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, and graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah with a BBA in 1979. Following graduation Karl worked in businesses in Tulsa and Dallas, Texas before becoming involved in the trophy making business and buying A House of Trophies in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He operated the business from 1986-2016. Married from 1975-1998, Karl had a son, Travis Gordon Nelson. Karl loved playing basketball and watching all sports. He also enjoyed listening to good blues music, spending time in nature, being with family and loved ones, and exploring his ancestry, especially his Choctaw heritage.

He is preceded in death by his father; his brother Eric Isham P. Nelson.

He is survived by his son Travis; his mother; companion Joy Rossy; sister Toni Olsen and husband Ivor; mother of his son Susie Nelson; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of All-County Funeral Home & Crematorium, Lake Worth, Florida.



Daniel Wade Moore

Daniel Wade Moore, 55, of Orange Park, Florida passed away unexpectedly at home July 27, 2016. He was born Nov. 10, 1960, in Oak Harbor, Washington.

He graduated from Orange Park High School June 1978 and enlisted in the United States Army soon after. His first tour of duty was in Wildflecken, Germany and he also served in Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado where he was Honorably Discharged as a Specialist Grade Four in June of 1982. He was an avid baseball fan and loved the St. Louis Cardinals. His passion for the sport led him to join the North Florida Umpires Association in the fall of 2007, where he was an active member until his death. His pro-style technique and his positive interaction with youth athletes earned him a trip to Cooperstown, New York for the Youth Little League World Series. The youth athletes loved him as he was always welcomed with smiles and hugs.

Danny is survived by his daughter Daniele Moore; granddaughter Addie Moore; mother Sue McEvers; father Cephas Moore Sr. and Cindy; brother Cephas Moore Jr. and Elizabeth; half-sister Katelyn Moore and Timmy; half-brother Andrew Moore; aunts Shirley Nye and Larry; B Lalli; uncles Denver Moore and Sherry, Louie Moore and Karen; along with many cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Hardage Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home. Interment was held at Holly Hill Memorial Park, Florida.



Presley Battiest, Sr.

Presley Battiest, Sr., 79, passed away, Aug. 5, 2016, at the OSU Medical Center, in Tulsa. He was born Oct. 19, 1936, to Cyrus Wade Battiest, Sr. and Catherine (Taylor) Battiest in Bethel.

Presley was a member of the Bible Baptist Church, in Wright City and had lived in McCurtain County most of his life. Presley was retired from Weyerhaeuser as a machine operator. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports, going to basketball games, and playing piano and singing in church. He also enjoyed working on lawn mowers and loved his wrestling.

He is preceded in death by his parents Cyrus Wade Battiest, Sr. and Catherine (Taylor) Battiest; sisters Cindy Maytubby and Sally Crosby; granddaughter Lindsey Battiest; sister-in-law Viola Battiest.

Presley is survived by his best friend and caregiver, Serena Battiest; sons Frederick Battiest and wife Rachel, Jonathan Battiest, Presley Battiest, all of Wright City, and Gerald Nehka of DeQueen, Arkansas; daughters Crystal Battiest James of Wright City, Angela Kaulaity of Broken Bow, Cathy Baker and husband Patrick of Elton, Louisiana, and Carol Nehka of Wright City; brothers Cyrus Battiest Jr. and wife Betty of Wright City, Charles Battiest and wife Marietta of Hugo, Doyce "Sonny" Battiest of San Antonio, Texas, and Luther Battiest and wife Donna of Wright City; sisters Loretta Gates of Wright City, and Linda Sue Battiest of Broken Bow; grandchildren Jonathan Jr., Hallie, Hillary, Brandi, Mikayla, Jeremy, and Wesley; many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home Chapel in Broken Bow. Interment was held at Slater Memorial Cemetery.



Phillip Michael Sanders

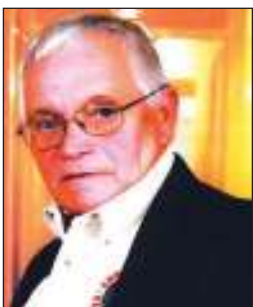
Phillip Michael Sanders, 68, passed away Dec. 23, 2015 in Springfield, Missouri. He was born Nov. 18, 1947 to William "Dub" Pinner and Thelma (Teel) Sanders in DeQueen, Arkansas.

Phillip was a 1966 Heavener High School graduate, a life-long resident of Heavener, a proud member of First Baptist Church in Heavener. He worked for Kansas City Southern Railroad for 30 years. He served in the United States Army during Vietnam. Phillip was a Gold card member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association; Pro-judge for PRCA for 25 years; Cowboys Regional Rodeo Association judge for eight years; 1966 Oklahoma High School All-Around State Rodeo Champion; and a two-time SPRA Steer Wrestling Champion. He loved attending Heavener School athletic events, riding horses, judging rodeos, raising cattle and taking care of his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents William "Dub" Pinner and Thelma (Teel) Sanders; sister Dorothy Sanders.

Phillip is survived by wife Terry Sanders of 48 years; sons JR Sanders and wife Billie of Mena, Arkansas, Roadale Sanders and wife Kellie of Heavener; brother Harold Sanders and wife Jane of Heavener; grandsons Trey Sanders of Wister, Gunner Sanders of Heavener, Tanner Hooper of Mena, Arkansas; granddaughter Zaley Sanders of Wister; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Dowden-Roberts Funeral Home in Heavener. Interment was held at Heavener Memorial Park.



John Wesley (Wes) Davenport

John Wesley (Wes) Davenport, 89, of Crosby, Texas, passed away Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Heritage Home in Humble, Texas. He was born Aug. 10, 1926 to Jim and Dora Davenport in Vernon, Texas.

Wes served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, was a sports enthusiast, and an awesome father and grandfather. One of his greatest fulfillments was being a devout Christian and being a member of First Baptist Church of Crosby for sixty years.

He was preceded in death by wife Peggy, a sister and four brothers.

Wes is survived by sons Jim and wife Sharon, Tommy and wife, Tanya; twin daughters, Cheryl Petroski and husband Robert, Carol Weselka and husband Gary; brothers Travis, Bob, Billy; sister Kitty Ann Roark; 13 grandchildren; 16 great-grand children, and one great-great-granddaughter.



Smith Justin "Smitty" Beal

Smith Justin "Smitty" Beal, 67, passed away July 19, 2016. He was born June 3, 1949 to Smith and Marie Beal in Atoka.

Justin had a larger than life personality and a love of motorcycles, riding for years with the Rogues MC Club of Oklahoma City. He loved his family and took great pride in his heritage.

He is preceded in death by his parents Smith and Marie Beal; sister Marilyn; and brother Carl.

Justin is survived by sons Tim and Joe Cantrell, Rex and Dustin Beal; sister-in-law Judy Beal; nephew Wade Beal and wife Cara; niece Renee Kurlander and husband Corey; several grandchildren; a great-nephew and niece along with numerous other relatives.



Wanda Porterfield-Barnes

Wanda Porterfield-Barnes, 80, passed away on July 18, 2016, with her family by her side. She was born on July 19, 1935, to Owen and Ruby Hogan Porterfield in Blue.

Wanda married her best friend Vernon Barnes in Poteau after graduating from Talihina Public School. After their marriage they made their home in the Talihina area where Wanda worked as a telephone operator for several years. They moved to Florida and she worked at Wal-Mart where she retired. After retirement she and Vernon moved back to Oklahoma.

Wanda is preceded in death by her parents Owen Porterfield and Ruby Hogan Porterfield; and daughter Vicki L. (Barnes) Lester.

Wanda is survived by her husband Vernon Barnes of the home; daughter Teketha Barnes Ray of Atlanta, Georgia; son Michael J. Barnes of Perdido Beach, Alabama; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service of Talihina.



Charles Hardy Perry

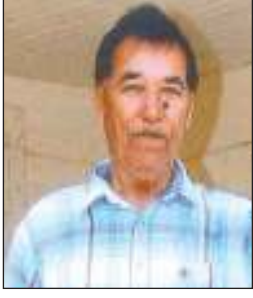
Charles Hardy Perry, 80, passed away Aug. 20, 2016, at his home in Hodgen. He was born Aug. 22, 1935, to Charles Raymond and Lulu (Thorne) Perry in Hodgen.

Charles loved life and he loved sitting on his front porch, visiting with friends, riding in the mountains, and spending time with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brother Dickie Perry.

Charles is survived by son Charles John Perry of Antlers; granddaughters Bailey Rose Perry, and Haiven Raine Perry of Antlers; sisters Patricia Caughern of Heavener, and Mona Lea Perry of Hodgen.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Dowden-Roberts Funeral Home of Heavener.



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

Choctaw Nation Breaking Ground In Southeastern Oklahoma

By CHARLES CLARK
& STACY HUTTO

Choctaw Nation

September was a busy month for Choctaw Nation construction crews. There were groundbreakings for a Choctaw Community Center in Talihina, a Travel Plaza in Stigler, and a Head Start in Wright City. Talihina hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 27, for a new Choctaw Community Center. The new community center will be located at 201 Dallas St. and replaces the old one, which has already been demolished.

Chief Gary Batton said, “I hope it provides a place where our elders can come. Of course, we talk about a place... to provide a meal, to show respect for them, but also hopefully, it is a place... where the family can come together, where they can host events, have family gatherings. And, so to me, the more we can connect them and they relive that culture that’s being lost... to me, that’s critical.”

The new community center will be built at the same location as the old building. Preliminary groundwork had already begun and equipment and workers stood by ready to get to work.

The new Choctaw Community Center will cover 11,185-square-feet and will include a separate storage building. The facility will be able to hold a wide variety of events, has a full-scale commercial kitchen, exercise room, and Tribal Council offices.

“On behalf of the Talihina board of trustees, and the town of Talihina, we are thankful for the Choctaw Nation and what happened here today,” Talihina Mayor Don Faulkner said.

Faulkner added everything that happens in their community benefits everyone, not just the Choctaw Nation, but all residents.

Pat Starbuck, a tribal member and Talihina native said, “It’s a learning center. The wonderful part is it’s open to the whole community. Everyone feels welcome there.”

The Talihina Choctaw Community Center should be completed in Spring 2017.

At the groundbreaking for a Choctaw Travel Plaza in Stigler on Tuesday, Sept. 20, Chief Batton said, “It’s great to be in Stigler.” He noted Choctaw Nation had 26 projects going on or in the planning stages in southeastern Oklahoma.

Chief Batton told those in attendance because of Choctaw Nation’s continued growth, financial institutions in metropolitan areas such as Oklahoma City and Tulsa are ready to invest in southeastern Oklahoma.

District 5 Tribal Councilman Ronald

Perry said he was pleased that the Choctaw Travel Plaza would bring new jobs to the Stigler area. Once the travel plaza opens, 24 new hires will start work.

District 4 Councilman and newly elected Speaker of the Choctaw Tribal Council Delton Cox said the new jobs in Stigler would contribute to the 9,000 people that the Choctaw Nation already employs.

After the groundbreaking ceremony was over Perry said, “Our latest report shows that Haskell County is tied with Latimer County with the highest unemployment rate within the Choctaw Nation.”

Perry, who lives near Stigler, stated the travel plaza would boost both the economy and benefit nearby attractions, such as the area lakes.

The 6,600-square-foot Choctaw Travel Plaza in Stigler will be located at 1801 E. Main St. and will feature four gasoline, E10, and diesel fuel pumps for passenger vehicles, an in-house kitchen that will prepare hot foods, as well as fresh and healthy food for customers to enjoy in the 30-plus seating area or to take with them.

A lobby is being added to the existing Choctaw Casino, which will connect directly to the Choctaw Travel Plaza so customers can easily access all food, entertainment, restrooms, and more. True to the Choctaw retail and gaming commitment to create exceptional experiences, the Choctaw Casino and Choctaw Travel Plaza complex in Stigler is designed with visually appealing architectural details, such as cut stone, brick, and woods accented by the signature Choctaw diamond motif. The interiors will showcase décor that promotes Choctaw heritage. Childers Architect is the architectural firm, and Builders Unlimited will oversee construction. According to officials, the new Choctaw Travel Plaza and Choctaw Casino expansion in Stigler will be completed in the summer of 2017.

Parents and grandparents were among the almost 50 people gathered for a groundbreaking Ceremony at 5704 Rodeo Grounds Rd. in Wright City on Thursday, Sept. 15. The groundbreaking was for a new Choctaw Nation Head Start facility.

“A new Head Start has been needed here for about 10 years now,” Chief Batton said to the crowd. “In this new facility, we will continue to teach our children the values and the legacy of the Choctaw people.”

While Eastern Oklahoma Tribal Schools is the architect for the new facility, Choctaw Nation Construction Administration will furnish the Project Manager.

The 7,352-square-foot Head Start facility will have two classrooms. The



Photos by Deidre Elrod

Above: On Tuesday, Sept. 27, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant were joined by Tribal Councilmembers, local officials and tribal elders in a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Choctaw Community Center in Talihina. Below: On Tuesday, Sept. 20, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 5 Councilman Ronald Perry, along with other Councilmembers, District 5 Jr. Princess Juanita Gonzalez, community members, and state and local officials broke ground for a new Choctaw Travel Plaza and Casino expansion in Stigler.



classrooms will accommodate a total of 34 students and include advanced technological features such as high-definition Smart Boards, full-height windows for daylight and nature views, automatic LED lighting, and energy efficient HVAC. Head Start students will be able to enjoy playtime on the new playground equipment. The new Head Start will also have a full commercial kitchen and a parent resource room.

Parents, grandparents, and community members will be able to have peace of mind during storm season knowing the facility will have a FEMA compliant Safe Room for students and staff.

The existing walking track next to the Head Start will not be removed. It will be improved

and reconfigured to accommodate the new Head Start design.

District 7 Councilman Jack Austin Sr. said, “This is the first step on a long road for our kids in their education, all in hopes to open many doors for them.”

“Our people are the most important factor in sustaining our tribe and what more important thing can we invest in than our children. To me, it is about preservation of our history and culture,” Chief Batton said.

The Choctaw Head Start in Wright City should be completed in Spring 2017.

TRAIL OF TERROR STARTS AT DUSK!

CHILDREN'S GAMES

COSTUME CONTEST

7:30 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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

YOU ARE ALL INVITED

TO THE FIRST ANNUAL

TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL SINGING

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SILAS & LORENE BLAINE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2:00—5:00 JAM SESSION

5:00—7:00 TRADITIONAL DINNER BREAK

7:00—7:15 OPENING PRAYER— RICHARD ADAMS

7:15—8:15 DEVOTIONAL— JESSE PACHECO

8:15—8:15 TRADITIONAL CHAHTA HYMNS

8:15—TILL ? ALL NIGHT SINGING

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

ROGER SCOTT, GREG SCOTT, & MICHAEL SCOTT

FEATURED GROUP

NEW BEGINNINGS

EVENT HOSTED AT THE CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER LOCATED AT:

2750 BIG LOTS PARKWAY, DURANT, OK 74701

COME ENJOY AN OLD TRADITION OF ALL NIGHT GOSPEL SINGING.

ALL CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONS WELCOMED!

EVENT SPONSORED BY:

THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF SILAS & LORENE BLAINE

Thanksgiving Dinners

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Antlers	11/16	Noon
Atoka	11/19	Noon
Bethel/Battiest	11/18	6PM
Broken Bow	11/14	6PM
Coalgate	11/13	1PM
Crowder	11/20	1PM
Durant (Event Center)	11/8	6PM
Hugo	11/9	Noon
Idabel	11/17	6PM
McAlester	11/20	1PM
Poteau	11/17	6PM
Smithville	11/16	Noon
Spiro	11/22	11AM
Stigler	11/16	11:30AM
Talihina	Call (918) 567-2106	
Tvshka Homma	11/4	6PM
Wright City	11/17	Noon

All dinners are held at the community centers unless otherwise noted.

Choctaw Recruiting

Faith+Family+Culture

Begin A Journey With The Choctaw Nation

THINK CHOCTAW HONOR THE CULTURE

Choctaw Nation Human Resource Recruiting
careers.choctawnation.com
800-522-6170
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

HOT JOBS

Get HIRED!

October 2016

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.

Positions

- Sr. Kronos Systems Administrator
- Legal Assistant – Legal & Compliance
- IT Service Desk Technician II
- Network Administrator
- Multimedia Traffic Coordinator
- Senior Accounting Manager
- Audio Visual Technician

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

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:

Crowder Community Center
• October 14
• 9–11 a.m.

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT FOR CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

Biskinik	9-22-16
Name of Media	Date Submitted
To: PO Box 1210	
Address of Media	
Durant, OK 74702	

The Choctaw Nation Head Start

(Name of Institution)

announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

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 866-632-9992 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 USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442, or e-mail at <program.intake@usda.gov>.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Why Good People Stay in Bad Relationships

When people think about an “abused woman,” they probably don’t picture a strong, smart, intelligent, and sassy kind of person. I’d guess they’d picture a housewife wearing mom jeans crying into her apron over her latest black eye. Couldn’t be farther from the truth. ANY woman can get caught up in a bad relationship—be it the executive down the hall or the janitor who sweeps up after you in the ladies room.

So let’s break down those stereotypes and figure out why women—all KINDS of women—stay in bad relationships.

- 1) Fear of being alone. I know in this day and age, we women are supposed to be tough and fearless, but it’s not always the case. We can behave as though we’re tough and fearless, while inside, we long to be wanted by our partner.
- 2) The devil you know versus the devil you don’t. There’s something comforting in staying with your partner—bad relationship and all—because at least you know what’s next.

- 3) Fear that this is the best there is out there. A lot of people—women who have been in bad relationships, especially—have their self-esteem eroded slowly by their partner (and life) so much that they honestly believe their current partner IS the best they’ll ever get.

- 4) “It’s not that bad.” Women believe erroneously that because their story isn’t as graphic or as horrible as someone else’s, it’s not really worth it to talk about their partners who really only get upset when they “do something wrong.”

- 5) You’re a perfectionist. Everything you do is the BEST out there. Therefore, your relationship must not be broken, it’s just facing “challenges.” The idea of failure is so tremendous that leaving never even crosses your mind.

- 6) He has some sort of leverage. Often men who are truly abusive threaten a woman, saying he will hurt her children, her pets, or her family if she leaves him.

- 7) You love him—plain and simple.
- 8) You believe he will change. He says he will. He’s TRYING to change. You just make him SO MAD. If only you STOPPED making him SO MAD!
- 9) He makes you feel special beyond compare. Even if you’re not quite good enough (his words), he’ll manipulate you into feeling grateful that someone like him could be with someone like YOU.

- 10) You can’t see how truly bad it is. Whether it’s because you’ve been isolated from friends or family or you don’t want to see how bad things are, you don’t have any idea things have gotten this dire.

If you do find yourself in an abusive situation, it is critical that you stand up and get help. Go to a relative or friends house.

There is help for both men and women that find themselves victims of domestic violence. If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

HOW TO SURVIVE DATING VIOLENCE

Know the signs
Know how to recognize abuse.
The abuser is now the "Zookeeper" and no longer can be trusted.

Educate yourself on developing a healthy relationship.
Trust your instincts
Don't go places that would put you in danger.
Build your skills.
Learn how to be assertive without using violence.
Team up. Don't face abuse alone.
There's safety in numbers. Talk to family, friends or other adults you can trust.
It is NEVER ok to hit.
Don't join in when someone is being bullied or abused. It is always best to walk away.
Make safe decisions
Sometimes it is best to walk away.
Stay strong!
Once you decide to break up with the abuser, reach out to friends. Remember—things will get better.
Always have a safety plan.
Whether you stay with the person or not, know how to get out. If you are staying for now, be ready to get away.
Know your resources, keep yourself safe.
Trust your instincts. If it feels scary—it's abuse.
Stay alert—don't cloud your brain with alcohol or other drugs.
Know your strengths and weaknesses.
It's not your fault, no one deserves to be abused.

National Dating Abuse Helpline
1-266-331-9474
National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-795-SAFE
CHOCTAW NATION
Family Violence Prevention
1-800-522-6170

Biskinik Brings Home Awards

By COMMUNICATIONS
Choctaw Nation

The staff of the Biskinik, the official monthly publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, recently went to New Orleans for the 2016 Excellence in Journalism Conference and Native American Journalists Association Awards Banquet.

When the awards banquet ended the Biskinik walked out with five awards in the Print Professional Division III, circulation over 10,000. The awards are as follows:

Best Layout
Second place

Best Column
Second place

Iti Fabvssa: Native American History:



Photo by Rosemary Stephens, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe

The Hiawatha Asylum

Best Sports Story
Second place

Choctaw football player kicks stigma of diabetes, finds success

General Excellence
Third place

Best News Photo
Third place

Choctaw Nation student shows off his ticket to Presidential visit

Durant’s Choctaw Casino & Resort, Gold Key Elite Award Winner

By COMMERCE DIVISION
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant recently added another award to a long list of accomplishments. Readers of Meetings & Conventions (M&C) magazine chose the Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant as a 2016 Gold Key Elite Award winner in the Best Gaming Property category for the southwestern region.

“We are honored to accept this recognition from the top meeting planners in the country,” Choctaw Nation Commerce Senior Executive Officer T.R. Kanuch said.

“Choctaw Casinos & Resorts strives to consistently deliver well-planned events that become once-in-a-lifetime occasions. It pleases the entire Choctaw Nation to know our guests enjoy an extraordinary experience at Choctaw Casinos & Resorts,” continued Kanuch.

The Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant is the only AAA Four Diamond rated hotel in Southeastern Oklahoma. In addition to an award-winning gaming experience, Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant offers world class entertainment in their 25,000-sq. ft. Magnolia Grand Ballroom.

Other amenities include a conference center, a full-service spa, an expansive luxury pool retreat, and an entertainment district complete with an arcade, bowling center, cinema, laser tag arena, a sports bar, and a food court.

For over 35 years, M&C’s Gold Key Awards have recognized leading hotels that have excelled in servicing meeting and event professionals, as voted on by the readers of M&C.

This year, hotel chains were recognized nationally, while leading hotel properties were recognized in several categories regionally in the United States and worldwide.

The top vote getters in each category in each region earned the Gold Award Elite distinction. Readers of M&C voted for the winners of the Gold Key Awards via online ballots and provided feedback based on their professional experiences worldwide for their top hotels, conference centers and CVBs.

All winners will be listed in M&C’s annual Gold Awards special issue, in print and online, distributed to 50,000 readers in November 2016. The online version will be posted simultaneously and available for viewing for a year online.



Photo Provided

Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma voted 2016 Gold Key Elite Award: Best Gaming Property in the southwest by readers of Meetings & Conventions.

10 tips
Nutrition Education Series

vary your protein routine

10 tips for choosing protein

Protein foods include both animal (meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs) and plant (beans, peas, soy products, nuts, and seeds) sources. We all need protein—but most Americans eat enough, and some eat more than they need. How much is enough? Most people, ages 9 and older, should eat 5 to 7 ounces* of protein foods each day depending on overall calorie needs.

1 vary your protein food choices

Eat a variety of foods from the Protein Foods Group each week. Experiment with main dishes made with beans or peas, nuts, soy, and seafood.

2 choose seafood twice a week

Eat seafood in place of meat or poultry twice a week. Select a variety of seafood—include some that are higher in oils and low in mercury, such as salmon, trout, and herring.

3 make meat and poultry lean or low fat

Choose lean or low-fat cuts of meat like round or sirloin and ground beef that is at least 90% lean. Trim or drain fat from meat and remove poultry skin.

4 have an egg

One egg a day, on average, doesn't increase risk for heart disease, so make eggs part of your weekly choices. Only the egg yolk contains saturated fat, so have as many egg whites as you want.

5 eat plant protein foods more often

Try beans and peas (kidney, pinto, black, or white beans; split peas; chickpeas; hummus), soy products (tofu, tempeh, veggie burgers), nuts, and seeds. They are naturally low in saturated fat and high in fiber.

6 nuts and seeds

Choose unsalted nuts or seeds as a snack, on salads, or in main dishes to replace meat or poultry. Nuts and seeds are a concentrated source of calories, so eat small portions to keep calories in check.

7 keep it tasty and healthy

Try grilling, broiling, roasting, or baking—they don't add extra fat. Some lean meats need slow, moist cooking to be tender—try a slow cooker for them. Avoid breading meat or poultry, which adds calories.

8 make a healthy sandwich

Choose turkey, roast beef, canned tuna or salmon, or peanut butter for sandwiches. Many deli meats, such as regular bologna or salami, are high in fat and sodium—make them occasional treats only.

9 think small when it comes to meat portions

Get the flavor you crave but in a smaller portion. Make or order a small turkey burger or a "petite" size steak.

10 check the sodium

Check the Nutrition Facts label to limit sodium. Salt is added to many canned foods—including soups, vegetables, beans, and meats. Many processed meats—such as ham, sausage, and hot dogs—are high in sodium. Some fresh chicken, turkey, and pork are brined in a salt solution for flavor and tenderness.

* What counts as an ounce of protein foods? 1 ounce lean meat, poultry, or seafood; 1 egg; ¼ cup cooked beans or peas; ½ ounce nuts or seeds; or 1 tablespoon peanut butter.

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

Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information.

DG TipSheet No. 6
Revised January 2016

Healthy Lifestyles

ROUTE 66 MARATHON
NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
NOVEMBER 19-20, 2016

Participants of the 2016 Route 66 Race Event (5K, team relay, half-marathon, full marathon) are eligible to have their entry fee paid for by Healthy Lifestyles.

For more information, please contact Tammie Cannady by calling (918) 567-7121 or emailing: tkcannady@cnhsa.com

If you register and do not participate, you will be responsible for fee reimbursement to Healthy Lifestyles.

Save the Date

Tribal Foster & Adoptive Recruitment Fair

* **October 22, 2016**
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Glorieta Baptist Church
Oklahoma City, Ok

We need you!! Please attend!
Find out how to become a Tribal Foster/Adoptive Parent

ALL IN GIVE BLOOD

CHOCTAW NATION BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, October 18
9 AM - 4 PM
Look for the Bloodmobile!

To donate \$10 to Global Blood Fund text BLOOD to 52009

Donors get a choice of OU or OSU t-shirt and will be entered to win a pair of BEDLAM 2016 tickets!

For more information contact Brenda Gabbart at 580-924-8280 ext. 2204

1-877-340-4777

Okla Blood Institute



During the Social Dances on the Capitol Grounds lawn, a dancer steals a partner from the crowd during the Stealing Partners Dance.



Children at the festival were able to meet Captain America as they checked out the Choctaw Nation D.A.R.E. car.



During the weekend the Mobile Library gave away books to children and adults.



During his State of the Nation address, Chief Gary Batton introduced his mother, Dolly Batton.



Two girls in traditional dress walk towards the Choctaw Village after grabbing a bite to eat from the food vendors at the Labor Day Festival held in Tvshka Homma.



People from all over the country came to the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma. There was a wide variety of events, booths, crafts, and entertainment. Many people caught up with old friends and made new ones during the five-day event.



District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson and his granddaughter Malory Pollard cruise around the festival.



A rider on the YoYo flies through the air with the wind in his face. The carnival drew many people to the thrilling and exciting rides.



Finn A. Payne held his mother's hand as he gathered leaves and explored before the Gourd Dancing began.



2017 Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby sits in the stands and watches the Volleyball Tournament.



Neal McCoy, Chief Gary Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. say the Pledge of Allegiance on the Capitol Ground lawn.



The Tornado was a popular ride with long lines at the carnival. People started lining up hours before the carnival started.



Kynleigh Lane McGuire smiles at the sights and sounds she sees from her stroller as she is pushed through the Choctaw Village.



Brenner Billy leads a group of people during a social dance on the Capitol Grounds lawn.



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard and District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston are among players battling for the ball in a scrum during a stickball exhibition game.



ABOVE: Linda Lou worked on baskets at her booth in the Arts and Crafts building. She had a wide variety of baskets. LEFT: V. DiNardo shows off his stickball sticks before the Stickball Tournament held during the Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.



One of the many activities for festival-goers was the rock climbing wall. The wall was a popular draw for children such as the girl pictured, who neared the top of the wall.



Many people at the carnival enjoyed the thrill they got from the Sizzler.



A group of people take refuge from the heat and humidity under a tree near the Capitol Museum. They found the perfect spot to people-watch while staying out of the sun.



Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Savannah Herndon and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Isabella Muncy talk during the festival.

Labor Day photos by Kendra Germany, Tina Firquain, Ronni Pierce, Stacy Hutto, Deidre Elrod, Vonna Loper, Krislan Winnett, Kim Eberl, Lisa Reed, Judy Allen, Jason Hicks and Charles D. Clark.

Going Green



People wait for their bottles and cans to be counted to see if they have enough for a shirt. At times, lines for the Going Green tent stretched down the road.



Employees from Recycling and volunteers sort and count cans and bottles people brought to the Going Green tent. People were able to exchange cans and bottles for Going Green shirts. In addition to the Going Green tent, Recycling had pens set up throughout the festival grounds for large cardboard and cans. They also made sure campers received a blue bag for recyclables.



The Going Green tent was a success, giving out a total of 4,980 t-shirts and recycling a total of 8,783 pounds of trash.



A little boy sits on a mound of cans as his family waits for their turn.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Health Services was on hand to give blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol checks during the 2016 Labor Day Festival.

Healthy Living Expo



Lillie Branscum and Chase Moore worked together to make a delicious and nutritious fruit smoothie during the Culinary Kids workshop during the Labor Day Festival.



Bobby Cargil of Bristow, gets his blood pressure taken in the Healthy Living Expo tent.



Chase Henson led the crowd at the Healthy Living Expo tent in a limited mobility exercise demonstration. Henson showed the crowd exercises and gave them information on how to stay active.

Education Tent



Ashley Benton, Landa McClure, and Kasandra Whitaker were on hand at the Choctaw College Connect booth. The booth was located inside the education tent during the Labor Day Festival.

Dominoes



The winners of the Labor Day Dominoes Competition were Tim Jones, second place, and Sylvester Moore, first place.



High School Student Services employees visit with a student at their booth in the education tent.



Various Choctaw education departments passed out information and visited with festival-goers in the education tent.

Checkers



Curtis Boston won first place during the Labor Day Checkers Competition and Sylvester Moore took home second place.

Horseshoes



Doubles horseshoes winners included second place Mike Mings and Nicky Slaughbaugh, first place Mitchell Smith and Mat Cummings, and third place Wade and Tiffany (Gantt) Taylor.



Youth singles horseshoe winners, second place Meskah Taylor, first place Noah Lindsey, and third place Issac Sims.



Mitchell Smith was the men's horseshoe ringers champion.



Noah Lindsey was the youth horseshoe ringers champion.



Women's horseshoe ringers champion was Trish Easton.



Women's singles horseshoes winners. (left to right) second place Brenda Smith, first place Tiffany Burchfield, and third place Phyllis Bohannon.

Choctaw Village & Dancing



The youth gathered in the clearing of the Choctaw Village to learn the basics of stickball. They gathered in lines picking up the towa with sticks and tossing it to a pole.

(left to right) Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Savannah Herndon, Senior Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby, and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Isabella Muncy join in social dancing in the Choctaw Village.



Emery McKinny gathered with other Choctaws and participated in the social dancing at the Choctaw Village.



Little Adilynn Boykin and Betheny Cole stopped by the pond at the Choctaw Village to have a family photo shoot.



(Above) During the activities on Saturday, Sept. 3, held at the Choctaw Village, children roamed the grounds exploring the creek and structures.
(Below) A rainbow of colors appeared in the middle of the Choctaw Village when dancers came together for the social dancing.



Choctaw Hymns were sung to start the festivities at the Choctaw Village Saturday morning.



Singers arrive at the Chapel for the annual gospel singing.



Councilman Joe Coley leads the singers in hymnal singing.



Leo Smallwood took home first place in the machine and hand stitch division.



Terry Wiles, won second place in the machine stitch division.



Lois Thomas from Talihina shows her first place and People's Choice quilt, Pansy, and her second place crazy quilt (front).



Paige Howell-Hines' quilt Naval Stars won second place in the machine and hand stitch division.



Ronnie Mizell from Sallisaw won third place in the machine stitch division for his design Squash Blossom.



Retired educator Johnny Hooser from Clayton shows his third place design Apple for the Teacher.

Gospel Singing



Members of the Springhill Choir wait to sing.

Quilt Show



Sandra Twaddle from Tvshka Homma won third place in the machine and hand stitch division with her quit Dream Big Little One.



Brenda Davis from Bethel won People's Choice and 1st place in the machine stitch division.

Pow Wow



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard led the Pow Wow Grand Entry on Friday, Sept. 2. The Pow Wow was held on the Capitol Grounds lawn.



Chahta ladies led by Carol Ayers walk past the drummers.



The Eagle Staff was followed by the flag bearers. The flag bearers carried the Choctaw, American, Oklahoma, and military flags.



Two Pow Wow contestants wait to line up for the Grand Entry.



Miss AIHREA Paan Pai Roberts talks with Choctaw Nation District 9 Junior Miss Josephine Gilmore.



The Choctaw Nation princesses, as well as princesses from other organizations, followed behind the flags and Gourd Dancers.



Choctaw royalty took part in the Inter-Tribal Pow Wow.



The Fancy Dress category was bright and eye-catching.



Miss Indian Oklahoma City and Miss Junior Indian Oklahoma City took part in the Pow Wow Grand Entry.



The Eagle Staff and flag bearers stand at attention while the Grand Entry winds through the dance area.



There were many styles of dress and dance at the Pow Wow.



Besides the Choctaw entrants, there were Plains Indians with their jingle dresses.

Gourd Dancing



Gourd Dancers dance while the Choctaw Color Guard waits for the Pow Wow Grand Entry to begin.



A young girl in jingle dress regalia joins in during the Choctaw Gourd Dance before the Pow Wow Grand Entry began.



Autumn Celestine was honored during the Gourd Dance held before the Pow Wow Grand Entry during the 2016 Choctaw Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma.



Head Gourd Dancer Wesley Jay Proctor leads the Gourd Dance on the Capitol lawn.



Right: Sheldon Aylesworth gets into position as the Gourd Dance begins. Left: Men stand on the side of the Pow Wow grounds waiting for their cue to begin the Gourd Dance.



Right: During the Gourd Dance, dancers honored Gwen Takes Horse. Left: A young dancer dances next to Head Gourd Dancer Wesley Jay Proctor.



Labor Day photos by Kendra Germany, Tina Firquain, Ronni Pierce, Stacy Hutto, Deidre Elrod, Vonna Loper, Krislan Winnett, Kim Eberl, Lisa Reed, Judy Allen, Jason Hicks and Charles D. Clark.



Layla Tisho joins other runners during the Saturday morning 5K Race. Over 600 participants signed up for the event but many more signed up on the day of the race.

(Top Right) With a time of 17:52, Kolton Lynn was the first place finisher in the 5K. Chief Gary Batton gifted him with a Pendleton blanket. (Bottom Right) Anna Moon from Derby, Kansas, was the top female finisher and took home a first place medal and a Pendleton blanket with a time of 21:22.



Fast-pitch

(Right) The Women's team Chitto Harjo won first place in the women's fast-pitch tournament. They beat 19 other teams winning the championship. (Bottom) War Pony Women's team won second place in the tournament.



(Top) The Tribal Brothers softball team took home first place in the Men's division of the fast-pitch tournament. (Right) Winning second place in the Men's tournament was the Kansas Indians. (Bottom) Taking home third place was team Syko.



In the women's fast-pitch tournament, the team TTS won third place during the Labor Day festival.



Chief Garry Batton threw out the first pitch for both the Men's and Women's games at the start of the Tournament. This is the first year the Chief has been to the opening of the fast-pitch tournament since he has been Chief. He greeted the players and did a quick warm-up before taking the mound.

Volleyball



(Left) Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016, the volleyball tournament began with 14 teams playing for the champion spot. (Right) The team Mississippi's Finest took home first place in the tournament.



War Hoops



MiniBallers (9-11): First Place Rockets



MiniBallers (9-11): Second place War Crew



Tweens (12-14): Second place CR Performance



MiniBallers (9-11): Third place Cubbies



Tweens (12-14): First place The Squad



Tweens (12-14): Third place Warriors



Teens (15-18): First place Smoke Signals



Teens (15-18): Third place Hi Loha



Young Guns (18-35): Third place Sobol



Teens (15-18): Second place Native Stunners



Young Guns (18-35): First place Goats



Young Guns (18-35): Second place The Dawgs



Old Timers (36 & up): Third place RMG



Old Timers (36 & up): First place Oleta



Old Timers (36 & up): Second place SE Ballers

Women: First place Still Got It (second place Chukachafo, not pictured; there was no third place team)



(10-12 free throw) Johnny Vaughn third place, Gabe Perez second place, and Cale Clay first place.

Free Throw



(6-9 free throw) Cason Taylor third place, Chaston Johnson second place, and Jevan Dick first place.



(13-15 free throw) Chris Garcia first place, Kantynn Kaseca second place, and John Vaughn third place.



(16-18 free throw) Kelbin Lewis third place, Brenton Tishie second place, and Lupae Rosales first place.

Bow Shoot



Women's first place winner was Alecia Ross, second place was Sue Folsom, and third place was Kerry Steve.



Men's first place winner was Brian Folsom, second place was Gary White, and third place was Chester Cowan.



Third place in the age 8 and under category was Wyatt Kinslow.



First place in the age 8 and under category was Nevaeh Thomas.



Second place in the age 8 and under category was Koi Harjo.



First place in the ages 9-13 category was Will Helms-Moore. Not picture was second place winner Jaden Allen and third place winner Day-lon Hall.



The Sunday morning Bow Shoot was a popular activity at the 2016 Labor Day Festival.



Nevaeh Thomas gets ready to shoot using a handmade bow in front of the pond at the Choctaw Village.

Tough Tough



Event organizer and Choctaw Nation employee Wad-el Hearn (left) awards Justin Boyd with the first place plaque.



Former Tough Tough champion Chris Hawk took second place in this year's competition with a time of 2:17.



James Turnbow flips a tractor tire during the Tough Tough Contest in Tvshka Homma during the Labor Day Festival.

Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge



Eevett King, Norman takes part in the sled drag portion of the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.



Isabel Lujano, 11, Tulsa tries out her vertical jumping skills during the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.



Max Roberts put his running skills to the test during the Chief's Physical Fitness Challenge.

Fittest Choctaw



Teen Female: First place, McKenzie Higgenbottom; second place, McCayla Taylor (not pictured).



Open Female: First place, Shelby Fields; second place, Courtney Hamill (not pictured); third place, Kassie Tisso.



Master Male: First place, Jeff Hansen (not pictured); second place, Brett Miller; third place, Van Higgenbottom.



Open Male: First place, Payton Guthrie; second place, Justin Jernigan; third place, Paul Crow.



Master Female: First place, Heather Pierce; second place, Denise Stewart; third place, Melissa Miller.



Legend Female: Cheryl Denison