



April 2017 Issue



Let's Make *Green* the New **BLACK**

Choctaw Nation Going Green gives 115 reasons why recycling isn't that hard

by TINA FIRQUAIN

Earth Day is April 22, but recycling should be a priority today and every day. The Choctaw Nation Going Green team works to make recycling effortless by providing multiple services and opportunities.

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide and host to various events and demonstrations. Earth Day Texoma is an event being hosted in Sherman and the Choctaw Nation has donated a bin to collect recyclables. For more information on the Texoma event visit earthdaytexoma.org.

Jason Lilley, Recycling Manager of the Choctaw Nation said, "I want to help make the Choctaw Nation cleaner and greener."

That's the motivation behind several partnerships with towns in the 12 districts and why there are about 115 bins anyone can use to drop off their recyclables. There is even a waiting list for towns wanting roll off bins.

Some of the towns included in the roll-off bin program are Durant, McAlester, Poteau, Hugo, Moyers, Spiro, and Broken Bow. To find the bin closest to you visit or call your local City Hall.

In February, the Going Green department received the Community Partner of the Year award from the Pride in McAlester.

Choctaw Nation Going Green works on a joint project with McAlester and Ki Bois Developmental Disabilities, a Community Action program. Ki Bois provides employment for mentally challenged young men to collect and hand-sort plastic and paper products to recycle. Once collected and sorted, the McAlester recycle materials are trucked to Durant.

Each award the department receives is just another confirmation

that recycling can make a difference, and there are people throughout the state that have a want and need to recycle.

Tracy Horst, Director of Environmental Sustainability said, "The Choctaw Nation has worked in McAlester for the past six years setting up

recycling drop offs in various areas.

We also began working with Will Rogers Elementary School which has a recycling project that's been going very well."

The school projects have been funded by the EPA through an Environmental Justice Small Grant,

which allowed Choctaw Nation Going Green to provide recycling containers and teach the students about the impact of recycling.

"We'd like to be in all the schools around the area because the best part is when you can teach the kids about recycling, then they turn around and tell their parents about recycling at home," Lilley said.

Recycling in the home is as easy as being conscious of what is actually thrown away and what could be recycled.

According to Lilley, "Learning the facts about recycling paper will help fulfill our part to keep the environment green. If we keep our minds focused on the desire to be friendly to our Earth and her resources, recycling will become more important."

Once in the habit of recycling, it won't feel like a chore and it can even make a person feel good they are doing their part caring for the Earth.

The Going Green team knows as a native population, the Choctaw people have always been caretakers of the Earth. One of the most important ways of connecting to Choctaw heritage is by leading the way in conservation efforts.

There are two recycling centers in the Choctaw Nation. One in Durant, and the newest one is located in Poteau.

On a monthly basis, the Durant center recycles about 215,000 pounds of goods, and the Poteau center produces about 60,000 pounds.

For any questions regarding recycling through the Choctaw Nation, call the Durant Recycling Center at (580) 920-0488 or visit 3408 Wes Watkins Blvd. or the Poteau Recycling Center at (918) 649-0343 or visit them at 304 Kerr Avenue.

LET'S GO GREEN

Who, What & Why

The Choctaw Nation makes it easy for anyone to recycle with 115 roll-off locations in 34 different towns in the 12 districts and 6 towns out of the districts!

CN Recycling takes 12 types of recyclables

- PLASTICS # 1,2&5
- ALUMINUM / METAL
- CARDBOARD
- MAGAZINES
- PHONEBOOKS
- JUNK MAIL
- STYROFOAM
- NEWSPAPER
- SHREDDED PAPER
- PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

Recycling just the BISKINIK has major benefits

We could Save
17 TREES

The March BISKINIK was printed on **7 tons** of paper and could fill **3 cubic yards** of landfill space. Recycling the BISKINIK would produce **60 pounds** less of air pollution and **7000 gallons** of water.





Commemorative Walk Honors Choctaw Ancestors' Sacrifices



water stations along the way. Cultural demonstrations and activities are planned, including Choctaw artists, pottery, baskets, beadwork, ancient weapons, dancing, singing, and men's and women's exhibition stickball games.

The Choctaw Nation's foundation reflects the values our ancestors learned in the Mississippi homeland. Those values remain strong as does our foundation.

The Choctaw Nation is based on culture, honor, integrity, accountability, responsibility, servant leadership and teamwork.

The survivors of the Trail of Tears supported each other as they settled in their new home. Houses, churches, schools and businesses were built.

Communities thrived until there was another enemy—the railroad. The railroad brought prosperity to many cities but others, such as Skullyville, the Choctaws' "money town," withered away. Then there was the Depression era and the oppression that many Indian tribes faced in the land once called Indian Territory.

The history of our tribe reflects the highs and lows of many journeys through the centuries.

Our path is now rising to new heights. Everything we do is based on the vision: Living out the Chahta spirit through faith, family and culture.

The Tribal Council, Assistant Chief and I believe this vision is one for the Choctaw

people.

It encompasses everything we strongly believe in and is followed by our mission: To the Choctaw proud, we are the sovereign Nation providing opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The historic agreement on this vision and mission will guide us as we create new relationships, businesses and services.

I have had several people comment on how they appreciate the Choctaw Nation for beginning our meetings with prayer. That is our faith. We are thankful for all of God's blessings and pray for guidance as we make our decisions. We pray for each other—those who are ill or facing challenges. Our faith and values should be lived out at work and in our home life. They are what motivate me to try to be a better person every day.

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This time of year is a time of reflection for me as we plan the Choctaw Nation's annual commemorative walk to honor our ancestors who were removed from Mississippi in the 1830s.

We never want to forget the sacrifices that were made along those long journeys. The Choctaw people faced many enemies—bitterly cold weather, rain and snow, hunger, exhaustion, deception and disease. They walked hundreds of miles, carrying their meager belongings, or at times carrying the weak who could no longer take a step.

Saturday, May 20, will be the day we gather to celebrate the strength of our ancestors who survived the Trail of Tears and honor those who perished. I hope you can travel to Tvshka Homma to join us for the commemorative walk and Heritage Day.

Staff will be on site early to guide you to parking east of the amphitheater. The walk will start at 10 a.m. with



by Deldre Elrod

Families gather at Tvshka Homma for the 2016 Trail of Tears Walk. This year the walk will be held on Saturday, May 20.

Visit Strengthens Choctaw and Irish Bond



I had the privilege to visit with a group from Ireland last month.

Pat Breen, the Minister for Small Business and Employment; Adrian Farrell, Consulate General/Austin, and Minister Breen's assistant, Sinead Ryan, wanted to stop at the Choctaw Headquarters on their way to Oklahoma City.

It was a very busy week for them – the week of their national holiday, St. Patrick's Day.

We had interesting discussions about our history, culture, businesses, and where we are headed in the future.

I was surprised at the similar hardships and successes, and how we share similar goals for the future of our people. They also have a traditional sport—hurling—that uses a stick and small ball and we compared the game with the Choctaw traditional sport, stickball.

Minister Breen expressed his gratitude for the donation made by a group of Choctaw

people in Indian Territory in 1847.

He said he was happy to meet us on a day so close to the 170th anniversary of the \$170 gift. It doesn't seem to be much, but it created a bond that strengthens through time. Minister Breen said the generosity saved a lot of lives.

The Choctaws were new to Indian Territory. They had just arrived about 15 years before and when news of the Great Famine reached them, they remembered the suffering and anguish of the Trail of Tears.

They recognized a country in need, a country whose people were starving, whose people had to leave their homeland to travel to other countries to survive.

I'm sure it was hard to gather \$170 in those days, and to give it away is an example of the wonderful giving nature of the Choctaw people.

The donation is known to almost everyone in Ireland. The story from this devastating time in their history has been passed down through generations. I have heard from several people from Ireland.

One used to love to sit on his grandmother's lap as she told the story. In February, there was a young man from Ireland visiting the states and the Choctaw Nation was on his list of places to visit.

It's a great honor to us that a sculpture, Kindred Spirits, has been erected in Middleton, County Cork, Ireland to commemorate the gift.

We are two Nations, separated by thousands of miles, yet the strong, resilient spirit of the Irish mirrors the spirit of the Choctaw.

We have the same goal to honor the past and keep our cultures alive.



by Lisa Reed

Ireland Minister for Small Business and Employment Pat Breen walks down the Hall of Chiefs at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant during his visit on March 15.

BISKINIK

April 2017

TEK i HVSHI

month of the women

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Earth Day is April 22, so this month we take a look at the Choctaw Nation recycling program and their local services that make recycling an easy household habit. Being good stewards of the environment is part of the Native culture. If we take care of the earth, the earth will take care of us.

Illustration by Tina Firquain

Biskinik Mission Statement: To serve as the source of information for Choctaw Nation tribal members by delivering community news through a variety of communication channels.

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

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

DOGWOOD DAYS FESTIVAL
April 1 - Idabel, OK

CHOCTAW COUNTRY
The events are in full swing this spring. Check out some of the amazing activities Choctaw Country has to offer.
WWW.CHOCTAWCOUNTRY.COM/EVENTS

Mountain Gate Poker Run
April 8 - Tahleah, OK

CAVALAN "WORLD'S LARGEST BALL"
April 25 - Poteau, OK

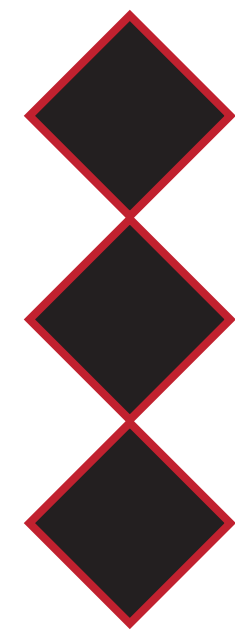
CHOCTAW STORE

MEET THE ARTIST

Shirley & Jerry Lowman

SATURDAY - APRIL 8, 2017 - 11AM TO 4PM
1882 HWY 69/75 - COLBERT, OK 74733 - 580-296-2672

CHOCTAWSTORE.COM Like Us On



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by Peggy Carlton

The Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers Market Program will begin accepting applications from participants in May. Participants that are interested in the Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers Market Program (FMNP) can start requesting applications in May, as they make their WIC appointments. As long as participants are under current certification or

receiving checks (infants have to be at least 4 months old) from Choctaw Nation WIC, they will qualify for the WIC Farmers Market Program. Eligible participants will receive \$30 in checks to spend with authorized farmers in the area. Participants do not have to have a WIC appointment to receive farmers market checks. To avoid long waiting times, participants should call before going to the Choctaw WIC Clinic, and ask about a convenient time. The Choctaw Nation Senior Farmers Market Program (SFMNP) is still accepting applications. Applications can be picked up at any Choctaw Nation Community Center located in the 10½ counties. Applications can also be mailed out upon request. To request an application to be sent through the U.S. Postal Service, contact Peggy Carlton for more information. Eligible seniors will be mailed \$50 in checks at the end of April, to spend with authorized farmers starting on May 1. Funding is limited and is on a first come basis. There are requirements that must be met for participants to receive SFMNP funding. Participants must meet the income qualifications. Current pay stubs from the last 30 days, current tax returns, a current eligibility letter for Indian commodities, SNAP must be provided. Applicants must also be Native American and at least 55 years of age. Applicants must submit a copy of their CDIB card as proof of ID. Non-natives may also apply if they are at least 60 years of age and reside in a Native American household. Disabled persons at least 55 years of age and living in a Native American household may also apply. They must be able to show proof of SSI disability. Applicants who wish to participate in the SFMNP must reside in the 10 ½ county service area of the Choctaw Nation. For more information contact Peggy Carlton at (580) 916-9140 ext. 83812.



by Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation WIC Farmer's Market Program participants will receive \$30 worth of checks to be spent with local farmers in the area. With spring in the air, fresh frits and vegetables will soon be available.

USDA Expands Farm Loans for Native Americans on Tribal Land

by Nikki Schuth

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved and obligated the first loan under the Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan program (HFIL). The program, made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides revolving loan funds to qualified intermediary lenders, allowing qualified tribes and individuals the ability to purchase tribal farmland that has multiple owners. Under the 1887 Dawes Act, Indian reservation land was divided and allotted to individual tribal members such that with the passing of each generation, title ownership was divided and parceled among heirs, while the land was not. As a result, land once owned by a single person could today be owned by hundreds or thousands of individuals, resulting in what is known as "highly fractionated Indian land." In many instances, landowners are unknown or cannot be located, which complicates the coordination of ownership or prevents the use of the property altogether.

According to the USDA, there are more than 245,000 owners of three million fractionated land interests, spanning approximately 150 Indian reservations. Under this new loan program, tribes and tribal members can submit an application directly to an intermediary lender. To participate, intermediary lenders first must be approved by USDA. The lenders may be private and tribal nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes or lenders subject to federal or state regulation (such as a credit union or other financial institution). The Farm Service Agency will lend to the intermediary, which will re-lend to the applicant. The intermediary lender also will administer the loan for the applicant. For more information on the program, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or contact the local FSA county office. To find the local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

NURSERY NEWS

Kasara and Kinzie Folsom



Twins Kasara and Kinzie Folsom were born Jan. 3, 2017, at OU Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Kasara weighed 4 pounds 1 ounce and Kinzie weighed 3 pounds 9 ounces. Kasara and Kinzie are the daughters of Misty and Richard Folsom Jr. of Duncan. The twins were also welcomed into the world by their big sisters Caitlyn, Caylie, and Calissa Folsom.

Kasara & Kinzie

Landry Ann Everett



Landry Ann Everett was born Nov. 5, 2016, at 2:45 a.m. in Oklahoma City. She weighed in at 6 pounds 13 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Sarah and Caleb Everett of Yukon. She is the granddaughter of Joey and Judy Everett of Midwest City, and David and Patricia Landrum of Eufaula. She is the great-granddaughter of Parker and Eva Mae Rosenthal.

Landry


Joseph Alexander Queen



Joseph Alexander Queen was born on Jan. 4, 2017, at 12:11 p.m. at CHI St. Vincent in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Joseph is the son of Mark and Carey Queen of Malvern, Arkansas. He joins his big sister, Michelle Queen. Joseph is the grandson of the late Sonny Queen and the late Anita Castner, both of Poteau; Robert Stephens of Higginson, Arkansas; and the late Charlean Pender of Kennett, Missouri.


Joseph

Choctaw Nation WIC



WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

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



Breastfeeding assistance is just a phone call away. 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2507.

Come join us for a breastfeeding class in your area! Many mothers want to learn more about breastfeeding so they can feel more confident in their decision to breastfeed. This breastfeeding class will address the following topics:

- latch
- frequency of feedings
- breastfeeding resources
- positioning
- growth spurts

Durant

Friday • July 7 • 9am
Thursday • Nov. 9 • 9am
Location TBD

Idabel

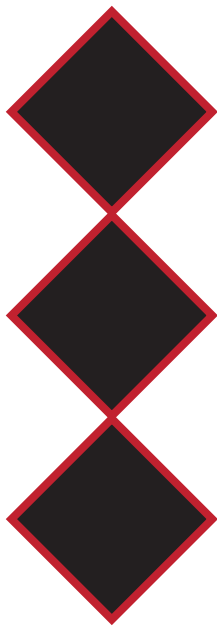
Wednesday • May 3 • 9am
Wednesday • July 5 • 1pm
Wednesday • Sept. 6 • 9am
Wednesday • Nov. 1 • 1pm
Located at the Choctaw Nation Clinic (Education Room)

Poteau

Wednesday • May 10 • 9am
Wednesday • July 12 • 1pm
Wednesday • Sept. 13 • 9am
Wednesday • Nov. 8 • 1pm
Located at the Choctaw Nation Community Center (behind Rubin White Clinic)

Talihina

Wednesday • April 12 • 9am
Thursday • June 8 • 1pm
Tuesday • Aug. 15 • 9am
Wednesday • Oct. 18 • 1pm
Located at Kiamichi Vo-Tech



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—YOUTH OF THE NATION—

Choctaw Stickball: A Way of Life

by
Madelynn Dancer

Spring is finally here, and for Choctaw Native youth that means stickball tournaments are taking place!

Stickball is known as the forefather of all field sports.

In history, this sport was used by the Choctaw people as an alternate to war.

When there were disputes over any



Photos Provided

kind of resource such as, land, food, water or hunting grounds, these disputes would be settled with a stickball game.

Stickball is a sport that offers strong cultural ties. Most players make their own equipment, and this equipment is held in sacred honor. Players take pride in their teams.

Each year the adult stickball team, Tvshka Homma, travels to Mississippi to compete in the World Series Stickball Tournament.

Stickball has allowed me to connect with my Choctaw ancestors, learn a part of my heritage, and gain advice from my Choctaw elders.

By letting your children play in a youth stickball league, you will enable them to keep a valuable part of the Choctaw culture alive and prepare them to be a true Tvshka Homma warrior.

Madelynn attends Soper High School and is a member of the Soper Youth Advisory Board Chapter.



Madelynn Dancer throws the ball while a teammate blocks members of the opposing team during a stickball match. For Dancer stickball is a connection to her ancestors.

Shipp Siblings Graduate

Since 2012 all three of the Shipp siblings have graduated from well known, accredited universities.

The first to graduate was Keianna Nacole Shipp. She was a Chemical Engineering major at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated in 2012.

Sharri was the next to step across the stage and receive a diploma. She majored in Biology and minored in Pre-Med at Georgia State University. She graduated in 2016.

The most recent Shipp graduate was Keith Lamont Jr. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Quantitative Analysis and a minor in Architecture.

Over two years ago Keith received an internship with the Choctaw Nation. After completing college he decided to work in IT at Choctaw Nation in Durant.

The Shipp siblings are the children of Natalie S. Anderson-Shipp and Keith Shipp from Atlanta, Georgia. They are the grandchildren of Wyvette Anderson-Smith from Muskogee, the great-grandchildren of Corinzo B. Smith from Muskogee, the great-great-grandchildren of Callie Gladney-Smith from Haskell, and the great-great-great-grandchildren of Elbie Smith.



Keith Lamont Shipp Jr. (left), Keianna Nacole Shipp (center), and Sharri Shantel Shipp (right).

Purtell Earns Numerous Academic Honors

by STACY HUTTO

Clinton Tyler Purtell had a good year in 2016. He received many academic honors during the year from Northwestern University, the KPMG PhD Project and Oklahoma State University.

"I am proud to have achieved these milestones and to have the honor of representing the Choctaw Nation, when possible," Purtell said.

The first honor in 2016 came in June when Purtell was recognized as an Executive Scholar at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Purtell earned the certificate upon completing the General Management curriculum through the University's Executive Education Program.

Executive Scholars have access to research and content from faculty and leading practitioners, among other benefits.

They are able to collaborate and network with fellow executives around the world.

Purtell was noted as being the first registered member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to complete the program.

The honors continued in November when Purtell was one of less than 30 people across the United States to be accepted into the 2016 PhD Project.

The PhD Project is a National program sponsored by KPMG and is offered exclusively to minority PhD Doctoral candidates.

The PhD Project supports minorities, including Native Americans, by providing guidance and mentoring support for people seeking careers in higher education through working towards doctoral degrees. Purtell was the only Choctaw tribal member in the program.

In November 2016, the PhD Project Congress was held in Chicago, Ill.

The PhD Project Congress was for students in their senior year of college, or people who already earned an undergraduate degree.

The two-day conference allowed



Photo Provided

attendees to network with doctoral students, business school representatives, professors and student organizations.

The mission of the PhD Project is to increase workplace diversity by increasing the diversity of business school faculty who encourage, mentor, support and enhance the preparation of tomorrow's leaders, according to the PhD Project website.

After completing the PhD Project, Purtell was accepted into Oklahoma State University's PhD in Business for Executives program.

He will begin classes in Stillwater August 2017.

Purtell is a full time consultant in small business, corporate development and negotiation strategy.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Oklahoma City University and an MBA from Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Purtell lives in Frisco, Texas with his three children, Brooklyn, Jacquelyn, Clinton H. "Chip" and his wife, Amber, who is a teacher and softball coach.

Amber was inducted into the Connor State College Athletic Hall of Fame earlier this year for All American softball.

Purtell is the son of Rev. Marsha (Regan) and Rev. V. Clinton Purtell of Mangum, Okla.

He is the grandson of Marcella (Furry) Regan of McAlester, Okla.

Ray Receives West Point Appointment

Hunter Alexander Ray was recently notified by his Congressman, Frank Lucas, (R) Oklahoma, of his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Congressman Lucas nominated Ray for appointment to West Point based on a recommendation from his candidate review committee. Ray caught the committee's attention with his proven outstanding character, academic and athletic ability. Each year roughly 20,000 high school seniors are nominated for an appointment to West Point, with approximately 1,200 receiving an appointment. Only one percent of the students receiving an appointment in 2016 were Native American. Students interested in attending West Point must have a Presidential, Vice Presidential, or Congressional nomination to be considered for appointment. Ray plans to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Automotive Engineering. Following graduation from West Point, Ray will be a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army. Ray is currently a senior at Skiatook High School and enrolled in the Pre-Engineering Program at Tulsa Technology Center. He is the captain of his high school soccer and track teams Ray serves as senior class president and Student Council reporter. Ray also plays acoustic guitar in the youth band at his church and is active in mission work. He is the son of James and Christy Ray of Skiatook and the younger brother of Benton Ray.



Student School & Activity Fund

Need Money to Buy School or Activity Clothing?

- \$100 assistance available nationwide for Choctaw tribal members attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade high school students.
- If you have not applied since July 1, 2016, apply now for the 2016-17 school year before it ends!
- Apply online at ssaapplication.choctawnation.com

Deadline Ending Soon: May 1, 2017

Funding will begin for 2017-18 school year July 1, 2017.

Choctaw Nation Adult Education 2017 Graduation

**Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m.
Eastern Okla. State College
Mitchell Auditorium
Wilburton**

Dinner for graduates and their families will be served immediately after the ceremony. The graduation is for all Adult Education students who earned their High School Equivalency diploma over the past year.

For more information contact Adult Education at (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122, or email kbench@ChoctawNation.com

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

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

It's easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops. Buy the products, clip the box tops, drop off or send the box tops to the Choctaw Nation and help earn cash for things the school needs such as supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.

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

For more information, call Jerry Tomlinson at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2904.

Choctaw Asset Building 2017 Financial Education Class Schedule

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

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

Saturday, June 10
Choctaw Community Center
208 B St., Poteau

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

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the following locations. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she prepares you to take the GED test. In addition, a \$10-per-day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Classes meet three days each week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, for approximately nine weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE/GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Beginning date for all classes is March 6, 2017

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

McCurtain County
Bethel/Battiest
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

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

Smithville
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Wright City
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

2017 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class.

Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID).

The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

April - June

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

Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.

Tuesday, April 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Idabel, Southeastern Okla. State University, McCurtain Co. Campus

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

July - September

Monday, July 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Poteau, Carl Albert St. College, Ollie Bldg.

Thursday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon
McAlester, Eastern Okla. State, Clark Bldg.

Thursday, July 6, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Thursday, July 6, 5 - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.

LETTERS

I have been a member of the Nation since April of 2008. The Choctaw Nation has afforded me and my husband to process all three of our children through three well known, accredited universities. Your support and unwavering financial assistance made the job of ensuring all three of our children graduate from college such a blessing. I truly appreciate how the Choctaw Nation gives back to the community, as well as your members across the various states. Thank you again for investing in me and my children for the past nine years.

Natalie S. Anderson-Shipp

District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard

invites tribal members, friends, and families to a Community Dinner on Thursday, May 25 at the Atoka Community Center after the Princess Pageant. The pageant will begin at 6 p.m.

Attention Biskinik Readers

As the official publication of the Choctaw Nation, the staff at the *Biskinik*, want to know what our readers’ opinions are, what readers like and what can be improved. Keep an eye on your mail box for a survey about the Biskinik. We ask readers to fill out the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope provided to be entered into a raffle drawing. Information about the raffle drawing, including the prize and deadline, will be included with the survey.

Yakoke!

The information on Bernard Walker Jr., the Our Legacy story in the February 2017 issue, was written by his wife, Nelda Walker. She sent in the information to honor Mr. Walker for his birthday.

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. We do not post wedding announcements. News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Notes to the Nation Submissions

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

Gary Batton Chief

Jack Austin Jr. Assistant Chief

The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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

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



Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met for a special session on Thursday, Feb. 23. Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, March 11, in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. During the regular session committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following items:

- Approved the Family Violence Prevention Grant Proposal.
- Approved disposal of surplus capital assets.
- Approved a business lease in favor of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribal Trust land in Latimer County, Oklahoma.
- Approved a commercial lease agreement with Bachmann Properties, LLC.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills. The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center April Health Fairs

Antlers Wednesday, April 5

Spiro Wednesday, April 12

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted. Emergency Management will be there to assist people in signing up for the Mass Notification System.

Wilson-Tims Family Annual Grave Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 29

Meet at 9 a.m. Smithville Choctaw Community Center

The Wilson-Tims family will be gathering for their annual grave cleaning. All family members are encouraged to attend and help preserve the tradition. This year two headstones will be set in the Smithville cemetery.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available by appointment ONLY 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

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. To make an appointment, or for any questions, contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

April Community Center Schedule

4-6 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
4-13 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3
4-27 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3

May Community Center Schedule

5-4 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3
5-11 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3
5-25 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Birthday Singing & Wild Onion Dinner

Saturday, April 8

Supper at 5 p.m. and singing begins at 6 p.m.

Specials begin at 7 p.m.

Thessalonian Baptist Church

Six miles SE of Red Oak on Hwy. 82 on Salonia Rd.

Joe Coley, Emcee

Firefighter’s Pack Test

Tuesday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. Talihina High School Track

Talihina, Okla.

The Choctaw Nation Forestry Fire Program will be giving a Pack Test to anyone interested in becoming a Wildland Firefighter. Must be at least 18 years old, in good physical condition and able to walk three miles carrying 45 lbs., have a physical taken before taking test. Physical Form can be picked up at the Forestry Office at 302 Church St. in Talihina.

For more information contact: Raymond Ludlow at (918) 567-2321.

Pittsburg Co. Choctaw Pow Wow “Honoring Bill Takes Horse”

Saturday, April 29

McAlester SE Expo Center 4500 Hwy. 270 West

Gourd Dancing starts at 1:30 p.m.

Youth Stickball games start at 2 p.m.

Grand Entry begins at 7 p.m.

The Emcee will be Tim Tallchief with Thorpe Sinn as Headman and Miss Indian Oklahoma Sydney Prince as Head Lady. Head Singer is Rowe Kishketo and Head Gourd is Ira Kauley. Arena Director is Bill Takes Horse.

For booth rentals, contact Dena Cantrell at (918) 421-0368.

Siloam Spring Cemetery Clean-up Day Saturday May 14 / 9:30 a.m.

Siloam Spring Cemetery is located near McCurtain, 11 miles south of Stigler in Haskell County. In case of inclement weather, the event is canceled.

Bring a dish for a fellowship luncheon; also bring lawn chairs and yard tools.

Bill Durant, (918) 917-7322 Katherine Durant Prince, (918) 799-5167

Thompson Family Reunion

May 27

Sequoia State Park, Seminole Shelter

17131 Park 10

Holbert, OK 74441

Bring a potluck dish. Supper will be burgers and hot dogs. Bingo prizes and cakes needed.

For more info call,

Yvonne Arriola (918) 471-5458

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 reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation.

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

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the:

Crowder Field Office April 10 9:00–11 a.m.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

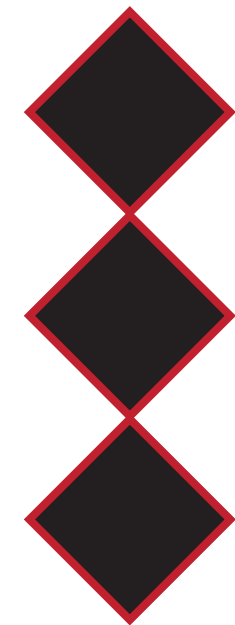
May 2017

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



6



Christine Ludlow

by TINA FIRQUAIN

Christine Ludlow, an elder in her community, will be 90 years old April 9, 2017. Turning 90 has been something that she's been working towards for ten years now.

"When I had my 80th birthday, my kids told me that when I turned 90 that I would get another big celebration. So, I'm going to reach 90," Christine said with an almost childlike chuckle.

Christine is an only child but she created a large family, because when she was young she thought large families had all the fun. Now she has eight children, 23 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She looks forward to any time her family comes together and it has been her motivation the last few years, to see her family in one place, creating a brand new memory.

For her 80th celebration she was given a photo book of special moments, lessons, and memories of her life. When she looks through the book her eyes light up with nostalgia and she'll tell you every story that goes with each photo.

There are pictures of her and her friends from her school days in the book and she recalled the time she finally got to take piano lessons.

Around the age of 10, Christine was given a sheet of music but she didn't ever really learn any-



by Tina Firquain

Christine has an old piano in her house that she loves to play. On her music rack she has several music books and hymnals including the Choctaw hymnal she helped translate. Music has always been a part of her life, from her being around her father singing, to now, when she plays for her family. It is something that brings her great joy.

thing about the piano because she never asked to take lessons.

Christine said "I was such a shy person that I wouldn't ask if I could take piano lessons."

When she was older, she was a friend with a Cherokee girl who invited her to a piano lesson and was offered to learn to play the piano, so she never really had to ask.

She finds it amusing that she somehow got to do something she wanted to without having to step out of her comfort zone.

There are two major reasons why Christine pursued a higher education: One, "I consider I came from an educated family. Times were different for my parents and they had a good education, so I felt like I should go to college."

Two, "I had a model, somebody I wanted to take after and it was my grandfather. He was a minister and I wondered if I could be a minister." Christine talked about her desire to learn more and also said that once she told her mom her plans for schooling, they started preparing.

Eventually Christine wound up studying elementary education and ended up teaching in schools all around Smithville. She even worked as a tutor in the Johnson O'Malley program after her early retirement.

Christine also participated in the Choctaw Language program and taught the Choctaw language for about seven years. She does not consider herself a fluent speaker, but she did grow up with Choctaw as her first language before she went to school.

She has been involved with the Choctaw Language Dictionary Committee since its creation, and now she has seen its completion and publication. She was also involved with the Choctaw Bible and Choctaw hymn books.

She said she has always been drawn towards anything that dealt with the Choctaw Nation and her heritage.

The only thing that she has gravitated towards more is God. She has tried to live a Christian life and was inspired through the hard times in her life to keep looking to the future.

Now Christine is an elder and a commissioner at her church and she teaches Sunday school.

Christine was motivated to be a strong and independent Choctaw woman. She said, "I just wanted to make sure that I didn't have to depend on anyone or anything like welfare. I wanted to make sure that I could be on my own and support myself and my family."



by Kendra Germany

Christine signs her name to the Choctaw Language Dictionary. She was on the official committee that worked for years on the book.



Photos by Tina Firquain

by TINA FIRQUAIN

Neal Taylor is a Choctaw artist from Durant who focuses on taking events from history and putting them on canvas to bring them to life.

Taylor finds painting parts of history challenging but worthwhile. He said, "It's kind of a challenge and these historical paintings are different." He continued to talk about the state's history and said, "Oklahoma really has a unique history among the states."

His latest adventure has been providing his paintings to be used

in a new historical text about Oklahoma, *The Oklahomans* written by John J Dwyer.

When Taylor found out about the possibility of his work being used in a book, he said, "I was honored to help him out. It helps justify my vision of things that I felt like needed to be illustrated in Oklahoma's history, and it's nice to know that somebody else feels the same way about it."

His paintings capture different times in history like Coronado's expedition through northwest Oklahoma, crossing the Chisholm Trail River and the cap-

Taylor's Historically Accurate Works of Art Appear in New Oklahoma Book

ture of the J.R. Williams boat.

Dwyer wanted to include "the greatest treasure trove of historical artwork ever in an Oklahoma history book," he said talking about his dream of wanting to create a history book that didn't just reiterate facts, but one that told stories.

Dwyer had stumbled upon Taylor's painting of the J.R. Williams boat while having a research meeting and knew he had to have it for his book.

Not only does Taylor enjoy painting western themes, he is also doing portraits of the past chiefs of the Choctaw Nation.

"The Choctaw tribal Chiefs—when I started painting them about eight or ten years ago no one had done anything about them and I had already done quite a bit of research already, and then I just thought that these paintings were something that needed to

be done."

He has painted Chiefs Moshulatubbee, Pushmataha, Peter Pitchlynn, Allen Wright, and many others. Taylor thinks his most famous painting is the one of Choctaw Chief George Hudson where he is depicted carrying his mother on the Trail Of Tears

through a winter storm.

Taylor said, "It's good to see people react to the paintings and it's just a real honor to be in a book the caliber of John's."

But Dwyer thinks very highly of Taylor's artwork and said, "He is one of Oklahoma's greatest secrets."



Neal Taylor signs a copy of *The Oklahomans* for a couple who attended the book signing at the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant.

Choctaw Nation

Hunting and Fishing License

Applications Now Available

Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member and Oklahoma Resident

Privileges for Members 16 and over:

- Annual hunting and fishing combination license
- Trapping license
- Bobcat, Raccoon, River Otter, Gray & Red Fox (i.e. furbearer license)
- State waterfowl stamp
- Four (4) turkey licenses
- Six (6) deer licenses (exclusive of bonus license)
- Land access permit to Three Rivers and Honobia Creek Wildlife Management areas

Privileges for Members 15 and under:

- Annual hunting and fishing combination license
- One (1) turkey license
- One (1) deer license

Please allow 6-8 weeks processing time for receipt of license. Applicable fish and wildlife laws apply to Choctaw License holders.

To begin application process, please visit:
HuntingandFishing.ChoctawNation.com

For more information, please email:
huntingandfishing@choctawnation.com
or contact:
800.522.6170, ext. 2503

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture

Choctaw Nation

Reintegration

Our mission is to remove barriers for those who are transitioning back into their communities. We assist tribal members who have been convicted of felony crimes.



- Emergency Food
- Emergency Clothing
- Assistance with Transitional Housing
- Occupational Consultation

- Treatment Planning
- Case Management Services
- Mental Health Consultation
- Referral Assistance

Contact us by email or call:
reintegration@choctawnation.com
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2915 Fax: (580) 916-3864

Choctaw Nation Reintegration

Iti Fabussa

Sketches of Choctaw Men in 1828 and 1830

Friday, April 16, 1830, Petit Gulf, Mississippi: James, a Choctaw man, sits for a quick sketch by a traveler.

James is seated on a tree stump wearing a cotton hunting shirt trimmed with blue feathers. Black and white beads make up his necklace and decorate his red leggings and garters.

On his head, James has tied a cloth and topped it with a silver headband much like those often

7

placed on hats. The location of the drawing, Petit Gulf, is the site of a bluff on the Mississippi river with a



(above) Annabé was sketched on April 6, 1830, in Memphis, nearly 200 miles out of Choctaw Country. (below) James, a Choctaw man, was drawn on Friday, April 16, 1830, at Petit Gulf, Mississippi.



small village nearby.

Beyond the date and location of his portrait, as well as a detailed description of his clothing, we do not know much about James.

We do know this sketch of James, a Choctaw man in Mississippi in 1830, traveled a great distance to eventually end up in a French museum.

In the last year, the Historic Preservation department has been in contact with a number of European museums in search of Choctaw traditional arts and archives relating to Choctaw people and our history.

A collection of drawings by French naturalist and artist Charles Alexandre Lesueur has been an exciting addition to our growing virtual database of Choctaw cultural items curated in museums around the world.

Charles Lesueur met several Choctaw people while living and traveling in the U.S. in the early 1800s.

On his trips from his home in New Harmony, Indiana to New Orleans, Lesueur took notes and sketched the surroundings and the people he met.

Along the Mississippi River he stopped at various locations. Some with established Choctaw history like Vicksburg, as well as those with only a short Choctaw history such as Memphis.

Lesueur drew Choctaw men in Baton Rouge, Ellis Cliffs, Petit Gulf and Memphis.

He even sketched a stickball game being played in New Orleans.

Charles Lesueur returned to Europe and worked as a director at the natural history museum in Le Havre, France.

This institution, the Muséum d'histoire naturelle du Havre, curates a great number of his drawings today, most of which depict the natural landscape and wild-life of North America.

These sketches of Choctaw men are rare snapshots in time of this era. The drawing of five Choctaw men in Ellis Cliffs, Mississippi records an encounter between travelers on Thursday, May 22, 1828.

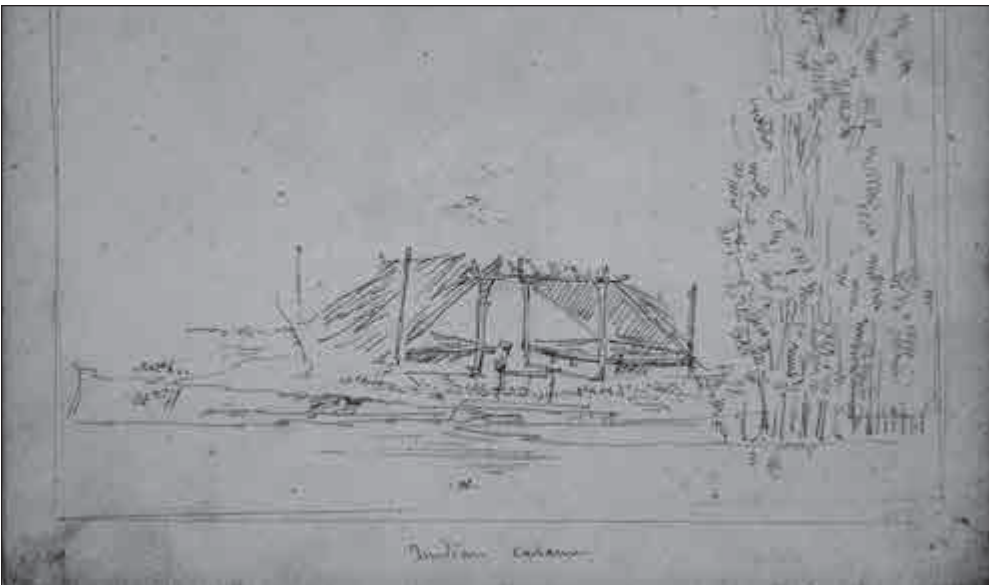
These men came from Natchitoches, Louisiana, 130 miles away. As they stopped at a bluff and nearby town along the Mississippi River, Charles Lesueur met them while picking berries.

In the sketch, you can note the men's tall moccasins or leggings, hunting shirts and long hair. Historically, other tribes in the Southeast called Choctaws the Pvfalaya, or the Long Hairs, for this very reason. These men are dressed in typical wear for the early 1800s.

Common at this time period, the hunting shirt and legging combination was comfortable and comparable to the breech cloths and moccasins Choctaw men wore in earlier centuries.

This drawing from 1828 is one of only two images we have of Choctaws from so far West during this time period, just two years before the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty of 1830.

On Tuesday, April 22, 1828, while en route to New Orleans, possibly near Memphis, Lesueur sketched two lean-tos with raised beds.



Provided by Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Le Havre

The lean-to was sketched on Tuesday, April 22, 1828, while en route to New Orleans, possibly near Memphis, Tennessee. The lean-to was probably a temporary structure built during a journey, or a short-term residence of natives moving through the area.

This home was probably a temporary summer style structure, built during a journey or a short-term residence by Southeastern natives moving through the area. The drawing of Annabé in Memphis on April 6, 1830 offers us another example of a Choctaw man far from home, upwards of 200 miles out of Choctaw Country. This man wears a particularly unusual fur hat with ears at the top. Have you ever seen such a hat?

These drawings reveal a quick snapshot in the lives of Choctaw people during a period of immense change. The men could have traveled by horse or boat for any number of reasons, some of which might include hunting or trade. They likely never knew that their faces would appear in sketches in a museum's collection 4,500 miles away. Today, 187 years and many miles later, we continue to learn from ancestors through drawings like these.

[See the online version of this article on ChoctawNation.com for references and citations used.](#)



Provided by Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Le Havre

The drawing of five Choctaw men near Ellis Cliffs, Mississippi depicts an encounter between travelers on Thursday, May 22, 1828.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Singular, Dual and Plural Verbs: 'lie' 'to be lying' be prone

Singular—1 ittonla – one lie or to be lying
Sinti yvt okhisushi akkishtvla ma ittonla.

Phonetically: *Seen-tih yaht ohk-hiss-oh-shi ahk-kish-toh-la mah(n) et-tohn-lah.*

The snake is lying (there) at the bottom of the window.

Dual—2 kaha – two to be lying
A katos lusakbi tuklo yvt katomma kaha?

Phonetically: *Ah(n) kah-tos lohs-ahk-bi tohk-loh yaht kah-tohm-ma kah(n)-ha?*

Where are my two brown cats lying?

Plural—3 kahmaya – three or more to be lying
Wak kanohmi hosh osapa ma kahmaya.

Phonetically: *Wahk kahn-noh-mi hosh oh-sa-pah ma(n) kah-mah(n)-yah.*
There are several cows lying in that pasture.

Sinti – snake
yvt – subject marker
ma – there
katomma – where
osapa – field, pasture
kahmaya – three 'to be lying'
katos – cat
okhisushi – window
lusakbi – brown
kanohmi – several
ittonla – one 'to be lying'
a – my
wak – cow
akkishtvla – at the bottom
tuklo – two
hosh – subject marker
kaha – two 'to be lying'

RESEARCH STUDY

Seeking Native American youth for a study on health and fitness



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

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

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

Compensation: Participants will receive compensation for their time.

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

Interested in a career as an Insurance Adjuster?

Future Adjusters is offering an eight-day, pre-licensing training course to prepare beginning Insurance Adjusters for their first claims assignment.

Training will be held at Kiamichi Technology Center, located at 810 Waldron Drive in Durant, Oklahoma

**Sunday, April 23rd - Saturday, April 29th
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m**

Financial Assistance for training and licenses available for qualified tribal members 18 years and older.*
Call (866) 933-2260 or complete a Career Development application online at www.choctawcareers.com

*Space is limited. Available on first come, first enrolled basis



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Choctaw Makes History at East Central University Dr. Katricia Pierson Named Ninth President

by KENDRA GERMANY

On March 1, 2017, the Regional University System of Oklahoma named Dr. Katricia Pierson as the ninth president of East Central University.

According to Dr. Pierson, being nominated as president is a humbling experience.

"It's very humbling because there are a lot of people who are dependent on me," said Dr. Pierson. "We have students who are dependent on ECU to be there for them and provide a great education, and that's what we're going to do."

Dr. Pierson is the ninth president in the university's 108-year history, but she is the first woman to hold the office.

According to Dr. Pierson, being the first woman president in university history comes with added responsibility.

"I went through the selection process to be a good president, I didn't think about being the first woman president. That kind of adds to the humility," said Dr. Pierson. "There are a lot of women looking to me now to help pave the way, and that's what I plan to do."

Dr. Pierson is a Choctaw tribal member who grew up in Oklahoma. "I started out in Tulsa, then my family moved to Jay. That's where I went to high school. I went to the University of Oklahoma, but graduated from the University of Wyoming," said Dr. Pierson.

Dr. Pierson went on to teach eighth through 12th grade in Foyil, Oklahoma.

She continued her own education at the University of Arkansas, where she received her graduate degrees.

Education was always important to Dr. Pierson.

"I got into education to work with students. I always enjoyed being a student. I know that doesn't come naturally to everyone. I like helping people, that's who I am, and that was one way I could get into it," said Dr. Pierson. "I'm still working with people and helping them achieve their goals. That's what I like about education."

Before coming to ECU in 2011, Dr. Pierson held previous administrative positions at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

Dr. Pierson decided to return to Oklahoma with a little encourage-

ment from her family. She applied for a position at ECU, and her journey as an East Central Tiger began there.

Dr. Pierson began her journey at ECU as the assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs. Prior to becoming president of the university, Dr. Pierson acted as the Provost and President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Pierson has accomplished a lot during her time at ECU. Pierson recently created two new graduate programs that originated from conversations with the business community about their needs.

The Water Resource and Policy Management degree was the first to be started with private funding and lead to the creation of the Oka Institute, a sustainable resource management center.

"We're looking at sustainable practices to serve the State of Oklahoma and the Nation," said Dr. Pierson.

Dr. Pierson also had a hand in helping to create the Masters in Management degree program.

Located in Ada, ECU was founded in 1909. The university has around 4,300 students enrolled. The university offers degrees at the bachelor and master's levels.

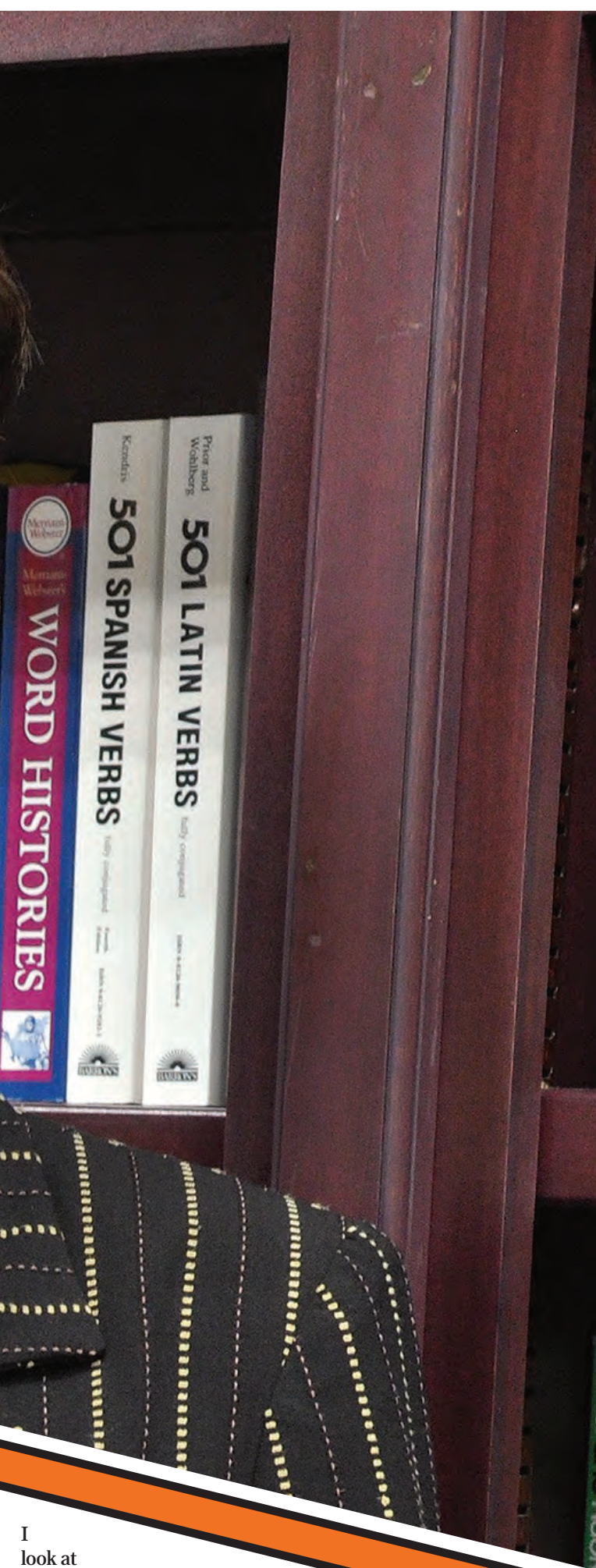
As most schools in the region, ECU has a high enrollment count of Native American students.

"At any given semester, we have about 350 Choctaw students here. It's our largest tribal affiliation. We try to provide the services they need to succeed," said Dr. Pierson.

According to Dr. Pierson, she can relate to many Native American students.

"As a Choctaw, I look at our Choctaw students,





I look at all of our Native American students and I understand that they need support so they can achieve anything that they set their hearts to. I came from an area where I had to struggle. To be able to achieve what I wanted to achieve, I want to be able to pass that on to other Native American students," said Dr. Pierson.

"I would advise any student to seek out a person, a faculty member, or any employee here on campus and make a connection. It's not easy, but they just have to summon the courage and make that connection. If they have any struggle. If they don't understand a biology assignment, a math assignment, or they need help writing a paper, reach out to that person. They might not be able to help them, but they will know who can," said Dr. Pierson. "We have excellent resources for students on campus. We have an academic success center, and we have an advisor specifically set up for Native America Students. So there's help here, they just have to summon the courage to ask for it."

For more information on East Central University visit <https://www.ecok.edu>.



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
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nextstep@choctawnation.com

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- Cultural events
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S F I B O 10

Judith Pittsenbarger



Judith Ann (Fulton) Pittsenbarger, 74, of Fort Bragg, passed away Jan. 8, 2017, at home after a long illness.

Judy was born March 6, 1942, in Willow, California, to James and Venita Fulton.

She was preceded in death by parents James and Venita Fulton; grandparents Ida and Clay Davis; and grandparents Jack and May Fulton.

Judy is survived by children Clyde, Kathy, Roy and Ronnie Ray; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; sisters Barbara and Nancy; and brother Mickey.

Edgar Humphreys

Edgar S. Humphreys, 76, passed away Feb. 19, 2017, in Antlers.

He was born Jan. 10, 1941, to Urias and Audrey (Ferguson) Humphreys in Talihina.

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents Urias and Audrey Humphreys; brother James Humphreys; sisters Johnny Deweese and Eileen Beasley; grandparents Steve and Willie Humphreys and Hattie Sisk.

He is survived by his son Lee Humphreys and spouse Samantha; four adopted children; brother Phillip Humphreys; sisters Susan Fields and June Young; and many other relatives and a host of friends. .

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

Danny Byrd Sampson Jr.

Danny Byrd “Fat” Sampson Jr., 50, passed away on Feb. 16, 2017, in Ardmore.

Danny was born on Feb. 13, 1967, to Danny Sampson and Phyllis (Ned) Sampson in Ardmore.

He was preceded in death by his mother Phyllis Sampson; brother Timothy Marris; and sister Cathy Manning.

Danny is survived by his father Danny Sampson Sr.; sisters Marqurita James and Deanna Sampson of Ardmore and Chasity Christie and spouse Tony of Madill; brother Ronnie Sampson and spouse Terrie of Ardmore; aunts Mary Ned and Josephine Ned of Ardmore; uncles Larry Ned of Ardmore, Calvin Ned and spouse Rhonda of Mannsville, Harold Ned and spouse Irma of Oklahoma City, and Curtis Ned of Ardmore, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment was held at Nelda Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home](#).

Linda May Burris

Linda May Burris passed away March 3, 2017, at OSU Hospital in Tulsa.

She was born in La Puente, California, Aug. 4, 1952, to Virgie May Thomas Watson of Selah, Washington, and Lilavern Parsons of Broken Bow.

Linda was preceded in death by her daughter Helena May; father Lilavern Parsons; stepfather Wilford Watson; and sister Diane Picket of Linden, Washington.

She is survived by her husband Alan Burris of the home; mother Virgie May Watson; sisters Susan Converse and spouse Merle of Wolf Creek, Oregon, and Carol Simmons and spouse Dwight of Selah; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Deloris Cecillia Pierce

Deloris Cecillia Pierce, 72, passed away on Feb. 18, 2017, at the Madrone Hospice House in Yreka following a short illness.

She was born Feb. 14, 1945, in Los Angeles, California.

Deloris is survived by her fiancé Rodney Smith; daughter Ginger Drobnick of Woodstock, Georgia; sister Dorothy Minchoff; brothers Richard Florendo, Tommy Edwards, David Edwards, and Bobby Florendo; and grandchildren Eric, Emily, and Ryan.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Girdner Funeral Chapel](#).

Larry James

Larry James, 65, passed away Aug. 12, 2016.

Larry was born on March 17, 1951, in the Blocker area of Pittsburg County. His parents were Jackson James and Lizzie Pope James.

He is survived by siblings Wanda Atkins, Violet Wood, Jessie James, and Warren James.

Larry married Patricia Fisher on Feb. 27, 1977, in Tulsa and they had two children, Amanda Ward of McAlester and Matthew James of Wilburton. They were blessed with one grandchild Madison Ward of McAlester.

Interment took place at Zion Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [Brumley-Mills Funeral Chapel](#).

Ruthie Mae Williston



Ruthie Mae Williston, 90, of Idabel passed away on Feb. 9, 2017, in Paris, Texas. She was born on April 1, 1926, in the Kulli Tuklo Community in Oklahoma, the daughter of Leo Harley and Lena Battice Harley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband William J. Williston; son Larsen Williston; daughters Brenda Kidd and Sonya Ruth Williston; sisters Lina Roberson and Ruby Washington; brothers Roy Harley, Alfred Harley, Leo Harley Jr., Everett Harley, and Virgil Harley; and a son-in-law Edison Elliott.

Ruthie Mae is survived by her daughters Marilyn Sue Elliott and Wanda Howard, both of Idabel; sons and daughters-in-law Silas Parker Jr. and Jeri of California, Thomas Williston and LaGena, and Terry Williston and Kittie, all of Idabel; sisters Leola Fay Harley Stehle of Ft. Worth, Texas and Amelia Ann James of Idabel; a special nephew Larry Ebahotubbi of Idabel; 17 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at the Kulli Tuklo Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [White Family Funeral Home](#) in Idabel.

Jerry Wayne Snead

Jerry Wayne Snead, 74, passed away Feb. 25, 2017. Jerry was born in Fort Towson on June 2, 1942, to Henry Doyle Snead and Lorene Ellington.

He is survived by his wife Maxine Snead of Taylorsville, Utah; sisters Bessie Van Tassel of Phoenix, Arizona, and Barbara Byrd of Las Vegas, Nevada; brothers Charles Snead of Broken Bow, Lynn Snead of Rio Dell, California, and Ross Snead of Oklahoma; brother-in-law and best friend Errol Montano and his spouse Sharon of Kearns, Utah; numerous nieces and nephews; and “fur babies” Andy and Bella, his beloved dogs.

Interment was held at Tracy Public Cemetery in Tracy, California.

Peggy Renae Carney

Peggy Renae Carney, 40, passed away Feb. 18, 2017, in Lawton. She was born March 6, 1976, in Ft. Worth, Texas, the daughter of Wallace and Flennie (Noah) Carney.

She was preceded in death by her mother Flennie (Noah) Carney; father Wallace Willis Carney; brothers Ricky Carney and Timothy Carney; and sister Evangeline Carney.

She is survived by her sons Thunder and Noah Oyebi of Lawton; brothers Wallace Willard Carney of Hugo, Terry Wayne Carney and Julian Carney both of Ft. Worth, Paul Carney of Wilburton; sister Kathleen Boggio of Ft. Worth; special niece Evangeline Carney; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

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

Ruth Ellen McBrayer



Ruth Ellen McBrayer, 82, of Idabel, passed away Feb. 21, 2017, at Memorial Heights Nursing Home in Idabel.

Ruth was born July 15, 1934, in Redland to Mollis and Esther (Wilson) McClure.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents Mollis and Esther McClure; niece Debbie Hudspeth; and sisters Delma Fuller and Sue Hudspeth.

Ruth is survived by her husband Harold McBrayer of Idabel; son Dustin McBrayer of Idabel; daughter Maria McBrayer of Idabel; and grandchildren Mya McBrayer, Braden Bray, and Madison McBrayer.

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

Phyllis Sampson



Phyllis (Ned) Sampson, 74, passed away on Feb. 13, 2017, in Ardmore.

Phyllis was born on Feb. 19, 1942, to Justin Ned and Anna (Davis) Ned in Talihina.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son Timothy Marris; daughter Cathy Manning; and sisters Brenda Sampson, Roberta Ned, and Betty Ned.

Phyllis is survived by her husband Danny Sampson; daughters Marqurita James of Ardmore, Deanna Sampson of Ardmore, and Chasity Christie and spouse Tony of Madill; sons Ronnie Sampson and spouse Terrie and Danny Sampson Jr., both of Ardmore; sisters Mary Ned, and like a sister Josephine Ned, both of Ardmore; brothers Larry Ned of Ardmore, Calvin Ned of Mannsville, Harold Ned and spouse Irma of Oklahoma City, and Curtis Ned of Ardmore; sixteen grandchildren; twenty-seven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment was held at Nelda Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [Griffin-Hillcrest 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. Full obituaries can be read online. Send official obituary notices to: Biskinik PO Box 1210 Durant OK 74702 or email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Joyce Wilcox



Joyce Wilcox, 83, of Crowder passed away Dec. 1, 2016, at a local nursing home.

Joyce was born March 4, 1933, in Crowder to Daniel Jackson “Jack” and Pearl (Pitts) Nale.

She was preceded in death by her husband Russell Wilcox; infant son; parents Daniel and Pearl Nale; sisters Helen Haynes and Catherine Kypfer; and brothers Frank, Ben, Harold, and Johnnie Nale.

She is survived by her children Russell A. “Tony” Wilcox, Jr. of Crowder, Cathy Kitchens and spouse Steve of Crowder; John Wilcox and spouse Lori of Crowder, April Sinclair and spouse Clint of Coyle, J. Paul Wilcox and spouse Tiffany of McAlester, and Dana Wilcox; daughter-in-law Pat Wilcox of Crowder; grandchildren Kurt, Brian, Kendall, Erik, Charlie, Steve, Kimberly, Kaleb, Brianna, Jackson, Emma, Misty, Olivia, Manoah, C.J., Shaedyn, and Canon; great-grandchildren; dear friends Pat Chambless, Cindy Wollard, and Rebecca Parker; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family and friends.

Interment was held at Crowder Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [Chaney Harkins Funeral Home](#).

John Cephus



John Cephus, 75, of Killeen, Texas, passed away March 1, 2017.

John was born on April 18, 1941, in Golden. He is survived by his wife Ae Cha John and his son Paul John. Interment was held at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery with full military honors.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Harper-Talasek Funeral Home](#).

Glen Edward Harris



Glen Edward Harris, 64, passed away on Feb. 10, 2017. He was born Aug. 19, 1952, in Marysville, California.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father Glossie and Logan; siblings L.T., Richard, Joann, and Sterling.

He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years Lanny Harris; daughters Jesse and Kendra; son Rick and spouse Heidi; grandchildren Claudia, Gavin, Mia, Stephan, Jake, AJ, Emily, and Olivia; great-granddaughter Raelynn; siblings Wanda, Sue, Rose and spouse Harold, David and spouse Linda, and Bill and spouse Ricki; and numerous nieces and nephews.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Holycross Memorial](#).

Susie LeFlore Morgan



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

Susie was born Jan. 8, 1930, in Coalgate to Dessie Bowen and Mat Harris LeFlore.

She was preceded in death by her husband of fifty years Morris Dean Morgan.

Susie 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.

Mark McKinney



Mark McKinney, 45, passed away Feb. 10, 2017, in Paris, Texas.

He was born on Jan. 3, 1972, in Idabel.

Mark was preceded in death by his father Raymond McKinney; maternal grandmother Ella Austin; paternal grandmother Mulsey McKinney; aunt Helen Byington; uncles Benny Austin and Wes Ashlintubbi; and cousin Chad Ashlintubbi.

He is survived by mother Helen Hester and stepfather Ray Hester of Valliant; brothers David McKinney Sr. of Valliant and Tim McKinney of Idabel; sister Angie McKinney-Williston of Durant; six nephews; three nieces; numerous great-nephews and nieces; a special friend Erin Perryman; his blue pit bull Daisy; and many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Denison Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit [White Family Funeral Home](#) in Idabel.

Iva Juanita Tomlin



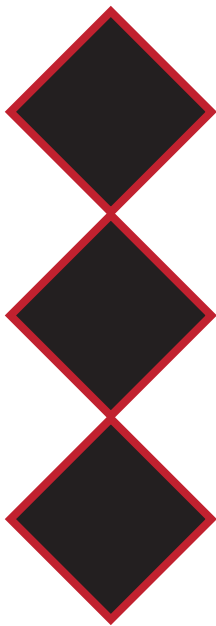
Iva Juanita Tomlin, 95, passed away in San Jose, California, on Feb. 3, 2017. She was born Jan. 14, 1922, at Jack Creek between Finley and Nashoba to Minnie (McCurtain) and John (McKinnon) Williams.

She was preceded in death by her husband Sigle Abbott Tomlin; daughter Sandra Tomlin; brothers Bill, Joe, and Raymond Williams; sisters Della Peacock (Realious), Ellie Redden (Virgil Cunningham), Ruby Hibbs (Babe), and Maudie Williams; one grandson; and one great-grandson.

She is survived by her daughters Debie Segerstrom (Jerry), Sheri Eagen (Bill), Denise Tomlin, of San Jose; grandchildren Lorraine Round (Karen), Charlotte Burkhart (Steven), Cynthia Roberson (Steve Stone), Bryan Roberson, Cuddy Flautt Jr. (Julie), Rochelle Eagen, Vince Eagen (Nicole), Tony Eagen (Nique) Sommer Goecke; and three great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at The San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Gustine, California.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Lasting Memories](#).



Choctaw Nation Continues to Expand

Construction Ranging From Completed to Breaking Ground in Most Districts

by STACY HUTTO

As the year progresses, the Choctaw Nation continues to grow with some districts enjoying brand new buildings while other districts are breaking ground, and everything in between.

District 9 had a ribbon cutting at the new Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic on Feb. 21, which drew quite a crowd.

The very next week, on Feb. 28, District 12 ended the month by breaking ground for a new Choctaw Nation Independent Elder Living Community.

A large group of people ranging from Coalgate and Crowder seniors to representatives from the City of Coalgate, Coal County, and the State of Oklahoma filled the site near the intersection of South Wrangler Boulevard and East Henry Street in Coalgate.

According to District 12 Councilman James Frazier, the location of the Independent Elder Living Community is approximately 14 acres. During the ceremony, Councilman Frazier said he was grateful for the Coalgate Industrial Authority for helping the Choctaw Nation make the dream of the community a reality.



by Stacy Hutto

District 7 Councilman Jack Austin Sr. is standing next to an illustration of the Elder Community planned for Antlers. The board included a picture of one of the homes in the Smithville Independent Elder Living Community. According to the councilman, eventually 10 more houses will be able to be built at that location for a total of 20 homes.

Chief Gary Batton said the planned community will serve a dual purpose. It will provide jobs for the area as well as provide for the elders in the community.

Once completed, the independent living community will have 10 houses suited for a single person or a couple and a common building.

The common building will be a place where seniors can gather for activities, and family reunions can be held there as well. The community will also include a storm shelter.

Two days later, on March 2 another ground breaking was held in Antlers for an Independent Elder Living Community on Southwest Second Street near O Street.

The event drew a crowd of tribal members and officials from Pushmataha County, the City of Antlers, and the State of Oklahoma.

The new community will have 10 houses and a common building to begin with, but there is room for an additional 10 houses to be built in the future.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. said the location was close enough for elders to use the Antlers Community Center, Choctaw Travel Plaza, and services in Antlers, but the wooded areas around the location made the location seem like it was out in the country.

The community is expected to be completed in December 2017, weather permitting.

When the communities are near completion the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority will start accepting applications.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for a brand new Independent Elder Living Community in Smithville will be held the morning of Tuesday, March 28.

Later on that afternoon a ground breaking ceremony is planned for an Independent Elder Living Community in Broken Bow.

In addition to the Elder Living Communities, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 21, for the Choctaw Travel Plaza and Casino Too in Heavener.

The new travel plaza, located at 503 Hwy. 59 North in LeFlore County, replaces the original Choctaw Travel Plaza.

More than 80 people came out to celebrate the opening of the new building. It is a 10,200-sq.-ft. facility. Their fueling stations offer gas and diesel for autos, trucks and farm use. It also features two trucking lanes.

The travel plaza has a full kitchen and will serve hot prepared foods along with fresh and healthy options and has a dining area.

The Casino Too provides entertainment with 37 games.



by Stacy Hutto

District 12 Councilman James Frazier (fourth from left) turned dirt with his fellow councilmen, Chief Gary Batton, Asst. Chief Jack Austin Jr., Choctaw tribal members, and officials from the City of Coalgate, Coal County, and the State of Oklahoma on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017. The ground breaking was for an Independent Elder Living Community near the intersection of South Wrangler Boulevard and East Henry Street in Coalgate.

Part of the travel plaza showcases artifacts and along with the cultural designs in the building promote the Choctaw heritage.

“Projects like this don’t just happen. They start with a vision of the future and great leadership,” Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. said.

Eighteen new jobs were added for a total of 38 jobs at the facility. While speaking to the people gathered at the travel plaza, Chief Batton mentioned the Choctaw Nation has grown to 9,000 employees.

A common thread throughout the groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings was Chief Batton stating how the tribal council is invested in southeastern Oklahoma. While speaking in Heavener he said the tribal council has invested over \$400 million in southeastern Oklahoma.

It is more than an investment in businesses and services. It is an investment in the people and the communities. Bringing much needed jobs into the area and improving the communities one person, one job at a time.

On Thursday, April 13, the Atoka Head Start will have its ribbon cutting and be ready to welcome students. The Idabel Clinic will be re-dedicated on Tuesday, April 11. The Tahihina Community Center will have its ribbon cut and open the doors on Thursday, May 18.

The Head Start in Wright City will be ready to go for the ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, June 13. The Stigler Choctaw Travel Plaza and Casino Too should be opening towards the middle of July.

Of course, the dates and times for any of the ground breakings and ribbon cuttings scheduled could change.

The best way to stay updated on when events are taking place is through the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Facebook page, which can be found at www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma/.

Every episode of BiskinikTV, which can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/ChoctawNationVideo, contains updates on construction in the 10½ counties of Choctaw Nation. New episodes can be seen the 15th of every month.

New Choctaw Dictionary Unveiled

by KENDRA GERMANY

On March 20, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma unveiled the New Choctaw Dictionary.

The project was a long process, and a passion of the numerous people who have worked on the dictionary over the years.

Members of the Choctaw Nation Language Department and many volunteers worked diligently over the past 14 years editing, reviewing, researching, and translating the Choctaw language for the new dictionary.

Prior to the new dictionary, the only other official compiled resource of the Choctaw language was Cyrus Byington’s Dictionary of the Choctaw Language, which was published in the 1800s. Though useful, Byington’s dictionary could be difficult to use for fluent, and non-fluent speakers alike.

The new dictionary is a user-friendly compilation of Choctaw words with corresponding English translations.

“Fast forward to today’s time, and we have a lot of people who are learning the language who are not fluent speakers. So they needed a tool and aid to help them to find words,” Teresa Billy, Assistant Director of the Language Department said.

According to Jim Parish, Executive Director of the Choctaw Language Department, the New Choctaw Dictionary will benefit students of the Choctaw Nation School of Language tremendously.

“It’s going to be a reference point. It’s going to be a little easier for them to look up words. Even if they know the Choctaw words, they’ll see the English definition. But, if they know the English word they’re looking for, they now can look that up and see how that word is spoken in Choctaw,” Parish said.

He believes the new dictionary will be beneficial to those wishing to be second language speakers of Choctaw.

“These were words spoken by the Choctaws of Oklahoma. We picked out about 4,000 words that are in the new dictionary, and these words are going to benefit a lot of people.



by Kendra Germany

Chief Gary Batton signs a copy of the New Choctaw Dictionary for Lillie Roberts. Roberts is a New Choctaw Dictionary committee member and worked on the project.



They are going to be able to see that these are the most common spoken words.”

Chief Gary Batton is also hopeful that the New Choctaw Dictionary will help in the revival and survival of the Choctaw language.

“It’s emotional for me, because I think about all of our people who have lost the language,” said Chief Batton. “Our language is going to survive, and our people are going to survive.”

The New Choctaw Dictionary is available for purchase at the Choctaw Store located at 1882 Hwy. 69/75 in Colbert, online at www.choctawstore.com/all-products/books-cds/, or over the phone at (855) 865-7854. For the full article go to the Biskinik online at www.ChoctawNation.com.



by Kendra Germany

Jackie Jo Coe from Caddo was the recipient of this year's scholarship award. Coe (right) is seen being congratulated by Robin Counce, Director of Career Development.

Annual Event Draws Hundreds of Job Seekers

by RONNI PIERCE

With the agreeable late February weather, over 1,700 people made their way to the 10th Annual Choctaw Career Expo in McAlester on Feb. 22.

Job seekers met with employers and

learned about available financial assistance to continue their education, and a lucky few even met directly with employers for one-on-one interviews.

According to Rhonda Mize, Choctaw Nation Career Development Academic Coordinator, “It’s becoming really important for students to explore career options at a much younger age because even when they move into high school they have to start making decisions about ‘Am I going to take the higher levels classes in science and math or am I just going to take the general education requirements.’ They have to make those decisions early so they need to have exposure to career options—‘what can I do stay here in southeastern Oklahoma and within the Choctaw Nation.’” And the Expo provided experts for those who wanted to either. In fact, the highlight this year was the need for more students to focus on STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) in order to compete for higher paying jobs. Other career fields such as Transportation, Law Enforcement, Manufacturing, and Healthcare were emphasized, as well.

During the opening ceremony, Jackie Jo Coe was awarded a scholarship by the Career Development committee based on an essay she had written. Coe, who is from Caddo, plans on becoming a nurse.



A.I.L.Y.C.

American Indian Leaders Youth Council of Broken Bow Public Schools

21st Annual Spring Powwow

◆◆◆ **Saturday, April 8** ◆◆◆

McCurtain County Sports Complex
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

◆ **Schedule of Events** ◆

2 p.m. Gourd Dancing
5:30 p.m. Choctaw Social Dancing
6:30 p.m. Grand Entry

HEADSTAFF:
Master of Ceremonies: Larry Liles
Head Man Dancer: George “Cricket” Shields
Head Lady Dancer: Faithlyn Taloa Seawright
Head Gourd Dancer: Justin Yearby
Arena Director: Willard Polk
Host Southern Drum: Lance Goodfox
Host Northern Drum: Graham Primeux
Host Color Guard: Choctaw Nation Color Guard

Special Invitation to all Princesses, Drums and Indian Clubs


Choctaw Royalty



*1 May 13, 2:00pm Idabel Community Center	*7 June 4, 2:00pm Antlers Community Center
*2 June 3, 6:00pm Broken Bow Community Center	*8 May 26, 6:00pm Hugo Community Center
*3 To Be Determined Talihina Community Center	*9 June 2, 6:30pm Choctaw Event Center
*4 May 13 4:00pm Poteau Community Center	*10 May 25, 6:00pm Atoka Community Center
*5 May 31, 11:00am Stigler Community Center	*11 April 21, 6:00pm McAlester Community Center
*6 May 25, 6:00pm Wilburton Community Center	*12 May 25, 6:00pm Coalgate Community Center

***District winners will compete Thursday, August 31 at the Tuska Homma Labor Day Festival.**

CHOCTAW COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE



- ❖ The Choctaw clothing grant is a **“one-time only”** allowance.
- ❖ A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00 to 4.00.
- ❖ A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00 to 2.99.
- ❖ Spring awarding begins June 1, 2017 and ends September 1, 2017.
- ❖ Apply online June 1, 2017 at <https://ccaapplication.choctawnation.com>. Paper applications are no longer accepted.

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

Monthly Gospel Singings

For a listing of Monthly Gospel Singings please visit

<https://www.choctawnation.com/annual-and-monthly-singings>

Trail of Tears Walk

T-Shirt Order Form



Sizes available are:

Youth Sizes:
YM (Medium 10-12) &
YL (Large 14-16)

Adult Sizes:
S (Small), M (Medium),
L (Large), XL (X Large),
2X, 3X, and 4X



2017 Shirts are Blue with a Pocket Print

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-Shirt- \$10 ea.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Cap- \$10 ea.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of youth, 3X and 4X sizes.
 To order, send cash or money order (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:

**ALL MAIL ORDERS
MUST BE POSTMARKED BY:
MAY 20, 2017**

Cultural Events Dept.
Trail of Tears Walk T-Shirt
PO Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702-1210

Summer EBT for Children

**FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING FREE
AND REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS WILL RECEIVE
FREE FOOD THIS SUMMER!**

**The Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services, in partnership with
the Choctaw Nation, is now accepting applications for the
Summer EBT for Children program.**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2017.

To apply online, go to www.chickasaw.net/summerebt.

**To apply over the phone, call the Chickasaw Nation SEBTC at
(580) 272-1178 or (844) 256-3467 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday).**

This federally funded program is available to anyone; you do not have to be Native American to qualify. Qualifying families will receive approximately \$30 of free food per child, per month for the three summer months. Benefits are on an EBT card (works like a debit card) that allows you to purchase healthy food for the summer.

To qualify for Summer EBT for Children, your child must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in a participating school district in Pre-K-12th grade
- Receive free or reduced meals at school

- Participation in this program will not have an impact on any government assistance that you and your child may currently receive.

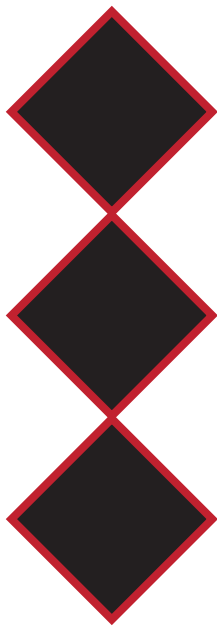
- Information provided by you on the consent form or any records obtained for this program will be kept confidential as allowed by law and will be used only for this project.

- Once approved, Summer EBT cards will be mailed to the address you provide, along with a list of participating stores and a food card (shopping list) that will help you identify approved food items.

**If you have questions, please call the Chickasaw Nation SEBTC at
(580) 272-1178 or (844) 256-3467 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.**

Now accepting applications!

Summer EBT for Children is an initiative of the Chickasaw Nation.



Softball and Baseball Defensive Clinic Draws a Large Crowd



Choctaw Nation’s Special Projects Department held a defensive clinic for softball and baseball the beginning of the year. There were 20 softball and 18 baseball players ages 8–12 years old. The tribal members attended the clinic at the Choctaw Nation Ball Fields in Grant, Okla. The clinic focused on the defensive aspect of the game. The athletes were instructed on how to properly warm up through use of dynamic stretching, proper throwing mechanics, as well as infield and outfield skills. In addition, clinic instructors spoke to the participants about the mental aspect of the game. They also provided players with strategies to assist them in improving their mental toughness. Baseball instructors for the clinic were Max White, Curtis Steve and Sam Steve. Softball instructors were Javen Henson, Kevin Gwin and Malinda Steve. Additional clinics are planned in the future at various locations. Clinic dates and locations will be announced in the Choctaw Nation Facebook page.

Deadline for Choctaw Nation Summer Camps is Drawing Near

by STACY HUTTO

Every summer Choctaw Nation Cultural Services host Summer Camps for Choctaw Nation tribal members and children of Choctaw Nation employees.

The Summer Camps are for campers ages 8–18, unless otherwise noted.

While the deadline for the Golf Camp has already passed, it was Friday, March 14, the deadline for Baseball, Softball, Wildlife Conservation, Stickball, Cultural Enrichment, Basketball and Football Camps are coming quickly.

The deadline for the camps is Friday, April 14.

Former camp participants can register online at www.choctawsummercamps.com, as long as their Tribal Membership card and CDIB are on file.

New applicants need to send copies of Tribal Membership card(s) and CDIB card(s) for each new attendee.

Applications for first time campers can be found at www.choctawnation.com/tribal-services/cultural-services/youth-camps.

The Summer Camps have a South and North Camp, depending on which district a camper lives in.

The South Camp consists of campers in Districts 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

The North Camp has campers from Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, and 12.

The Golf Camp is for ages 10–18 and will be held on June 5 and 6 from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. at Chickasaw Pointe in Kingston for the South Camp.

For the North Camp, it will be held on June 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Arrowhead Golf Course in Canadian.

The Golf Camp is not an overnight camp. There will be transportation provided.

The 2017 Summer Youth Camp booklet contains the bus schedule for all camps, except the Basketball Camp. There is no bus schedule for Basketball. The booklet is available on the Choctaw Nation website.

Wildlife Conservation Camp is for ages 10–18 and will be held at the Tvshka Homma Council Grounds May 22 and 23 for South Camp and May 25 and 26 for North Camp. The camp will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Stickball Camp will also be held at the Tvshka Homma Council Grounds. The South Camp will be held May 30 and 31, while the North Camp will be held on June 1 and 2. The camp will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. for both camps.

Softball Camp is for female campers only. It will be held at Tvshka Homma June 12 and 13 for South Camp and June 15 and 16 for North Camp. The camp will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. for both camps.

Baseball Camp is for male campers only. It will be held at Tvshka Homma June 19 and 20 for South Camp and June 22 and 23 for North Camp. The camp will

begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. for both camps.

The Day of Champions Football Camp is for male campers only. It will be held in Tvshka Homma June 28 and 29 for North and South Camps. Registration will be 8–9 a.m. The camp will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Cultural Enrichment Camp will be held at the Tvshka Homma Council Grounds. The South Camp will be held July 31 and August 1, while the North Camp will be held on August 2 and 3. The camp will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. for both camps.

The Basketball Camps will not have busses available.

Also, they are split into eight different areas instead of North and South Camps. All camps begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Basketball Camps will be held on the following dates and locations:

Idabel or Broken Bow on July 6 and 7.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University or Soper High School on July 10 and 11.

Coalgate or Tushka High

School on July 13 and 14.

Carl Albert State College or Heavener High School on July 17 and 18.

Rattan High School or Talihina High School on July 20 and 21.

McAlester High School or Wilburton High School on July 24 and 25.

For more information, or any questions please contact the Summer Youth Camp Program at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2517, 2739, 2332, 2504, or 2741.

Palmer Racks Up Honors During High School Career



by STACY HUTTO

Trenton Moore Palmer is a senior at Grandfield High School in Grandfield.

He is the valedictorian of his 2017 graduating class.

During his senior year, Palmer was named Class C 2016 All Star, 2016 Oklahoma All Star Eight Man and Class C District’s Defensive Player of the Year.

Palmer received 2015 Class C District 3 Defensive Lineman of the Year and in basketball, Southern 8 All Conference his junior year of high school.

His sophomore and freshman year Palmer was named Class 3 All District, center and earned Southern 8 All Conference in basketball.

He was a four-year starter for the Grandfield Bearcats in football, basketball and baseball.

Palmer is currently taking concurrent classes at Western Oklahoma State College in Altus while being a student athlete for Greatfield High School.

He is the son of Danny Palmer Jr., grandson of Danny Palmer Sr and the great-grandson of the late Melba Tonubbee.

Choctaw Champion Working Toward Olympic Gold in Tokyo

by RONNI PIERCE

Power. Speed. Agility. Taekwondo is a sport where speed trumps mass and head height kicks take home trophies and sometimes take an athlete all the way to the Olympics.

And that’s exactly the road Choctaw Paden Stacey from Indianola is determined to be on.

A taekwondo black belt, Paden’s skills were on display at the Texas State Taekwondo Championships on March 18, 2017, in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Before she is called to the holding area for her match, she reflects on what brought her into the sport her mom.

“I was being bullied really bad. I was being slapped with shoes across the face,” the 15 year old said.

It got so bad, her mom Kasi Stacey recalls, that one day Paden came home with an imprint of a sandal still imprinted across her cheek.

“One time me and my mom were sitting in the living room,” said Paden, “and she was like, ‘if I put you in taekwondo, would you enjoy it?’”

So she started classes as a young girl then worked her way up to an orange belt and started competing with adults.

“I got really dedicated when I hit purple belt. I started considering the Olympics.”

She joined other hopefuls at the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado

Springs, Colorado, and met the national coach, Master Dong Lee.

“When I called my mom from OTC that night, I said mom, I signed on for the Olympics and she said ‘no, you didn’t!’”

But since then her parents have encouraged her to go for her dreams. And they know she can do it. “We’ve shed blood, sweat, and tears,” according to Kay—and broken bones and bruises. Her dad has taken the brunt of the abuse while helping her practice sparring in the form of a broken pinkie finger and black eyes.

After taking on and beating other competitors, Paden earned her spot on Team Lee. That lead her to training with the whole team and finding a host family in Plano, Texas, so she could be closer to her training facility. “Master Lee and my parents are my main supporter,” she said.

“I will have to go through team trials if an Olympian doesn’t retire then and there. I will have to try out. But if someone does retire, I have an automatic spot.”

“I want to represent Oklahoma and Texas. I want to change things,” she said.

She’s looking forward to 2020 and Tokyo and perhaps beyond. “2024 is still up in the air because I’ll have to do team trials. But I put myself up for eight years because I want to go. I’ve got eight years in me.”

The once bullied young girl has become a self-assured competitor, “Since I started taekwondo, I’m more confident in myself. I help others. If I see a kid in trouble, I’m always there to help him or her.”

She took home third place in Sparring at the Texas State Championships. Now that she’s qualified for Nationals in Detroit in July, she’s not taking any time off. She’ll be competing in the Oklahoma State Championships on April 1, 2017, at the Field House in Del City.

From Indianola to Tokyo, this young Choctaw champion has the potential to bring home the gold.



With a room full of awards, trophies, and medals, Paden, 15, is looking to compete at the 2020 Olympics and maybe even 2024.



Paden recently met her hero in the sport, Stephen Lambdin. Competing in the heavyweight division, Lambdin represented Team USA at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, Brazil.

STEM

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

When—

July 9-14
July 16-21

Who—

Rising 9th-12th grade students who hold a CDIB and have successfully completed Algebra 1

For applications- See your school counselor or contact:

Joy Tribbey @
918-297-2518 ext 1030
jtribbey@choctawnation.com

Are YOU into Science, Math, Technology, or Engineering?!

Spend part of your summer with US!

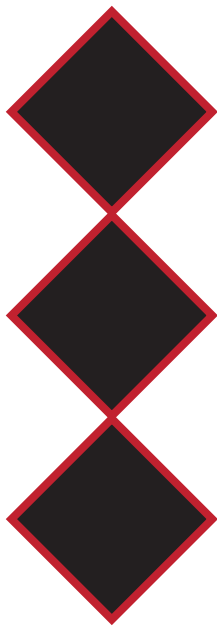
Come and explore STEM hands on!

Workshops, challenges, field trips...but most of all FUN!

Students selected will attend this FREE camp and spend five nights at Jones Academy!

Week One— July 9-14
Week Two— July 16-21
You can choose one week or both

Space is limited, so apply soon!
The deadline for applications is May 12, 2017



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Choctaw Development Fund Awards Forgivable Loan to 4C Welding and Industrial Center

by KENDRA GERMANY

On Feb. 27, the Choctaw Development Fund has awarded 4C Welding and Industrial Center \$5,000 to assist with the purchase of additional equipment needed to expand their services to include drug and alcohol testing. In 2014, Choctaw tribal member Lena Kopp launched 4C Welding and Industrial Center with her husband Jeff, after consulting with Choctaw Small Business Services. 4C Welding and Industrial Center is located in Hugo and is

accredited by the National center for construction Education and Research (NCCER). The facility acts as an assessment site and offers a surplus of classes requiring different hours of training.

The 4Cs of 4C Welding and Industrial Center stand for courage, confidence, certification and career. They prepare students for long-term career growth in the construction industry through 25 programs of study including welding, safety, ironworking, project supervision, project management, boiler making, rigging and hand signals.

Since it's 2014 launch, 4C Welding and Industrial Center has been a successful and rewarding venture for Kopp.

Anyone can sign up for classes and start at any time. Kopp makes it a point to work with students to get them to the level they need to be and to make sure they stick to the program's course work. Kopp also helps students with job placement once they become certified.

"It's exciting to see 4C Welding expand their busi-



by Jeanine Connolly

Ahmad El-katib, Choctaw Development Fund Manager; Billy Hamilton, Small Business Development Services Manager; Lena Kopp, Owner of 4C Welding and Industrial Center; and Brian Post, Choctaw Nation Director of Economic & Strategic Development

ness with new revenue streams," said Ahmad El-katib, Choctaw Development Fund Manager. "This forgivable loan will help them get the scientific equipment needed to service the increasing demand for drug and alcohol testing from other businesses while creating more jobs in our community."

Choctaw Small Business Development Services (CSBDS) assisted Kopp with her forgivable loan application. CSBDS provided individualized business assistance to Choctaw tribal members that are seeking to start-up or grow their small business within the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Development fund supports economic viability and sustainability by partnering with Choctaw Small Business owners, cities, and municipalities to create long-term growth and job creation within the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

4C Welding and Industrial Center, Inc., is located at 2689 US 70 Hwy in Hugo, Oklahoma. For more information call (580) 326-9417 or visit <http://4cwelding.com/>.

For more information on Choctaw Small Business Development Services visit www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com.



by Regina Mountjoy

Choctaw artist Carolyn Bernard Young brings her award-winning pottery collection to the Red Earth Art Center from April 3 through May 30.

Red Earth Spotlights Choctaw Artist

by RONNI PIERCE

Award-winning Choctaw artist Carolyn Bernard Young has been selected as an 'In the Spotlight' artist at the Red Earth Art Center.

The solo exhibition, "Spirits Rising," will be on display at the center from April 3 through May 30.

Young's wheel thrown pottery has been described as contemporary Native American. Working out of her Earth to Art studio in Weatherford, Texas, she uses a potter's wheel and electric kiln while listening to Native flute music. Young has a unique way of hand carving to expose the rich colors of the clay beneath the glaze.

She first learned by using a potter's wheel then she took a workshop carving pots while studying petroglyphs. That's how she began her unique process of carving into the clay revealing what was underneath.

Some of her awards include first and second place for pottery at the 2016 Choctaw Labor Day art competition and first place at the 2016 Red Earth Festival in the contemporary pottery category. Her work can be found at the Choctaw Store in Colbert and on line.

"I want my work to speak well for the tribe and evoke those ancient emotions," said Young. "I want my work to be different, yet honor those who came before."

"I am very blessed to be able to devote my life every single day to my art. And to my tribe."

A free reception open to the public is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, at the Red Earth Art Center located at 6 Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Oklahoma City.




(top to bottom) The Fire Within, 10x6 stoneware; Spirits Rising, 10x6 stoneware; Women Rising, 10x6 stoneware.



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



Okla Chahta Clan of California, Inc.

presents

Twenty-Second Annual Choctaw Gathering

Year of the Children

Afummih Villa Ushi Chipota
"Our Future Culture Bearers"

May 6 - 7, 2017
Pyle's Boy Camp
Lake Ming Road, Bakersfield, CA

Saturday Dinner Provided
Cultural Games & Activities • Traditional Dancing • Princess Contest
Storytelling • Camping & RV Permits Available

www.Facebook.com/OklaChahtaClan

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

TAMPA

MARIETTA



Choctaw Nation employment advocate Sharon Dodson welcomes her great-nieces and great-nephew to the Tampa meeting – Kendal, Billy and Londyn.



Jared Tom watches close as Michael Gutfleish, 6, of Spring Hill, Florida tries to catch a stickball.



Chief Gary Batton joins the beading class, making a mini breastplate which he gave to one of the visitors.



(right) Stacy Hallmark, center, gets a photo in Tampa with two of her Career Development clients—Lyndsay Pham and Lynda Remund. Lyndsay’s sons are Evan, Tyson and Dax.



Billy Eagle Road III leads a winding “snake” through the room. Many of the visitors to the Marietta meeting are forming the snake in the social dance.



Presley Byington demonstrates a Choctaw flute.



Stephanie Brown and 4-month-old son Kaash of Orlando travel to the Tampa community cultural meeting.



Teela Nichols shows how to create a beaded breastplate.



Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby sings the National Anthem in the Choctaw language. On stage, saluting our country’s flag, are Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Chief Gary Batton, and Language Instructor Lillie Roberts.

Photos by Lisa Reed

Pastor Olin Williams

Illit Falamvt Tani or Resurrection



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

Springtime brings a renewal of life to earth and the human spirit. The budding of nature’s beauty and the change in weather adds a refreshing lift from the confinement of winter’s death grip. The thought of outdoor activities, such as gardening, sports, family outings and other long-awaited plans are now becoming a reality. One of the major springtime events is the celebration of Easter. In the Christian community, people look forward to this special holiday. This is a Christian holiday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Illit falamvt tani is a Choctaw word meaning “resurrection.” This doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cardinal essential in the Christian faith. The gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Without the resurrection, the gospel is no gospel at all. Without the resurrection, the Bible is merely a book.

If Jesus did not come forth from the grave, we would have no message to tell. If Jesus did not resurrect, our faith would be in vain. If there was no resurrection of Jesus, then there would be no forgiveness of sins. What is the proof of the resurrection? The tomb was guarded, there were eye witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:4-8) and even Jesus’ enemies were convinced of his resurrection. What is the purpose of the illit falamvt tani? Jesus’ resurrection promises our own resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:22). His resurrection promises His return (1 Corinthians 15:23 and John 14:1-4). Because He lives, we too shall live, if we believe by faith in the gospel.

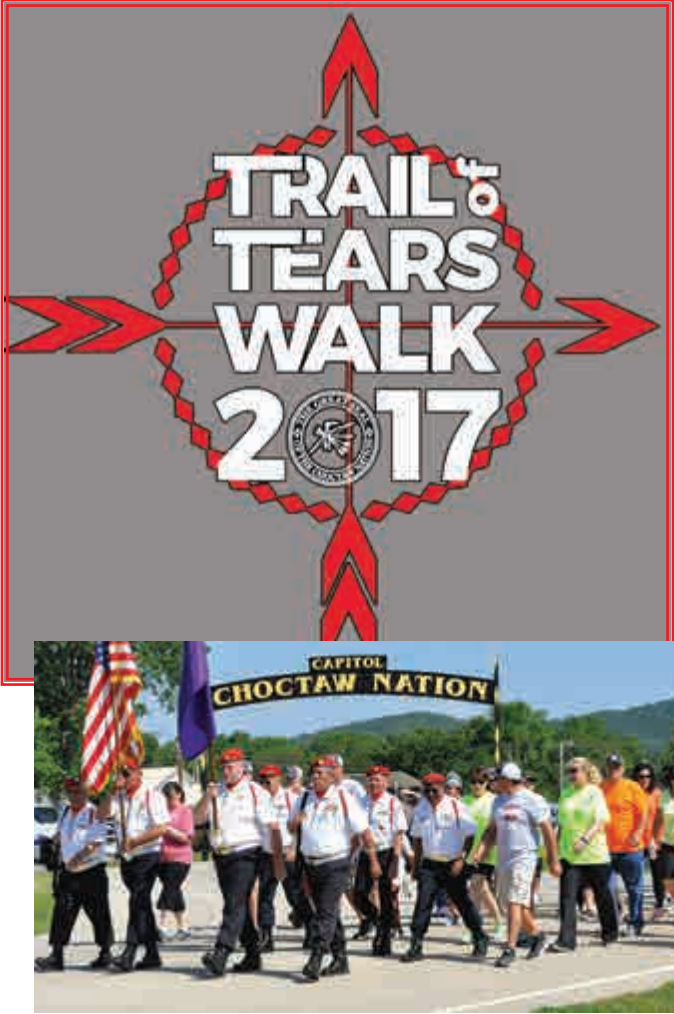
Chief Gary Batton
Easter Celebration
April 8, 2017
Tvshka Homma

Choctaw Nation
Faith • Family • Culture

Begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Council House

- Unveiling of Ten Commandments Statue at Capitol Building
- End of the Season Youth League Stickball Tournament
- Starting at 9:00 a.m. until dark
- Gospel Singing
- Lunch provided
- Bunny pictures
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Ages 2-4
- Ages 5-7
- Ages 8-10
- Elder egg hunt: Ages 55 and over

Submit your name in a drawing for door prizes available at the booth at the Council House. Door Prizes will be immediately after Chief's speech. Must be present to win.



On May 20th, Saturday, we will gather to celebrate the strength of our ancestors who survived the Trail of Tears and honor those who perished. Travel to Tvshka Homma to join us for the commemorative walk and Heritage Day. Staff will be on site early to guide you to parking east of the

amphitheater. The walk will start at 10 a.m. with water stations along the way. Cultural demonstrations and activities are planned, including Choctaw artists, pottery, baskets, beadwork, ancient weapons, dancing, singing, and men’s and women’s exhibition stickball games.