

A Healthy Outlook

New Regional Clinic to Open its Doors

February 2017 Issue
by RONNI PIERCE

In July 2015 the Choctaw Nation broke ground on a new facility that has the potential to positively affect the future of all Choctaw citizens.

The Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic is a 143,000-sq.-ft. facility and will become the first tribal clinic in the country offering an outpatient ambulatory surgery center. In addition, the clinic will provide family practice, a specialty clinic, dental services, optometry, behavioral health, physical therapy, speech therapy, and respiratory therapy, pharmacy, lab, and radiology.

The outpatient surgery center will provide general surgery, pediatric dental, podiatry, cataract procedures, and endoscopy. Family practice will include pediatrics, geriatrics, urgent care, and internal medicine. The specialty clinic will provide services for podiatry, diabetic foot care, wound care, cardiology care, some pulmonology care, and endocrinology.

Behavioral health will have one psychiatrist and five therapists on staff. Physical therapy will cover services such as physical therapy evaluation, ergonomic work assessment, functional mobility training, and wheelchair assessment. The respiratory therapy department will provide pulmonary function studies, breathing treatments, EKGs, heart monitors, oxygen testing, and asthma education in the outpatient clinic during regular hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The onsite laboratory will be able to perform tests during normal hours and has the capabilities to perform tests in

the areas of hematology, chemistry, urinalysis, immunology, and blood gases.

Another big change is the relocation of the Employee Health Clinic for Choctaw Nation employees. The clinic will also be housed at the new Regional Clinic and will be open starting March. “Employee Health is a benefit offered to all Choctaw Nation associates, spouses, and children,” says Courtney Petty, Facility Director. “This is an Urgent Care clinic that helps the associates and their family members receive quick treatment and diagnosis to allow them to return to work and school as soon as possible.”

A state-of-the-art radiology department will be capable of performing regular mammograms as well as a relatively new procedure, 3-dimensional tomosynthesis. The department will also be able to perform CT scans and has the potential for cardiac imaging in the future.

WIC, the USDA program for Women, Infant, and Children will also be housed in the new clinic. The program is for all Oklahoma families, Choctaw and non-Choctaw. Pregnant women, new moms, infants, and children under the age of five are eligible for the program benefits which include healthy foods, breastfeeding assistance, community referrals, and nutritional support.

The Choctaw Nation’s new world class Data Center is fully operational and is hosting many of the tribe’s most important software applications and services. The 10,000-sq.-ft., tier four, data center was built to withstand an F4 tornado and is designed with fully redundant systems to ensure that no matter what disaster may strike, the

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will not be without its mission critical IT services to effectively server tribal members across the 10 1/2 counties.

This state-of-the-art facility hosts the latest technology systems from Cisco, EMC, Pure, and VMWare and will allow the IT infrastructure to flex elastically with the ever changing needs of employees and the tribal members they serve.

Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Data Center will provide round the clock monitoring and response services for mission critical IT systems across the country.

The level of technology and service availability provided by the Data Center has never before been possible and will allow the Data Center to serve as the technology hub for the new Durant Campus and in the near future, the entire Nation.

FAQs

- Who can use the CNRM clinic?**
The clinic is open to Native Americans and Alaskan Natives with a CDIB card.
- What are the hours?**
The main clinic will open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- What will be located at the clinic?**
The Regional Clinic will include separate facilities for the health clinic, administrative building, and facilities maintenance. The Regional Clinic building will house the following:
- Outpatient Surgery Center
 - Family Practice
 - Specialty Clinic
- What type of services will be provided at the clinic?**
- Podiatry, Diabetic Foot Care and Wound Care
 - Cardiology (full time)
 - Pulmonology (part time)
 - Endocrinology
 - Audiology
 - Dental
 - Optometry
 - Behavioral Health
 - Radiology
 - Pharmacy
 - WIC
 - Physical Therapy
 - Speech Therapy
 - Respiratory Therapy
- How do I schedule an appointment?**
To schedule an appointment call (580) 920-2100 or (800) 349-7026. Appointments can also be scheduled using the new Choctaw Nation healthcare app available on App Store and Google play.

New Clinic to Feature Over 500 Art Pieces

by STACY HUTTO

K. Halann Elliott has worked for Choctaw Nation for 24 years She currently works in Health Care Administration as a Compliance Officer/Budget Analyst.

As a member of the project team for the Choctaw Nation Durant Regional Medical Clinic and an art lover, she was excited when she was asked to spearhead purchasing and placing art in the new clinic in Durant.

There were many unique challenges with the project. One was there was no

procedure in place for purchasing art and signage, so Elliott researched the industry standard was and stayed within those guidelines.

To maintain Joint Commission standards, any murals or paintings on the walls have to be able to be cleaned. Pediatrics showcases the solution Elliott came up with. She found a material called Acrovyn, which can have anything printed on it and can be easily cleaned.

One of the first artists

commissioned was Lucky Wiggins, who works for Choctaw Nation Casinos and is a tribal member. His work will be highlighted in many of the exam rooms in the new building.

Other Choctaw artists featured throughout the Clinic are Steven Paul Judd, Linda Kukuk, Janie Umsted, Kathy Sturch, Steven Cass, and Lauretta Newby-Carter.

Newby-Carter is an artist who was tasked to turn a 2 ft. x 3 ft. mosaic into a 7 ft. x 12 ft. mosaic. The mosaic will complement the light

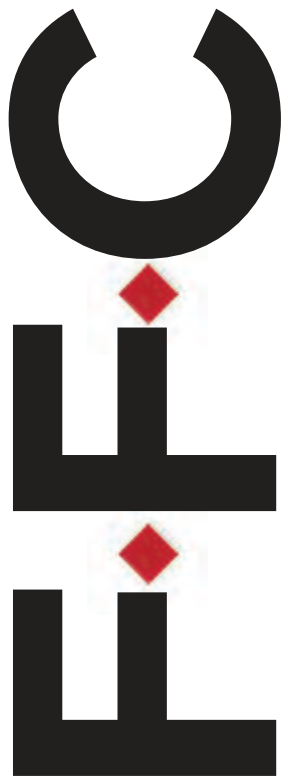
fixture in the lobby.

Another large art piece is the sculpture outside the entrance featuring a Choctaw elder and children.

Art by Choctaw artists will have a nameplate with the artist’s name. Stock art featuring local areas will have a nameplate stating what part of Choctaw Nation is depicted.

Visitors will be greeted by an illuminated glass art piece (below) depicting the history of the Choctaw Nation Health Care System, which was donated.





Faith, Family, & Culture

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strong commitment to each other and their families.

My wife, Angie, and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in January. I am very blessed to have Angie and am looking forward to the next 30!

The Choctaw Nation is historically a matriarchal tribe. The women were considered the heads of the families. They created the pottery and baskets they used every day, gathered food, cooked, and raised the children.

The men and women worked together to build the chukka, or houses, they lived in. Some of the women were doctors. The men were the hunters and protectors. The partnership between the men and women sustained the community.

The Partnership of a Couple Extends to the Community



The evolution of Choctaw marriage is an interesting part of our history, one that reflects the changing roles of husbands and wives while retaining a

Versions of the traditional Choctaw wedding ceremony still used today are symbolic of love, humility, family, and accepting the responsibilities that lay ahead of them.

Historical accounts by Henry Halbert describe how friends and relatives of the couple would meet at the location of the ceremony. Brothers of the woman would go to the other family and bring the man to sit on a blanket spread on the ground. The man's sisters would do the same with the woman, bringing her to sit by the man. The families remain an integral part of the entire ceremony, and with humor as Choctaw people like to do.

Sometimes, the woman is expected to break loose and run, chased by the groom and brought back. I've watched this many times and it is always a lot of fun. The bride can make the groom work to catch her.

The man's family provides meat for the wedding meal and the woman's relatives bring bread, symbols of the days when the men were the hunters and the women raised corn for the bread and hominy. The couple will then sit quietly, not speaking, while presents are thrown, snatched, and distributed.

A minister officiates during the ceremonies now, and we often include the Wedding Dance in the celebration with the married couple dancing in the center of a circle of other couples. The name of the dance indicates its connection with the courtship and marriage. The partners hook little fingers to represent the way eagles choose their partner. Bald eagles are well-known for their "courtship flights."

The marriage is the beginning. The bond is formed and as with any Nation of people, we have adjusted to society. There are Choctaws who go to school, to work, to the grocery store, blending in today's world. When they get home, they are just Choctaw. They live with

their spouse and family the same as their parents and grandparents. They have successfully merged Choctaw and modern cultures, teaching the things they know of their heritage and making memories that keep the traditions alive.

We provide anniversary certificates to couples celebrating milestone anniversaries and just sent one to a couple from Tushka who has been married 70 years—Tot and Wanda Calvert.

Congratulations to them!

Please let us know if any of your Choctaw family is celebrating a 50th, 60th or 70th wedding anniversary. You can email Jason Hicks at jlhicks@ChoctawNation.com. We'd love to hear from you.

There are many, many couples who understand that compromise and honesty are important to marriage. They are willing to give and take and invest the love and respect needed to ensure a long, caring relationship. I admire you all and want you to know Angie and I are learning as we go from the great examples you have set for us.

As Valentine's Day approaches, let's remember our partners and thank them for their unique gifts and talents and the bond that is shared between a couple.



Photo Provided

Tot and Wanda Calvert celebrated 70 years of marriage on Dec. 12, 2016. They live in the Ward's Chapel community west of Tushka, Oklahoma. The Calverts were married in Denison, Texas on Dec. 12, 1946. Their secret is working together throughout everything.

Programs Encourage Choctaw Tribal Members to Follow Their Dreams



One of the largest events the Choctaw Nation holds is the annual Career Expo. The huge job fair, hosted by Choctaw Nation Career Development, will be held Feb. 22 at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester.

This is the 10th expo hosted by Choctaw Nation Career Development. It's a win/win situation—hundreds of students and job seekers planning their future can meet over 100 employers from across Oklahoma and surrounding states, as well as representatives from training facilities and service agencies.

It's heartening to see local businesses as well as other tribes, health facilities, welding schools, truck driving schools, and more reaching out to let others know there are opportunities waiting for them.

This year's guest speaker is Cherokee citizen Gary "Litefoot" Davis. Litefoot is recognized as a musician and has his own recording label, Red Vinyl Records. He is an actor, known for his role in "Indian in the Cupboard," public speaker, author and entrepreneur.

He has also created a line of clothing—Native Style, and operates the Davis Strategy Group.

Litefoot is an inspiration to audiences throughout the country. His message reflects strong traditional values and is one of the best motivational speakers. Davis was selected as the speaker for the Career Expo because he understands the challenges many face as they make career choices.

The 2017 Achieve Your Dreams scholarship will be presented during the expo. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior to help the student reach his or her career goals.

Many Choctaw Nation programs are geared toward encouraging and assisting tribal members achieve their dreams.

The instruction begins with Choctaw Nation Early Childhood and continues through programs aiming to provide more opportunities through elementary, high school, college, or trade schools. In many cases, students are now teachers. I've watched two generations of the same family receive GEDs together during a Choctaw Nation Adult Education graduation.

Success becomes a reality for participants in programs such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), High School Student Services, Educational Talent Search, Youth Empowerment and Advisory Board, Higher Education, Adult Education, Vocational Development, Chahta Foundation, Career Development, Choctaw Asset Building, and College and Career Resources. WIOA representatives are visiting schools now to share information about their program that helps prepare youth for entering the workforce. They have visited approximately 37 schools and have received around 600 applications in just the last three weeks.

The Chahta Foundation also offers a variety of scholarships from undergraduate to doctorate. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted. ChahtaFoundation.com has more information on what they offer to help broaden horizons.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board also offers annual scholarships for high school seniors and they are currently accepting applications. Please see the ad on page 12. First, second and third place awards are given.

Quoting Litefoot, "Indian Country cannot have enough new up and coming business people." The hope we have for children, our grandchildren and ourselves is to have the knowledge and skills to reach and open those doors of opportunity, to succeed and provide a bright future for our families.

February 2017

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The Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic is scheduled for its grand opening in February 2017. The clinic will be located at 1801 Chukka Hina (Home Road) and will be 143-thousand square feet. The clinic will house an outpatient surgery center as well as family practice, a specialty clinic, dental services, and a range of other health services.

Stay Connected. ChoctawNation.com features access to information about tribal history, culture, news, services, government, businesses, applications and contacts. The Choctaw Nation's official publication, the BISKINIK newspaper, is available to tribal members by mail and archived editions are on ChoctawNation.com.

www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma

www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK



www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation



by Kendra Germany

The Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic in Durant is expected to be completed in February 2017. The medical center will have a wide range of services, as well as a wide bore MRI, which is better for people with claustrophobia.



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

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

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



MEET THE ARTIST

Darrell & Teresa Potts

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 11, 2017 - 11AM TO 4PM
1882 HWY 69/75 - COLBERT, OK 74733 - 580-296-2672

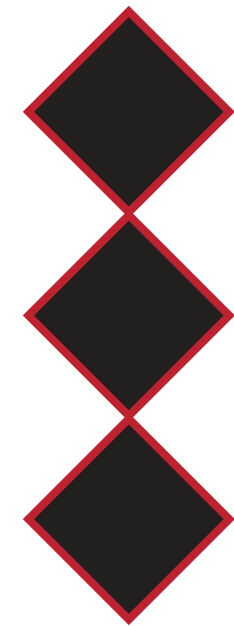


The Choctaw Store is the place to shop for unique items handcrafted by Choctaw Artisans and Choctaw Nation branded items. Shop for apparel, jewelry, books, home décor and more! Whether you are shopping for a gift or something for yourself, the Choctaw Store has just what you are looking for.

1882 HWY 69/75 - COLBERT, OK 74733 - 580-296-2672



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Focusing on Heart Health in February

by ERIN ADAMS

Halito,

We have hit the ground running this New Year of 2017, making sure to take in a healthy well balanced diet full of wonderful nutrients. All of this in an effort to combat the possibility, of slightly over-indulgence from the recent holidays. Keeping the healthy momentum going February is the month to focus on the heart. Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association reports that cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading global cause of death with more than 17.3 million people dying from heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases around the world each year. Brown also reports that one million Americans are affected each year by blood clots that put their life in jeopardy. The report also states that women of normal weight and postmenopausal who lost and regained weight “yo-yo dieting” have three and a half times higher risk for sudden cardiac death and nearly 66 percent increased risk for coronary heart disease death.

In light of these staggering statistics many people feel, they themselves, will not become one of the statistics. However, many of us push ourselves just a little too far, thinking “I don’t

have time to exercise today” and working longer hours gives way to “it’s too late to cook, let’s just go through the drive through” and “Sleep? Who has time for sleep? I need a double shot of espresso.” If any of these sound familiar, take heart, The American Heart Association does provide us with sound helpful advice to help decrease these risk.

The first tip is to get more restful sleep by exercising, avoiding caffeine, establishing a bedtime routine, de-stressing and relaxing.

The second tip is to handle stress in healthy ways. The first way to accomplish this is by resting your eyes. Taking a break from the screen can do wonders. You can also take a walk, and remove yourself from stressful situation and atmosphere. Breathing exercises can also be beneficial. Focus on each breath in and out, slowing down, and taking deeper breaths.

The third tip is to keep your blood pressure in check. You can do this by avoiding decongestants, managing sleep apnea, taking medication as prescribed, avoiding salt, and handling stress in healthy ways.



NURSERY NEWS

Lydia Lynn Allen



Lydia

Lydia Allen was born on Nov. 3, 2016, in Durant. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Lydia is the daughter of Tracy and Krystal Allen. She was welcomed into the world by her proud big brother Willie Allen.

Lydia is the granddaughter of the late Terry Allen of Bennington, Janet Knight of Bennington, and Kenneth and Doris Looney of Bennington.

Sierra Amelie Lancaster



Sierra

Amelie Lancaster was born on Oct. 7, 2016, in Hilo, Hawaii. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Sierra was welcomed into the world by her parents Nick and Eri Lancaster of Hawaii.

She is the granddaughter of Doug Lancaster and Cory Sisson of California, and Katsuo and Kyoko Kobayashi.

Slow Cooker Hearty Chicken Noodle Soup



Recipe by
American Heart Association

Recipe of the Month

Now you don’t have to slave away at the stove top for the rich flavor of homemade chicken soup. Just add ingredients to the slow cooker and let it create more flavor than can be found in a can of soup.

- Ingredients**
 - 2, (1-pound) boneless, skinless chicken breasts (all visible fat discarded)
 - 3 cups peeled, sliced carrots (around 1 pound of carrots)
 - 3 cups chopped celery
 - 2 medium zucchinis, cut into a medium dice
 - 1, (14.5-ounce) can low-sodium chicken broth
- 6 cups water
 - 3 bay leaves
 - 2 teaspoons Italian spice blend
 - 1 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 1 cup chopped, fresh dill or 2 tbsp dried dill
 - 1 (12-ounce) bag wide egg noodles, cooked according to directions

Preparation
Add chicken breasts to the bottom of a 6-quart (or larger) slow cooker bowl. Top with carrots, celery, zucchini, chicken broth, water, bay leaves, Italian spice blend, garlic powder, black pepper, and salt.
Cover the slow cooker with a lid and cook until chicken is fully-cooked, about 8 hours on low heat or 4 hours on high heat.
Using a fork, remove and discard bay leaves from soup. Using tongs, transfer chicken to a medium bowl. Stir in the fresh or dried dill. Turn off heat but leave soup covered to keep warm.
Let chicken cool and then cut into bite-size pieces. Meanwhile, cook egg noodles according to package directions.
To serve, portion noodles into the bottom of each bowl. Ladle soup over noodles and serve.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size: 2 cups
Calories: 329 Sodium: 682mg
Total Fat: 5.1g Total Carbohydrate: 29g
Saturated Fat 1.1g Unsaturated Fat 2.4g
Cholesterol 113g Potassium 0mg
Protein 31.8g

I hope you enjoy this heart warming dish.

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



By Choctaw Nation

Mother and daughter, Linda Armor and Teresa Davis, display their organic produce at the Durant Farmers Market.

Senior Farmer’s Market Applications Now Available

The Choctaw Nation Senior Farmer’s Market Program will be mailing out applications to seniors who participated in the program and received checks last year.

Seniors are asked to completely fill out the application and include the requested information.

There will be an addressed, stamped envelope included for participants to return completed applications.

For seniors who did not participate in the Senior Farmer’s Market Program last year and would like to this year, please visit your nearest Choctaw Community Center starting Feb. 1, or call (800) 522-6170 ext. 2303 to request

- an application be mailed to their address.
- At the end of April, eligible seniors will be mailed \$50 in checks to spend with authorized farmers in their area starting May 1.
- Requirements for the Senior Farmer’s Market Program are as follows:
- Meet income qualifications by providing either current paystubs for the last 30 days, current tax return, current eligibility letter for Indian commodities, or current eligibility letter for SNAP.
 - Native American at least 55 years of age with a CDIB card.
 - Non-Native American at least 60 years old residing in a Native American household.
 - Disabled person(s) at least 55 years old living in housing for the elderly with congregate nutrition services. Proof of SSI Disability needed.
 - Must reside in Choctaw Nation 10 ½ county service area.

Participants interested in the Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers Market Program can begin requesting applications in May as they make their WIC appointments.

People in a current certification who are receiving WIC checks from Choctaw Nation WIC with infants at least four months old will qualify for the WIC Farmer’s Market Program.

Eligible participants will receive \$30 in checks to spend with authorized farmers in their area.

Qualified individuals do not have to have a WIC appointment to receive Farmer’s Market checks.

To avoid long waiting times, be sure to call before going to the Choctaw WIC Clinic and ask about a convenient time.


Choctaw Artists Wanted

Various vendors, musicians, and entertainers needed for Multi Cultural Expo in Heavener on Sept. 16, 2017.


10x10 booths available	Non-Food Vendors \$35
Food Vendors \$45	\$5 fee for electricity if needed

For more information or to reserve a booth, contact the Heavener Chamber of Commerce.


918-653-4303
heavenerchamber@yahoo.com

Choctaw Nation WIC		
 <div>WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN</div>		
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.

It was love at first sight ...

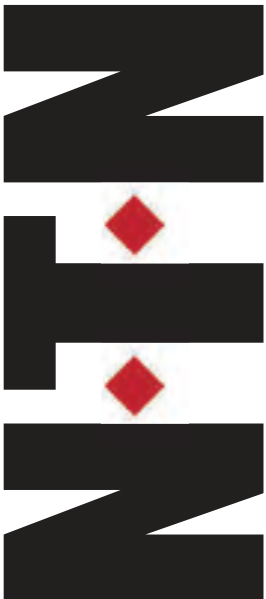


NURTURE
your baby
with your
LOVE, your
WARMTH,
your MILK.



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

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



Notes to the Nation

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I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for all they have done for me. One of the biggest contributions I have received from my tribe is the Higher Education grant I have always received, every semester. I have always had above a 3.5 GPA at my university, California State University Chico, in Chico, California. I will graduate soon with a Bachelor's degree in Business Information Systems. Looking back at my university journey, several things have really stood out as me growing personally. The first is the jobs and internships I have had. Over the past four summers I have worked at four different companies doing four different jobs. At Frontier Environmental Solutions I helped close abandoned mine shafts in the Mojave Desert. At Beyond Home Theater I installed home theater systems. At Workday Inc. I coded automation tests in Java for the company's mobile iPhone application. At Verizon I helped explore the possibilities of Amazon Web Services cloud computing to save the company costs by moving their servers to the cloud. I also worked for two years at my school during the school year. I would sum up all of my lessons into this most important lesson: You need the help of others to achieve success. I would not have had all these awesome experiences without the help of the Choctaw Nation, the Higher Education Scholarships, other scholarships I have received and the jobs the Lord has blessed me with. I encourage all young people in college to continue to work hard and take as many opportunities as you can. Remember, work as though everything depends on you, but pray as though everything depends on God. Yakohe!

Justis Storm

Choctaw Royalty
District Princess Pageants are Coming Soon!

Information packets will be available at local Choctaw Nation field offices by February 20, 2017.

For more information, please contact your local field office or the Cultural Services Department at 1-800-522-6170 Ext. 4090

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

Send thank you notes and event notices to:
Biskinik, Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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

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

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs to be changed, our Circulation Department would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



LETTERS

Halito, my name is William LeGrand. I sit here writing this trying to find some way to show my gratitude and thanks to the Nation. For what you ask...everything. I am a recent participant and graduate of the CAB programs, both 1 and 2. These programs are solely responsible for the success I am experiencing and will continue to experience my entire life. The finance classes taught me how to construct and implement a daily budget, how to recognize financial pitfalls and once recognized, how to fix them. These are things that I will use my entire life. The Nation has equipped me not only to be a success in business, allowing me to take care of myself and my family, but they have equipped me for life and the productive living of it. The Nation has given me so much. More than I can express or explain with mere words. I would like to thank Sheri Lynn Kennedy, who was there 24-7 answering all my questions. She was tireless and patient throughout the entire process. Also, Dawn Hix and Jill Reyna, thank you ladies. You all have made a positive contribution in and to my life, thank you so much. And lastly..Chief Batton. Thank you Sir. Thank you for having the vision and insight to implement such a program. You, Sir, are changing our community, our tribe, our world, one member at a time. God bless you all. God bless our Nation. Integrity, pride, honor.....We are Choctaw.

William LeGrand

On Dec. 12, our friend and caregiver, JoAnn, took us to your lights display—it was GREAT! We so enjoyed every display you have. We are from New York and always thought Rockefeller Center and Fifth Avenue was great at Christmas. But, we now consider your display more loving and caring for all that come to see the lights and displays.

Larry and Sherry Coslow
Finley, Oklahoma

In my genealogy research, I have found mention of an area called "Fisher's Old Stand," which is now known as Daisy, Oklahoma. My information says that a man called Fisher was one of the first white men in the area and he had a store here. I would love to hear from anyone who can supply any information about this time in my family's history.

Patsy Miller
pcmiller067@gmail.com

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

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

- Family law (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. At this time the legal department is not providing assistance with wills and probate. For questions contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

February Community Center Schedule

2-2 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3
2-14 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30-3
2-23 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3

March Community Center Schedule

3-2 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-9 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-14 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-23 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-30 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Enrolling NOW for the 2017-18 school year at your local Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start!

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

Head Start is the Best Start

We Offer
For Children:
• Social Interaction
• Health & Nutrition
• Quality Child Development Practices & Activities
• Vision & Dental Screening
For Families:
• Referrals to Community Resources
• Parenting Classes & Other Education

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

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

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

March 2017

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

EVENTS

Tribal Council

Holds Regular Session

- The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Jan. 14, in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following items:
- Presentation of Choctaw School of Language Teacher Certificate to Haley Cusher of Pickens.
 - Approved disposal of surplus capitol assets.
 - Grazing lease in favor of James Alexander on Land USA in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.
 - Approved the IW and Family Preservation Budget FY2016-2017.
 - Approved the IW and Family Violence Prevention Budget FY2016-2017.

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

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association
and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and you must reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2161 or toll-free (800) 522-6170.

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the:
Wright City Community Center
February 10
9-11 a.m.

2017 Annual Choctaw Nation

Livestock Show

Saturday, Feb. 4

(EOSC Campus in Wilburton)

Swine.....10 a.m.
Does.....After Swine Show
Wethers.....After Doe Show
Lambs.....After Wether Show

(Bryan County Fairground in Durant)

Swine.....10 a.m.
Does.....10 a.m.
Wethers.....After Doe Show
Lambs.....After Wether Show

Sunday, Feb. 5

(EOSC Campus in Wilburton)

Heifers.....11 a.m.
Steers.....After Heifer Show

(Bryan County Fairground in Durant)

–No shavings in Cattle Barn–

Heifers.....11 a.m.
Steers.....After Heifer Show

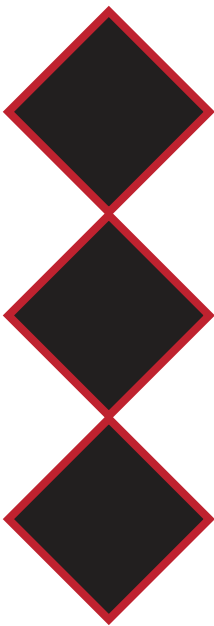
After Jan. 25 entry fee is \$25. Up to three enteries per division.

There are no boundary guidelines.

Wood chips or shavings only shall be used for bedding, unless otherwise stated.

Participants must bring their own shavings.

For questions, or information:
www.choctawnation.com
(888) 767-2518



6

Winter Weather in the Choctaw Nation and Beyond

All across the United States and in the 10 ½ counties of Choctaw Nation winter has been making itself known.

The first snowstorm of 2017 in Oklahoma brought single digit temperatures and icy roadways.

Other parts of the United States received snow measured in feet instead of inches.

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days.

Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community.

Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low

temperature and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rains.

In some cases, snow and ice can build up on power lines and/or trees next to power lines, causing a power outage.

Even if the power stays on, snow and ice build up on roads can cause slick roads and keep people in their homes.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management recommends households prepare for winter storms by having needed supplies prior to the arrival of a winter storm.

Supplies Emergency Management recommends having on hand are as follows:

- Water—at least a three-day supply, one gallon per person, per day.
- Food—at least a three day supply of non-perishable,

easy to prepare food.

- Flashlights.
- Battery powered, or hand crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio, if possible.
- Extra batteries.
- First Aid kit.
- A seven-day supply of medications and medical items such as hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane, etc.
- A multipurpose tool.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items. Hand sanitizer and baby wipes, even if there isn't a baby in the house, are good to have on hand in case the power goes out.
- Copies of personal documents such as medication lists and pertinent medical information. Proof of address, deed/ lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, Social Security cards for everyone in the home, etc.
- Cell phone with charge cords, as well as portable chargers in case of power outages.
- Family and emergency contacts.
- Extra cash.
- Baby supplies such as bottles, formula, baby food, diapers, etc.
- Pet supplies such as collar, leash, ID tags, carrier, bowl, food, phone number for veterinarian, etc.
- Tools and supplies for securing your home. Prior to the arrival of a winter storm, wrap water pipes to avoid pipes freezing and burst-

ing. If the local store is out of pipe insulation, wrapping pipes with pool noodles and/or newspapers can help.

- Sand, rock salt, or non-clumping kitty litter make walkways and steps less slippery and help avoid falling on ice and snow.
- Warm coats, gloves and/or mittens, hats, boots, extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members are good to have on hand during the winter.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management can be found on Facebook, or on Twitter @CNO_EM. To reach the Choctaw Nation Disaster Relief Hotline call (844) 709-6301.

Choctaw Nation Emergency Management Implements Mass Notification System

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management recently implemented a Mass Notification System for Choctaw tribal members that live and work in the 10 ½ counties.

The Mass Notification System will be used to notify tribal members and Choctaw Nation employees about imminent threats to health and safety, as well as informational notifications that affect tribal members and employees' locations, or work environments.

At this time the Mass Notification System is only for Choctaw Nation's 10 ½ county area.

Administrators will send out notifications regarding severe weather, flooding, gas leaks and more.

Choctaw Nation employees are automatically signed up through the employee portal. Choctaw tribal members living in the 10 ½ counties can opt-in for the Mass Notification Center by registering at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724136#/login>. The Information provided will not be shared with any vendor, or other organization. Choctaw Nation will only use the information provided for notification purposes.

When people sign up for the Emergency Alert Program, they will get alerted about emergencies and other important community news.

The system enables Choctaw Nation Emergency Management to provide participants with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, flooding, gas leaks and evacuations of buildings and/or neighborhoods.

When Choctaw Nation Emergency Management issues a notification about a potential safety hazard or concern participants will receive either a call, text, or email, depending on the method of communication chosen at registration. Notifications can be for homes, schools, or places of employment in the 10 ½ counties.

Once a notification has been received confirmation could be requested. If confirmation is not received, the system will continue to reach participants on all of the contact paths registered.

Choctaw Nation Emergency Management Staff will be visiting Community Center luncheons in the upcoming months to help tribal members sign up on the Mass Notification Center.

know the difference between a **Watch** and **Warning**

Be Prepared...
a tornado is possible

- ☒ Check for forecast updates
- ☒ Monitor sky conditions
- ☒ Know where to take shelter

Take Action!
a tornado is imminent

- ☒ Take shelter immediately
- ☒ Seek further information
- ☒ Check for forecast updates

Be Weather Ready

Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service
weather.gov/tornado

Weather in Oklahoma can shift dramatically in the span of a week, or even days. The weather can go from freezing temperatures, snow and ice to high temperatures and thunderstorms. Tornadoes can happen any time during the year and it is important to know the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. If sky conditions are favorable for a tornado and you hear tornado sirens get to a safe location.



Driving safely during severe winter weather begins before a driver puts the car in gear. While it may take a little bit longer to clear the snow off the roof of a vehicle, or completely scrape the ice off a windshield, it is safer than driving like the illustration above.

WINTER CAR KIT

- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Scarf
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Ice Scraper
- ☐ Bottle of Water (in a sealed bag)
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Basic Tool Kit
- ☐ Sand or Cat Litter

CHOCTAW
COUNTRY

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Plan Your Valentine's Getaway at
ChoctawCountry.com/valentine

Choctaw Asset Building
2017 Financial Education Class Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 11, in Stillwater. Location to be determined.

Saturday, March 11, Choctaw Community Center, 2049 E. Washington, Idabel.

Saturday, April 8, Choctaw Career Development Lab, 2807 Enterprise Blvd., Durant.

Saturday, May 13, Oklahoma Choctaw Alliance Bld. 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City.

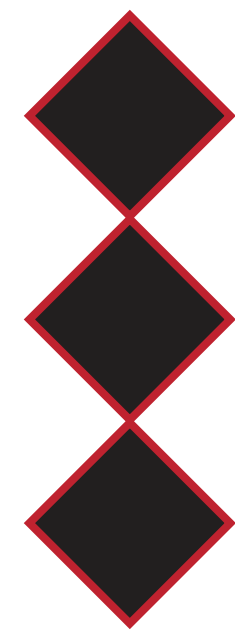
For more information, please email:
dhix@ChoctawNation.com

SAVE THE DATE
Chief Gary Batton

Easter Celebration

April 8, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.
Tvshka Homma

Choctaw Nation
Faith • Family • Culture



7

Iti Fabussa

The Modern Day Choctaw Lighthorsemen

This month's issue of the Iti Fabussa will finish up our series on the Issuba Vmbinili Tvshka, or the Choctaw Lighthorsemen. The October 2016 Iti Fabussa was a brief overview of the Lighthorsemen, examining their foundation in Mississippi, their reestablishment in Indian Territory after the Trail of Tears, and their role in the Civil War.

Last month, in January, we looked at the gear they carried and their duties during daily life. This month we would like to focus on the latter years of the Lighthorsemen and how their spirit still exists today within our Choctaw Tribal Police.

The Choctaw Nation government in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) was established in 1834. As the Choctaw Nation began to grow, so did the responsibilities of law enforcement. Counties were established within each of the three districts, Apukshunnubbee, Moshulatubbee and Pushmataha.



by Choctaw Nation

One of the most famous stories about the Choctaw Lighthorsemen is the execution of Silan Lewis, known as the "Last Execution." Lewis asked his friend, Sheriff Lyman Pusley (above) to do the execution. This followed a Choctaw tradition of asking a friend to do the execution so no one would seek revenge.

In 1894, Lewis was arrested and found guilty of killing Joe Hokolotubbee. As per Choctaw tradition, Lewis' execution was set several months in advance, allowing him time to return home to put his family's affairs in order.

This traditional Choctaw practice dates back before written records. If an individual was found guilty of tak-

ing another Choctaw life, then they were to be put to death. However before their execution they were allowed to return to their family and ensure the crops were planted and the harvest secured before they made their appointment.

If they did not show for their execution, another family member would take their place. Lewis showed up to his appointed date in Wilburton and asked that his friend Sheriff Lyman Pusley do the execution.

This also followed a Choctaw tradition of asking a friend to do the execution, so no one would seek revenge. Pusley's shot missed Lewis' heart, so Pusley had to place a handkerchief over Lewis' mouth and suffocate him.

The story of Silan Lewis' execution is said to be the last execution ever carried out by the Choctaw Lighthorsemen, however there is another story of a Choctaw execution in 1899.

A Choctaw man named William Goings, also known as Walla Tonka, was a famous baseball player who had toured as far as England. According to one story, Goings killed his uncle over a disagreement about a woman he loved. The Choctaw courts found him guilty and sentenced him to death. His execution was scheduled for the following year.

Goings married and continued traveling the country, playing ball. On the agreed day, Goings traveled to the Alikchi Courthouse grounds for his execution. Several Lighthorsemen stood in a line and fired a volley to complete the sentence. Lewis and Goings may be the last executions carried out by Choctaw Lighthorsemen before the turn of the century.

In 1906, the United States Government dissolved the Choctaw Nation, as well as the Choctaw Lighthorsemen. Thereafter, the President of the United States chose the Principle Chief of the Choctaw Nation until the 1970s.

With the sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation stripped, the Federal Government's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) managed the Choctaw people. It was not until after the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act was passed in 1975 that Choctaw Nation was able to elect its leaders and to manage itself once again.

By 1979, the Tribal Council created the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation, reestablishing our own sovereign government. Within the next few decades, the Choctaw Nation began taking over BIA responsibilities, including law enforcement.

Again, the Choctaw Nation adopted its own policemen. With 39 officers, the Choctaw Tribal Police manage both investigation and patrol responsibilities of the tribe and have over 54 cross deputation agreements. The Tribe has a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer, School Resource Officer, Tribal Court Officer, two K9 units, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, and a polygraph examiner.

Although our Choctaw Tribal Police no longer wear the red ribbon on their hats, as the Lighthorsemen of old, they



by Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Lighthorsemen live on in the Choctaw Tribal Police, who are the modern day Lighthorsemen. While they wear badges instead of a red ribbon in their hat, the heart of the Lighthorsemen live on in the Tribal Police Officers. Just as their counterparts in the past, the Tribal Police keep the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw tribal members safe. They continue to patrol tribal land and assist local law enforcement as needed.

do wear a badge of honor that instills in them the sacred duty of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen. Our Tribal Police work hard to ensure the protection of our tribal members, tribal employees, and the sovereignty of the Choctaw Na-



by World Wide Magazine

William Goings, also known as Walla Tonka, (right) was a famous baseball player who had toured as far as England. According to one story, in 1899, he killed his uncle because of a disagreement about a woman and the Choctaw courts found him guilty. (above) As per the sentence of the Choctaw courts, the following year he was executed when he went to the Alikchi Courthouse grounds and several Choctaw Lighthorsemen fired a volley to complete the sentence.



tion of Oklahoma.

If you are descended from a Lighthorsemen or know any stories of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen and want to share, please let us know.

You can reach Nicholas Wallace with the Historic Preservation Department at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4094, n1wal-lace@choctawnation.com; or researchers Francine Locke Bray at (317) 409-6517, flbray@iupui.edu; and Sandra Riley at (903) 941-0765, oklafalaya@aol.com.

OUR LEGACY



by Nelda Walker

Bernard Walker Jr.

by STACY HUTTO

Choctaw tribal member, Bernard Walker, Jr., turns 70 years old on March 17.

Bernard is the son of Dorothy Umber Walker, the grandson of Joe Finney Umber, and the great-grandson of Ida Umber Dorsey, who, according to stories passed down in Bernard's family, was one of the last Mississippi Choctaws to relocate to Oklahoma Choctaw Territory from Louisiana in 1902.

Bernard's life has been a demonstration of his Choctaw heritage—Faith, Family and Culture.

He has served in the United States Army, completed a college education, raised a family, served in his church, served as a volunteer and helped to advance the health and well being of our fellow Native Americans, the Alaska Natives.

Bernard was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, where he also went to college after graduating from high school.

While attending Memphis State University, he served on the Religious Affairs Counsel as the representative for his Christian denomination. It was at one of these Religious Affairs Counsel meetings that he met his future wife, who shares his same values; they celebrated 46 years of marriage in September of 2016.

His college education was interrupted in 1968 by a two-year stint in the United States Army. While serving in the Army, Bernard received the rank of Sergeant E5 and completed a one-year tour in Vietnam.

While in Vietnam he served as section chief of eight to twelve men at an artillery base in active combat zones.

His Choctaw heritage was manifested in his quiet, calm and steady command of his section. His soldiers were reportedly the first at their gun when called to fight or during drills. No soldier in his section died under his command.

Faith in Jesus, the prayers and support of family and friends, and his Choctaw culture helped him not only through his journey as a Vietnam soldier but also as a Vietnam veteran.

Though Bernard had been honored with metals, including a Bronze Star, for his service in Vietnam, there was little to no honor, appreciation, or recognition for soldiers returning from Vietnam.

Many times they were frowned on and shunned. Much like the Choctaws who had been treated poorly many years before, Bernard also chose not to become bitter.

After completing two years of service in the United States Army, Bernard married and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree at Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis, followed several years later by a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree from Christian Brother's College in Memphis.

He then moved to Oklahoma where he worked as an engineer in a soy protein plant. After 20 years with this company he took an early retirement.

This allowed him and his wife to take a one-month-long, 1,500-mile bicycle ride from Bar Harbor, Maine to Wilmington, North Carolina, sleeping in a tent along the way.

This ride required stamina and endurance, much as his great-grandmother, Ida, and his grandfather, Joe, must have demonstrated on that long trip from

Louisiana to Oklahoma over 100 years before.

Next it was off to Alaska where he and his wife volunteered as dorm parents at Alaska Bible Institute, flying on a four-person plane on Sunday mornings into a small, remote Alaska Native village to teach Children's Church while the preacher taught the adults. This is where they began to fall in love with the Alaska Native people.

When his wife's sister became very ill and needed someone to move in with her, he willingly uprooted and moved over 4,000 miles, from Alaska to North Carolina with his wife to assist her for four years.

Family was more important than personal desires or goals. During this time he was humble enough to take a job as a water plant operator in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he continued to learn new skills.

As a result, he was offered a position as an engineer at 62

years of age when he returned to Alaska.

For the past eight years, six years with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and now on contract, Bernard has served the Alaska Natives using his engineering skills and knowledge of water treatment to help improve the health of Alaska Natives.

He has travelled into numerous remote Alaska villages to train water operators and help get new water plants started up.

Many Alaska villages have never had running water or sewer systems before. As a result of his work with ANTHC and other agencies, the lives and health of our fellow Native American tribes located in areas only accessible by boat or small plane has been improved.

Bernard's Choctaw heritage has been very instrumental in his being accepted and respected in these villages as he has shown genuine respect and interest in the Alaska Native people.





Brent Cherry: Painting a Path Towards a New Future

by TINA FIRQUAIN

In a city of over 80,000 people, street art has taken over the town and brought new life, inspiring some of its citizens. Among those inspired in Fort Smith, Arkansas, is newly defined Choctaw artist, Brent Cherry.

Cherry is originally from Fort Smith, but moved away to go work in central Arkansas in the oil field. Hard times brought Cherry and his family back to Fort Smith, but it wasn't as they had left it.

The city had become a vibrant place where he could walk downtown at night with his whole family without worry.

After their move, Cherry leased studio space and started creating art and not too long afterwards he decided he was going to go back to school, which is one of his proudest moments.

Now he has been studying Studio Art at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Some people might believe that you only have one life to live, but for Brent Cherry he has lived several lives becoming more of who he is supposed to be each time.

Throughout his life, he has always been defined by the jobs he

has worked but at this time in his life, he's working to find out who he really is down at the core of his being.

"This is me discovering who I am," said Cherry when asked about whom he is.

Cherry rambled off a list of jobs he's had over the years and they ranged from lawn care, to being a graphic designer, to working in the oil field, to working in heating and air.

For as long as he can remember he has always been creating things, but he fell into different trades of work trying to provide for his family. Even after he broke his back and started recovery, he never missed a day of work.

Although he's not one to ask for help, he has taken help from people along the way because he knew he wasn't going to give up no matter how hard times got for him.

With help from friends and strangers, Cherry has been able to follow a new and challenging path.

Between the jobs he's had, the different art forms he taught himself, and the techniques he has learned, Cherry believes that there's nothing he can't do, it's just the fact that he hasn't tried it yet.

Cherry asked me "What are you good at? What do you prac-





tice? Because all I'm doing is practicing what I like to do. If you really want to do something, it just takes practice."

Since his return to art he has noticed a change in himself that has helped him connect to others.

"If you can find some way to express yourself it will change you and usually for the better."

While displaying his art at a student art sale at the Wingate Art and Design building on campus you could tell that Cherry was focused on his art.

With noise all around, he goes into a moment separated from time while he draws. This moment during which he creates is his escape and is where he can start to see who he is as a person.

He hasn't found exactly what he is looking for yet, but he said he'll know it when comes to him.

Along his new path, he had the opportunity to participate in the Unexpected mural festival in September 2016. This was the second time the festival happened in Fort Smith. Cherry said that he couldn't pass up the opportunity to be a part of that, which helped him take another step toward his art and personal journey.

He took a murals class in the fall of 2016 and when the festival came around his class took on a wall that is about 30 feet tall and 180 feet long.

When he started on the project he had a fear of heights but he ran the man lift while working on the mural.

"It was a challenge working on the project, but the art fixed my fear of heights.

"I'm the type of person that once I start something, I can't quit. I think that shows in my work and persona, Dead Cow Creations, I create things, that's what I do."

Cherry has become more confident in his artwork and is continually working toward his goal of finding himself.

Brent Cherry is a Choctaw success because although he is unsure of whom he is, he knows he is Choctaw and to him, that means being honest and honorable.

He hopes that he can eventually show his honesty on a canvas.

Cherry explained, "We're all humans and we're all on the same level. Maybe I haven't given myself the task yet of putting who I am on a canvas yet, but that's coming."

Website: facebook.com/deadcowcreations

Registry: arkansasarts.org/artist-registry/cherry-brent

Email Address: deadcow4you@gmail.com

Medium: **Leather work, Paintings, Mixed Media, Drawings, Graphic Design and Custom Artwork.**

Everything is handmade, original and customized for each customer.

Photos by Tina Firquain and courtesy of Brent Cherry



S T I M B O

10

Glenna Keeling



Glenna Keeling, 82, of Terral passed away Nov. 23, 2016.

Glenna was born Sept. 6, 1934, in Bryan County to George Wesley and Veta Mae (Hull) Fitzer.

She is preceded in death by her husband Alex Don Keeling; parents George Wesley and Veta Mae; and brothers Willey Joe and Paul Wesley.

Glenna is survived by her daughters Marilyn Williams, Donna Pickens, Laquita Jo Smart, and Teresa Taylor; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Gethsemane Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).

Annie Betsy

Annie Betsey, 85, passed away Dec. 7, 2016.

Annie was born May 12, 1931, in Atoka to Joseph and Ebbie (Jacob) Phillips.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughters Janie Betsey, Linda Henderson, and Funnanda Baker.

Annie is survived by children Gloria Loftin, Danny Betsey, Enos Betsey, Darlene Connell, Diane Taylor, Donna Edward, Tina Betsey, Pamela Jennings, and Kennard Betsey; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and extended family and friends.

Interment was held at Bentley Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).



Carol Maroney

Carol Maroney, 83, passed away Nov. 17, 2016.

Carol was born March 26, 1933, in Phoenix, Arizona, to Tony and Lola Lake.

Carol is survived by her children Connie Larson (Dennis), Susan Stickler (Mike), Randall Maroney (Ruth), Ron Maroney (Kathy), Christopher Maroney (Wendi); and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Emery Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Sierra Vista Herald](#).



Billy Gene Risner

Billy Risner, 87, passed away Nov. 17, 2016.

Billy was born Sept. 16, 1929, in Bennington to the late Jack and Minnie (Harrington) Risner.

He is preceded in death by his wife Betty Jean Risner; brothers Jack, George, and Frank.

Billy is survived by his sons Billy Risner (Suzanne); Frank Risner (Marie); David Risner (Cindy); sister Frances “Sis” Cooley; grandchildren Amber Danielle Risner, Billy Shane Risner, Cody Aaron Risner, Franklin James Risner, Jr., Jamie Lee Risner, Christopher David Risner, Danielle Krystine Risner, Nicholas Alan Risner; great-grandchildren Saylor Risner and Brennan; and many loving nieces and nephews.



Garnet Butler

Garnet Butler, 44, passed away Dec. 1, 2016.

Garnet was born Aug. 15, 1972, in Talihina to N.D. Butler and Mary (Parish) Butler.

He is preceded in death by his mother Mary Ann (Parish) Butler; father N.D. Butler; brothers Jimmy Butler and David Butler; grandfather Sham Parish; and grandmother Anna Me Parish.

Garnet is survived by his best friend and wife of the home, Christina (Leding) Butler; sons Dezmond Rayne Butler, Izaiah Skye Butler, and Garnet “Davy” River Butler; sisters Sharrie Patterson, and Ruby Gann and husband Charles; nieces Melissa Fite, Jessica Fannin, and Susie Patterson; nephew Josh Patterson; mother-in-law Audrey Leding; life long friends Ocle “Bo” Walker, Terry McBride, Russell Charles, Jeremy Godsby, Josh Vanderburg, Jeremy Vanderburg, and Jason Leflore; along with many other aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Interment was held at Sugarloaf Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Burkhart Funeral Service](#).



Christine (Robinson) Slack

Christine (Robinson) Slack, 87, passed away Dec. 12, 2016.

Christine was born July 13, 1929.

She is preceded in death by her husband Ernest Slack.

Christine is survived by daughter Norma; twin sister Charleen Voisen; older sister Ruth Jane Park and her husband Steve; her husband’s cousin Jimmy Carroll; grandchildren Juana Fain, Brian Fain and wife Amber; great-granddaughter Erilynn Fain; and many nieces and nephews.

To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).



Claud Shomoh

Claud Shomoh, passed away Dec. 28, 2016.

Claud was the son of P.C. and Addie (Philip) Shomoh.

He is preceded in death by his parents P.C. and Addie Shomoh, niece Eileen Shomoh, two half-brothers Joe and Julius Colbert and a half-sister Florence Hopper

Claud is survived by a sister Nora Belle Walker; nieces Audrey Vandygriff, Joyce Bailey, Michelle Tushka, Sherrie Aldana and husband Arturo, and Donna Sue Tushka; nephew Andrew F. Tushka Jr.; and other relatives and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Charles Ray “Chuck” Henry

Charles Ray Henry, 55, passed away Jan. 5, 2017.

Charles was born Oct. 2, 1961, in Dallas, to Grady Charles Henry and Faye (Taylor) Henry.

He is preceded in death by his father; uncle Frank Henry; sons Brandon and Brent Charles; brothers Milton Ray Sr., Franklin, and Hanson; granddaughter Schloe Henry; and grandparents Charley Taylor and Betsy Johnson.

Charles is survived by his mother; children Chad and wife Renee, Alex Yargee, and Charlene Henry and husband Freddie Bellard; sisters Janet Henry and Stephanie Allen; brothers Bryant Henry and Carey Daniel; granddaughters Kaprell, Brandica, Kambrea, Taleah, Nykia, Kemya, and Aubree; and many others.

Interment was held at Hillcrest Memorial Park.

To read the full obituary please visit [Griffin Hillcrest](#).



Debra Loraine (Boaen)DeSandre

Debra Loraine (Boaen) DeSandre, 57, passed away Oct. 21, 2016.

Debra was born March 25, 1959, in Durant to Gearld W. and Lynda L. (Talley) Boaen.

She is preceded in death by her father Gearld Walter Boaen, and both her maternal and paternal grandparents.

Debra is survived by her mother Lynda Boaen and Joe Wakefield; her daughter Terami Marshall and Jason Parks; son Michael John DeSandre II and wife Brandi; their father Michael John DeSandre; grandsons Caleb Dawson Marshall, Aiden Michael DeSandre, Mason John DeSandre, and Mark Parks; granddaughter Hannah Parks; sister Jannista Wood and husband Lee; niece Jannaca Woodard and husband Brad; best friend Kaylyn McCoy; along with countless relatives and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).



Elder Charles Miller

Elder Charles Miller, 62, passed away Dec. 10, 2016.

Elder Charles was born Aug. 4, 1954, in Ada to Mrytle and Johnny Miller.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister Maxine; and brothers Johnny Jr., Robert Lee, Edward, and Eugene.

Elder is survived by his wife of 26 years, Edith Miller of the home; sisters Doretha Albert, Bernice Lewis, Betty Jean Coulter, and Bertha Mae Miller; children Clay Johnson, Chris Johnson (Patricia), Raymond Miller, Eric Gray, Derrick Gray (Joanna), Lashonda Davis (Gary), Myrtle Miller, Lillian Miller, Maria Miller, Tenecia Miller, and Trayvon Miller; half-siblings, 22 grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews who were all very near and dear to his heart.

Interment was held at Athens Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Criswell Funeral Home](#).



Hiawatha James

Hiawatha James, 83, passed away Dec. 3, 2016.

Hiawatha was born March 22, 1933, in Cade to Richard and Mattie James.

He is preceded in death by his parents Richard and Mattie (Moffatt) James; infant brothers (one was his twin); and his beloved niece Lisa Kay Weekly.

Hiawatha is survived by brothers Quannah, Quilby and wife Elaine, Tom and wife Charlotte, and Benny; sisters Lahoma Beth, Nocona, and Mickie and husband Kenneth.

Interment was held at Old Church Cemetery

To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).



Jackie Sue Coats

Jackie Sue Coats, 79, passed away Dec. 5, 2016.

Jackie was born Sept. 22, 1937, in Seminole to William and Pauline Marie (Anderson) Jackson.

She is preceded in death by her parents William Edward and Pauline Marie Jackson.

Jackie is survived by children Glenn and Micky Gordon, Linda and Jerry McBurnett, and Melody and Sam Agee; grandchildren Kenneth Gordon, Greg Gordon, Glenn Gordon II, Jared Gordon, Gloria Feeley, Clarie Slater, David Gordon Marsie Gordon, Dustin, Jeremy and Tyler Agee, Chad McGee; 15 great-grandchildren; and brother Don Jackson.

Interment was held at Greenhill Memorial Gardens.

To read the full obituary please visit [Smith Funeral Home](#).



Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. 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. Due to space limitations there is a 150 word limit for obituaries.

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

Cherie Louise Gray Dixon

Cherie Louise Gray Dixon, 89, passed away Jan. 3, 2017.

Cherie was born May 12, 1927, in Duncan.

Cherie is survived by sons Mark Dixon, David Dixon and wife Bunny; grandchildren and great grandchildren; sister-in-law Beverly Gray; niece Dianne Gray Mildren; nephews Tommy Gray, Troy Coker, and James Coker, cousins Boone Hazelette, Kathy Funk, and Cindy Brown; and many friends and extended Beebe and Webb families.

To read the full obituary please visit [Aria Funeral Home](#).



Haylee Madbull

Haylee Madbull, 13, passed away Nov. 30, 2016.

Haylee was born June 5, 2003, in Talihina to Jeffery Madbull and Desiree Owens.

She is preceded in death by Mark Weems III, Nicholas Weems, Patricia Thomas, Charlene Brown, Dawson Madbull, and Nakeytta Owens.

Haylee is survived by her mother Desiree Owens and husband Doug; father Jeffery Madbull; grandparents Bradley and Kathy Thomas, Chuck and Ollie Madbull, Shelia and Jimmy McClain, and Ronnie Owens; great-grandmother Birdie McCullough; siblings Aden Owens and Makayla Owens; aunts Larcreshia and husband Mark Weems, Ryan Weems, Alyssa Scarberry, Tanna Thomas, Kassy and husband John Freelove, Dayton Franks, Levi Owens, and Misty Madbull; as well as many cousins, great aunts and uncles and great-grandparents.

Interment was held at Rocky Point Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Burkhart Funeral Service](#).

Helen Kay (White) Kasony

Helen Kay (White) Kasony, 67, passed away Nov. 5, 2016.

Marilyn was born May 9, 1949, in Talihina to Benjamin Davis White and Rachel (Loman) White.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister Roberta “Berta” Gayle White; and brother Arnold Gene White.

Helen is survived by daughters Collette Phillips and Darryl Samuels, Andrea Annette Goings; sons Brian Clay Goings and wife Nan Ju, Jon Brent Goings and wife Cristal, and Gregory Lance Goings; grandchildren Ashley Rodriguez, Cera Phillips, Trevor Powell, Gavin Goings, Kayla Goings, Alberto Alonso, Misty Goings, Andrew Goings, Scott Scammerhorn, Joseph Scammerhorn, Sean Goings, Katie Goings, Sarah Spicer, Zachary Goings, Alexander Lewis, Damario Lewis, Alysia Lewis, and Maddison Pratt; great-grandchildren Matthew Goings, and Gabriella Rodriguez; brothers Harold “Mickey” White, Jerrold “Cubby” White and wife Anita Mack, and Charles White.

Interment was held at Veterans Cemetery in Grand Prairie, Texas.

To read the full obituary please visit [Burkhart Funeral Service](#).



Charlotte Ann Mowery

Charlotte Ann Mowery, 74, passed away Nov. 21, 2016.

Charlotte was born Aug. 12, 1942, in Talihina to Austin Abney and Mary Kate Lucas-Abney.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother.

Charlotte is survived by her husband W.O. “Dub” Mowery; sons Paul Mowery and Lee Reed; niece Kay Wilbanks; great nieces Katie and Mollie; and many friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Norwood Nation Funeral Home](#).



Gary Hicks

Gary Hicks, 50, passed away Dec. 26, 2016.

Gary was born July 16, 1966, in Dallas to Waymon Lee Hicks and Charlotte (Davis) Hicks.

Gary is survived by sons Colton and wife Tarlyn, Caleb, and Baron; mother Charlotte Hicks; brothers Randy Robinson and Steven Hicks; granddaughter Adeline Grace Hicks; along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Restland Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Miller & Miller Funeral Home](#).



Bennie David Walls

Bennie David Walls, 73, of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, passed away on Dec. 11, 2016.

Bennie is survived by wife Sharon Walls of Bay St. Louis; daughters Malea Roundtree (Gabe Caughron) and Jo Victor; son Tony Walls; brother Bill Walls and wife Isela; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

To read the full obituary please visit [Stigler News–Sentinel](#).



James “Jim” Underwood

James “Jim” Underwood, 73, passed away Nov. 19, 2016.

James was born Jan. 6, 1943, in Hugo to Victor Locke and Lila (McDonald) Underwood.

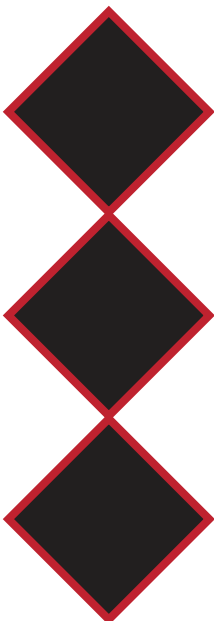
He is preceded in death by his parents; sister Jerri Burton; sister-in-law Faye Underwood; and brother-in-law James Daniels.

James is survived by brother Vic Underwood Jr.; special friend Athelta Harmon of Antlers; sisters Joyce Daniels and Glenna Cash and her fiancé Kye Herbert; many nieces and nephews; and special friend Anita Richardson.

Interment was held at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Whitt Funeral Services](#).





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Marilyn Boatman



Marilyn Gene Boatman, 86, passed away Nov. 8, 2016. Marilyn was born April 1, 1930, in Bartlesville to Dr. Claude E. and Helen Inez Boatman. Marilyn is survived by her four Choctaw children.

Jarvis E. Hamill

Jarvis E. Hamill, 64, passed away Dec. 15, 2016. Jarvis was born May 10, 1952, in Talihina to Carl Richard and Lillian (Sanders) Hamill.

He is preceded in death by his parents Carl and Lillian Hamill; sister Deborah Williams; and brothers Richard, Albert, Harold Glenn, and Aldon Hamill.

Jarvis is survived by sons Julian Pittman, Josh Hamill, and Jarvis Hamill Jr.; daughter Twahna Hamill of; brothers Kenneth Hamill, Roger Hamill, and Dwayne Hamill; nine grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Interment was held at Bennington Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).



Jerry Robert Bray Jr.

Jerry Robert Bray Jr., 56, passed away April 29, 2016. Jerry was born March 4, 1960, in Idabel to Jerry Robert Bray Sr. and Billie Faye Bowers. He is preceded in death by his parents and one brother Billy “Joey” Bray. Jerry is survived by his stepmother Virginia Bray James and brothers Stanley Bray and Jessie Bray.

To read the full obituary please visit [Thornton Funeral Home](#).



Jerry Don Sanner

Jerry Don Sanner, 81, passed away Nov. 8, 2016. Jerry was born Jan. 3, 1936, in Velma to Nettie Mary (Files) and Lum Frank Sanner. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters Neva Louise Clark and Neta Joyce Kuntz; brothers George Lee, Harold Frank, Winferd Wayne, and Jimmy Howard.

Jerry is survived by daughters Nettie Carol Horner, Jerri Ann Throckmorton, Jeneane Barclay, and Paula Renee Patton; grandchildren Ginger Ann Umstead, Jerry Lee Ray Horner, Chance Eldon Throckmorton, Jessica Ann Burkes, Sarah Dawn Jerry, Audrey Lynn Ward, William Isaac Patton, and Sanner Harrison Patton; great-grandchildren Miles Alexander Shaddy, Madisen LeeAnn, Mitchell Austin Shaddy, Gabe Michael Umstead, Xavier Mikel Gividen, Chloe Samarra Roye, Javen Andrew, Sayler Raine Jerry, Thomas Richard, Natalie Fahey Ward, Blakely Eldon Riggs, Henry Dean Burkes, and Jacob Sanner Patton; half sister Frankie Sanner; and his Aunt Fern Wilson.

To read the full obituary please visit [Grantham Funeral Homes](#).



Jimmie Lee Smith Church

Jimmie Lee Smith Church, 81, passed away Dec. 13, 2016. Jimmie was born Feb. 17, 1935, in Maysville to Thomas Jefferson Smith and Onie Edith (Smith) White.

She is preceded in death by her spouse Riley; daughter Valerie Jean Church; father-in-law and mother-in-law Riley and Annie Elizabeth Church; brother ValGene Smith; sister Janice Downey; brothers-in-law Charles Morphew and Cleo Mulford; sister-in-law Lillian Church; and nieces Linda Indermill and Gena Simpson.

Marilyn is survived by the widow of her oldest daughter Barbara (Black) Church; son Gregory Brent Church and wife, Debbie; daughters Shannon Lee Church and Jayme Beth (Busby) Starkey and husband Hank; grandchildren Lora Elizabeth and Brad Riley Busby, step-grandchildren Brandon, Talon, and Bristow Starkey and a great-granddaughter Peyton Busby-Young; sister Jackie Mulford; brothers-in-law George Church, and Robert Church; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends and, VBH Table Mates, Wilma, Mary, and Laurie.

To read the full obituary please visit [Bishop Funeral Service](#).



Judith Ann Jones-Foo

Judith Ann Jones-Foo, 67, of Durant passed away Nov. 30, 2016. Judith was born Aug. 17, 1949, in Durant to Eugene Semple and Pearl (Roach) Dooxsee.

She is preceded in death by her parents Eugene Semple (Buddy) and Pearl Dooxsee; brothers Joseph Thomas Dooxsee and David John Dooxsee.

Judith is survived by her husband Richard Foo Sr.; step-son Richard Foo Jr. and wife Nongnuch and their children, Christopher and Mintada; sisters Debby Fisher and Abby Angela Wilkerson; brothers Robert Eugene and Phillip Charles Dooxsee; nephews Jon Dooxsee and Cameron Fisher; and numerous other relatives.

To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).



Marion “Merk” Harris

Marion “Merk” Harris, 86, passed away Nov. 8, 2016. Marion was born Oct. 22, 1935, in Lawn, Texas, to HB Harris and Ruth (McAnally) Harris.

Marion is survived by wife Stella; children Dena Alderman (Jerry), Kerry Feathers (Cindy), (Tom) Hahn, Terry Harris, Belinda McLane; sister Almetta Beaman; brother-in-law Bill McGinnis; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Interment was held at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens. To read the full obituary please visit [Robert Massie Funeral Home](#).



Marvin Richard Sexton Sr.

Marvin Richard Sexton Sr., 86, passed away Dec. 6, 2016. Marvin was born July 9, 1951, in McAlester to Haskel and Lorene Cecil Sexton. He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Johnny Sexton; and sister Joyce Ann Sexton.

Marvin is survived by many other family members and a host of friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Moorhead Epps Funeral Home](#).



Mary Jane McNerney Miller

Mary Jane McNerney Miller, 98, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on Dec. 25, 2016.

Mary was born March 18, 1918, to John Raymond and Lela Josephine (O’Riley) McNerney.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years Fountain Fox Miller, III, M.D.; parents; brother John Raymond McNerney Jr.; and her cousin Mary (Austin) Thomasson.

Mary is survived by her daughter Mary Kathleen Rozelle and husband Robert Vaughn Rozelle; sons James Gerald and wife Linda Ann Miller, Stephen Kinnard and wife Olivia Louise Miller; grandchildren Justin Fitzgerald Miller and wife Tina Michelle Miller, DeWitt Fox Miller and wife Nicole Jean Miller, Kathleen Vaughn Rozelle and Jane Allen Rozelle, Elizabeth Lois Simmons and husband Landon William Simmons, Andrew Stephen Miller, and William Kinnard Miller and wife Jennifer Lee Miller; great grandchildren Merrick Taylor Miller, Reese Elizabeth Miller, and Harrison Fitzgerald Miller, and Ellie June Miller ;and Carole Anne Brueggemann.

Interment was held at Memorial Park Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Memorial Funeral Home & Cemetery](#).



Mary Sue Peercy

Mary Sue Peercy, 64, of Tishomingo passed away Nov. 8, 2016. Mary was born Feb. 24, 1949, in Madill to Haskell and Mary (Mad-dux) Richardson.

Interment was held at Tishomingo Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Watts Funeral Home & Crematory](#).



Mary Lou Thierry

Mary Lou Thierry, 68, passed away Dec. 25, 2016. Mary was born to Linsey Alemoh-tubbi Ward.

She is preceded in death by her mother Linsey Alemoh-tubbi Ward; Johnny Ward and Mary Harris.

Mary is survived by daughters Pauletta Hernandez and husband Gabriel Peter Hernandez and Juliet Jesse; brothers Roy Ward and wife Margaret and Joe Bob Ward and wife Betty; grandchildren Vanessa, Joseph, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Joshua, Jeneca and Angela; great-grandchildren Tynna, Jalen, Catherine and Totten.

Interment was held at McGee Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Maxine Weems

Maxine Weems, 58, of Gurdon, Arkansas, passed away Jan. 1, 2017. Maxine was born Feb. 24, 1958, in De Queen, Arkansas, to Alois and Lawan (Dean) Wilson.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law Jeff Nye.

Maxine is survived by her husband of 35 years Gary Weems of Gurdon, Arkansas; sons Bradley and wife Amy Weems and Brant and Amber; daughter Branaie and husband Cody McArthur; brother Raymond Wilson (Melissa); sisters Ruth Chapman and husband Bascom, Betty Wilson, Kathy Rhodes, and Juanita Nye; grandchildren Brayden, Bryson, and Rylee Weems, and Jameson McArthur; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Interment was held at South Fork Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Pharr Funeral Homes of Arkansas](#).



Patricia Lynn Rodriguez

Patricia Lynn Rodriguez, 61, of Idabel, passed away Nov. 16, 2016. Patricia was born Nov. 3, 1955, to Kelsey Noah and Vivian Maytubbi. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Roy “Sonny” Noah and Troy Noah; and granddaughter Kyleigh James.

Patricia is survived by her children DeWayne Noah and Janell James, Anthony Noah and Akilah Lewis, Kendall Noah, Stephanie Noah, Veronia McKinney and Jorge Vage, and Yolanda McKinney; brother Randall Watson and Rita; sisters Hannah Bryan, Sharon Santillano, Jonita Noah, and Vicky Noah; grandchildren Daryan Noah, Olivia Noah, Arianna Noah, Kyler Noah, Emery Noah, Kambrie Noah, Kelsie Noah, Vivian Noah, Tahj McKinney, Tadrenae Tramble, and Travion Tramble; great-grandchild, Tahj McKinney Jr.; cousin Mona Salinas; nephew Elijah Shawn Evans; and many others.

Interment was held at Slater Memorial Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Paula McCain

Paula McCain, 61, passed away Oct. 14, 2016.

Paula was born June 21, 1955, in Midland, Texas to Paul Glen and Hyahwahnah (Kaniatobe) McCain

She is preceded in death by her father and step-mother Karen McCain; and brother Paul McCain Jr.

Paula is survived by her mother and step-father Arthur Wells; sister Charlotte Whitney and husband Tommy; uncle Bill McCain and wife Nita; aunts Janis Erwin and Karen Love and husband Jim; step-brothers Art Wells II and wife Virginia, Don Wells and wife Betty, and Ron Wells and wife Tami; best friend Matt Giasson; step-sister Gwen Svoboda; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

To read the full obituary please visit [Cunningham Funeral Homes](#).



Rev. Billy James Goins Sr.

Rev. Billy James Goins Sr, 84, passed away Jan. 14, 2016.

Billy was born Sept. 29, 1932, in Bakersfield to James and Gladys Goins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; in-laws Ben and Vivian Alsup; and sister Ada Nickels.

Billy is survived by his wife of 60 years Janis Alsup Goins; sister Mary Gilliam; children Randall, and Vyckie Goins, Cynthia and Ron Pounds, Leisa and Herb Cierley, Billy and Monica Goins; 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and five great-great grandchildren.

Interment was held at National Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [The Bakersfield Californian](#).



Richard E. Marshall

Richard E. Marshall, Sr, 77, passed away Nov. 15, 2016.

Richard was born Dec. 3, 1938, in Davidson to Richard Leon and Nellie Violet (McKinney) Marshall.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister Fern Hogan, brother Wesley Marshall; sisters-in-law Betty and Judy Marshall and Peggy Phelps.

He is survived by his wife Ann of the home; sons Marty Marshall and his wife Christina, Richard Marshall Jr. and Patrick Marshall and his wife Lucy; daughters Nannette Dil-day and her husband Chuck and Annise Marshall; brother Eldon Marshall; in-laws Carol and J. D. Edwards, Sally and Joe Tolleson, Jesse Phelps, Gerald Hogan and Frankie Marshall; grandchildren De De Marshall; Samantha Marshall, Savannah Duke, Marty Richard Marshall, Dustin Rivera, Dustin Halberg, Patrick Marshall, Jr. Emma Marshall and Paige Marshall; great-grandchildren Kyle, Jordan, Zayden, Peyton Duke, Anneesha Bradley and Jesse Howard; a special little friend Jaime; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Davidson Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Jackson Funeral Home](#).



Robert “Bear” Moore

Robert “Bear” Moore, 51, passed away Nov. 18, 2016.

Robert was born Dec. 21, 1965, in Prineville, Oregon, to Ray and Nellie Moore.

Robert is survived by wife Marva Moore; son J.R. and wife Christina, their children Kyle Moore, and Heather Hiatt; son Thomas Moore; parents Ray and Nellie Moore; auntie Jewel Mooney; eight grandchildren; along with numerous cousins, friends, and people he touched along the way.

To read the full obituary please visit [Burns Mortuary](#).



Roy Wood Montgomery

Roy Wood Montgomery, 79, passed away Jan. 3, 2017.

Roy was born July 26, 1937, in Hugo to Henry Montgomery and Edna (Oakes) Montgomery.

He is preceded in death by his parents

Roy is survived by his wife Jan Montgomery; daughters Kimberly Kay Needham and husband Bradley, Christy Ray and husband James, and Dee Ann Jackson and husband Scott; grandchildren Benton Ray, Kelsey Randall, Nate Jackson, Katlyn Shawhart, Morgan Bergert, McKenzie Jackson and Hunter Ray; great-grandchildren, Jazlyn Randall, Trinity Randall, Kymberlyn Ludy, Lyrica Ludy, and Sutton Ray.

To read the full obituary please visit [Miller and Miller Funeral Home](#).



Shirleyan Arce

Shirleyan Arce, 53, of Dallas, passed away on Nov. 8, 2016.

Shirleyan was born June 9, 1963, to Emma Jean Wilkins in Talihina.

She is preceded in death by husband Benjamin Arce, and mother Emma Jean Wilkins.

Shirleyan is survived by her son Silas Leon Arce-Wilkins; nieces Tiarra Beaver, Teyada Beaver, and Roxanne Perez; nephew Isreal Perez; sister Shelly Greenwood; uncle Doug Fraley; grandson Phabian Williams; god-daughter Desire Denise Cortez; as well as many great nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Interment was held at Walker Family Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit [Burkhart Funeral Service](#).



Susie LeFlore Morgan

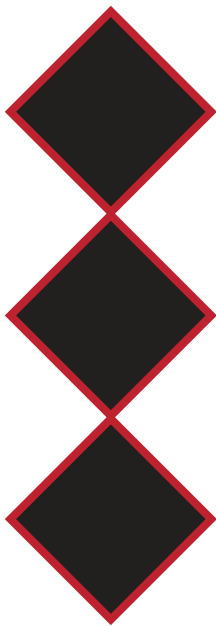
Susie LeFlore Morgan, 86, passed away Oct. 28, 2016.

Susie was born Jan. 8, 1930, in Bartlesville to Dr. Claude E. and Helen Inez Boatman.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years Morris Dean Morgan.

Marilyn is survived by sons Myles D. Morgan and Michael L. Morgan; grandson Michael N. Morgan; sisters Jackie Armstrong and Nita Baughan; and brother Charles Spencer.





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Look!

Tribal Members in 10.5 Counties

The Choctaw Nation Next Step Initiative is a supplemental ***food and necessities voucher*** program that promotes self-sustainment through ***foundational training*** opportunities.

Contact a Next Step Social Worker to see if you are eligible.

Antlers
(580) 298-6443

Broken Bow
(580) 584-2842

Durant
(580) 924-7773

McAlester
(918) 420-5716

Poteau
(918) 649-0431

nextstep@choctawnation.com



CHOCTAW NATION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES ANNOUNCING...

2017 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP

Requirements:

- Applicants must be a member of HSSS before applying.
- 2.5 GPA or higher.
- High School Seniors enrolling at a Vocational, 2 year, or 4 year program.

Scholarship application opens 1-15-17 and closes 3-31-17

Students can find more information at www.chahtafoundation.com or call the HSSS office at 609-622-6176 ext. 4105

SCHOLARSHIPS

Competitive scholarships for Choctaw students range from **\$1,000 up to \$10,000**

OPEN: JANUARY 15, 2017
DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2017

EMPOWERING CHOCTAW LIFE

SUMMER WORK PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The WIOA department will be visiting schools throughout Oklahoma to help students sign up for the summer work program.

2/8/17	KEOTA	11:00
2/8/17	STIGLER	8:30
TBA	JONES ACADEMY	TBA

Bring a copy of CDIB/Membership Card, Social Security Card, Drivers License, Physical Address verification, Selective Service (if male and over 18). Also, bring a voided check or letter from the student's bank if direct deposit of money is wanted.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Friday; 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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 Afullota Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

March
ANTLERS
Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for:
Closed: March 28, 29, 30, & 31.
Cooking with Carmen: March 9 & 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for:
Closed: March 28, 29, 30, & 31.
Cooking with Carmen: March 1 & 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for:
Closed: March 28, 29, 30, & 31.
Cooking with Carmen: March 3 & 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCALESTER
Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for:
Closed: March 28, 29, 30, & 31.
Cooking with Carmen: March 15 & 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for:
Closed: March 28, 29, 30, & 31.
Cooking with Carmen: March 7 & 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.

PROJECT EMPOWER

Educating, Motivating, and Providing Opportunities for (Victims) Working to

Enrich and Reclaim (their lives)

Project EMPOWER's goal is to provide a broad range of services that include:

1. Transitional Housing and Support-for eligible families to bridge homelessness to housing, and to provide support to move toward their next goal.
2. Safety and Life Planning- to establish a plan for survival, recovery, and success
3. Transportation- to complete everyday living tasks, and to attend Healing Circles
4. Healing Circle Gatherings- a place for participating families to identify their worries and to share their hope.

For More Information Please Contact Us at

877-285-6893

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Youth Advisory Board

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Requirements:
(ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)

- Must have typed, double-spaced essay of 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member living in the 10½ county area **ONLY**
- Must attach copy of CDIB and Membership cards
- Must attach Letter of Admission from post secondary education facility
- All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2017
- Attach list of activities you have been involved in
- Provide- GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ ACT/SAT score: _____
- Winning applicants will be notified by May 1, 2017

1st Place-\$500 2nd Place-\$250 3rd Place-\$150

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Current High School: _____

Name of Post Secondary Education Facility you plan to attend: _____

Please mail your application and essay to:
Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment
P.O. Box 118
Howe, Oklahoma 74940

Sponsored by:
Choctaw Nation YAB



McCrae Represents the Choctaw Nation in Parade

Ciera McCrae is a seventh grader at Southridge Junior High in Moore. On Oct. 29, 2016, Moore had their annual Red Ribbon Parade. The Moore Public Schools Indian Education Program asked for Native students to wear their traditional dress to represent their tribe. McCrae wore her Choctaw dress. She is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Johnnie James.

Ott Visits Past Chief’s Gravesites in D.C.



Billie Don Ott is a proud Choctaw who has a deep sense of history, particularly with early Choctaw history. He secured a commission to the U.S. Naval Academy through a Native American program and retired from service as a Lieutenant Commander. He then joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1975. Since 1975, he has visited the grave sites of Chief Pushmataha and Peter Pitchlynn at the Congressional Cemetery while in Washington D.C. He has always had a great admiration for these two leaders and gratitude for the contributions to the tribe and the country which both contributed to his success. Ott is the son of Choctaw World War I Veteran Solomon Ott and Georgia Moran.

McDaniel Appointed by Secretary Vilsack to Native American Council

Shannon McDaniel, Executive Directory of Agriculture for the Choctaw Nation and a farmer and rancher, was appointed to the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of six new members and the re-appointment of five members to the Council. As a discretionary advisory committee, the Council provides recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on changes to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation for Native American farmers and ranchers.



“The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching strengthens our partnerships with tribal governments, businesses, farmers, and ranchers,” Vilsack said. “Their work encourages participation of new and historically underserved agricultural producers in USDA programs, and reflects a strong intergovernmental relationship built upon shared values and inclusion.” With the addition of a representative from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Council membership is changing to better reflect the diversity of resources provided by the USDA. NRCS provides farmers, ranchers, and forest managers with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. The Council consists of fifteen members, including four USDA officials and eleven Native American leaders and representatives. Members of the Council are appointed for two-year terms by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will continue to work closely with the Office of Tribal Relations and other USDA agencies to improve the success of Native farmers and ranchers to access USDA’s entire portfolio of programs to build and support their businesses.

Information courtesy of U. S. Department of Agriculture News.

Anthony Awarded for Work as Pharmacist

Wayne G. Anthony of Waurika was presented a 50 year pin from the Oklahoma Pharmacy Association for his service as a pharmacist. He was also presented a 50 year Gold Certificate from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and a 50 year certificate from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He graduated from SWOSU in 1966. Wayne and his wife Regina reside in Waurika. They have one son and one daughter, four granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren. He is the son of Lula Ethel Plant Anthony and Glenn Anthony of Waurika.



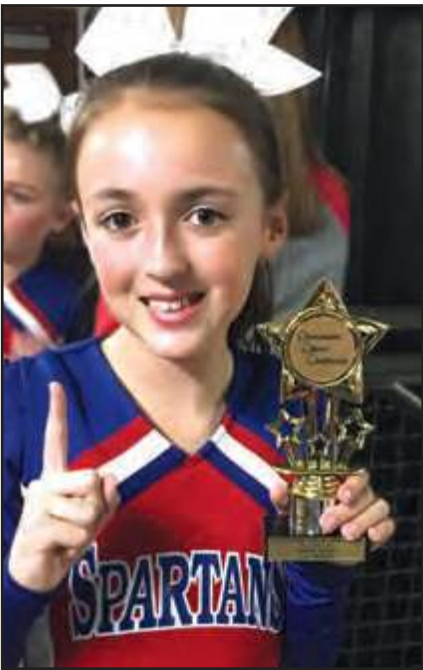
Struchtemeyer Conducts Research for Project



Cody Glen Struchtemeyer is 10 and a fifth grader at Moss Bluff Elementary in Moss Bluff, Louisiana. In response to a school requirement to submit a School Fair Project, Cody entered a Social Studies project on the Choctaw Nation. He chose this topic to help him learn more about his Choctaw heritage and to share that historical knowledge with other students. His project was titled “The Choctaw Indian Tribe: who they were then...and now.” A poster and a written research paper were required. He is the son of Dr. Chris and Amy Struchtemeyer.

Witcher’s Team Places First in Cheer Competition

Lauren Elizabeth Witcher is 11 years old and a fifth grader at Central Intermediate in Bixby. She is a straight-A student and enrolled in the schools gifted and talented program, as well as being a cheerleader. Her cheer squad won first place at the Claremore Cheer Challenge 2016. Witcher has benefitted from the Choctaw Star program and is very thankful for the awards and support she has received. She is the daughter of David and Kathryn Witcher.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marjorie Kirkpatrick Henson celebrated her 90th birthday in Oklahoma City with family and friends including her newest great-grandson. Marjorie, daughter of original enrollee Leroy Kirkpatrick, was born in Sulphur and has resided in Oklahoma City for over 70 years.



AND YOU

Happy 75th Birthday to James T. Daniel. James lives in Phoenix, Arizona and as boy lived in Wright City, Broken Bow and Valient.



TO YOU

Avis Sorrells Glodek will be celebrating her 80th birthday Feb. 25, 2017. Her family siad, “Happy birthday Mom and Grandma. You are the best and we love you.”

AND YOU

Happy 15th Birthday to Caylee Camille Cunningham. She is a freshman at Putnam City West High School and her favorite subject is Latin and she plays the baritone in marching band. She is the daughter of Cody and Stacy Cunningham.



AND YOU

Derek Rice turned 13 on Nov. 25, 2016. His parents hope he had a very happy birthday.



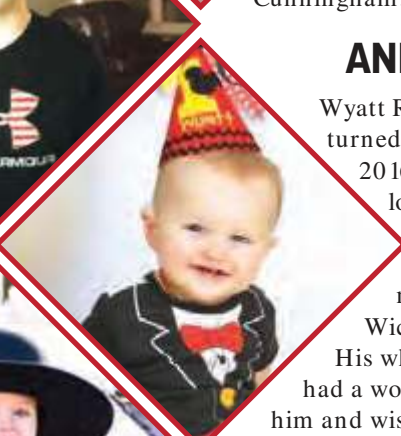
AND YOU

Joseph Dominic Tempesta of Oklahoma City, celebrated his first birthday on Dec. 5, 2016. He is the son of Charity Williams and Max Tempesta; grandson of Shari and the late Travis Williams of Tulsa, Anne Maxwell of Oklahoma City and Joseph Tempesta of Melissa, Texas. His great-grandparents are Cecil Caldwell of Idabel and Eleanor Caldwell of Wright City.



AND YOU

Wyatt Ronnie Bessinger turned one on Nov. 10, 2016. He is dearly loved by his Dad and Mom, Eric, and Rhian-non Beesinger of Wichita Falls, Texas. His whole family has had a wonderful year with him and wish him many more to come.



AND YOU

Landon Kayne Sellers will be turning one Feb. 3, 2017. His mother Jer-rica Martin wishes him a very happy first birthday.

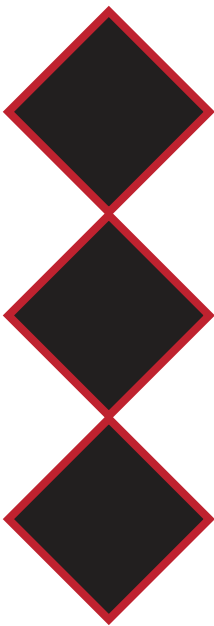


Winnett Goes to Indian Agriculture Conference in Las Vegas



Joshua Winnett was among 62 youth from across the United States selected to attend the Third Annual Indian Ag Youth Alliance Conference (IAYA) in Las Vegas December 2016. The IAYA Conference is hosted by the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and was held during the Council’s 30th Annual Membership Meeting. Josh was one of 50 youth that received a full travel scholarship for him and his chaperone to attend the IAYA Conference and IAC Membership Meeting. In order to attend the conference on a travel scholarship, youth were required to submit an essay based on the theme “Where We Go From Here,” outlining their ideas of what obstacles agriculture in Indian Country faces and will face in the future. Even more interesting, these youth provided suggestions to overcome those obstacles. Josh is a sophomore at Rock Creek High School and an active member of the school’s FFA Chapter. He proudly takes part in the FFA Show, Speech, Judging, and Opening Ceremonies Teams as well as being a member of the Rock Creek Chapter of the National Honor Society. As if his many school activities are not enough to keep this young man busy, he also has his own business producing market hogs and works with his dad on the family’s farm and custom hay baling business. Josh was introduced to the IAC and IAYA in the summer of 2016 when he attended the Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Summer Leadership Summit on the campus of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. During the nine-day event youth from across the United States visited different Native American owned agriculture businesses. Youth were introduced to agriculture opportunities such as the Farm Services Youth Loan Program and IAC Equity Grant Program. Josh will be submitting a Farm Services Youth Loan and IAC Equity Grant application in the near future to expand his market hog production business. Josh is the son of Anthony and Trista Winnett.

Josh is the son of Anthony and Trista Winnett.



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Terry Carrol asked Yvnnvsh Homma to participate in a cultural event on Nov. 15, 2016.

Carrol wanted to showcase Choctaw culture for Native American Heritage month so Roberts put together a program.

Several Choctaw tribal members who are students at Carl Albert State College participated in the event. Miss Choctaw Nation and Carl Albert State College student Karen Crosby sang several Choctaw hymns and participated in the social dancing and stickball demonstration.

For the Choctaw float in the Poteau Christmas Parade, Yvnnvsh Homma used their stickball sticks to decorate the float.

Yvnnvsh Homma Showcase Stickball and Social Dances

The Yvnnvsh Homma, or Red Buffalo, youth stickball team, based in Poteau, showcased stickball and Choctaw social dancing for their peers at Poteau Schools on Nov. 3, 2016, for Native American Heritage month.

Yvnnvsh Homma’s Assistant Coach Jennifer Roberts is also the Head Chair for Poteau JOM Parent Committee and Indian Education Parent Committee.

She partnered with JOM and the school principals so the stickball team could showcase their talents and demonstrate Choctaw dances.

The stickball team and parents are highly involved in community activities and are proud to represent Choctaw Nation and share the Choctaw culture.

Carl
Albert
State
College
libraian



The Yvnnvsh Homma, or Red Buffalo youth stickball team (*below*) based in Poteau, gave a stickball demonstration and performed social dances at Carl Albert State College. They were joined by Miss Choctaw Nation and Carl Albert student Karen Crosby and District 4 Little Miss Gracie Mattox. (*above*) Yvnnvsh Homma rode in the Choctaw float during the Poteau Christmas Parade. Among the decorations on the float were the team’s stickball sticks. District 4 Jr. Miss Madison Cossey stands behind District 4 Little Miss Gracie Mattox.



Sells Wins Overall Grand Champ For Second Year

Cody Sells and his goat Tank won Overall Grand Champion for the second consecutive year at the Williamson County Livestock Show. He also won Champion for showmanship in the intermediate division.

Choctaw Casino Resort-Durant Among Top Hotels

Eight upscale hotels in Oklahoma have received the AAA Four Diamond award for 2017.

“Earning AAA’s Four Diamond Award is certainly a challenge, but keeping those four diamonds is even harder. We are thrilled these eight properties have made the commitment necessary to win and keep the coveted honor. It marks these hotels as the very best in Oklahoma,” said Chuck Mai, spokesman for AAA Oklahoma.

Among Oklahoma’s AAA Four Diamond hotels for 2016 was the Choctaw Casino Resort–Durant.

In 2011 the Durant resort earned the Four Diamond Award for the first time. The Choctaw Casino Resort–Durant has earned the Four Diamond award every year since.

According to the AAA TourBook, Four Diamond hotels are, “refined, stylish with upscale physical attributes, extensive amenities and a high degree of hospitality, service and attention to detail.” Learn more at

AAA.com/Diamonds.

For 81 years, AAA has used professional inspectors to conduct in-person property inspections. AAA offers the only rating system using comprehensive, on-site professional hotel and restaurant evaluations guided by member priorities.

With a far greater inventory than any other rating entity, AAA’s rating system covers the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Travelers can find Diamond Rated establishments and inspector insight in AAA trip-planning products: the AAA Mobile app for tablets and smartphones, the desktop and mobile versions of the TripTik Travel Planner online mapping and routing tool, and online searchable Travel Guides on AAA.com.

Also, AAA TourBook guides are available for free to AAA organization members at all 11 full-service AAA offices located throughout Oklahoma. (*Provided by AAA*)



The Choctaw Nation sent representatives to the United Nations during a session of the UN’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Stacy Shepherd, Executive Officer of Member Services, Seth Fairchild, Executive Director with the Chahta Foundation, and Josh Riley, Senior Policy Analyst with Tribal Policy (*foreground with back to camera*) wait for the session to begin.

CHOCTAW NATION SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, RIGHT TO UN REPRESENTATION

by RONNI PIERCE

One of the most underrepresented populations in the world is Indigenous Peoples, who make up five percent of the world’s population.

Of that five percent, fifteen percent live in poverty.

And the plight of indigenous populations worldwide has been a topic of concern for many human rights groups at the United Nations.

In December, a small contingency of Choctaws traveled to the United Nations in New York to join representatives from other indigenous states to speak at the Consultation to Enable the Participation of Indigenous Peoples.

Choctaw Nation employees, Stacy Shepherd, Executive Officer of Member Services, Seth Fairchild, Executive Director with the Chahta Foundation, and Josh Riley, Senior Policy Analyst with Tribal Policy,

carried the declaration of support for the representation of indigenous peoples to the floor of the UN. The declaration was then read during the session.

Several Native American tribes were represented as well as indigenous communities from around the world including New Zealand, Australia, Ecuador, Canada, Fiji, and Mexico.

The consensus among those present was to adopt a new set of participatory procedures and the formation of an independent body with members from indigenous populations being established.

The Chickasaw Nation’s Lieutenant Governor Jefferson Keel was among those present and agreed with the consensus, “An independent body needs to be established but there should be an equal number of indigenous representatives on the committee itself so

there’s not any weight given to any one particular group or to a member state.”

He says an independent committee could also help resolve historic conflicts that have gone on between countries and indigenous people around the world. “In the United States as the first people, we have a unique relationship with the United States of America. There are people around the world who do not have the same type of political relationship, government to government.”

In 1997, a program to reform the lack of representation of indigenous populations and to give them a voice within the UN’s governing body was initiated. According to attorney, and a member of the Beaver Clan Tuscarora, Kristine Hill, it has been an uphill battle, “Currently indigenous governments don’t have a way directly to access the UN. They have to go through an NGO (Non-governmental Organization). So this is a way to make sure they have a voice, too. Because as first governments, they should not be the last ones to be allowed in the UN.”

In order to sustain human development within indigenous populations, and address their concerns on issues such as human rights violations and special environmental concerns such as water rights, representation for these groups in the UN’s general assembly is currently being debated.

The groups are expected to give a final report at the UN’s Permanent Forum in April and May 2017.

For more details on this project, visit the UN’s website Division for Social Policy and Development, Indigenous Peoples, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenous-peoples/about-us.html>.

ITC Backs Cherokee for Indian Affairs Post

During its Jan. 13, general session, the [Inter-Tribal Council \(ITC\) of the Five Civilized Tribes](#) called on President-elect Donald Trump to appoint a Cherokee citizen Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Jana McKeag, who has more than 40 years of experience working with tribal governments, is being considered for the post within the Department of Interior. McKeag has worked with federal agencies and practices law specializing in issues facing Indian Country. Among her areas of expertise are tribal economic development, education, and tribal sovereignty.

McKeag has held important positions including National Indian Gaming Commissioner; Director of Native American Programs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and service as Education Director for the National Congress of American Indians. The ITC noted McKeag has the support of several Oklahoma Congressional members.

Ten other resolutions were passed by ITC voting authorities representing the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee and Seminole Nations. They included:

- Urging Congress to preserve the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and Indian-specific provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed in 2010. Republicans have advanced bills to repeal the ACA—more commonly referred to as “Obamacare”—but the ITC said the IHCA is “cornerstone legislation which provides health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives in fulfillment of the federal government’s trust responsibilities” to Native Americans. The resolution also stated Indian-specific provisions of the ACA are integral to the effective performance of the Indian health system.
- A formal request to President-elect Trump to appoint Bo Leach, a Choctaw citizen, to the position of U.S. Marshal. Leach is assistant special agent in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. He has more than 30 years experience in law enforcement.
- Supporting the appointment of Choctaw citizen Robert Trent Shores as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. He has worked as an assistant in the office more than nine years and has over 20 years of service

- in a variety of roles within government.
- Citing more than a century of support by the federal government to protect Native American antiquities, cultural, sacred, and burial sites, the ITC called upon tribes across the country to enact tribal legislation to protect significant sites on tribally-owned property.
- Calling upon the incoming Trump administration and Congress to “protect funding for federal programs that support Indian Country and fully fund all of the government’s trust responsibilities to Indigenous people.
- Supporting the Oklahoma Attorney General in a lawsuit defending the amended American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974. The Attorney General has been sued in his official capacity to enjoin enforcement of the act, which prohibits artists who are not members of a federally-recognized tribe from selling artwork labeled as “American Indian-made.” The resolution states support for the Attorney General is intended to “preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our five nations to enlighten the public toward a

- better understanding of Indian people.”
- Formally requesting a meeting with President-elect Trump. The ITC said a “variety of topics (of) concern exist” and should be discussed with Trump. “We must continue to move our nations forward and work with (the) new administration,” the resolution states.
- Supporting the nomination of Dr. Charles W. Grim, a Cherokee citizen, as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Grim is a retired assistant surgeon general and Rear Admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Services. Additionally, Dr. Grim served as IHS director from 2002–07.
- Urging the Department of Interior to maintain past policy and practice where tribal enrollment and registration continue to be allowable “indirect cost” to tribes. The ITC pointed out the significant cost associated with determining and verifying tribal enrollment and citizenship that was once reimbursed to tribes. The policy was changed without consultation with tribal officials. Prior to 2014, tribes were reimbursed for those costs.

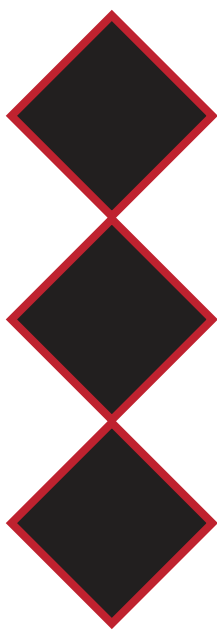
(*Provided by the Chickasaw Nation*)

Unclaimed Funds Notice

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

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Becky Allen, Payroll and Employee Services Accountant
Or phone 580-924-8280 ext. 2434

ALYSSA WILSON
NATASHA JONES
EMILY EVERITT
JERMAINE JIMMERSON
MARLENE CONNER
SERGIO DURAN II
SHANNA STEVENS
KYLER THOMPSON
JACELYN MCWILLIAMS



15



by Stacy Hutto

Russell Marcum, Executive Director of Choctaw Print Services, flanked by Chief Gary Batton (left) and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., (right) wields the scissors to cut the ribbon at Choctaw Print Services Tuesday in Durant. Members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, local officials, and staff members at the facility joined in the ceremony.

Choctaw Print Services Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

by KENDRA GERMANY

On Jan. 17, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hosted the Grand Re-Opening of Choctaw Print Services. Formerly known as Texoma Print, Choctaw Print Services has been a successful venture. In 2016, the business completed 7,878 print jobs and generated \$9.6 million in sales. “It is a great day within the Choctaw Nation to have this re-opening,” said Chief Gary Batton. “We are extremely focused about what we are trying to accomplish, and part of that is re-branding.” Choctaw Print services moved into its current 10,000-square-foot location north of the Choctaw Casino Resort– Durant several years ago. Located at 2712 Enterprise Blvd., Choctaw Print Services’ in-house specialists produce custom-designed magazines, catalogues, brochures, direct mail, promotional products and apparels, as well as original items such as T-shirts, cups, and calendars. The newly named Choctaw Print Services is an experienced business. It first opened its doors in 1979. In 1981, the business acquired another printing and supply company, and developed a commercial printing division. In 2005, it became a subsidiary of the Choctaw Nation. Over the past 13, years,

sales have grown from \$3.2 million to nearly \$10 million. The team has also increased from 10 employees to 17. The upward trends are expected to continue. Since its beginning 38 years ago, the business has provided a variety of graphic communications services. Among its diverse regional and global clients are banking and financial institutions, industrial products, medical and health services, educational institutions, and art organizations. Choctaw Print Services determination to maintaining attention to detail, honoring deadlines and delivering high quality results to large and small organizations are key to their growth and success. “The Choctaw culture resides in all of our businesses, and it’s important to make sure all the businesses of the Choctaw Nation are easily identified as Choctaw,” explained T.R. Kanuch, Senior Executive Officer for the Choctaw Nation’s Division of Commerce. “Re-branding to Choctaw Print Services helps the public understand this organization is a sister company to the many other Choctaw branded companies that generate revenue to accelerate the success of our tribe.” As with so many efforts of the Choctaw Nation, the new Choctaw Print Services has an eye toward “green tech-

nology.” Choctaw Print Services’ Presstec 75DI® Digital Offset Printing Press utilizes a waterless printing technique and chemistry-free plates. This puts the quality and turnaround at a level few presses can match, while creating minimal waste and a smaller environmental footprint than conventional printing presses. According to Robby Syler, of Choctaw Print Services customer service and estimating, the transition has been smooth. “It’s actually been a pretty smooth transition, because we thought of ourselves as a Choctaw Nation company,” said Syler. “It’s just now, were finally making the change. The name goes along with how we’ve seen ourselves for 11 years.” According to Syler, one of the reasons for Choctaw Print Services success has been always putting the customer first. “The Choctaw Nation is really big and has pushed for years that they want servant leaders. You can’t be a servant leader if you’re dictating to people on your terms,” said Syler. Find out what they need, find out when they need it. That’s how we’ve been successful and that’s how we’re going to continue to be successful. Choctaw Print Services are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (580)924-1120.

Preferred Supplier Program Names New Coordinator

by KENDRA GERMANY



Photo Provided

Randall Craig was recently named the new Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program Coordinator.

The Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program recently announced the new program coordinator, Randall Craig. Craig brings a wealth of knowledge in procurement, vendor selection, and project development. Craig’s goal is to continually update categories and vendor profiles to best benefit users. He is available to assist businesses in promoting, alignment of projects available and upcoming opportunities. For those interested in joining the Preferred Supplier Program, businesses can register their company on the Preferred Supplier Program website. Businesses that are already registered on the Preferred Supplier list are encouraged to update their profiles and visit the bid board that is now available. “The Choctaw Nation is moving ahead at full force, and we want you to be a part of that forward movement,” said Preferred Supplier Program Manager, Boyd Miller. The Preferred Supplier Program’s policy is to increase local buying and business opportunities for qualified Choctaw tribal member owned business enterprises, and businesses of other qualified Native

Americans and federally recognized minorities. For more information on the Preferred Supplier Program, visit preferredsuppliers.ChoctawNation.com. You may also reach Randall Craig at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2899.



Fall 2016 Awarding Period is Open

December 1, 2016-April 1,2017

Submit online at

WWW.STAR.CHOCTAWNATION.COM





SMALL BUSINESS FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM



The Small Business Forgivable Loan Program evaluates the needs of qualified Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs and provides the capital necessary to successfully begin or grow their small business. Tribal members locating their small business within the Choctaw Nation boundaries (the 10 ½ counties) are eligible to receive a forgivable loan of up to \$5,000. The original loan amount may be forgiven on the one year anniversary date of the origination if all requirements outlined in the loan program are met.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

Choctaw Development Fund Manager
580-924-8280 ext. 2764
choctawdevelopmentfund@choctawnation.com



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Youth Work Program

Apply Online Today!!!

<https://wioaapplication.choctawnation.com>
PO BOX 1210 • DURANT, OK 74702

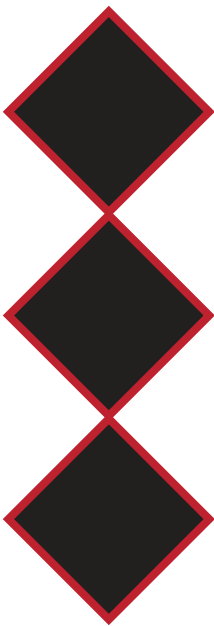
 Keep up to date by liking us on Facebook:
Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program



Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Age 16 – 21 On or Before the 1st Day of Work
- ◆ Reside within 10 ½ Counties of the Choctaw Nation
- ◆ Tribal Membership or CDIB card
 - From a federally recognized tribe
- ◆ Social Security Card
- ◆ Household Income Verification
 - For the Last Six Months: Check Stub, Etc.
- ◆ Residence Verification
 - Utility Bill, Junk Mail, Etc.
- ◆ Education Background Verification
 - Transcript, HS Diploma/GED
- ◆ Selective Service Registration
 - Males 18 Years and Older

When applying online make sure that you hit the submit button and receive the page that states your application has been submitted.



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By Deidre Elrod

With help from children in the audience Tim Tingle tells the story of “How the Rabbit Lost Its Tail,” during the Choctaw Nation Arts & Music Festival in Washington, D.C., in June of 2016.

Choctaw Storyteller Tim Tingle Honored

by STACY HUTTO

Choctaw storyteller

Tim Tingle will be honored with the Tulsa Library Trust’s “Festival of Words Award” on March 4, at Hardesty Regional Library’s Connor’s Cove, located at 8316 E. 93rd St.

The award will be presented at 10:30 a.m. The award presentation will be followed by a book signing and a day of educational American Indian family events from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The award, presented every other year, consists of a honorarium and an engraved crystal.

Previous winners include: 2001, Joy Harjo, Muscogee Creek; 2003, Vine DeLoria Jr., Standing Rock Souix; 2005, Leslie Marmon-Silko, Laguna Pueblo; 2007, Carter Revard, Osage; 2011, LeAnne Howe, Choctaw Nation; 2013, Sterlin Harjo, Seminole/Muscogee Creek; and 2015, Joseph Bruchac, Abenaki.

Tingle is a storyteller and award-winning author of books for children, teens, and adults. He earned his master’s degree at the University of Oklahoma with a focus on American Indian studies. Since the early 1990s, Tingle has spent hundreds of hours interviewing Choctaw tribal elders throughout the South in an effort to create a personal and historical narrative.

In 2005, he was selected as the featured author for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, for his book, “Walking the Choctaw Road.” This book features 12 stories with a mix of historical accounts, traditional lore, and tales from everyday life. Tingle collected the stories through interviews with Choctaw tribal elders. Told in chronological order, the stories range from the days when most Choctaws were living in Mississippi to the Trail of Tears, including difficulties in modern times.

“My dad and his brothers and sisters told story after story of our family surviving the Trail of Tears,” recalled Tingle.

“John Carnes, my great-great-grandfather was 10-years-old when his town was burned to the ground and the journey began. It seemed every weekend we children were treated to various versions of John’s story,” Tingle continued.

His first children’s book, “Crossing Bok Chitto,” earned more than 20 state and national awards, including Best Children’s Book from the American Library Association. It also was named an Editor’s Choice by the New York Times Books Review.

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer Releases Book

Inspirational Choctaw Author Releases Next Book in Series

by STACY HUTTO

On Nov. 16, 2016, Choctaw author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer released her fifth book “Traitors (Choctaw Tribune Series, Book Two).”

The first book in the series is “The Executions.”

The “Choctaw Tribune” series follows the journey of a fictional mixed-blood Choctaw family as they encounter the real events and history in Indian Territory before Oklahoma became a state, according to Sawyer’s website.

She created the main characters, a brother and a sister who owned a newspaper around the turn of the century, in a short story that resonated with readers.

“I’ve always known the Dawes Commission and the disintegration of the Choctaw Nation around the turn of the century was a significant time in the history of our people,” Sawyer said.

She decided to pull together Choctaw history, the two characters, and true stories into a historical fiction series that explores racial, political, spiritual, and social issues in the Choctaw Nation—and beyond.

Brother and sister, Matthew and Ruth Ann Teller, draw readers in as they experience this tumultuous time when truth and justice, right and wrong, are open to anyone’s interpretation. The siblings publish the truth through their newspaper—the “Choctaw Tribune.”

The third book in the series will be released Summer 2017.

Sawyer is an award-winning inspirational author, speaker, and Choctaw storyteller. Since 2013, she has released “Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears,” “Tushpa’s Story,” “The Executions,” and “Third Side of the Coin.”

Her books are available on Amazon and are free for Kindle Unlimited subscribers. In addition to Kindle, the books are available in paperback.

“Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears” is available as a free eBook at <http://sarahelisabethwrites.com/free-book/>.



by Kendra Germany

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer signs copies of her book for fans. Sawyer recently released her fifth book “Traitors (Choctaw Tribune Series, Book Two).”

She was honored by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian as a literary artist for her work in preserving Trail of Tears stories.

Sawyer partners with her mother, Lynda Kay Sawyer, in research for projects. The duo have several projects ongoing for 2017 and 2018.

In addition to the “Choctaw Tribune” series, Sawyer is working on a project that has been in her heart for years—the Choctaw Code Talkers. The historical fiction is set to be released in 2018 during the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I, an end Choctaws helped bring about with their native language.

While Sawyer has many projects in progress, she tries to set aside time each day to correspond with readers.

“Their encouragement fuels my work. So I thank them (her readers) very much when they take time from their busy lives to reach out and tell me how one of my books touched them,” Sawyer said.

If you are you a college student in your Junior or Senior year and looking for an internship opportunity, then look to Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation Internship Program provides opportunities for Choctaw students to gain career fundamentals while earning college credits and getting paid.

**2017 Program Dates
May 29 - July 21**

To submit your application, go to Careers.ChoctawNation.com. For more details, call **Brianna Longinotti at (580) 924-8280**.

A background check and a drug screening are mandatory prior to the start of the internship.

Chahta Anumpa

Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Use of Subject Pronouns ‘Chi’- ‘you’ and ‘Sv’ - ‘I’

1. Chi na nykpa ho?

a. A, sv nyakpa.

b. Keyu, sv nyakpa kiyo.

Nanta hosh chi nyakpaehi?

Are you happy?

Yes, I am happy.

No, I am not happy.

What makes you happy?

Nanta vpa chi bynna?

What would do you want to eat?

There are 3 uses of the word ‘chi’ and it can be perplexing to a learner how and when to distinguish their uses.

2. Chi nukowa ho?

a. A, sv nukoa.

b. Keyu, sv nukoa kiyo.

Kyta hosh chi nukowachi tuk.

Are you mad?

Yes, I am mad.

No, I am not mad.

Who makes you mad?

1. Chi - You your: Emotions, name, well-being, kinship terms, and things which cannot be taken away from you. These usually come at the beginning of a sentence.

• Chi hohehifo yst nanta?

What is your name?

• Chi noshkobo yst hottupa ho?

Does your head hurt?

• Chippokni yst im achukna akinli?

Is your grandmother doing well?

3. Chi nukshopa ho?

a. A, sv nukshopa.

b. Keyu, sv nukshopa kiyo.

Kyta hosh chi nukshobli tuk?

Are you afraid?

Yes, I am afraid.

No, I am not afraid.

Who scared you?

2. Chi chim - Nasalized - These show ownership and follows the rule of ‘chi’ before consonants and chim before vowels.

• Chi chukka ia sv bynna.

I want to go to your house.

• Chi shulush avowwa.

Gather up your shoes.

4. Chi hashaya ho?

a. A, sv hashaya.

b. Keyu, sv hashaya kiyo.

Katimi na chi hashaya?

Are you sulking/pouting?

Yes, I’m sulking.

No, I’m not sulking.

Why are you sulking/pouting?

5. Chi nukhlakaneha tuk o?

a. A, sv nukhlakaneha tuk.

b. Keyu, sv nukhlakaneha tuk kiyo.

surprised startled.

Were you surprised startled?

Yes, I was surprised startled.

No, I was not

Nanta ish pisa tuk?

What did you see?

3. Achi - future tense - You will hear the nasal at the end of a sentence. If the preceding word ends in vowel ‘a’ it carries on as achi. If not, then the vowel will transform into a vowel ‘a’ sound

• Tynaha ia la chi.

I will go to town.

• Ii’ is for ‘I’ before verbs - it changes to la’ for future tense use.

• Chukli yst tolobla chi.

The rabbit will jump.

The verb - ‘tobli’ ends in vowel ‘i’, then changes to an ‘a’ for future tense.

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