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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

November 2016 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Oct. 8 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Letter of re-appointment for David Burrage as Chief Justice to the Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch.
- Letter of re-appointment for Mitch Mullins as Tribal Court Judge to the Choctaw nation Judicial Branch.
- Letter of re-appointment for Warren Gotcher to the Choctaw Nation Court of Appeals.
- Letter of re-appointment for Rebecca Cryer as Choctaw Nation District Court Special Judge.
- Authorized the Chief to place property in Bryan County, Latimer County, and LeFlore County in Trust Status with the United States of America.
- Amended CB-74-15, which authorized the Chief to place property in Bryan County in Trust Status with the United States of America.
- Approved an Oil and Gas lease with Cinco Energy Land Services, LLC. on Land USA in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Coal County.
- Funds and budget for Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative—Project Path of Hope.
- Funds and budget for Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Purpose Area Four—Project Path of Hope.
- Funds and budget for Americorps Indian Tribes Grant.
- Funds and budget for the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative—Project Homaki Ribbon.
- Funds and budget for the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative—Project Strong.
- Funds and budget for the 2015 Environmental Justice Small Grants program.
- Disposal of surplus capitol assets.
- FY17 Budget of the Choctaw Nation Environmental Office Performance Partnership Grant funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- FY17 Budget of the Choctaw Nation Environmental Office Clean Air Act Sect 103 Grant funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- Approved a water tower and ground space lease to USCOC of Greater Oklahoma, LLC for water tower and land on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds in Tvshka Homma, for placement of cellular mobile radio base station.

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

Ted Dosh, a True Servant Leader Who Will Be Missed

By STACY HUTTO
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma lost a treasured Councilman and tribal member on Friday, Oct. 7. District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh suffered a heart attack and passed away on Friday night at the age of 71.

During his lifetime Dosh wore many hats. In addition to being a loving husband to his wife of 51 years, Carolyn, he was a father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was also a former Bryan County Commissioner, a rancher and a Choctaw Tribal Councilman. Dosh served his country for eight years in the Army Reserves.

Since he was first elected 38 years ago, Dosh was able to watch the Choctaw Nation grow and expand.

tion, or STAR program; Higher Education; and Career Development.

Dosh served Bryan County as a County Commissioner for eight years and worked for the Department of Agriculture for 10 years. He learned there is always a new direction, another opportunity waiting to help plan a better future.

He took what he learned as a County Commissioner and at the Department of Agriculture and used it to enrich the lives of Choctaw tribal members. Dosh, along with his fellow tribal councilmembers, made the commitment to create partnerships that resulted in economic development such as the Choctaw Casino and Resort-Durant, travel plazas, emergency response centers,

was there for them.”

Many of the seniors at the Durant Community Center, like Linda Burnett, LaDonna Dry, Missie Jones and Kay Wright are thankful for all the help and support he gave the seniors.

“Ted Dosh became my friend, as well as my Councilman. We worked together from the opening of the Community Center in Durant in August 2009 until his recent passing,” District 9 Seniors President Marilyn Mitchell-Dill said.

“His 38 years as Councilman reflected his work as a champion of the Choctaw Nation, his seniors, and anyone who needed help. His kind and simple manner let you know he was a servant of all,” continued Mitchell-Dill.

Mary Lee Williams, Senior Clerk at the Durant Choctaw Community Center started her job this summer.

“Being new to the job Ted made my transition very easy. His manner of conducting his business was a reflection of the way he conducted his life—with great wisdom, humility, and concern for his fellow person. Ted Dosh is one of those people who leaves a lasting impression in one’s life for years to come and I feel honored and blessed to have worked with him,” Williams said.

“Ted was a mentor to me and a true friend to me and my family. He will be greatly missed,” Chief Gary Batton said.

Over 20 years ago Chief Batton’s daughter Stacy was District 9 Little Miss. Chief Batton recalled even after all these years Councilman Dosh would still inquire about her well-being.

“It was an honor and privilege to serve the Choctaw



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh (front, far left) is pictured with his fellow Councilmembers. Councilman Dosh was one of the first Councilmen elected under the 1979 Choctaw Constitution. One thing he truly enjoyed was taking care of the people in his district. He will be missed by many people.

Nation with Ted Dosh. When you think about years of service, Ted had the unique opportunity to be a part of the Tribal Council before the Choctaw Constitution was ratified in 1983. He was one of very few still serving who ‘began’ with the tribe from our humble beginnings. The tribe may have lost a respected leader of 38 years of diligent service, but his legacy will live on,” Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. said.

District 4 Councilman and Council Speaker Delton Cox said, “Ted was a common, everyday person who was committed to what he did for the Choctaw people. Most of the time you did not have to guess where he stood on an issue, or how he felt about someone. He has left his mark on not only the council, but on the tribe. We have lost a lot of our history with his passing. He is missed by all of us already and whoever takes his place has big shoes to fill.”

As the Recording Secretary for the Tribal Council Office, Patty Hawkins works with the Tribal Council. She is one of many people who will miss Dosh.

“Ted Dosh was a soft-spoken man with a ready smile for everyone he met. After

working for him for the past 16 years, I can tell you that Ted thoroughly enjoyed taking care of ‘his’ people. He didn’t like to hear of anyone going without,” Hawkins said.

She continued by saying, “Ted was generous, yet responsible. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed a good practical joke—especially if it was at the expense of one of his fellow councilmembers.”

“He was a true asset to the Choctaw Nation. Ted made me feel welcome from day one and I will dearly miss working with him,” Hawkins said.

Councilman Dosh is survived by his wife, Carolyn; son, Brandon Dosh of Bennington; granddaughters, Brandye Duke and husband Jason of Eufaula; Monica Dosh of Durant; grandsons, Cody Dosh and wife Caty of Calera; Michael Paul Dosh of North Carolina; Justin Dosh of North Carolina; great-grandchildren, Mileigh Dosh of Eufaula; Bently Dosh of McKinney, Texas; Cambry Dosh of Calera; and Michael Dosh of Mead.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eddie and Marie (Minyard) Dosh and a son, Michael Todd Dosh.



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh is pictured unloading commodities from a truck. The picture was taken in the 1980s.

Education was very important to him. The Child Development Center, in his hometown of Bennington, was one of the first to be built for the tribe.

Two other education centers that were important to Dosh were the Durant Child Development Center and the Durant Early Head Start, which opened this year.

Dosh was a strong supporter of tribal education programs such as Success Through Academic Recog-

clinics and wellness centers.

As Councilman for District 9, Dosh was well respected by many people, especially the seniors at the Durant Choctaw Community Center. He was beloved by many of the seniors, who have many great memories of their Councilman.

Elaine Harper worked for Dosh about 12 years as a CHR. She said, “we got a lot of people help. He didn’t care if it was night or day. If someone needed help, he

Red Earth Art Center Hosts Second Annual Treefest in OKC

By KENDRA GERMANY
Choctaw Nation

The Red Earth Treefest celebrates the holiday season with a Native twist.

The popular new tradition features 17 7-foot Christmas trees decorated by various Native American tribes from across Oklahoma. Participating tribes include the Absentee Shawnee, Caddo, Cherokee, Cheyenne & Arapaho, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Kaw, Muscogee (Creek), Osage, Otoe Missouri, Sac & Fox, and Seminole Nations.

Red Earth Treefest is held at the Red Earth Art Center located at 6 Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Oklahoma City.

According to Eric Oesch, Co-Director of Red Earth, the event is free and open to the public from Nov. 1 through Jan. 13.

Each of the trees is decorated with handmade ornaments and decorations designated by each tribe to highlight each tribes unique and diverse culture and history.

“The thing that makes it so cool, is the tribes are all so diverse, and their Christmas trees reflect the diversity of their tribes,” said Oesch.

The tree decorated and designed by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma reflects the traditions of the nation, showcasing items made from materials used by the Choctaw people for centuries.



The Choctaw tree on display at the Red Earth Treefest features hand made ornaments like traditional beaded medallions.

Decorations include handmade medallions, reindeer made from reed, baskets made from reed, drums, corn-husk dolls, mini Christmas Trees made from reed, and mini replicas of Choctaw traditional wear made of felt.

According to Sue Folsom, Executive Director of Cultural Resources and

Services, everything on the tree was handmade.

“All of this represents what being Choctaw is all about,” said Folsom. “Everything here represents who the Choctaw people are.”

According to Kay Jackson, Senior Director of Cultural Services, the hand making of the ornaments was an extensive project that took the work of various departments to complete.

“It took a total of probably about a month off and on,” said Jackson.

According to Stacy Shepherd, Executive Officer of Member Services, the Choctaw Nation already has next year’s tree decorations planned out.

“As we sat down and began the conversation of decorating the tree, the ideas began to flow. I think we might have a plan for the next 10 years as far as decorating a tree,” laughed Shepherd.

The Red Earth Arts Center has set up the Stay & Play In OKC Holiday Getaway package. The package includes discounted room rates, shopping coupons, and tickets to various holiday themed performances in the Oklahoma City Area.

For more details and information on Treefest and the Stay & Play package, visit www.RedEarth.org or call (405) 427-5228.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



Remembering a Great Man and Friend, Ted Dosh

The recent loss of Councilman Ted Dosh has deeply saddened us all. Ted was one of the first Councilmen elected under the 1979 constitution and he served all of the years since with one priority—the needs of the tribal members. I have heard the saying, “He never met a stranger,” most of my life and in Ted’s case I believe it is true. His smile, his laugh, and the way he would lift his cap in greeting were familiar to all of us. His dedication and love for his family and his extended tribal family are what we remember the most.

He enjoyed the livestock shows held for Choctaw youth, activities with the seniors, Thanksgiving dinners, and handing out presents to the kids at his Christmas parties. He would be just as excited as the kids.

Ted also recognized that economic stability and growth were fundamental to providing the opportunities and services our people needed. He also recognized the means to become financially secure in a time when many counties and states were fighting for that security.

During his tenure as Tribal Councilman for District 9 in Bryan County, Ted saw many changes. He saw the first Bingo Hall built in Durant and he was part of the subsequent expansions and transformations to create the award-winning resort that stands today.

The Choctaw Nation has been extremely blessed with success in businesses such as the gaming resorts, travel plazas, manufacturing, ranches, and new ventures such as the Choctaw Country Market. Because of these enterprises and a wide variety of programs focused on self-sufficiency, the chances are becoming greater now for our children and grandchildren to go to college.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh lifts his cap to greet the crowd. As one of the first Councilmen elected under the 1979 constitution, Ted helped shape the Choctaw Nation and watched it grow. He was a big proponent for education and the Choctaw Nation Head Start in his hometown of Bennington was one of the first to be built for the tribe.



They are both familiar faces in the Choctaw Nation. Eugene was one of the original Choctaw Nation Color Guard members when the group was formed in 1998. Maricie is active in her district. All of the elders who were nominated are remarkable examples of Choctaw faith, family and culture.

The CHR’s Fall Fest in October was another fun activity. The seniors were bussed into McAlester from every district and we all had a great time. The seniors lined up around the room to check out the information provided by Choctaw Nation programs. They also enjoyed the good meal and entertainment. It was also National See You at the Pole Day. Our staff came together in unity to pray for each other, our communities, our great Choctaw Nation, and the United States. I appreciate the faith displayed at this event and at all of our tribal facilities that day, and every day.

The Veterans Day ceremony is approaching. It is another of my favorite events. The veterans cannot receive enough of our gratitude for their selfless service to God and country. They and their families have sacrificed for our freedom.

Our Thanksgiving celebrations are in full swing. Making memories with our family and friends is irreplaceable. One of our family traditions on Thanksgiving is to take turns around the table telling what we are thankful for. I am most thankful for are my loved ones who are looking back at me.

I’d like to thank the staff for the time they spend every year helping Choctaw families have a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. They spend weeks gathering the names of the eligible families and ensuring they get vouchers for everything it takes to have a good holiday meal. They also hand out elder angels and gather and deliver the gifts to the elders.

The holidays are especially the time to reach out to others whether they are alone, have recently lost a family member, or need a meal and fellowship. We take food to friends and family who are homebound and they enjoy our visit more than the good food.

We thank God for all He has provided for our great Choctaw Nation. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.



Namaan Jewett Potts



Photo Provided

Jewett Potts stands in front of a bush his late wife, Edith planted. He hopes that he can live to be 100 years old, at least that is his goal.

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

One man’s trivia is another mans knowledge and 95 year old Jewett Potts has a vast amount of knowledge. He does research then collects his findings in a pristine manila envelope.

Upon first meeting, Jewett might ask you whom you’re related to because chances are; he might just know some of your family. He also may ask you a “trivial” question, but to him he is expanding your knowledge and keeps his mind sharp.

Not only is he well informed on many subjects, but he is also a passionate man who is very vocal about his passions.

Namaan Jewett Potts was born July 24, 1921, in Yanush. He is the only child of Horace and Dora (Carnes) Potts. He was married 60 years to Edith (Swearingen) Potts and they had nine children, six boys and three girls.

He lives close to his family in a quaint house that he paid off on his own. He is a simple man of simple pleasures. He loves his faith, he loves family and he only wants the best for everyone he meets.

“That’s what I should do, that’s where my freedom is, to show my love to the people.” Jewett said, “People don’t have love for each other like we did in the old times.”

One of Jewett’s greatest loves is for veterans and servicemen and women. This love is founded upon his time in the service. In fact, four generations of his family have served in the military; his father, him, two of his sons, and a grandson.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943 and on the third day he was sent to the West Coast and shortly sent over seas.

“After that there was no way we were coming back soon, or maybe we weren’t coming back at all,” he thought.

Jewett fought in two major battles as part of the 27th Infantry Division; he saw action in Okinawa and Saipan.

He said to me, “Lady, you’d be surprised what a battle will cost.”

Jewett can tell you how many men were in the Tenth Army and how many lives were

lost. He can tell you the general he served under, when he died and what the army did when they took his body home.

When he doesn’t want to talk about his service, he opens his manila envelope and takes out papers he’s collected about the war.

It’s not easy for Jewett to think about the war, even though he thinks about it a lot. It lays heavy on his heart. You can see it in his eyes when he is talking about the war that his heart is breaking a little more.

He has medals from his service that he won’t talk about or show. When asked about them, his eyes fall to the floor and he changes the subject. He takes no pride in his medals. They are in a drawer and hardly ever see daylight.

After his service he came home to his wife and children and when he couldn’t get a house, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) gave him a house on land in Talihina with a fixed house bill. For about 30 years now, Jewett has owned his house.

He prides himself in not being in debt and being able to take care of himself and his family.

During his day he will tinker outside, read his Bible, driver around town or go to Pam’s Hateful Hussey Diner.

Once a week Jewett and his family go to Pam’s Diner and have a family dinner where he watches his family and soaks in the memories.

When one of his granddaughters stops by, she takes pictures with him and talks about food. He has a great-grandson and when he talks about him, his eyes light up and he can’t help but to smile.

His daughter, LaQuetia Helm, said, “His great-granddaddy is very proud of him.”

She calls her “Pops” her hero and her rock. She said that she couldn’t have done everything that she has if it wasn’t for him.

Even though he has a “matter of fact” personality, Jewett said, “I’m not a stingy man and I’ve helped a lot of people.” He continued, “I’ve been a pretty good man and I’m trying to make Heaven my home.”

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

Fall is a Time to Make Memories and Be Thankful for Blessings

The fall season brings so much to enjoy and I hope you have the opportunity to reflect and be thankful for the blessings around you.

It’s a time to honor others with special events such as the annual Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elder Banquet. The seniors from the community centers nominate their choices of top female and top male. It’s a hard decision for the committee to choose the top two from all of the deserving nominees. There are so many men and women who have devoted their lives to others, who helped out at the center, or volunteered for events. This year’s top Outstanding Elders are Eugene Branam and Maricie Smith.



Photo provided

Children at the Antlers Head Start gathered together to join the rest of Choctaw Nation and the country during the National See You At The Pole Day. Even though they did not have a flag pole, they prayed around the American flag like many others that day.



Senior Citizens Dinners & Kids Parties

Antlers Kids	12/4	3 p.m.
Antlers Seniors	12/21	Noon
Atoka Kids	12/9	5 p.m.
Atoka Seniors	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Bethel Kids	12/16	6 p.m.
Bethel Seniors	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Broken Bow	12/9	6 p.m.
Buffalo Valley Kids	12/6	6 p.m.
Coalgate Kids	12/2	6 p.m.
Coalgate Seniors	12/7	Noon
Crowder Kids	12/10	1 p.m.
Crowder Seniors	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Durant Kids	12/2	6 p.m.
Durant Seniors	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Hugo Kids	12/16	6:30 p.m.
Hugo Seniors	12/11	11:30 a.m.
Idabel Kids	12/5	6 p.m.
Idabel Seniors	12/7	6 p.m.
McAlester Kids	12/10	1 p.m.
McAlester Seniors	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Poteau Kids	12/10	4 p.m.
Poteau Community	12/14	Noon
Quinton Kids	12/8	6 p.m.
Smithville Community	12/14	Noon
Spiro Kids	12/12	4 p.m.
Spiro Seniors	12/13	11:30 a.m.
Stigler Community	12/14	11:30 a.m.
Summerfield Kids	12/11	2 p.m.
Tvshka homma Community	12/3	2 p.m.
Wilburton Kids	12/10	2 p.m.
Wilburton Seniors	12/4	Noon
Wright City Kids	12/11	3 p.m.
Wright City Seniors	12/22	Noon

For a list of Thanksgiving dinners, see page 5.



HEALTH



Photo Provided

Choctaw Health Services took home top awards at the Oklahoma City Area Director's Indian Health Service, Tribal, Urban Ceremony.

Choctaw Health Services Win Top IHS Awards

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

More than 50 Choctaw Nation Health Services Associates were recently in the spotlight for their “above-and-beyond” service. The honors came at the Oklahoma City Area Director’s Indian Health Service, Tribal, Urban Awards Ceremony. Held this summer at the Chickasaw Nation Showplace Theatre in Norman, the event recognized individuals employed in Indian healthcare in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

According to Todd Hallmark, Executive Director of the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority, the IHS awards recognize the hard work and dedication of health care system staff.

“The awards recognize individuals for their outstanding performance and groups, which enables us to nominate high level teamwork. It is an honor to see Choctaw Nation represented by so many deserving associates.”

Indian Health Service awards and winners include: *Peer Recognition Award* - Jeri Hargrave, Atoka; Pam Russell, Broken Bow; Sarah Gailey, Durant; Misty Nichols,

Hugo; Ashley Breshears, Idabel; Maranda Surginer, McAlester; Jacklyn Meeh, Poteau; John Anderson, Stigler; and Kevin Collins, Talihina. *Merit Award* - Janet Sharp.

Exceptional Individual Performance Award for Health Promotion & Wellness - Brandy Griffin. *Exceptional Group Performance Award, Non-Clinical* - Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Facilities Management and Housekeeping. *Area Director's Individual Area Impact Award* - Teresa Jackson. *30 years of Service* - Brenda Harris, Cathy Long, Kent Phillips, Larry Baxter, Linda Watson, Madonna Reed, Teresa Eagle Road, and Debbie Dalpoas. *40 years of Service* - Linda Wilcox and Rita Carter.

The Dangers of Diabetes

Halito,

Autumn is here with all the vibrant colors, rich aromas, and full body flavors for which this season brings. The temptations can be great this time of year, however, we do not have to deprive ourselves of the wonderful foods which give us comforting memories.

It has been a long standing belief if we eat certain foods or do not eat a certain way, diabetes will develop. Although what we eat and how much we eat is very important to our overall health and well being, there is really no reason to feel certain foods should be left off of the table. The American Diabetes Association has listed some Myths and Facts about diabetes. Here are just a few listed.

Myth People with diabetes need to follow a special diet.	Fact People with diabetes benefit from the same healthy diet that is good for everyone else.
Diabetes is caused by eating too much sugar.	Type 1 diabetes is caused by genetics and unknown factors that trigger its onset. Type 2 diabetes is caused by genetics and lifestyle factors.
Diabetes is not a serious disease.	Diabetes is a growing epidemic with a devastating physical, emotional, and financial toll on our country. It kills more Americans each year than AIDS and breast cancer combined.
Healthy foods won't raise your blood glucose.	Eating too much of even healthful foods, such as fruit and whole grains, can lead to high blood glucose.
Gestational diabetes doesn't need to be taken seriously as it will disappear after a woman gives birth.	It puts both mother and child at a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.
People who follow their treatment plan never have high blood glucose readings.	A person with diabetes may experience highs even when diligently following their treatment plan.
People with diabetes can fee when their blood glucose level goes too low.	Not always. Some people cannot feel or recognize the symptoms of low blood glucose, or hypoglycemia, which can be dangerous.

As noted by the American Diabetes Association, it is not so much what is eaten, rather how much and the combination of foods in a meal. By having evenly spaced and bal-

anced meals including lean meats, whole grains and high fiber starches, whole fruits, non-starchy vegetables fat free or one percent dairy, the body is receiving all the nutrients needed throughout the day. With the holidays upon us, I thought having a potato recipe on hand may be helpful. Just make sure to have a serving of potatoes as part of a balanced meal.



Potato Casserole

See this Recipe in a Meal From Healthy Calendar Diabetic Cooking by Lara Rondinelli, RD, LDN, CDE, and Chef Jennifer Bucko

Recipe of the Month

Cheesy potato casserole is a holiday favorite typically loaded with calories, fat, and carbohydrates. Try this healthier version with fewer calories and fat.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 2 pounds frozen hash browns
- 1 teaspoon margarine
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1-10¾-oz. can low-fat cream of chicken condensed soup
- 1 cup fat-free sour cream
- 1¼ cups shredded, reduced fat cheddar cheese
- 1 cup fat-free skim milk

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. Coat a 13 x 9-inch pan with cooking spray. Spread hash browns on bottom of pan.
3. In a large nonstick skillet, melt margarine over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté until clear. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Cook about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Pour soup mixture over hash browns. Bake for 50-60 minutes.

Nutrition Facts

This Recipe Serves 16

Serving Size: 1/2 cup

Calories 105	Carbohydrate 17g
Protein 5g	Fat 3g
Saturated Fat 1g	Dietary Fiber 1g
Cholesterol 9mg	Sodium 189mg

For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6950.

NURSERY NEWS

Emerson Jaxx Cantwell

Emerson Jaxx Cantwell was born at 7:25 a.m. on April 30, 2016, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 1 pound 4 ounces. Emerson came home on Aug. 25, after spending 117 days in NICU.



Emerson was welcomed into the world by his parents Magen Bevil and Matthew Cantwell, and his big sister Adrianna Gist-Cantwell.

Emerson is the grandson of James and Susan Cantwell of Poteau, and Suzy and Bill Schneider of Alvord, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Edith Ward and the late Johnny Ward of LeFlore, the late James and Mary Cantwell, and Robert and Carolyn Everett of Lubbock, Texas. He is the great-great grandson of the late Imogene Owens Welch and Claude Welch. Emerson is also a descendant of original enrollee Nancy Bell Owens Hayes.

Mia Claire West

Mia Claire West was born at 4:38 p.m. on May 28, 2016, at the Norman Healthplex in Norman. She weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 inches long.



Mia lives in Purcell with her parents Michael West III and Natasha West. She was also welcomed into the world by her siblings Owen and Jada.

Mia is the granddaughter of Dr. Michael West Jr. and Dawn West of Broken Bow, Paul and Lori Bradley of Wanette, and Elgin Tanksley and Vickie Sutton of Oklahoma City. She is the great-granddaughter of Michael West, Sr. and Diana West of Broken Bow, and Sherril Sipes of Tahlequah.

Zachary Lawson Umsted

Zachary Lawson Umsted was born at 3:45 p.m. on Sept. 12, 2016, in Rockwall, Texas. He weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.



Zachary is the son of Steve Lawson Umsted and Celianiz Umsted. He was also welcomed into the world by his sister Stevie (Umsted) Scott and her husband Justin Scott.

Zachary is the grandson of Vera Mae and Hiram Eugene Robinson, Israel and Ana Celia Santiago, and Jose Antonio and Carmen Torres.

CHRISTMAS
IN THE PARK
Tushie Humma Grounds

Open December 2
through December 31...
Hot chocolate and ornament give away
on *Fridays & Saturdays Dec 2- 17!*

Drive Through
Holiday Light Display
Free and Open to
the Public...

For more information contact:
Cultural Services at
1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2377 or 2517

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

Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842

Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773

McAlester: 3244 Afullotha Hina, (918) 420-5716

Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

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:November 8 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

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 3 & 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

December

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays November 1-31, except for:

Closed: December 15, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Cooking with Carmen: December 9 & 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays December 1-31 except for:

Closed: December 15, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Cooking with Carmen: November 7 & 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays December 1-31, except for:

Closed: December 15, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Cooking with Carmen: December 2 & 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays December 1-31, except for:

Closed: December 15, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Cooking with Carmen: December 5 & 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays December 1-31, except for:

Closed: December 15, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Cooking with Carmen: December 1 & 21, 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.

EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION— Future Nurse Motivated to Succeed

By
Mykah Crose, Red Oak

Everyone is asked at least one time in their life, “What do you want to be when you get older?” As a child, my answer varied every day. Now that I am on the brink of adulthood, this has become a more serious question. For as long as I can remember, my interests have been in the medical field. I have always had the longing instilled in me to help people by improving their quality of life, and I believe nursing is the path towards that goal. Nurses have the opportunity to assist those in need and provide medical, as well as emotional support, to a long or short-term patient. The first step I will take towards becoming a nurse will be attending Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall of 2016.



Photo Provided

Mykah Crose (left) from Red Oak was presented the third place award by YAB sponsor Nicole Norris (n iddle) and YAB Latimer Chapter member Seth Erhghart (ight).

I believe Eastern is a great first step for me because I will not be relocating far from home and the student to faculty ratio is 20:1, so I know that I will receive one-on-one time with the instructors of my courses. While I am attending Eastern, I will live on campus so that I am closer to my classes. After taking the classes I need to be eligible for nursing school, I plan to move to a four-year college or university that offers a registered nursing program. After successfully completing the program, I plan to make a lifelong career of nursing. The college courses I take will give me the skills and knowledge to be the best medical staff I can be, as well as a contributing member of society.

I am the second oldest in my household out of my four siblings and I will be the second to attend college this coming fall semester. Any financial help I may receive would be greatly appreciated because it will contribute to my goals of becoming a registered nurse. I work hard in school to maintain a high grade point average while also holding down a part time job at Roy’s Cardinal Food Store in Wilburton. Along with my high school courses, I am enrolled in Carl Albert State College to get a head start on my education. I know I will keep this motivation to work hard throughout college and my career.

Editor’s note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board CDIB Scholarship third place essay. The writer, Mykah Crose, was awarded a \$150 scholarship. The first and second place essays were published in previous issues of the Biskinik.

Choctaw Nation Associates Earn Master’s Degree

Two Choctaw Nation employees from the Member Services team in the Education Division earned their Master’s Degree during the Spring 2016 semester. Twahna Hamill is employed by the STAR Program and Jennifer Markham is employed by the Educational Talent Search Program. Hamill received a Master of Science degree in Native American Leadership from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Encouraged by Chris Wesberry, former Native American Center Director at Southeastern, Hamill was seeking postgraduate studies that would create a teaching pathway to move her forward into that field. The leadership coursework provided her with a greater understanding of

the historical aspects of the tribe, which is something she is passionate about. Since both sides of Hamill’s family are Choctaw, she felt a pull back to the Nation. The tribe has always been a large part of both her and her family’s lives and she wanted to give back for the many things provided to them over the years. Hamill stated her biggest “take away” from this experience was discovering areas in Indian education that needed improvement. She feels education for Native Americans is a crucial component to begin making a positive step forward. She remembered something Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Education Jim Parrish said during a commencement address that inspired

her, “Education is the one thing in life we earn which can never be taken away.” Jennifer Markham moved to Durant from West Texas 17 years ago and began working part-time for the Choctaw Nation in the mail room. With the support and encouragement of Linda Tyler, who was the Choctaw Nation GED Program Director in 1999, Markham earned her GED Certificate and later enrolled in classes at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Safety. After graduation, Markham began working for Choctaw Nation’s Educational Talent Search Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

A number of years later, Markham made the decision to return to college. She enrolled at East Central University in Ada, where she earned her Master’s degree in Human Resources. Markham said, “Above all, I am so proud to have overcome many obstacles and have reached this goal, which at times, did not seem possible.” As a resilient Choctaw woman, Markham conveys a positive example for her six children, 14 grandchildren, as well as many others. She continues to serve as the Middle School Coordinator in southeastern Oklahoma for the Educational Talent Search Program where she helps guide hundreds of middle school students toward college access every year.

Language Department Receives Boost From Grant

By **CHARLES CLARK & STACY HUTTO**
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation’s School of Choctaw Language is stepping up its ability to ensure the preservation of the Choctaw language thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The school’s newest program, Holbvt toba Aianumpuli or Talking TV, is expected to get under way in early 2017 with a \$449,384 budget to assist rural areas over the next three years. The budget includes \$263,384 from the USDA’s Distance Learning Telemedicine funding and \$186,000 in matching funds from the Choctaw Nation. “We are partnering with 10 school systems to enhance the Choctaw language classes offered there,” said James Parrish, Executive Education Director of School Programs and Senior Director of the School of Choctaw Language for the Choctaw Nation.

Parrish noted the sites chosen for participation were considered for a variety of factors, including their rural setting, and significant need of equipment replacement. Currently, the Choctaw language classes are broadcast to more than 700 students across southeast Oklahoma via the internet. Sites currently receiving virtual instruction include 43 high schools, 14 Head Start facilities, and six community centers. Choctaw language is also taught in five colleges, two of them online.

School sites selected for the new Talking TV project are Antlers, Broken Bow, Caddo, Calera, Haileyville, Hugo, Idabel, Rock Creek, Valliant, and Wright City. Also plugging in for the enhanced programming are Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Bethel, Coalgate, Smithville, Talihina, and Wright City. The 14 Choctaw Nation Head Start/Child Care facilities in Antlers, Atoka, Bennington, Bethel, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton, and Wright City are participating in the program as well. J.T. Wallace, Technology Coordinator for the School of Choctaw Language, described one of the innovative, distance learning tools that will be improving the classroom experience at some of the locations.

“It’s called the EagleEye IV,” Wallace said. “It is a two-camera set up that can zoom in on the person talking. So, while one camera is on the whole class, the other is voice activated and will move in close up on the person in the group who is asking a question. It makes for a much more interactive class.” The high-quality, two-way video conferencing cameras are



Pankowski Accepted Into NSHSS

William Pankowski, a senior at Fountain-Fort Carson High School in Fountain, Colorado received high honors his junior year and was accepted into the National Society of High School Scholars this fall. He is a descendant of Choctaw original enrollee, Chick Freeny.



Photo by Charles Clark

Colina Hickman prepares to instruct a Head Start class two hours away from her Durant office in the Choctaw language using an internet connection that allows her to interact with students in real time.

much better, he added. They will provide sharper images, thereby enabling clearer views and better communication between instructors and students. In addition to the equipment upgrades, Parrish said, “We will be installing a video archive server so we can preserve our language and make it available for generations to come.” The server will allow classrooms and students alike to review any past language tutorials at their convenience. Choctaw language classes are not the only ones who will benefit from the improvements. When not in use by a Choctaw language class, the school may use the audio and visual equipment for other needs. “It can be used for any community involvement, or even for teacher trainings,” Parrish said. “It’s a win-win situation.” For additional information about the Holbvt toba Aianumpuli (Talking TV) program, contact the Choctaw Nation’s School of Choctaw Language at www.choctawschool.com or call (800) 522-6170, ext. 2179.



Ferguson Receives Master’s Degree

United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan D. Ferguson attended the Spring 2016 Commencement and Convocation at Oklahoma University in Norman. Ferguson earned a Master of Arts Degree and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He is the son of David and Helena Ferguson of Ohio and the grandson of the late

Minnie and Homer Voyles of Talihina. Ferguson is currently stationed at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base in Oahu, Hawaii.

Sharp Earns Doctor of Ministry

Roger Sharp earned his Doctor of Ministry degree during Northern Baptist Theological Seminary’s 101st commencement held June 11 in Elmhurst, Illinois. Sharp is a graduate of Frederick High School in Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. He is the current worship pastor at Nassau Bay Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and previously served three other Baptist churches in the Oklahoma City Metro area. Sharp is the great-grandson of original enrollee, Amanda McKnight. Sharp makes his home in Houston with his wife, Professor Mary Jo Sharp and daughter, Emily.



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!

DID YOU KNOW?

FAFSA applications can be submitted **NOW!**

Starting this year, you can submit the FAFSA any time after October 1, 2016.

For more information please visit the FAFSA website at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or call the High School Student Services office at ext. 4105.

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017-18

START A FAFSA EARLY: Students will be able to submit a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The new submission date will be a convenient change, making students' financial aid applications easier to complete and submit.

USE EARLY FAFSA AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2016	2015-16	January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	2016-17	January 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018	2017-18	October 1, 2016-June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019	2018-19	October 1, 2017-June 30, 2019	2016

Federal Student Aid
StudentAid.gov/fafsa

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.

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 Center

Tuesday, Jan. 3, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Building

NOTES TO THE NATION

LETTERS
Yakoke (Thank You)!



Elder Gives Thanks For Choptaw Veteran Hat
I received this hat in the mail some 30 years ago. Because I am Choptaw I wore it with great pride. When the Indian Museum was opened in Washington D.C. I wore the hat up there. I wish to let whoever sent the hat, I say thanks. The medals on the hat are the Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge.

Van Jones
Fredericksburg, Virginia

The words are simply not enough to express our sincere thanks for the storm shelter, which was just recently installed for our family. We appreciate the Choptaw Nation and our gratitude is forever more. Thanks again for the storm shelter and peace of mind during those Oklahoma storm seasons.

The Wrights
Stroud, Oklahoma

I would like to thank the Choptaw people. You helped me in my troubled time and, truly, I don't know where I would be today without you. Blessed be my brothers and sisters of our great Choptaw Nation.

Janice Merrifield

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 Choptaw 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
Choptaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Durant, OK 74702
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Fax 580-924-4148
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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choptaw 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 Choptaw Nation.



Recently I was taken to the Choptaw Nation Hospital Emergency Room in Talihina by ambulance. I was treated by doctors, nurses, and tech staff quickly and professionally. Later I was transferred to Room 10 in the Care Unit. While being treated, everyone was very kind and professional. I was amazed at the care and kindness shown to me. I personally want to thank all doctors, techs, and nurses. Special appreciation to my nurses in Room 10, Jami, Kelli, Jennifer, Ashley, Ryan, and Dianna. The Choptaw Nation should be very proud of the finest care units in America. I know I am. Thank you.

Joe O'Brien
Talihina, Oklahoma

I would like to personally thank the Choptaw Nation and all who make it possible for myself and all college students that receive the Higher Education grant for continuing my education. Being a Pre-Engineering major at Seminole State College, these funds are really appreciated and it helps me continue my studies. Thanks again for the continued support.

Gage Wright
Stroud, Oklahoma

I want to say thank you very much Choptaw Nation for your assistance in August. I was worried and stressing on how I would pay my bills. Then the Chickasaw Nation CHR Tijuana Johnson contacted the Choptaw Nation. The Choptaw Nation went into action and paid my bills and mortgage. Yakoke Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. for having such great staff. Your help is deeply appreciated.

Lucille Wallace
Ardmore, Oklahoma

Licensed Contractors Wanted

Choptaw Nation Housing is looking for licensed contractors. If interested, visit ChoptawHousing.com. Under contractors tab are applications, or call the Procurement Department at (580) 326-8820. Requirements are listed below:

- Minimum \$300,000 general liability insurance
- Workers Comp insurance certificates
- If specifying a specific trade, ex. electrical, HVAC, etc., a copy of license must accompany application.
- Completed W9
- DUNS number registered at sam.gov

Contact Procurement Dept. for questions about obtaining the DUNS number and how to register.

Need more cash for the cost of college?
Choptaw Asset Building now serves tribal members outside of Oklahoma!

A college matched savings program is available for eligible Choptaw college students!

Earn Money for Saving Money!

Education Fund -
Your savings: \$2000
CAB match: \$4000
Total savings: \$6000

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

Thanksgiving Dinners

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Antlers	11/16	Noon
Atoka	11/9	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	11:30AM
Idabel	11/17	6PM
McAlester	11/20	1PM
Poteau	11/17	6PM
Smithville	11/16	Noon
Spiro	11/9	11AM
Stigler	11/16	11:30AM
Talihina	11/17	6PM
(Talihina High School Cafeteria)		
Tvshka Homma	11/4	6PM
Wilburton	11/9	Noon
Wright City	11/17	Noon

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

I want to thank the Chief, Tribal Council, and the Choptaw Nation of Oklahoma for supporting the higher education goals of it's members. This past year I successfully completed my first year of medical school at the University of California Riverside with financial assistance from the Higher Education Assistance Committee. With your help, I was able to focus on the business and excitement of learning to become the best doctor that I can be. I've used my time to focus on my studies and to become a student leader at our free health clinic, where I am able to further give back to the local community. My mother and I are descendants of original enrollee Mittie Arlie Vail Fetherson.

Margaret Clark
Riverside, California

EVENTS

Thanksgiving Fellowship Supper and Gospel Singing

Friday, November 18

Supper at 5 p.m. and singing begins at 6:30 p.m.
Specials begin at 7 p.m.
707 Bond St.
Crowder, Okla.

Wayne Harjo, Director and Emcee
Herbie Billy, Emcee

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
	DEVOTIONAL— JESSE PACHECO
7:15—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

NATIONAL HEALTHY LUNCH DAY™
LUNCH RIGHT WITH EVERY BITE
NOVEMBER 15, 2016

American Diabetes Association.



Choptaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

December 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	3
4	5 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	6 Talihina 10:00-2:00	7 Antlers by appt.	8	9	10
11	12 Wright City by appt.	13 Wilburton by appt.	14 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	15	16	17
18	19 Poteau 11:30-1:00	20 Crowder by appt.	21 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Atoka & Coalgate by appt.	31

Iti Fabussa

Issuba—
“Like a Deer”
Part One

In this two part series, Iti Fabvssa examines the relationship between the Choctaw people and the horse. Looking at this story from one angle, and you can see that the horse has brought change to Choctaw traditional culture and helped European colonial powers to undermine Choctaw sovereignty. Looking at the same story from a different angle, and you can see that the horse has helped Choctaw people to maintain a unique way of life and to bolster tribal sovereignty in the face of great challenges. Scholars have noted that perhaps more than anything else, the relationship between the Choctaw people and the horse illustrates the long standing ability of Choctaw people to adapt to the changing circumstances around us (Carson 1995). This story begins a very long time ago. One of the earliest recognizable ancestors of the modern horse, called “Eohippus,” lived in present day North America and Europe, 50 million years ago, not long after the extinction of the dinosaurs. Eohippus was about the size of a dog, and lived in tropical forests. Over the next 45 million years, the horse slowly developed its current size and adapted to living in the grasslands of North America and Europe. By the end of the last Ice Age, these horses were joined by humans, the earliest known ancestors of today’s Native Americans.

The only evidence we have of the interaction between the two is on rare occasions people hunted and ate the horses. About 12,000 years ago, the Ice Age was ending. The horse disappeared in North America, either as a result of climate change, human hunting pressure, or both. Five hundred generations of Native American societies developed on this land in the absence of the horse. The horse continued on in Europe. There, it was also hunted, but about 6,000 years ago, communities living in present day Ukraine had domesticated the animal. Forever after, the horse would be an important part of human life in Europe and Asia. To the best of current knowledge, the first contact between the Choctaw ancestors and the horse in roughly 12,000 years, occurred in October 1540. Hernando DeSoto and an army of Spanish Conquistadors entered Choctaw Country bringing with them a number of pure Spanish mustangs, a relatively small, but tough breed of horse. By the time DeSoto reached Choctaw Country, his army had been cutting a swath of destruction through the southeastern United States for more than a year. When he reached the land of Choctaw-speakers, he proceeded to put Chief Tvskalesa (meaning “Black Warrior”), in chains, demanding Native people to act as slaves for the Spanish (Rangel 1993:291 [ca. 1540]). Tvskalesa told them that the Conquistadors’ lusts would be

fulfilled if they would take him to the town of Mabilla. The chief was a tall man, and the Spanish had difficulty finding a horse big enough that the imprisoned leader’s feet did not drag as they took him to Mabilla (Garcilaso 1993:329 [1596]). The Battle of Mabilla is a full story in itself. After entering the town, the Spanish cut off a Native man’s arm. The warriors in the town responded by driving the Spanish outside of their walls and chasing the Conquistadors away from the village across a flat plain. It appeared that the Choctaw ancestors were going to easily rout the Spanish army. However, they had never experienced the speed and power of the horse. The mounted Spanish suddenly wheeled their horses back around and charged the warriors, who were now away from the protection of the village walls. Many were unable to escape and were run through with lances. The horse was the day’s equivalent of the battle tank, and behind their calvary, the Spanish re-entered the town. The fight was violent. The Spanish suffered 700 arrow wounds, DeSoto himself was wounded in such a way that he had to fight while standing in his saddle. The Choctaw ancestors killed and wounded a number of Spanish horses that day. But with their surviving horses, the Spanish succeeded in killing every Native person in the town. It is difficult to think of a more brutal or tragic reunion with the horse. In the 1690s, Choctaw people began to acquire mustang horses of their own from the Caddo tribe located to the west (Mitchell 2015:85). The Caddo had obtained these horses through trade with Plains Indian tribes who had acquired



Photo by Ronni Pierce

A herd of issuba run through a grassy field. The name “issuba” came from “issi holba,” meaning “like a deer.” The relationship between the Choctaw people and the horse illustrates the long standing ability of the Choctaws to adapt to changing circumstances. them at Spanish settlements in the Southwest (Bartram 1791:216; Du Pratz 1757:67). The Choctaws subsequently gave the Spanish mustang to the Muskogee tribe to the east. From the beginning, Choctaw people called these horses “issuba,” from “issi holba,” meaning “like a deer.” Economically, the deer was by far the most important animal for the Choctaw people, who also maintained important spiritual connections with the animal. Calling the horse “like a deer,” was really saying something. Today, we often see images of feathered Native Americans chasing buffalo on horseback, and of the lone Native American rider, sitting on top of a horse at the end of the trail, with his head down in defeat. These stereotypes do not capture the true relationship between the Choctaw people and the horse. At first, Choctaw people, like their ancestors 12,000 years earlier, sometimes used their horses for food (Adair 1775:133). However, the ability of horses to make travel more efficient would soon far outweigh their value as food animals. Choctaw society and culture would change in order to incorporate them. In the early 1700s, Choctaw boys pastured herds of horses in prairie edges some distance from the villages and watch them to keep them from being stolen. Choctaw house fields now had to have fences built around them to keep out wandering horses. By the mid 1700s, the older foot paths within Choctaw Nation had been altered to accommodate horses (Galloway 2006:184,194), perhaps something akin to the creation of our modern interstate system. Horses came to have their name on the Choctaw landscape, at places like Issuba Oka Aiilli “Cane Break Where the Horse Drowned.” The Choctaw name for the Big Dipper Constellation “Fichik Issuba,” had once meant “Stars that are Like a Deer.” Now, it simply means “Star Horse.” The story of the Choctaw horse will continue in Issuba–“Like a Deer” Part Two in the December 2016 issue of the Biskinik.

Ag in the Classroom Project Earns Blue Ribbons at Bryan County Free Fair

By COMMUNICATIONS
Choctaw Nation

A hands-on Ag in the Classroom project has resulted in blue ribbons from the Bryan County Free Fair for the 2-year-olds at the Choctaw Early Head Start Center in Durant. The boys and girls glued real wool onto drawings of a sheep and wrote the Choctaw word “Chukv-lhpoba” and the English word “sheep” on the pictures. The art was entered in the Kiddee Corner at the fair and the ribbons were presented to the students during a ceremony on Sept. 20. Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach Manager Jody House, Choctaw Nation Tribal Extension Agent Nikki Schuth-Mitchell, and Macy Vansickle of the Bryan County OSU Extension Office started reading agriculture books twice a month to the group in July. They also introduced hands-on projects such as Dirt Babies and the wool

project for which they provided the wool from a freshly shorn sheep. The visits have become a highlight each month for the agriculture agents and for the students. It is a great way to help them learn about agriculture early. House and Schuth-Mitchell have also assisted

Coal County OSU Extension agents with a Water Fair for fourth through sixth grade students in Cottonwood and Coalgate elementary schools. Schuth-Mitchell says they are in the process of expanding Ag in the Classroom to other Choctaw Nation educational facilities.



Photo by Lisa Reed

Pictured at the Choctaw Early Head Center are (back, from left) District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh, Macy Vansickle, Nikki Schuth-Mitchell, Jody House and Renee Smith holding Bowen Langley. (middle, from left) Austin Chalk, Aleya Lambeth, Ryleigh Mayfield, Easton Langley, and Shawn Lambeth. (front, from left) Janet Keeton, Marcus Wells, Daisy Huffman, Maelycia Garcia, Chamberlynn Gills, and Kinlee Hall.

Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Answering and asking questions about people

Objective: Practice asking and answering questions with fluency and ease. This activity can be used to practice and increase your Choctaw speaking skills with a fluent speaker or someone else who may be learning to speak Choctaw. Activity Description: Materials: Cut-out a picture of two of interesting-looking people from magazines. Practices: Tell the other person you are going to practice your Choctaw and you would like for them to provide answers to your questions about the person in the picture. Answers will be made up, crazy and bizarre.

Hobchita nanta?	What is his/her name?
Kalimma amhi?	Where is he/she from?
Kalimma atoksohi?	Where does he/she work?
Ahammi kashom?	How old is he/she?
Nanta kashomi im achukma?	What does he/she like to do?
Ohi im gta he?	Does he/she have a dog?
Nanta epa im achukma?	What does he/she like to eat?
Kalimma ia im achukma?	Where does he/she like to go?
Kalimma ia chi?	Where will he/she go?
Kalimi hg na yuika?	Why is he/she happy?
Kya gsa tuk?	Who did he/she see?

Hand the picture to the other person and allow yourself to be quizzed about the person in the picture and you provide the answers. Be creative and have fun!

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SPORTS

Holt Inducted Into Wrestling Hall of Fame

Rex Holt, who is entering his 31st year broadcasting Oklahoma State University wrestling, was one of seven men inducted into the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on Sunday, Oct. 9.

The induction ceremony was held at the Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City.

Holt received a Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award, along with Tom Brack, Mike Clark, Thomas Lumly, and Stephen Randall.

Matt Grice was given the Medal of Courage Award and Congressman Markwayne Mullin was named Outstanding American.

Holt, the Sports Director at Stillwater Radio, is the son of the late Walon and Gladys Holt and the grandson of the late R.O. and Annie Bowden of Ardmore and Walon F. and Clara Holt of the Greenville community.

He received a broadcast journalism degree at Oklahoma State, where he began his sports writing career at the Daily O'Collegian, the university newspaper.

Holt later worked as a

sportswriter at the Stillwater NewsPress, where he covered OSU wrestling and high school wrestling around the area in addition to covering other sports. He began broadcasting OSU wrestling in 1977.

In a recent Oklahoma State Press release about Holt's induction, veteran Cowboy head wrestling coach John Smith said, "Ever since I've been here, outside of a few years, Rex has been part of my career as an athlete and coach."

"It would just never seem right without Rex here. He's one of the best in the game and I just really feel fortunate that we've had him for so long. We're really lucky. Knowing that he's not just great in wrestling, but in everything he does. He's been fair and calls it like it is," continued Smith.

Besides wrestling, Holt is the longtime play-by-play voice for OSU baseball and for Stillwater High football, basketball and wrestling.

He hosts GameDay Live at Eskimo Joe's before each OSU football and basket-

ball game and hosts a daily sports talk show.

"It's an honor and it's humbling. It's nice to be recognized for your work and I'm very appreciative," Holt said.

Holt was presented for induction by his long-time friend John Klein, a columnist for Tulsa World. His wife, Penny, presented him with his Hall of Fame jacket.

(Article submitted by Ron Holt.)



Photo by Ron Holt

Rex Holt was one of seven men inducted into the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame at the Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City on Sunday, Oct. 9.

A Look Back in History: The 1972 Durant Bryco Construction Baseball Team



Photo Provided by Ken "Sonny" Young

Members of the 1972 Durant Bryco Construction team were (back, from left) Jerry Algoe, Seminole State College; Marvin Thouvenel, Seminole State College; Tony Cazzel, Seminole State College; Kenny "Sonny" Young, Seminole State College; Danny Wright, Seminole State College; Randy Rushing, Cameron University; Cleve Reed, Oklahoma State University; and Rick Evans, Seminole State College. (front, from left) Gary Walden, Seminole State College; Mike Robinson, Seminole State College; Riggy Thomas, Seminole State College; Bob Henry, Seminole State College; Larry Wade, Seminole State College; Fred Rhoten, Seminole State College. Not pictured are Ben Lord, Seminole State College; Mike Longstreth, Oklahoma Baptist University; and Steve Prestridge, Grayson Junior College.

By STACY HUTTO

Choctaw Nation

The National Baseball Congress was created in 1931 during the Great Depression. Wichita sporting goods salesman Hap Dumont came up with the idea of creating a National Baseball Congress State Tournament after watching a Sunday baseball game between circus clowns and local firemen.

According to the National Congress website, the first tournament was played in 1931 at Island Park, which stood in the middle of the Arkansas River.

The park was expanded until a cigarette left in the bleachers burned the park to the ground.

Dumont came up with the idea if the City of Wichita built a new stadium, he would host a semi-pro tournament that would hopefully bring in teams from coast-to-coast.

The City of Wichita built the stadium on the west bank of the Arkansas River, just south of the old park and named it after Wichita pioneer Robert Lawrence.

In 1935, Dumont offered Satchel Paige, who was considered the greatest pitcher of that era, \$1,000 to bring his touring team from Bismarck, North Dakota, to compete in the first NBC State Tournament.

During that time frame a lawyer made around \$4,000 a year, a U.S. Congressman made around \$8,000 a year, and a public school teacher made around \$1,200 a year, which was close to the average salary during the early 1930s.

When Dumont made the offer to Paige, he did not have the money but figured he would make it at the gate.

The tournament was a success. Paige struck out 60 batters and won four games, both of which still stand as tournament records, according to the NBC website. Dumont not only made enough money to pay Paige, but to cover all the bills.

In the early days of the tournament most of the teams were semi-pro or town teams sponsored by local factories. The typical star of the team was an ex-professional player and many players had played major league ball.

In the 1970s the typical team makeup changed significantly. Young college players started dominating the scene. The Durant Bryco Construction team members were from colleges all over Oklahoma.

The 1972 Durant Bryco Construction team were the National Baseball Congress Oklahoma State Champions. They went to the National Tournament and placed fifth.

Members of the team brought back individual awards as well.

Riggy Thomas was named Outstanding Pitcher in the State Tournament. Marvin Thouvenel was named Most Valuable Player. Danny Wright was named Most Valuable Pitcher in the National Tournament and played on the All-American team.

Choctaw tribal members Sonny Young and Larry Wade were on the All-State team with fellow team members Fred Rhoten, Riggy Thomas, Cleve Reed, Randy Rushing, Danny Wright, Marvin Thouvenel, Tony Cazzel and Ben Lord.

By the middle of the 1980's few factories sponsored teams anymore. Now the tournament, which will begin its 83rd year in 2017, is comprised of amateur athletes.



Ward Signed Letter of Intent

Brittany Ward signed her letter of intent in October 2015 to play fastpitch softball for the Mid-America Christian University Lady Evangels during their 2017 season.

Ward started four seasons for Red Oak High School and helped the program win four straight Class B Fastpitch State Championships and a 2016 Class A Slowpitch State Championship.

She is a 2016 All State Fastpitch Small East selection at shortstop and a 2016 All Slowpitch Small East selection at shortstop.

Ward was also an All VYPE Southeast Region fastpitch first team performer in the 2014, 2015, and 2016 seasons.

A versatile athlete, she was a four-year starter on the hardwood for the Red Oak Lady Eagles basketball team, was an All Conference selection in 2014, and the conference MVP in 2015 and 2016.

In 2014 as a sophomore, Ward became the first female athlete in Red Oak High School history to be selected to the Class B State Basketball Tournament All Tournament team and was selected to return to the All Tournament team as a senior in 2016.

Throughout her high school career, Ward was named to several All Tournament teams. She was also a 2016 All State Basketball Small East selection.

Ward is a recent graduate from Red Oak High School in southeastern Oklahoma. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was co-valedictorian of her 2016 graduating class. Ward also received the U.S. Army National Guard Scholar/Athlete Award.

She is the daughter of Hoss and Sherry Ward and is majoring in Business Administration at MACU.

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OBITUARIES

Ted Dosh

Ted Dosh, 71, left this life on Oct. 7, 2016. He was born March 8, 1945, to Eddie and Marie (Minyard) Dosh in Bennington.

Ted was a lifelong resident of Bennington, and he devoted decades to the Choctaw people. He was a senior member of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, and was no stranger to community involvement. He was a beloved family member, and respected Council Member of the Choctaw Nation. Ted married Carolyn Steward in Boswell June 11, 1965. Ted and his wife of 51 years, Carolyn, farmed and ranched in the small community in eastern Bryan County. He was a veteran, serving his state and country, for eight years in the Army Reserves. He served as Councilman for 38 years, and dearly loved his Choctaw seniors. Ted also served as Bryan County Commissioner for eight years and worked for the Department of Agriculture for 10 years. During his tenure as District 9 Councilman, Ted was on the ground level of planning ventures for economic growth in the area and expanding services for the Choctaw people. He concentrated on improving opportunities for education and jobs in the community. Education was always one of Ted's top priorities, it's evident in three centers he was very proud of; the Bennington and Durant Child Development Centers, and the Early Head Start, recently opened in Durant. The Bennington facility was one of the first to be built by the tribe. He was also a strong supporter of other tribal education programs such as Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR), Higher Education, and Career Development. Ted was also familiar with working with officials on the city, county, state, and federal levels. He knew it took commitment to create partnerships resulting in economic development such as the Choctaw resort, travel plazas, emergency response centers, clinics, and wellness centers.

He is preceded in death by his parents Eddie and Marie (Minyard) Dosh; and son Michael Todd Dosh.

Ted is survived by his wife Carolyn Dosh of the home; son Brandon Dosh of Bennington; granddaughters Brandy Duke and husband Jason of Eufaula, Baylee Dosh of Eufaula, and Monica Dosh of Durant; grandsons Cody Dosh and wife Caty of Calera, Michael Paul Dosh and Justin Dosh of North Carolina; great-grandchildren Mileigh Dosh of Eufaula, Bentley Dosh of McKinney, Texas, Cam-bry Dosh of Calera, and Michael Dosh of Mead.

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

Rinhart James “R.J.” Krause

Rinhart James “R.J.” Krause, 82, of Cookeville, Texas passed away Aug. 28, 2016. He was born Jan. 23, 1934, to Rinhard James and Margie (Foster) Krause in Dolle, Texas.

R.J. was a member of the Calvary Chapel Church. He was a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner with over 50 years of service. He retired from Texas Utilities where he began his career as a meter reader and moved up the ladder to dragline operator at the Winfield Mines.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife Edna Pearl Krause; infant son Stephen Krause; and eight brothers and sisters.

R.J. is survived by children Brenda Krause, Beverly Krause, and Michael and his wife Traci Krause all of Cookeville, Texas; three grandchildren Cory and Elizabeth Krause, Crystal Krause and Michael Mitchell, and Kyle and Madlen Krause; two great-grandchildren Hayden James Mitchell and Daniel Zachary Krause; brother Dennis Krause of Marble Falls, Texas; and his sister, JoAnna McFadden of Kingsland, Texas.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Bates-Cooper-Sloan Funeral Home. Interment will follow at the Lone Star Cemetery.

Joyce Corrine Foraker

Joyce Corrine Foraker, 86, of Maysville, passed away Sept. 6, 2016, at her home in Maysville with her family by her bedside. She was born July 13, 1930, to Simon J. and Ida (Anderson) Nelson in Durant.

She attended school at Sunnyside, a rural grade school, and Oklahoma Presbyterian College in Durant before graduating from Chilocco Indian School, north of Newkirk in 1949. She married Bob Foraker, also a Chilocco graduate, on July 5, 1949. They made their first home in Seminole. She loved to cook, sew, read, and attend her children's school activities. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Seminole where she enjoyed helping with Vacation Bible School each summer. In 1963, Bob and Joyce moved their family to Maysville. Joyce then became an active member of the First Baptist Church in Maysville. She continued to do what she loved, making a home for her family. Joyce enjoyed and loved all the holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. She would cook and bake everyone's favorite holiday foods. She loved shopping for shoes and attending her Chilocco Alumni Reunions where she could visit with her classmates and other friends she had made through the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two grandsons Kyle Foraker and Barrett Hall; sisters Florence Franklin, Pauline Redwine, Mildred Rinehart, Margaret Rhodd, Patricia Butler, LaVonne Gilliland, Wetanah Barker and Juanita Nelson; brothers Sam Nelson, S.E. (Hooky) Nelson and John Henry Nelson.

Joyce is survived by her husband Bob of the home; her daughters Sandra Newby and husband Ron of Marlow; Diane Hall of Pauls Valley; her sons Bobby Foraker and wife Vickie of Maysville; Phillip Foraker of Purcell; grandchildren Julie Harris and husband Kirk; Josh Newby and wife Starla; Keith Foraker and wife Brooke; Kevin Foraker and wife Kati; six great-grandsons, one more (Koleman) who will be here in December; sister Mary Jane Fadley of Sonora, California, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Wilians Funeral Home in Maysville. Interment was held at Maysville Cemetery.



William Allen “Bill” Amos

William Allen “Bill” Amos, 93, passed away on Aug. 14, 2016, at his home. He was born April 3, 1923, to Wesley A. and Lucy (Charles) Amos.

Bill was a full blood Choctaw and was the oldest of six children. He grew up in the Iron Stob community, west of Idabel, where he went to elementary school at Forest Grove and attended Chilocco Indian School and graduated high school in 1943. Bill joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 and after six months of training, was aboard a minesweeper, one of a thousand ships headed for Hawaii and the invasion of the Philippine Islands. Bill's ship was the first to enter the Philippine Bay. He married Louise L. Samuels on March 26, 1945, in DeQueen, Arkansas. In August of 1945, Bill left the Philippine's for good and headed back home, the war was over. He returned to school at Bacone College and then Oklahoma Baptist for two years. With his education, Bill went to work as a foreman at Tinker Air Force Base for 25 years. During his employment at Tinker, Bill volunteered and went to Vietnam. He retired after 30 years of service. Bill was a longtime member of the Living Land Methodist Church where he was a lay speaker and taught Sunday School. He was currently attending Tohwali Methodist Church. Bill always planted a large garden and loved to share his vegetables with his neighbors. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching ESPN as well as his grandchildren playing sports. Bill was also an avid OKC Thunder and Dallas Cowboys fan. Bill was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend who will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents; daughter Orvella Amos Harjo; and brothers Sexton and Dan Amos.

Bill is survived by his wife of over 67 years, Louise Amos of the home; son Mike Amos and wife Vicky of Broken Bow; daughter Nancy Williams and husband Ron of Edmond; grandchildren Justin Williams of Moore, Derrick Williams and Zachary Williams both of Edmond, Dayla Amos and Jeremiah Tom, Nikki Amos and Andrew Amos all of Broken Bow; great-granddaughter Milena Amos; his sisters Charlene Kilpatrick of Durant, and Katherine Goombi and husband Bob of Lawrence, Kansas; and brother, Simon Amos of the Iron Stob Community; several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of White Family Funeral Home in Idabel. Interment with military honors followed at the Denison Cemetery.



Johnny Ray Beasley

Johnny Ray Beasley, 73, of Luther passed away on Aug. 19, 2016, in Oklahoma City. He was born on July 16, 1943, to Gabriel “G.W.” Beasley and Mildred DeWeese Beasley in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He married Gwen Smock on Feb. 14, 1981, in St. Louis, Missouri. They were married for 35 years. Together they raised two children, Jared L. Beasley and wife Katrina of Spring Valley, California, and Shannon E. Birdwell and husband Jake of Oklahoma City. John was also the father to John D. Beasley and husband Robert of Lake Mary, Florida, Janice D. Larson, husband Randy of Norman, and Justin D. Beasley of Moore. He also was blessed to be the grandfather to Sky Larson, Katlyn Lambert, Savanna Beasley, Jalyn Birdwell and Jaxon Birdwell and the great-grandfather to Ezra Barrier. John was employed by Lucent Technologies for 36 years as an installation technician and cellular installation. One of John's greatest highlights of his life was when he got the opportunity to participate in a “Tiger Cruise” with his son Jared. The USS Bonhomme Richard LHD6 was returning from a seven and a half month deployment in the Middle East. He gained firsthand knowledge about life aboard a Navy vessel traveling from Hawaii to the homeport of San Diego. John had been an OSSAA umpire for many years umpiring both High School and Little League games. John was on the sidelines of the Luther Lions High School football team, running the chains for the past 24 years. John was an avid St. Louis Cardinal baseball fan since the age of 12. Another great passion was his hobby of collecting Hot Wheel and Matchbox cars. Sudoku puzzles were done on a daily basis, in addition to his passion for reading and, of course vacations to Mexico with his wife Gwen.

He is preceded in death by both of his parents; his Aunt Lucy and Uncle Winfred Suter and his sister Patsy Bohnsack.

He is survived by brothers Clifford Beasley and Donald Beasley, as well as his sisters Louise Hoffman and Helen Deputy.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home in Oklahoma City.

Richard Underhill

Richard Underhill, 40, died Sept. 12, 2016, in Oklahoma City. He was born Nov. 6, 1975, to Ronnie J. and Yvonne (Saunders) Underhill in Oklahoma City.

He was raised in the Norman area, attending school at Little Axe. Richard and Shelly have been together for many years, raising three daughters together. He worked in construction as a mason for many years. Richard was indeed a hard-working man. He really enjoyed working with his hands. He loved being outside, fishing and hunting were his favorite things to do, as well as anything nature-like. He loved being with his family. When his daughters were little he would always let them do his hair and paint his nails. When his granddaughter came along, he enjoyed playing princess tea parties. Most of all, Richard loved watching movies with his wife, considering it his “relaxing time.”

Richard is survived by parents Ronnie and Yvonne Underhill; wife Shelly Underhill; daughters Sara Dunning, Monica Dunning, Alexandria Anderson and husband Kaleb; granddaughter Persayus Grace Dunning; brother Ronnie Underhill Jr.; sister Michelle Underhill; nephews Jason Underhill, Jeremy Underhill and many other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Wadley's Funeral Service.



Marvin James

Marvin James, 62, of Grand Prairie, Texas, passed away Aug. 7, 2016. He was born June 24, 1954, to Irvin and Imogene James in Talihina.

Marvin grew up in Oak Cliff, Texas, and graduated from Sunset High School. When inviting people to his church he met Rita Cole and they were married March 9, 1974. He worked 17 years for Dixie Co. and 20 years at Print Pack, Inc. Between the ages of 17 and 40, Marvin played fast pitch softball. He enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, OU Sooners, and was an avid bowler with the Dallas Indian Bowling League. He was a faithful man who attended Dallas Indian United Methodist Church and dabbled in various projects around the house. Marvin was a quiet and private man. A proud family man, he liked to spend time dancing with his wife and spoiling his great-granddaughter, who was the apple of his eye. He was a comedian who loved to tell jokes. He also had a passion for country music and old Texas country music. His favorite singer was George Strait, who he went and saw in concert almost every time he came to Dallas.

Marvin is preceded in death by his parents, Irvin and Imogene (Ward) James; and brother Arnold James.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years Rita Nell James; children, Tracey Baldillez and husband Jason, Kevin James and wife Vanessa; grandchildren Jonathan Baldillez, and Erin Baldillez; great-granddaughter Elliana Baldillez; siblings Darrell James and wife Carol, Ronnie James and wife Diane, Janice Morris and husband Robert, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Bean-Massey-Burge Funeral Home.

Eugene Nowlin

Eugene Nowlin, 48, of Clayton, died Sept. 15, 2016, at Sparks Regional Hospital in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He was born on July 2, 1968, to Morris and Barbara Barcus Nowlin in Talihina.

He attended schools in Pittsburg and graduated from Pittsburg High School. Eugene then joined the United States Navy and was discharged with a medical discharge. When he returned home, he became a correctional officer and later worked as a truck driver. He really enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Eugene was preceded in death by father Morris Nowlin; twin brother Joe Nowlin; paternal grandparents Floyd and Ada Nowlin, and maternal grandmother Artie Barcus.

He is survived by mother Barbara and step-father Alan Shipley of Calera; girlfriend Felicia Salvador of the home; sisters Priscilla Nowlin of Dallas, Texas, and Lawana Nowlin of Irving, Texas; brother Alan Nowlin of Sayre; daughter Shana Nowlin of Krebs; step-daughter Bridgette Sudduth of Krebs; grandson Acetin Carter of Krebs; and numerous nieces, nephew, uncles and aunts.

Madeline “Mamean” Davis

Madeline “Mamean” Davis, 78, passed away Aug. 13, 2016. She was born in Garvin County on her fathers allotment.

Madeline went to Carter Seminary for a while, and then graduated from Chilocco Indian School. She worked at various jobs, but the one she loved the most was the Johnson O'Malley Program for the Shawnee School District for more than 20 years. Home always meant a lot to Madeline.

She is preceded in death by husband Joel Davis; son Baby Boy Davis; grandson Kaleb Hollins; mom and dad; John and Martha Meely; brothers “A.C.” Abram Meely, Daniel Meely, and Kenneth Meely; sisters Vivian Postoak, Marion Johnson, and Bernice Benton.

Madeline is survived by children Alden Davis and wife Donna of Shawnee, Tracy Davis of Shawnee, Melissa Davis of Tulsa; 13 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews

Arrangements were made under the direction of Cas-kets Inc. and Johnson Funeral Service.

Mary Della “Judy” Davis

Mary Della “Judy” Davis, 83, passed away Aug. 24, 2016, in Lindsay. She was born on Oct. 23, 1932, to George Booker Knox and Sina (Homa) Knox in West Tulsa.

Judy graduated from Tulsa Webster High School in 1951. She married Fred Marion Davis, Sr. on Feb. 16, 1951. They lived in Tulsa and Enid before moving to Lindsay in 1960. She was a home-maker whose family was her hobby. Judy was a fabulous cook and avid gardener. You never walked into her home without being served a meal. She made chicken nuggets, great hamburgers, cakes, and cookies. She was a member of the Church of Christ of Lindsay.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband Fred Marion Davis Sr.; sons Fred Marion Davis Jr. and Jeffery Allan Davis; brothers Jack, Paul, Cecil, Gene, Dub, and David; sisters Berma Click, Georgia White, and Betty Field.

She is survived by daughters Jody Holden and husband Mark of Lindsay, Shari Rushing and husband Mike of Lindsay; son Mike Davis and fiancé Barbara Bruce of Lindsay; daughter-in-law Lisa Davis of Lindsay; brother Richard Knox of Talihina; sister Neoma Brown of Guthrie; grandchildren Mindy Presgrove (Stacy), Crystal Ford (John), Tommy Davis (Kira), Deidre Marcum (Dewayne), Joe Holden, Malea Ince (Kevin), Mike Davis, Jr., Jason Davis, Amanda Rushing, Marcia Holden, and Benjamin Davis (Megan); great-grandchildren Taylor and Jaxson Presgrove, Tasha Clifford (Scott), Clayton, Kiersi, and Kynli Davis, Dani Marcum, Hope, Steven, Braiden Holden, Colton and Brylee Ince, Fred Davis, and Hayes Davis.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Wilians Funeral Home in Maysville. Interment was held at Green Hill Cemetery in Lindsay.



OBITUARIES

Thelma Corene (Daney) Winlock

Thelma Corene (Daney) Winlock, 96, of McAlester, went to her heavenly home on Sept. 1, 2016. She was born June 13, 1920.

Thelma was employed as a Nurses Aid and Certified Medication Aid in nursing homes for 31 years. She also worked as a home provider for 25 years; she loved her work. Thelma was a member of the Community Baptist Fellowship Church and served as secretary for many years. She was very active as Sunday School Teacher, WMU Director and Acteens Director. Thelma attended school at Goodland Academy in Hugo. She was also an avid OU Sooner football fan. Her greatest enjoyment was reading the Bible and fellowship with others. She was an inspiration to many. She also enjoyed keeping current with modern electronics and current affairs.

Thelma is preceded in death by her husband Tony Winlock; sons Phillip and Warren Winlock; daughter Margaret Winlock; parents Solomon and Mary (Jefferson) Daney; step-son Kenneth Winlock; step-daughter Eunice Bruce.

She is survived by daughters Marilyn Parker, Sherrel Mitchell, Cynthia Bailey, Barbara Dunlap and husband Harold, Carmen Parker and husband Ron, Patricia Ann (Wesley) Chowning and Reta (Wesley) Davis; step daughters Nadine Tucker, Doris McMurrian and husband Roy, Carolyn Adait and husband Corky; sons Stuart Winlock and wife Judy, and Harry Winlock; step-son Kelly Winlock and wife Teresa; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Chaney Funeral Home of McAlester. Interment was held at the New Talihina Cemetery in Talihina.

James Elvin Edwards

James Elvin Edwards, 82, of Oklahoma City, passed away May 4, 2016. He was born August 18, 1933, to Wilson and Dollie Edwards in Kingfisher.

James was a life-long member of Word of Life Tabernacle in Oklahoma City. He volunteered at the Jesus House for many years. He also volunteered at the City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City. James worked at KimRay in Oklahoma City for 45 years.

He is preceded in death by mother Dollie Sorrels; father Wilson M. Edwards; sister Hibernia Edwards; brother Eddie Edwards; and nephew Eddie V. Edwards.

He is survived by daughter Vickie Edwards; son James D. Edwards and wife Linda; grandchildren Nathan Edwards, Jesse Edwards and wife Kasie, Wyatt Edwards, Hannah Pearce and husband Buddy; great-grandson Kuttler Edwards.

Arrangements were made under the direction of John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel of Moore. Interment was held at Dolberg Cemetery in Roff.

Rebecca Ruth “Becky” Boyd

Rebecca Ruth “Becky” Boyd, 62, of Cleburne, Texas passed away Sept. 15, 2016, in Cleburne. She was born December 12, 1953, to Clyde Aaron and Jimmie Ruth (Hamilton) Boyd in Fort Worth, Texas.

She was a loan specialist in the real estate industry and a member of Fort Worth First Church of the Nazarene. She was an avid supporter of the Children’s Advocacy Center and the Johnson County Junior Livestock Association.

She is preceded in death by her father Clyde Aaron Boyd.

Becky is survived by her mother Jimmie Ruth Boyd of Cleburne; brother Wesley Boyd and wife Joan of Cleburne; niece Ashley Aaron and husband Daman of Burleson, Texas; nephew Will Boyd of Cleburne and a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Laurel Land Memorial Park in Fort Worth.

David Lee Roebuck

David Lee Roebuck, 84, of Sweet Home, Oregon, passed away June 28, 2016. He was born March 5, 1932, to William Sam and Melvina (Cochanaur) Roebuck in Boswell.

He moved to Wright City where he met his wife, Bessie Lee Teterick. They were married in DeQueen, Arkansas. In the early 1950s, they moved to Texas, then eventually moved back to Wright City to work in a lumber mill. They moved to Stayton and Sweet Home where David worked at the Old Santiam Lumber Mill and Plywood Mills, Geils lumber, Mid Plywood, and Foster Lumber. He also hauled hay and junk iron on “Hanna,” his 1946 Chevy flat bed truck, which is still in the family. David attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. He loved family get-togethers so he could be with all his family. Two days before David’s death, he was with most of his family. They had a campout at his house. He was able to watch his great and great-great-grandkids play and said, “It does not get any better than this.”

David is preceded in death by his wife Bessie Lee Roebuck; son David L. Roebuck; adopted son Neil Atkinson; brothers Jet Blackwell, Dudge Blackwell, and Jay Blackwell; and sister Babe Rodgers, all of Oklahoma.

He is survived by daughters Glenda Moore, Sandy and her husband Randy Pendegraft, Rhonda Roebuck, and Tannie Manning, all of Sweet Home, and Donna Barrett of Vida; sons Danny Roebuck and William Roebuck of Sweet Home; 26 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.



Jo Ellen (Anderson) Hayes

Jo Ellen (Anderson) Hayes, 78, died at home on Aug. 31, 2016. She was born on June 20, 1938, to Josephine Phoebe and Edwin Anderson in Konawa.

She attended Willard Elementary School, Roosevelt Jr. High School, graduating from Central High School in 1956. She later attended St. Anthony’s School of Nursing in Oklahoma City, receiving her Registered Nurse Certification in 1959. Jo Ellen married Russell Owen Hayes in Louise Pritchard Chapel, First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, on Sept. 4, 1959. She began her nursing career as a surgical scrub nurse with McBride Bone and Joint Hospital in Oklahoma City, which continued for 10 years. She moved to a night nursing position with Griffin Memorial Central State Hospital, and later advanced to night nursing administrator before her retirement in 1994, following a 22-year long career. Jo Ellen was a lifetime member of the 1889ers Society. She and Russell were members of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Spencer Historical Society, Harrah Historical Society, and McLoud Historical Society. Jo Ellen served as a docent guide for the Oklahoma Governor’s Mansion. She also spent many joyful hours organizing and decorating for her annual Central High School class and all school reunions.

Jo Ellen was preceded in death by her mother Josephine Santone; her father Edwin Anderson; stepfather Robert Santone; aunt Gertrude Hatfeild; and half-brothers Rayson and Randy Anderson.

She is survived by her husband Russell Owen Hayes of the home; her three daughters Alison Naples and husband Anthony of Castle Rock, Colorado, Kimberly Ehn of Norman, Jennifer Ellen Le Blanc and husband Mark of Montgomery, Texas; sister Linda Turner of Weaverville, California; half-brother Allan Williams and wife Carol of Emerald Hills, California; grandchildren Cameron Ehn and wife Kaitlyn of Roanoke, Texas; Jacob, Joseph Owen, Emily Ellen, and Sarah Le Blanc all of Montgomery, Texas, and Alyssa Josephine Naples of Castle Rock, Colorado; great-grandchildren Owen Kirk and Nolan James Ehn of Roanoke, Texas; sister-in-law Suzy Hayes of Edmond; and very special cousins Myra Poss Martindale of Frisco, Texas, and Cathy Shuffield and husband Terry and her mother, Rogene Burton, Stillwater; along with many other family and friends, too numerous to list.

Michael “Mike” Lelan Womack

Michael “Mike” Lelan Womack, 61, went to be with his Lord Sept. 17, 2016. He was born Oct. 9, 1954, to Ernest and Johnnie (Kirksey) Womack in Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

Mike was a good father and grandfather, he loved spending time with his family. Mike had a love for hunting, fishing and gardening. He worked as a fencing contractor for many years.

Mike is preceded in death by his parents; son Michael; sister Ramona; five brothers C.W. Womack, James Womack, John Womack, Doyle Womack, and Roy Womack.

Mike is survived by his daughter Talena Flanagan and husband Steven of Poteau; son Keaton Womack of Clayton; six grandchildren Alexa Coley, Kaden Womack, Racey Rosebure, Meredith Womack, Dakota Womack, and Ashton Womack; sister Betty Obokivich and husband Eric of Rogers, Arkansas; six brothers Bill Womack and wife Pat of Arkhoma, Gene Womack of Spiro, Jerry Womack and wife Gloria Womack of Shady Point, Paul Womack and wife Brenda of Paducah, Kentucky; Ronnie Womack and wife Billie Jean of Liberty, Larry Womack and wife Verna Sue of Nashoba; numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

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



Joyce Beatrice (Tigert) Ferguson

Joyce Beatrice (Tigert) Ferguson, 88, of Caney, passed away on Sept. 7, 2016, at her home. She was born Jan. 27, 1928, to Benjamin and Mary Anice (Nickles) Tigert in Caney.

She graduated from Caney High School. She worked at K-Mart in Euless, Texas, at Love’s Country and Sonny Country Stores. She also taught one year at Post Oak School House. She married F.B. Ferguson on Sept. 7, 1954, in Dallas, they had 48 wonderful years together. Joyce was a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Caney. After retiring she enjoyed her Red Clay Hill, where she crocheted, gardened, canned, raised her birds and cows, and grew flowers. Joyce has been blessed all her life and enjoyed the beauty of God’s creations.

Joyce is preceded in death by parents Benjamin and Mary Anice (Nickles) Tigert; husband F.B. Ferguson; brothers Donald, Charles, and Carroll Tigert; and sisters Marlene Keel and Lorene Arnspiger.

She is survived by son Michael Ferguson of Caney; daughter Judy Lynn Ferguson of Caney; sisters Julia Dean Alexander of Durant, and Bernice Whitten of Denison, Texas; sister-in-law Nelda Tigert of Caney; special friends Debbie Mitchell and husband Larry of Durant, and Laura Baugher and husband Tom of Caney; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service in Atoka. Interment was held at Stewart-Gammon Cemetery in Caney.



Walter Scott Karr

Walter Scott Karr, 85, of Farris, passed away on Sept. 2, 2016, in Durant. He was born Sept. 20, 1930, to James and Rosie (Roberts) Karr, in Coleman.

He attended Coleman School. Walter was a residential and commercial carpenter who worked on skyscrapers in Oklahoma City. He proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War. Walter was an active member of the Elks Lodge and VFW. He enjoyed dancing and loved horses.

Walter is preceded in death by parents, James and Rosie (Roberts) Karr; and infant son Scott Karr.

He is survived by daughters Cathy Morton and husband Wayne of Farris, LaWanda Anderson and husband Kelly of Tulsa, Karen Burgess and friend Reggie Fielding of Farris; son Lonny Karr of Oklahoma City; brother Sonny Karr of Durant; sisters Pinkie Panplin of Lawton, Daphine Greeno of Excelsior Springs, Missouri; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service of Atoka. Interment was held at Coleman Cemetery.



Loretta Merlene (Young) Payton

Loretta Merlene (Young) Payton, 55, passed from this life on Aug. 20, 2016. She was born April 4, 1961, to Loren Arthur Young Sr. and Julia Merlene (Redden) Young at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas.

She was of the Baptist Faith. Loretta married William Payton in December 1991 in North Carolina and they separated in 2014. She moved to Caddo, in Sept. 2015, to be near her family. She worked in many areas of employment over the years which included; seismography, electrical, cashier, and nursing home until she became disabled. She loved the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and spent her spare time hiking, photographing waterfalls, arts and crafts, sewing, watching TV, shopping, and painting.

She is preceded in death by her father Loren A. Young Sr.; brothers Loren A. Young Jr. and Clyde A. Young; sister Debby L. Young; step-father Jerreld (Eddie) Hider and grandparents Clyde and Ilene Young and Jess and Pearl Redden.

She is survived by her husband William Payton of Balsum Grove, North Carolina; mother Julia (Redden) Hider of Caddo; sister Susan Lawson of Durant; brother Robert Young of Mead; half-sister Marjorie Smith of Wiscasset, Maine; long-time friends Jerry and Lynn Parham of Mobile, Alabama, and Hop Lawson of Durant; along with numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service in Durant.



Leo Carl Cogburn

Leo Carl Cogburn, 80, of Coalgate passed away Aug. 13, 2016. He was born May 13, 1936, to Archie and Maggie (McKinny) Cogburn in Centrahoma.

He attended Centrahoma High School. Leo was an Army Veteran and a carpenter. He married Darlene Stanford in September 1979 and was a member of the Church of Nazarene.

Leo is preceded in death by parents Archie Andy and Maggie (McKinny) Cogburn; wife Darlene (Stanford) Cogburn; brothers Floyd, Archie Newt and Clark Cogburn; sisters Thelma Battles, Jackie Matthews, Hazel Cogburn, Geneva Gregory and Phercella Wells.

He is survived by children Leo Carl Cogburn Jr. and wife Peggy of Claremore, Doniece Cogburn and Danny Cood of Coalgate, Tonya Cogburn of Coalgate, and Tammy Price and husband Chris of Duncan; sisters Maxine (Cogburn) and husband Thomas Morrison, Evelyn (Cogburn) Gianfilippo, Phereica “Jo” (Cogburn) and husband Travis Shepherd; along with numerous relatives and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Services in Coalgate. Interments were held at Byrds prairie.



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:
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BUSINESS

Entrepreneur Cindy Convery Adds Website Creator to Resume

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

Cindy Convery has always been an entrepreneur.

Cindy worked her way up in the way of the film, editing, and advertising world. But, her journey started right here in southeastern Oklahoma.

“My great-grandmother was an original enrollee,” said Convery. “I went to elementary school in Ada. I was born in California, but my mother moved back here when I was a little kid.”

Her family eventually moved back to California. That’s where Cindy now calls home, but she hasn’t forgotten her roots.

“I grew up out there, but you know I’ve always kept in touch with Oklahoma. It’s a great place to be from and to come back to,” said Convery.

Cindy graduated from the University of California, Berkley.

“I was lucky enough to get a job at Lucasfilm,” said Convery. “I was a production assistant. It was sort of in the golden age of film, before digital came along. So, they were working on Poltergeist, E.T., and Return of the Jedi.”

According to Cindy, landing her first real job at a company as iconic as Lucasfilm was a true example of being at the right place at the right time.

“I was in the unemployment line,” said Convery. “I got laid off from some office job, and went down to unemployment.”

After having a conversation with the man in line behind her, he gave her the number to a friend of his who worked at Lucasfilm.

“I was there for about a year. While I was there, I went to school at night to study editing,” said Convery. “So, I was able to move from Lucasfilm to a job at

ABC in San Francisco.”

Cindy was hired as a director, a huge accomplishment for a woman in the business at that time.

“I was able to get hired as a director, which is kind of great because they weren’t hiring a lot of women then. I don’t know if they are hiring a lot of women now,” said Convery.

According to Cindy, ABC was sold to a bigger company. During that time most of the new people were laid off, and Cindy was a part of that group.

After being laid off, Cindy moved to Los Angeles to pursue editing.

“When I moved to L.A., I started freelancing as an editor, and just sort of doing every job. I always liked working on my own, and I didn’t like doing the same job every day,” said Convery.

A friend in the business asked Cindy to cut a commercial for the 1988 Disney movie “Heartbreak Hotel” starring David Keith as Elvis.

After completing the commercial, Cindy formed her own production company Foothill Productions.

“Disney was my client for nine years,” said Convery.

According to Cindy, She worked on commercials for Disney movies like “The Lion King,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “Pocahontas.”

“Pocahontas got me the down payment for my house,” said Convery. “I just had a really good time working on all of their cartoons.”

Warner Brothers was another big client of Cindy’s company.

“That was another good era to work for them. They distributed “Lord of the Rings,” “Harry Potter,” and a lot of Clint Eastwood stuff,” said Convery. “It was just



Photo by Kendra Germany

After a successful career in the film, editing, and advertising world, Cindy Convery from Ojai, California is now taking on the online space renting world. Her new website Raw Space For Rent allows users to rent out attics, garages, barns, and buildings for storage and venue space.

really fun.”

Throughout her career in the movie business, Cindy thinks fondly of her time working on Disney cartoons and the people she met along the way.

“I had really good editors and voice over guys. The one I used the most is Jim Cummings,” said Convery.

Jim Cummings has been the voice of 913 roles, some of the most iconic being Winnie the Pooh and Tigger.

According to Cindy, the two became close friends.

“I wasn’t friends with all of the Hollywood actors, I was friends with all of the cartoon characters.”

Cindy is the mother of two daughters. When they were young, she used her cartoon character connections to her advantage.

“When they wouldn’t do their homework, I would have Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, or SpongeBob call them up and tell them to do their jobs,” laughed Convery. “So, that was a really good bonus.”

After things started to change in the film world, Cindy decided to transition out of the business.

“The movie business has changed. The big-tent movies started coming out in 2008 or 2009. The studios were cutting back because of the economy. They took all of the work I was doing in-house,” said Convery. “They offered me a job, but I didn’t want to go to work for a studio.”

Today, Cindy is still using her entrepreneurial spirit. She has now created

an Internet startup company called Raw Space For Rent.

Raw Space For Rent is modeled after the renting website Airbnb, where users can rent out homes, apartments, or bedrooms to make extra cash.

Cindy’s website allows users to rent out spaces like attics and garages for storage, and barns and buildings as venue spaces.

The idea came to her one day in her garage in Ojai, California.

“I just had a light bulb moment and thought, why can’t I create an Airbnb but for any kind of space? I thought maybe it would just be for storage, but I just had a filmmaker call me and rent my front yard for a film shoot. I’ve rented out attics in Brooklyn for storage. I’ve rented out wedding venues and yoga studios,” said Convery. “So, it’s anything.”

Raw Space For Rent is a user-friendly website, with an easy-to-use account setup and messaging system.

The company is in its infancy, currently only targeting areas in Oklahoma, California, New York, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. However, Cindy plans on expanding nationwide in the future.

Cindy encourages other women to pursue becoming business owners, creators, and entrepreneurs. For those thinking of starting a business, Cindy’s advice is simple.

“Just do it,” said Cindy. “I think it’s possible to do anything.”

For more information on Raw Space For Rent, visit www.rawspaceforrent.com.



Photo by Kendra Germany

Graduates of the 2016 Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia Program were honored during the Oct. 11 graduation ceremony. f ront, from left) Besselenia Allensworth, Heather Tehauno, Janet Jacob, and Camille McKinney. b ack, from left) Lavona Haury, Eveline Steele, Nettie Webb, Dena Vielma, and Melissa Cress, Director.

Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia Students Graduate

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia program held its second annual graduation at the Broken Bow First Assembly of God Church on Oct. 11.

This is the second group of women leaders to graduate from the program in McCurtain County.

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia program teaches Chahta women leadership, entrepreneurial, homeownership, financial literacy and energy efficiency

skills.

According to Melissa Cress, Director of Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hika, the program is necessary to help Native women in McCurtian County become more self-sufficient.

“The program is grant funded through the USDA and will end in September of 2017. We will be reapplying for the funding in 2017, with hopes to branch out to other areas in the future,” said Cress.

Graduates of the program include Besselenia Allensworth, Lavona Hau-

ry, Janet Jacob, Camille McKinney, Eveline Steele, Heather Tehauno, Dena Vielma, and Nettie Webb.

“I am very proud of these ladies for their many accomplishments this year, they have all grown so much this year and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.”

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston, and District 2 Councilman Tony Ward were in attendance to celebrate and congratulate the graduates on their accomplishments.



Photo by Tina Firquain

Choctaws Named 2016 NextGen Under 30

Three young Choctaw Nation employees are receiving statewide recognition for their professional leadership and community service.

According to Don Swift, publisher of iON Oklahoma Online and founder of the awards, Shauna Williams, Kolton Prince, and Twauna Williams have been named winners of the 2016 NextGen Under 30 Oklahoma Awards. The three are among the 296 people from across the state, 30 years of age or younger, selected for the recognition. More than 700 were considered before the list was finalized by a panel of judges.



Photo Provided

Choctaw Preferred Supplier Program Commodity Manager Boyd Miller holds his Advocate of the Year Award. Miller received the award during the 2016 Minority Enterprise Development awards dinner at the Hard Rock Resort in Catoosa on Aug. 9.

HOT JOBS

Get HIRED!

November 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.

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• Systems Support Analyst I	• Durant
• Systems Support Analyst II	• Durant
• Environmental Protection Specialist	• Durant
• Sr. Kronos System Administrator	• Durant
• Program Manager-Tribal IV-E	• Durant
• Program Manager (Hazard Migration)	• Durant
• Total Rewards Advocate	• Durant
• Accountant II (Temporary)	• Durant
• Database Administrator	• Durant

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

Dylan Cavin Pursues Passion of Art *Three of Five*



Photos by Deidre Elrod

Dylan Cavin sketches out his dancers piece at his drawing table.

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

A successful artist looks like many things. At the Choctaw Nation there are 476 registered artists and the number continues to grow. Of those, five were selected to complete more than 70 pieces in total for the Choctaw Casino and Resort.

Dylan Cavin is one of those artists. His favorite piece greets you as you enter the casino and stop by the front desk—*Medallion* is a painting of a Choctaw collar.

The Choctaw culture was not very present in Cavin’s live when he was younger, but as he works, he relates more to his roots, “My artwork is my connection with my heritage. It forces me to read,

do research, and learn more.” Although the Choctaw culture was not in his childhood, art was.

“As a child I always drew and always doodled,” said Cavin. He continued, “It’s always been something that has been there and to me, I just knew that eventually I’d do something with it.”

His inspiration for his artwork came from his love of comic books. Meeting various comic book artists made the art world seem more tangible to him.

Cavin can remember being in grade school and winning awards. Later on, in high school, he was still winning awards for his artwork and eventually obtaining a scholarship from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

One memory in particular, is when he was in third grade. He had drawn a picture of the Statue of Liberty, as any third grader would, and it won the competition. From then on, Cavin thought of himself as an artist.

“It was always there, it was just a matter of ‘What do I do with it?’” Cavin said.

When Cavin was attending college, he experimented in different types of art, while he loved painting and drawing, he landed on graphic design.

Graphic design was a safety net for him and he worked full

time for five years as a graphic designer.

He eventually missed working with his hands to create his work, so after he joined the army and broke his leg, he began painting again.

Now, Cavin spends about 50 percent of his time as a graphic designer and the other 50 percent working in his studio in Tulsa.

Being successful as a painter has been hit and miss for Cavin. Although he has not been financially steady, he hopes that in the future he can be a permanent painter.

Cavin said “These last few years it has really snowballed and I do think I can do this full time.”

Since Cavin has taken on being a professional artist, he has won several awards at different shows in the state of Oklahoma, like Red Earth and in other venues such as the New York Smithsonian during their holiday market.

His artwork has even been on the cover of Oklahoma Today. The July/August edition in 2012 was graced with *Gold Skies*, an acrylic painting from 2011.

and do it. The more you draw, the better you get.” He added, “From doing the work, you can see what you are comfortable doing and are good at.”

He believes that art is an extension of oneself and how seriously a person takes their self defines

Featured Artists at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant

The Choctaw Casino approached Cavin and asked him to complete 14 original pieces of



Cavin loves spending his time in his studio. If he could have it his way he would have breakfast, work in his studio, eat lunch, work in his studio, then go home at the end of the day.

their art. “If you think you’re a hobby artist, then you’ll be a hobby artist,” Cavin said.

Cavin takes a lot of time to finish a piece of work. Most times when working on a cultural piece, he will do his research, find subjects to photograph, edit his photos to find color schemes and such, sketches out the image, then he will take it to the canvas or what ever medium he chooses.

Cavin takes his artwork seriously and so his art resembles his amount of dedication.

artwork for them. The casino art is a collection with a bunch of different themes. There are bison pieces, dancer pieces (which Cavin considers them to be more about interactions), a code talker painting, drummers, an eagle, and many others including his previously mentioned favorite, a medallion piece.

Eventually, Cavin wants to spend his days at his drawing table, but for right now he is doing well while doing his passion 50 percent of the time.



Photo by Stacy Hutto

Choctaw Nation Associate of the Quarter winners were recently presented with their awards during a luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Pictured from left) are Anthony Cotter, Sheila Shoopman, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and Steve Vannier. Not pictured is Roger Hamill. Cotter was nominated by Tracy Horst and his supervisor is Clifford Green. Shoopman was nominated by Becky Hicks, who was not in attendance, and her supervisor is Wanda Vanderveen. Steve Vannier was nominated by his supervisor, Erin McDaniel. Roger Hamill was nominated by his supervisor, Brent Oakes.



Photo by Kendra Germany

Third Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk Held in Hugo

The Choctaw Nation Outreach Victim Services held the third annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on Oct. 19, at the Hugo Wellness Center walking track.

Participants walked to bring awareness to domestic violence, and to show support for victims.

Address Changes

If you are not receiving your copy of the Biskinik, or need to change your address, please give us a call. We'll make sure your contact information is correct.

The Circulation Department can be reached at:

800.522.6170, ext. 2116, 2409 or 2310



Photos by Charles Clark

The line to enter the Nightmare on Council House Road Spook House was long, but trick-or-treaters found it worth the wait in Tvshka Homma on Oct. 21.

FALL AWARDING PERIOD BEGINS

DECEMBER 1, 2016 - APRIL 1, 2017

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 12/1/2016 AT WWW.STAR.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Follow Us On facebook

Reserve your 2017 Labor Day RV Site

In order to reserve an RV site with electric and water hookups for the 2017 Labor Day Festival, please mail the reservation request form below **no earlier than January 2, 2017**. RV sites will be reserved on a lottery style basis.

Please include a copy of your **CDIB card only**. Make sure you include the **Year, Make, Model, length and number of slide outs** of your RV/camper.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME.

If your name is drawn, you will be notified by mail. At that time you will send in your cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$75.00. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

No phone reservations will be accepted.

Please only send one reservation per family. We will do our best to respect the requests for preferred RV sites; however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested.

Please watch the Biskinik newspaper for future articles or changes in RV Reservations

2017 RV Space Reservation

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

CELL Phone Number _____

Email Address where you can be contacted _____

RV Camper description: Make: _____ Model _____

Length of RV/Travel Trailer: _____ ***(this is very important)***

Number of slide-outs _____ Width of slide-outs _____

No reservations will be accepted prior to January 2, 2017

Please return to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Janita Jeffreys
RV Reservations
2101 West Arkansas Street
Durant, OK 74701

RESEARCH STUDY

Seeking Native American youth for a study on health and fitness

Choctaw Nation and the University of Oklahoma Department of Pediatrics are studying the health and fitness of Native American youth, and the role of exercise.

Who: Healthy, normal weight, Native American youth 11 to 21 years old. We need boys and girls of all fitness levels that are either active in exercise or not active.

What: Two visits for the following tests: physical exam, fasting blood draw, bicycle fitness test, and body composition test. One week of wearing a Fitbit activity monitor.

Compensation: Participants will receive compensation for their time.

Contact: For more information, contact Mary Ayn Tullier at 800-349-7026 ext. 6593 or matullier@cnhsa.com.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

YAKOKE FOR YOUR SERVICE

McPhail, Retired But Active

Hugh McPhail is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the Army Reserves. He served in the Korean War and by age 20 he was a Special Forces Group tank commander. Since his retirement, McPhail worked as a Master Electrician for 45 years in various places. He also likes to meet up with other veterans and dignitaries like John William Finn who is a Medal of Honor recipient and Y.J. Choi, South Korean Ambassador to the U.S.

Originally reported by Legiontown.org.



Hugh McPhail and wife Carol with John William Finn.

Bond Brothers Serve in Air Force

Christopher and Michael Bond both represent the Choctaw Nation in the Air Force.

Christopher enlisted and graduated Basic in November 2015. He has been deployed in the Middle



Christopher Bond



Michael Bond
East and stationed in the UK. He is in Maintenance Management and is the youngest in his rank. Michael enlisted and graduated Basic in June 2016. He is in Aviation but has not been stationed yet. Michael received scholarships from the Choctaw Nation and is very grateful.

Branam Continues Family Tradition

Andrew Michael Branam is currently an E-2 private in the Army. He is part of a long line of Choctaw military servicemen. Andrew is the son of Seth Branam, a combat veteran, grandson of James Andrew Branam, a WWII combat veteran and the great-nephew of Gerald Branam and Eugene Branam, a 2016 Outstanding Elder, both Choctaw veterans as well. His family welcomes him to the family tradition of being a Choctaw Warrior.



O'Neal, Third Generation Serviceman

William G. O'Neal (*middle*) graduated from Marine's boot camp Oct. 28. He was in high School when he signed up and is now an active duty Marine. O'Neal is a third generation serviceman. His grandfather, William O'Neal Sr. (*left*) served as a marine and his father, William O'Neal Jr. (*right*) was in the Army.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Keener is Blessed with 94th Birthday

Oral Keener celebrated her 94th birthday in McCurtain County with the help of the Choctaw Nation. She shows off her custom necklace that she received as a present.



Gibson Celebrates 82 Candles

Donald Gibson thanks everyone who helped make his 82nd birthday a special one.



McCready turns 75

Ramona Ann Williams McCready, celebrated her 75th birthday on Oct. 8, 2016. She currently resides in Seneca, Missouri, with her husband Dr. William B. McCready. She has a son Rich and five grandchildren.



Cochnauer is 70

Tiajuana King Coch-nauer celebrated her 70th birthday with 37 friends at the Aiken, South Carolina, animal shelter. She is thankful for the good health that allows her to enjoy many activities now that she is retired. She is registered with the Choctaw Nation as an artist. Tiajuana is also the eldest grandchild of original enrollees, Amanda Barnett and William H. Dyer and Mary James and Arlington King.



Do You Know This Man?

Do you recognize him? The US National Archives has the following information on the photo: "This wounded American soldier is a full blooded Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma who has been in France for three months and says, 'Sure he likes the war.'" The surgeon and nurse are tending him at a tent hospital put up and supported by the Red Cross. Please contact Choctaw Nation Genealogy Department at (800) 522-6160, ext. 2495 or 4297 or email: genealogy@ChoctawNation.com.

Veterans 15k/15k Relay

Where: Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Talihina, Ok.
Saturday November 5, 2016 at 10:00am

15k is a Certified Challenging Course

15k Registration Fee: \$25
15k Three Person Relay Registration Fee: \$45
Registration: 8:30am to 9:30 am
You must Pre-Register by 10-20-16 to be guaranteed a shirt.
T-shirts will be based on availability after 10-20-16 and for on-site registration

Name: _____ Race Day Age _____ Gender _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you a Choctaw Nation P.A.C.E. club member? Yes or No if so, **Deadline date is Oct. 31st**

T-Shirt Adult: Sm Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X T-Shirt Youth: Sm. Med. Lg. XL
Must pre-Register by 10-20-16 to be guaranteed a shirt

Circle One: 15k

15k Relay Team Name _____
Please circle which leg you will be doing- 1st 2nd 3rd
(Relay Team must have team name and registrations turned in together)
1st Leg approx. 3.0 --- 2nd Leg most challenging, approx. 3.3 --- 3rd Leg approx. 3.0
Shuttle will be provided to relay exchange zone and back to Finish line.

Awards for 15k Relay-Top 3 teams only
Awards for 15k - Overall Male and Female - 9&under-10to14-15to19-20to24-25to29-30-to34-35to39-40to44-45to49-50to54-55to59-60to64-65to69-70+

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on the road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entitles involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Bishinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and Newspaper articles.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent or Guardian if under 18 yrs _____ Date: _____

Mail Entry Forms: Teresa EagleRoad Attn:Veterans 15k One Choctaw Way, Talihina, OK 74571
Make checks payable to, "Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team"
For more information: Teresa EagleRoad 918-721-2461 or Jana Boykin 580-775-5723

CHOCTAW VETERANS CEREMONY

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

YAKOKE TO ALL OUR VETERANS!

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture

Retired Teachers Continue to Teach, Sharing Choctaw Culture Through Book

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

Judy Connally and Lawana Tomlinson Dansby are two friends with one book and many stories. Connally and Dansby are co-authors of the children’s book, “My Choctaw Roots.”

Connally said, “We wanted a tool to teach children about our culture.” She continued, “It’s not just for Choctaw children but for all children, that’s the purpose of this book.”



Photo by Tina Firquain

Judy and Lawana show off their recently printed book “My Choctaw Roots.” They are very excited to share their book of stories.

Both women are grandmothers and retired teachers. Connally was an English teacher and Dansby taught business. Connally has written other children’s books in the past,

but the two decided to partner up and write this book together.

Dansby said, “She and I work very well together and everyone that has helped us has been cooperative and excited about the book and that makes us ecstatic.”

Dansby and Connally wanted to make the stories in the book as historically accurate as possible so they enlisted help from the Choctaw Nation. People who helped included Joy Culbreath, Curtis Billy, and Erin McDaniel, but many more helped them as well.

They have been working on the book since January 2015 and Connally said, “We worked hard on this and we changed it many times.”

Since the book is for children, they made it into a picture book and worked with Norma Howard, who is a registered artist with the Choctaw Nation.

Connally said, “Norma, with her insights to the words, brought things in the pictures that we didn’t ever think about. Norma had the vision for what should go on the page for the pictures.”

On Oct. 13, 2016, Dansby and Connally got their hard copy of the finished book. “It’s like seeing our baby,” Connally said. They were overjoyed about seeing the finished project.

Retirement has not stopped these women from continuing to teach and share their knowledge with children of all backgrounds.

Dansby said, “We didn’t want to stop just because we were retired and this is what we know: We know students and English, and this way we can continue.”

“My Choctaw Roots” is about a young girl learning about her roots from her grandmother through Choctaw storytelling. It mentions different traditions of the Choctaw people like stickball and beading.

Erin McDaniel, Choctaw Nation Tourism Director for the Division of Commerce, is working with the women to

sell their book at the traveling Choctaw Store and on their website. The expected release date is early November.

After the release Connally and Dansby hope to have book signings at the store around late November or early December. Also, they plan to visit schools and teach students how to make their own picture books. They want to visit public schools, Choctaw Head Starts, libraries, and wherever they get the opportunity to share their work and the Choctaw culture.

Connally said, “Our goal is to create pride in our Choctaw roots.”



Photos Provided

The Choctaw Nation Chili’s franchise was honored with the Newcomer of the Year Award at a recent Chili’s Franchise Convention in Dallas. The award gives testament to the team’s dedication to excellence in customer service and food quality. Pictured are Atoka Chili’s General Manager Josh Bradley and Poteau Chili’s General Manager Jerod Maker.



Photo by Tina Firquain

(left to right) Dr. David Wilson, Linda Watson, Walter Phelps, Rosa Taylor Gilmore and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. Not Pictured, Sylvester Moore.

Choctaw Citizens Honored at AARP Indian Elder Ceremony

By **TINA FIRQUAIN**
Choctaw Nation

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) of Oklahoma hosted their eighth Annual Indian Elder Honors Oct. 19, 2016, where five Choctaw elders were part of the festivities.

Dr. David Wilson, Rosa Taylor Gilmore, Sylvester Moore,

Walter Phelps, and Linda Watson were among 51 honorees from 29 tribes in Oklahoma.

According to aarp.org, “AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization with a membership of nearly 38 million.”

The night began with Oklahoma Fancy Dancers and opening remarks. A special award was announced for Reverend Dr. David Wilson.

Wilson was presented with the Dr. John Edwards Memorial Leadership Award. “This award recognizes an individual whose leadership and positive impact on Native Americans embodies the spirit of Dr. Edwards, who passed away in 2014,” according to AARP.

Dr. Wilson was touched he was receiving an award that was in honor of a good friend of his. “For me to receive this award, named after him, is even more moving and meant so much more because I knew him,” he said

Later in the evening the 50 remaining honorees were awarded with medallions.

Rosa Taylor Gilmore was nominated for the honor by a senior citizen from Durant and she said, “I feel great and I think this is a great honor to be here.”

Walter Phelps from District 12 helps the Choctaw Nation by serving the people around him. His is a veteran and was named Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elder in 2015.

Phelps said, “I just serve the people like I would want to be pleased and served, and I just love to do things for people.”

Linda Watson was the last Choctaw honoree of the night and was very humble about her service. This is the second time she has been awarded for her dedication to the Choctaw Nation. The first time was as Outstanding Elder and she said, “I wasn’t expecting it and I just thought, I can’t believe they chose me.”

Sylvester Moore could not make the festivities, but his contributions to the Nation keep the culture alive.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Chief Gary Batton signed a proclamation prioritizing efforts in suicide prevention within the Choctaw Nation. He was joined by Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Senior Executive Officer of Choctaw Nation Tribal Services Teresa Jackson.

Choctaw Nation Declares September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

By **CHARLES CLARK**

Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton has shown that good health—physical, mental, and emotional—is at the forefront of his efforts to improve the lives of Choctaw Nation members.

In recognition of illnesses related to the tragedy of suicide, Chief Batton signed a proclamation that declared September 2016 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

The proclamation reads, in part: Whereas, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recognizes that most of these deaths are preventable; for Native Americans, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all ages; and approximately 41,149 people die by suicide every year . . . the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority has accepted the directive to make suicide prevention a priority.

“Zero Suicide” is the goal as training is planned to help health staff become aware of the needs, not just for a month, but for year around.

To further this cause, Chief Batton is urging “all employees and members of the Tribe to work toward reducing stigma for mental health seeking behaviors, speak out about suicide prevention, and make others aware of the signs and symptoms of suicidal” tendencies in others.

Melanie Jones, Project Director, Choctaw Nation Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention, states, “We strive to educate the health system employees and the residents of the Choctaw Nation about the signs and symptoms of someone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts.”



Photo by Stacy Hutto

Pictured are (from left) Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James R. Floyd, Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker.

Choctaw Nation Hosts Recent Inter-Tribal Council Meeting

The Choctaw Nation welcomed the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes to the quarterly meeting on Oct. 13-14 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.

Members and employees of the Five Tribes met for various work group meetings on Oct. 13.

The Inter-Tribal Council General Session was held on Oct. 14. Tribal representatives gave updates on their tribe and projects started and/or finished.

Speakers at the meeting were Brian Hendrix, Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs; Eddie

Streater, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Robert Nelson, HUD; and Rear Admiral Kevin Meeks, Indian Health Service.

Resolution No. 16-27, Supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Resolution No. 16-28, Opposition to Transitioning from the Indian Health Service/ Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement Program to a Standards Reimbursement Agreement; and Resolution No. 16-29, Establishing Support for the Shawnee Tribe Casino Project in Guymon were approved by the Council.

SUPPLEMENTAL INITIATIVE

Next Step

Please call to schedule an in-person appointment.

Poteau (918) 649-0431

McAlester (918) 420-5716

Durant (580) 924-7773

Broken Bow (580) 584-2842

Antlers (580) 238-6443

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

Eligibility:

- One Choctaw Tribal Member in Household
- Reside in Choctaw Nation Service Area
- Must be a Working Household (some exceptions apply)
- Income-Based
- No Household Members Receiving SNAP

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.

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

December Community Center Schedule

12-1 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3
12-8 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3
12-13 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3
12-22 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3
12-29 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions

Federal, State, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills (www.shakeout.org) are opportunities to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes.

You cannot tell from the initial shaking if an earthquake will suddenly become intense...so always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately!

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!)
- **COVER** your head and neck with your arms and seek shelter by getting under a sturdy desk or table if nearby; and
- **HOLD ON** to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

If there is no table or desk near you, drop to the ground and then if possible move to an inside corner of the room. Be in a crawling position to protect your vital organs and be ready to move if necessary, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

Do not move to another location or outside. Earthquakes occur without any warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. You are more likely to be injured if you try to move around during strong shaking. Also, you will never know if the initial jolt will turn out to be start of the big one...and that’s why you should always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately!

These are guidelines for most situations. Read below to learn how to protect yourself in other situations and locations, or visit www.earthquakecountry.org/steps.

Drop! Cover! Hold On!

If you are unable to Drop, Cover, and Hold On: If you have difficulty getting safely to the floor on your own, get as low as possible, protect your head and neck, and move away from windows or other items that can fall on you.

In a wheelchair: Lock your wheels and remain seated until the shaking stops. Always protect your head and neck with your arms, a pillow, a book, or whatever is available.

12TH ANNUAL

POW WOW

OVER \$100,000 IN PRIZE MONEY

DECEMBER 2 - 4, 2016

CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER

ADMISSION IS FREE TO PUBLIC

CHOCTAW

CASINO & RESORT

DURANT

2016 OUTSTANDING ELDER

Outstanding Elder Named at October Banquet in Choctaw Casino Resort

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma honored its 2016 Outstanding Elders in October with a banquet held at the Choctaw Casino Resort.

The event was held in the Magnolia Ballroom. Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. served as Master of Ceremonies with Rev. Olin Williams offering prayers to open and close the banquet.

The Lord’s Prayer was performed by Choctaw Nation princesses Isabella Muncy, Little Miss, Savannah Hern-don, Junior Miss, and Karen Crosby, Senior Miss.

Chief Gary Batton offered the keynote speech praising the elders for imparting their wisdom on the younger generations.

Outstanding Elders for this year are Maricie Smith from District 10 and Eugene Branam from District 5.

Maricie was born in Darwin in 1931. She starting working at a very young age, pulling cotton, cutting broomcorn, sawing logs, and whatever labor was required to feed the family.

Maricie earned a bachelor’s degree inn elementary education and then her master’s degree in early childhood education. She taught for many years in the Farris school system.

Eugene was born in Tuskahoma in 1926. He worked in radio in Shreve-port, Louisiana, before being drafted into the U.S. Army.

After the Army, he graduated from Eastern Oklahoma State College eventually earning his teaching cer-tificate from Southeastern. He worked as a teacher, then for Indian Health Services. He was also a member of the Nation’s Color Guard for 28 years. He is now retired, living in Stigler.

Maricie and Eugene are pictured (center) accompanied by (left to right) District Councilman Anthony Dillard, District Councilman Ronald Perry, Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Photos by Deidre Elrod
Not Pictured: Carrie Ward
District 12, Broken Bow



Chief Gary Batton, Doretha Bowen, Idabel, and District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant, Ray Luman (son), Camelia Luman, Talihina, and Chief Gary Batton



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, Wynema Luman, Poteau, and Chief Gary Batton



Chief Gary Batton, Jan Storey, Idabel, and District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant, Dorothy Steelman with a picture of husband and Outstanding Elder, Clifford “Chief” Steelman, Talihina, and Chief Gary Batton



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, Brenda Lovejoy, Spiro, District 5 Councilman Ronald Perry, and Chief Gary Batton



Chief Gary Batton, Kaye Choate, Bethel, and District 2 Councilman Tony Ward



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant, Maxine Umsted, Smithville, and Chief Gary Batton,



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, Jim Fry, Spiro, District 5 Councilman Ronald Perry, and Chief Gary Batton



Chief Gary Batton, Floyd Choate, Bethel, and District 2 Councilman Tony Ward



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant, Nathan Watson, Smithville, and Chief Gary Batton



District 5 Councilman Ronald Perry, Eugene Branam, Stigler, and Chief Gary Batton



Chief Gary Batton, Randal Hicks, Broken Bow, and District 2 Councilman Tony Ward



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, Tommy Baker, Poteau, and Chief Gary Batton



District 5 Councilman Ronald Perry, Lucille Timmons, Stigler, and Chief Gary Batton

2016 OUTSTANDING ELDER



District 6 Councilman Joe Coley, Charlotte Holt, Wilburton, and Chief Gary Batton



District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson, Eddie Wood, Hugo, and Chief Gary Batton



District 11 Councilman Bob Pate, Johnnie Sue Kemp, McAlester, and Chief Gary Batton



District 6 Councilman Joe Coley, Homer Noley, Wilburton, and Chief Gary Batton



District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson, Tommie Scott, Hugo, and Chief Gary Batton



District 11 Councilman Bob Pate, Ron Fleming, McAlester, and Chief Gary Batton



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, Hershel Wall, Antlers, and Chief Gary Batton



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh, Glenn Estes, Durant, and Chief Gary Batton



District 12 Councilman James Frazier, Auston Rodgers, Crowder, and Chief Gary Batton



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, Ila Sue Valencia, Wright City, and Chief Gary Batton



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh, Marilyn Mitchell, Durant, Chief Gary Batton



District 12 Councilman James Frazier, Eugene Pickens, Coalgate, and Chief Gary Batton



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, Virgil Gene Henry, Wright City, and Chief Gary Batton



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard, Maricie Smith, Atoka, and Chief Gary Batton



District 12 Councilman James Frazier, Janice Hedrick, Crowder, and Chief Gary Batton



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, Virginia Hammons, Antlers, and Chief Gary Batton



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard, Robert Calvert, Atoka, and Chief Gary Batton

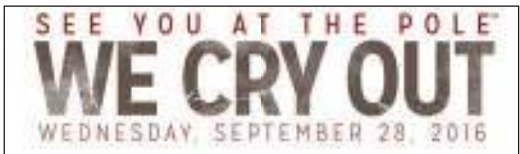


(left) Walter Amos, 90, served in the U.S. Army from 1944–46. He also promotes Chahta heritage in local schools. (right) Newman Tisho, 90, was a recipient of the Purple Heart and Silver Star medal. He served in the U.S. Army from Sept. 21, 1943 to Jan. 11, 1946. He died Oct. 14, 2015.

Walter Amos and Newman Tisho are the November elders in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.



See You at the Pole



Many of the Choctaw Nation facilities participated, from the students at the Early Head Start classes to the seniors at the Choctaw Community Centers. Pictures were submitted by employees at the Choctaw Nation facilities.



Employees at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihiina participated in the 26th Annual See You at the Pole. People met at flag poles across the country to join together and pray.



Students and teachers at the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Idabel, as well as people from the Choctaw Nation Community Center, joined in the annual See You at the Pole.



Visitors and employees at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex in Durant prayed around the flagpole in front of the complex.



The Chahta Preschool in Battiest circled the flagpole as they prayed during the annual See You at the Pole event.



People bow their heads in prayer at a Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Center.



Elders and staff at the CHR Fall Fest at the McAlester Expo Center held hands and bowed their heads as they prayed during the annual See You at the Pole day.

Breast Cancer Awareness & Domestic Violence Awareness



Walkers follow the Talihiina High School marching band during the March on Main Street held on Saturday, Oct. 15.



A breakfast fundraiser was held at the Talihiina Senior Center during the Paint the Town Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Oct. 15.



Talihina's Paint the Town Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness began at the Talihiina Senior Center, where breakfast was served and booths were set up.



The Talihiina High School Marching Band entertained people who stopped by the Talihiina Senior Center for the Breakfast Fundraiser.



During the March Down Main Street in Talihiina some people walked, while others hitched a ride on hips and shoulders.



The Talihiina Police Department, where the March Down Main Street began, and other businesses in Talihiina sported pink ribbons. This year, the town of Talihiina declared October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Oct. 15 as Breast Cancer Awareness Day.



Walkers participating in the one mile March Down Main Street during Talihiina's Paint the Town Pink began the walk at the Talihiina Police Department.



Employees and volunteers pass out T-shirts during the Domestic Violence Awareness Walk in Hugo.



Health workers at the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Idabel formed a purple ribbon on Oct. 19 to bring awareness to Domestic Violence.



Photos by Adam Hutto, Idabel Health Clinic, Kendra Germany, and Stacy Hutto.



Jerry Tims preformed a song for those in attendance at the third annual Choctaw Nation Outreach Victim Services Domestic Violence Awareness walk in Hugo on Oct. 19.