



December 2018 Issue



Remains of Choctaw Korean War Veteran Return Home After 68 Years

by KENDRA GERMANY

The remains of a Choctaw veteran, Pvt. Charles Gibson Kaniatobe, returned home Nov. 15, after being deemed unrecoverable for nearly seven decades.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma provided the Kaniatobe family transportation to DFW International Airport, where his casket was welcomed by the U.S. Army Honor Guard, a USO Honors Team, the Choctaw Nation Honor Guard, relatives, and representatives of the Choctaw Nation.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and District 1 Council person Thomas Wiliston accompanied Kaniatobe's sisters, Clara and Ann, as well as his niece and nephew Kimberly and Rick Kaniatobe, on the flight from Durant to Dallas. Other family members were accompanied on shuttles by representatives of the Choctaw Nation, including District 9 Council person James Dry. Family members from the Dallas area were also in attendance. One even traveled all the way from Arizona to attend the event.

"It was an honor to join the family of Charles Kaniatobe as his remains arrived at DFW International Airport. The plane-side honors were emotional for everyone involved. It is amazing that thanks to scientific advances, Kaniatobe is finally home," said Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Kaniatobe was born Jan. 31, 1929, to Walter Kaniatobe and Wilcey Shaw Kaniatobe. He was the eldest of 10 children and a resident of Idabel, Oklahoma.

As a Korean War veteran, he was a

member of the Able Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

The 21-year-old was killed in action July 10, 1950, as a result of heavy fighting with the North Korean People's Army at Chonui, Republic of Korea. The intense battle left hundreds of U.S. troops dead or missing.

Due to the large number of U.S. casualties, grave registration troops set up makeshift graves on-site as a temporary solution.

During the battle north of Taejon, a temporary cemetery, American Cemetery No.1, was established. An unidentified soldier known as Unknown American X-173 was interred there.

Throughout the remainder of the war, the United Nations Command requested a list of American and allied service members held captive by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces and the Korean People's Army. Kaniatobe was never mentioned on any of the lists.

The American Graves Registration team continued the search for American remains. From May 22 through June 10, 1952, soldiers of the 392nd Quartermaster Graves Registration Company conducted a field search to locate Kaniatobe in the area between Chonui and Choch'iwon. During the search eight sets of remains were recovered, none of which could be associated with Kaniatobe.

In the spring of 1953, all sides agreed to a limited exchange of prisoners of war. During what is known as Operation Little Switch, select sick, wounded and injured POWs were released. From Aug.

5 to Sept. 5, 1953, all remaining POWs were exchanged during Operation Big Exchange. All returning POWs from both operations were questioned regarding other POWs, but none could provide any information about Kaniatobe.

Due to having no information or leads to his whereabouts, Kaniatobe was declared dead Dec. 31, 1953, by the U.S. Army.

Kaniatobe was posthumously promoted to the rank of Private (Pvt-2), and his family was notified of his actions. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

The American Graves Registration Services hoped to recover the remains of all American and allied troops from the demilitarized zone after the war. It wasn't until 1954 that Operation Glory would take place. The operation lasted from Sept. 1 until Oct. 30, 1954.

The remains of over 2,900 soldiers were recovered. The U.S. Army's Central Identification Unit processed the remains for identification in Kokura, Japan. During this process, 848 sets of American remains were still unidentifiable.

These soldiers were interred as "unknowns" in the National Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Due to lack of information and having no leads to the location of his remains, the U.S. Army declared Charles Kaniatobe's

remains unrecoverable Jan. 16, 1956.

Kaniatobe remained at the Punchbowl for over 60 years, until the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency requested the disinterment of 10 unknown soldiers including Unknown X-173.

The remains were disinterred in October 2017.

Based on recovery location, and historical information involving Kaniatobe, the Indo-Pacific Directorate believed there was a high possibility Unknown X-173 was Kaniatobe.

Thanks to scientific advancements and mitochondrial DNA sequencing, researchers were able to identify Kaniatobe by comparing DNA samples from his remains to those of his living siblings, Clara, Ann and James.

Kaniatobe was finally laid to rest back home in Idabel Nov. 17 and was buried with full military honors.

Kaniatobe was also recognized at the 2018 Choctaw Veterans Day Ceremony, and his family was presented with an American flag by Chief Gary Batton.

"So many Choctaws like Pvt. Kaniatobe have given their lives in service to their country. It is a blessing that Kaniatobe is finally home after all these years," said Chief Gary Batton.

The Choctaw Nation would like to thank the staff of DFW International Airport, the DFW Airport Police Department, the USO Honors Team, the U.S. Army and everyone involved in ensuring Kaniatobe's arrival home was a special event.

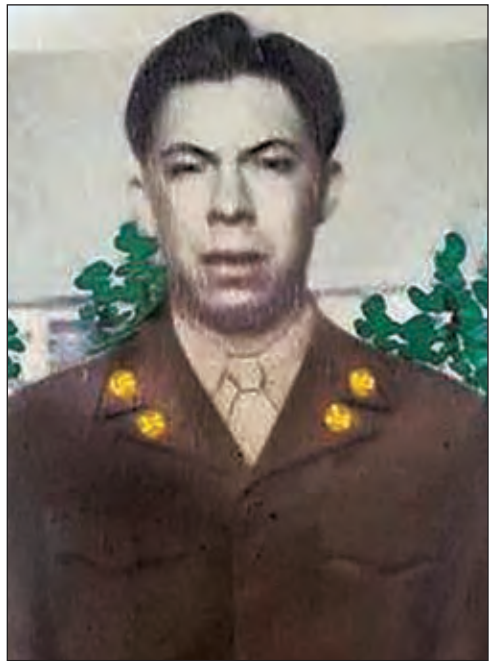
For more information on the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's projects, visit <http://www.dpaa.mil>.



The U.S. Army Honor Guard loads the casket of Pvt. Charles Kaniatobe for his long-awaited journey home from the DFW International Airport to his hometown of Idabel, Oklahoma.



Ann and Clara Kaniatobe pay respects to their brother Charles – a moment the Kaniatobe family has waited 68 years for.



The remains of Pvt. Charles Gibson Kaniatobe, were positively identified in October 2018, after 68 years of being missing in action.

Choctaw Nation Growth Continues into 2019



Chief Gary Batton

The Christmas season is a time of faith and family. Every year brings change and this is the first year our families will gather for the holiday without my mom and mother-in-law.

It is the first Christmas with the addition of our daughter-in-law. Change is inevitable. The memories of our mothers are always with us and we know there is hope for a bright future because there is peace as it is all in God’s hands.

Other changes this past year have included the opening of the new headquarters. It opened in June and is providing much-needed services in a centralized location.

We have just announced a new expansion to the Choctaw Casino & Resort-Durant which will add 1,000 more jobs for people living in and near Bryan County. The economic impact is far-reaching because many of our tribal members and employees live in Texas.

Also among the highlights of the year is a new lease-

to-purchase housing program providing homes in all districts of the Choctaw Nation with more to be added in 2019.

The LEAP program is helping families overcome obstacles to become new homeowners. There are also homeownership opportunities such as the Homebuyer Advantage Program and Homeowners Finance Service for tribal members who live anywhere in the United States.

The Storm Shelter Program age limits have been reduced to 45 years old or older to receive the full grant amount and tribal members 18-44 can receive half of the grant amount to have a new storm shelter installed.

The program is available to tribal members in the high tornado risk areas of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas.

Among the health services available to Choctaw tribal members who travel to the hospital and clinics in the Choctaw Nation, the Eyeglasses, Dentures and Hearing Aid Program is now open to any eligible Choctaw to help provide eyeglasses, dentures or partials, and hearing aids.

We have had many unique celebrations this year. The Prime Minister of Ireland, Leo Varadkar, visited the Choctaw Nation during his trip to the United States in March. It was a wonderful cultural experience shared between our Chahta people and Ireland.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the group of Choctaw men who became the first Code Talkers, helping bring an end to World War I. We honored our Tvshka ancestors with a monument in Antlers, unveiling it on Friday, July 6. Bridges throughout Oklahoma were also named for the Code Talkers.

Another Choctaw soldier, one who gave the ultimate sacrifice, has finally been brought home to rest. On Thursday, Nov. 1, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the remains of one of our Choctaw warriors, Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe, would be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Pvt. Kaniatobe was declared missing in action Mon-

day, July 10, 1950. His remains were among those of 164 Americans recovered on Friday, Oct. 6, 1950, and were finally identified in September of this year.

We honored the family during our Veterans Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 10. It was a standing ovation for Pvt. Kaniatobe and his family.

Faith, family and culture keep us united—strong families, good citizens and caring people who strive to put the needs of others first are what this time of year is all about.

May you have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.



by Deldre Elrod

The family of U. S. Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe was honored by Chief Gary Batton during the annual Choctaw Nation Veterans Ceremony held in the heart of Choctaw Nation, Tvshka Homma, on Saturday, Nov. 10.

After Being MIA for 68 Years a Tvshka Chahta is Finally Home



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

As a veteran, I have participated in many different types of military activities and ceremonies.

None of them prepared me for the emotional return of one of our Choctaw veterans who has been listed as missing in action since the Korean War.

In November, Councilpersons Thomas Williston, James Dry and I had the opportunity to accompany family members of Army Pvt. Charles Kaniatobe to Dallas to meet the aircraft carrying his remains.

In his early 20s when he was killed, Kaniatobe did not have any children. His closest living relatives, siblings James, Clara and Ann, have long-awaited any word on Charles.

Pvt. Kaniatobe was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People’s Army.

He was declared missing in action in 1950, one of approximately 7,700 soldiers who had been listed as missing between 1950 and 1953.

Thanks to advances in DNA testing the Kaniatobe family was notified in October that his remains had been identified and they began plans to bring him home to Idabel.

The aircraft sat on DFW’s tarmac and conversations ceased as the enormity of the situation hit us. Pvt. Kaniatobe had served our country and given his life to protect it and others in need. He had been gone for almost 70 years. His siblings were just children when they said goodbye to their brother, a true warrior, a Tvshka Chahta.

The last leg of his journey home began as an honor guard carefully carried the flag-draped casket to a hearse. Another honor guard held a row of American flags high and a third stood at attention as Pvt. Kaniatobe was transferred to the vehicle.

It made me proud to see the respect being shown by all attending and even other people who were watching from a distance. It was an extremely humbling experience and a great honor to be among those welcoming this hero.

The future changes for men and women when they join the military. Many are following strong family traditions.

All are signing up to protect our freedom and to paraphrase a famous quote—they have written a blank check payable to the United States of America, for the amount up to, and including his or her life.

When we read or hear words such as “Honoring all who served,” “Freedom isn’t free,” or “Thank a veteran,” do we really understand the commitment and sacrifices made?

Every soldier, sailor, Marine, airman and Coast Guard responder is putting aside a normal life to provide protection for us—many paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Military families are the strength behind the forces on the line. And, for the Kaniatobes, they can finally rest.

May God bless all of our warriors on domestic and foreign soil.



by Kendra Germany

Rick, Clara, Ann and Kimberly Kaniatobe board the plane that will take them to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, to meet the aircraft carrying the remains on their brother, U. S. Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe.

BISKINIK

December 2018

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Panther Month

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The remains of Korean War veteran Pvt. Charles Gibson Kaniatobe are returned home after 68 years. Kaniatobe was laid to rest in his home town of Idabel, Oklahoma on Nov. 17.

Front Photos by Kendra Germany

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, 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/ChoctawNationOK

YOUTH WORK PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The WIOA department will be visiting high schools within the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation to assist students with youth work program applications.

Deadline to apply is Sunday, April 1, 2019

1/3/19	BUFFALO VALLEY	12:30	1/16/19	QUINTON	10:00
1/4/19	PITTSBURG	9:00	1/16/19	STIGLER	12:30
1/4/19	SAVANNA	11:20	1/16/19	WRIGHT CITY	10:30
1/4/19	KIOWA	12:30	1/17/19	FORT TOWSON	11:00
1/7/19	MCLESTER	9:00-2:30	1/17/19	SOPER	1:00
1/8/19	CANEY	1:00	1/17/19	TUSHKA	11:15
1/8/19	KEOTA	11:00	1/17/19	STRINGTOWN	12:30
1/8/19	SILCO	11:00	1/18/19	HAILEYVILLE	10:00
1/8/19	MCCURTAIN	1:00	1/18/19	HARTSHORNE	12:30
1/9/19	BOSWELL	10:00	1/22/19	RED OAK	9:00
1/9/19	CADDO	10:15	1/22/19	HAWORTH	12:30
1/9/19	CANADIAN	12:30	1/23/19	POCOLA	11:30
1/9/19	COALGATE	11:20	1/22/19	POTEAU	9:00 & 1:00
1/9/19	HUGO	9:00	1/22/19	CAMERON	8:00
1/9/19	TUPELO	12:30	1/23/19	BENNINGTON	1:00
1/9/19	CROWDER	1:30	1/23/19	ROCK CREEK	9:00
1/9/19	INDIANOLA	10:30	1/23/19	TALIHINA	1:15
1/10/19	CLAYTON	9:10	1/23/19	WILBURTON	12:30
1/14/19	VALLIANT	10:00	1/23/19	CALVIN	10:00
1/14/19	ARKOMA	8:00	1/23/19	STUART	8:30
1/14/19	BOKOSHE	2:00	1/23/19	EAGLETOWN	11:20
1/14/19	PANASHE	12:15	1/23/19	IDABEL	10:40
1/14/19	SPIRO	9:30	1/24/19	ATOKA	10:00
1/15/19	MOYERS	10:15	1/28/19	BATTIEST	8:15
1/15/19	RATTAN	1:00	1/28/19	SMITHVILLE	9:55
1/15/19	BROKEN BOW	10:55	1/28/19	LEFLORE	11:15
1/15/19	HEAVENER	10:00	1/28/19	WHITESBORO	10:00
1/15/19	HOWE	9:05	1/29/19	PANOLA	12:30
1/15/19	WISTER	11:30	1/29/19	BROKEN BOW	11:30
1/16/19	ANTLERS	10:00	1/30/19	COLEMAN	1:00
1/16/19	CALERA	11:00	1/30/19	WAPANUCKA	9:51
1/16/19	COLBERT	9:30	2/6/19	DURANT	10:30
1/16/19	KINTA	11:30	TBA	JONES ACADEMY	TBD

Bring a copy of CDIB/Membership Card, Social Security card, drivers license, physical address verification, selective service (if male and over 18). Further eligibility requirements listed on the website or contact WIOA staff at (800) 522-6170. Applications at <https://wioaapplication.choctawnation.com> will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

Tips and Techniques to Help Beat the Holiday Blues

by SHAUNA HUMPHREYS

The holidays are here. In three consecutive months, we have Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For most people these holidays bring good memories and excitement, but for others, the holidays can bring about sadness and depression.

Faith, Family, Culture is the perfect motto for the Choctaw Nation.

Family has always been an important piece of our culture and strength for the Choctaw people.

Many Choctaw families rely on their faith in God to get them through the difficult times.

Choctaws have proven repeatedly that we are a culture of resilience and strength.

Even so, holidays can often bring out some depression and a time of being blue.

There are many reasons for the holiday blues. Some include grieving the loss of a loved one, family discourse and the pressure to buy gifts you cannot afford.

Many times, holidays are busy and chaotic, leading to high stress and anxiety, while other times not having any family to celebrate with, a recent divorce, or the loss of a loved one can cause a person to feel down.

One tip to help fight holiday blues that are due to the loss of a loved one is to memorialize them.

Grief is like an ocean wave, some days



smooth and other times crashing down, so prepare yourself for the rough days and do something to remember your loved one during the holidays.

More tips to aid with other causes of holiday blues include: prioritizing your activities, setting realistic goals for yourself (financially and with your time), reaching out and making new friends and contacting current friends, family or supportive people.

It is important to try and live in the moment and enjoy the present instead of dwelling on

painful memories.

Most counselors will recommend mindfulness techniques to aid with being in the present. Last, but not least, remember that God is with you in your difficult times and cling to that faith and hope.

As always, please know that if your depression worsens or you begin to have suicidal thoughts, the Choctaw Nation is here for you and there are counselors available in our Behavioral Health Department and on-call at our Emergency Room.

For more information on counseling services, please contact Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health at (918) 567-3065 or McAlester Wind Horse at (918) 302-0052.

Also, the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) provides 24/7, free and confidential support if you are in distress. Contact them at (800) 273-8255.

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Elder Angel Tree Looking for Help

by JIMMY SMITH

The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance program, which includes the Choctaw Nation Elder Advocacy/Vulnerable Adult program sponsors an Elder Angel Tree project.

The purpose of this project is to make sure that some of our Elders who might not receive a gift for Christmas will receive a gift through this effort.

The criteria that we follow when choosing who is eligible to receive gifts through this project are they must be Choctaw, 55 years or older, needy and forlorn or widowed.

With the help of the Community Center Field Representatives and the Community Health Representatives, we are able to locate the eligible Choctaw Elders that will

receive the Christmas gifts.

There are 20 elders chosen from each of the 12 Choctaw Tribal Districts.

Once the Elder Angels are received by the staff, we find sponsors for each of the Angels.

The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance program and the Choctaw Nation Elder/Vulnerable Adult Advocacy program coordinate with the Community Based Social Work and Project EMPOWER staff to locate sponsors for the Elder Angels.

Many sponsors are Choctaw Nation associates from Choctaw Nation Health Services, Casinos, Headquarters and Choctaw Nation Housing Authority.

The gifts are delivered to the elders before Christmas.

If you have any concerns about elder abuse



or questions about the [Choctaw Nation Elder Advocacy/Vulnerable](#)

[Adult Advocacy program](#) please contact us at (877) 285-6893.

		
Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Boswell 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Daily Mon. - Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Coalgate 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Durant 580-920-2100 x-83517	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
McAlester 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Poteau 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Smithville 580-244-3289	1st Thurs. of Every Month	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Building Healthy Families Through Good Nutrition		

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION
WAREHOUSES & MARKETS Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Antlers: 400 S.W. “O” St., (580) 298-6443 Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842 Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773 McAlester: 3244 Afullota Hina, (918) 420-5716 Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431
January 2019
ANTLERS Market open weekdays January 1-31, except for: Closed: January 1, 30 & 31. Cooking With Carmen: January 4 & 16, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays January 1-31, except for: Closed: January 1, 30 & 31. Cooking With Carmen: January 7 & 18, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
DURANT Market open weekdays January 1-31, except for: Closed: January 1, 30 & 31. Cooking With Carmen: January 11 & 21, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
MCALESTER Market open weekdays January 1-31, except for: Closed: January 1, 30 & 31. Cooking With Carmen: January 14 & 23, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
POTEAU Market open weekdays January 1-31, except for: Closed: January 1, 30 & 31. Cooking With Carmen: January 9 & 25, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

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Recipe of the Month



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Nutrition Facts:
Servings 9, Serving size 142 grams (per serving), Calories 235, Total Fat 11 grams, Trans Fat 0 grams, Cholesterol 101 milligrams, Sodium 139 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates 30 grams, Dietary Fiber 2 grams, Sugars 11 grams, Protein 5 gram, Vitamin A 7 percent, Vitamin C 4 percent, Calcium 3 percent and Iron 7 percent.

For more information, contact Choctaw Nation Nutritionist Carmen Robertson via phone at (800) 522-6170 ext. 2733, by email at crobertson@choctawnation.com or at a Cooking with Carmen demonstration.

Corn Souffle

- 4 eggs
- 21 Ritz crackers, crushed
- 4 Tablespoons flour
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can cream style corn
- ½ cup melted butter

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350° and cook until set, or 45 minutes.
2. In a bowl, mix eggs, sugar and flour.
3. Add drained kernel corn and cream style corn and mix well.
4. Pour in a 9x9 in. baking dish.
5. Crush crackers in a bag and pour on top.
6. Melt butter and drizzle over top and bake.

NURSERY NEWS

Kyler Keith Malott



Kyler Keith Malott was born at 12:02 p.m. on June 12, at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas. He weighed 10 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Kyler is the son of Keith and Whitney Malott and the little brother of Adley and Briley of Calera, Oklahoma.

He is the grandson of Gina and the late Steve Harris of Calera, Oklahoma; Curt Malott of The Woodlands, Texas; the late Terry Anderson of Roberta, Oklahoma; and Will and Debbie Turner of Montgomery, Texas.

Kyler is the great-grandson of Marveta and the late Benny Phelps of Calera, Oklahoma; the late Bob and Angie Malott of New Rochelle, New York; the late Richard and Barbara MacMurchy of The Bronx, New York; the late Gerald Anderson of Roberta, Oklahoma; and Floy Smith of Durant, Oklahoma.

Quintin Thomas Puckette



Quintin Thomas Puckette was born at 1:58 p.m. on April 7, at the Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut. He weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 18½ inches long.

Quintin is the son of Michael and Kerry Puckette and the grandson of Thomas and Debby Puckette of Poteau, Oklahoma and Ruth and the late Thomas Stone of Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

He is the great-grandson of Calvin Beames of Kingston, Oklahoma; J. Charlene Beames of Ardmore, Oklahoma; and the late Charles and Oneta Puckette of Poteau, Oklahoma.

His family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to the NICU staff at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, the NICU staff at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut.

RIGHT: Choctaw Nation Tribal Police DARE Officer Sgt. Isaac James visited the Choctaw Nation Child Care Center in Talihiina on Monday, Oct. 29, for Red Ribbon Week.

DARE Visits Child Care Center



Choctaw Nation Represented at Native Council Fall Summit

Susan Garry is a freshman at Cornell University. The Native American organization at Cornell, Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell, attended the Ivy Native Council Fall Summit hosted by the Native American Council of Columbia University. The summit was held Friday, Nov. 2-4. Garry is second from the right wearing a maroon shirt, between the student in the blue jacket and the student in the black jacket.

King, Purtell Receive American Indian Business Scholarships

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development recently announced five winners of its 2018 American Indian Business Scholarships. The scholarships recipients were honored at the 10th Anniversary 40 under 40 Celebration at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Scholarship winners must be full-time collegiate juniors, senior, or graduate students majoring in a business-related field. The applicants were evaluated based on grades, community involvement, personal challenges, business experience and the quality of their personal essay. This year, awards totaled over \$25,000. “This year’s scholarship winners are an incredibly impressive and talented group of emerging Native American business leaders,” said Chris James, President and CEO of the National Center. “We are proud to be able to support these students as they strive to reach their educational goals and look forward to their contributions to advancing economic development within Indian Country. RaeLynn King received the Lockheed Martin Scholarship. She is a member of the Choctaw

Nation of Oklahoma and is currently attending Haskell Indian Nations University where she is pursuing a degree in Business Administration. RaeLynn most recently completed an internship with Travois and Tapa in Kansas City, Missouri, where she worked on low-income housing programs. After graduation, she hopes to work with her tribe and or within the native community in business management or marketing. Clinton Purtell received the Ongweoweh Native American Scholarship. Purtell is a second year PhD student in Business and Entrepreneurship at Oklahoma State University and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Clinton has held various professional positions throughout his career, and worked with major companies like Southwest Airlines, Dr. Pepper, American Airlines and Cracker Barrel. Clinton plans to use his PhD to teach and or consult on topics related to entrepreneurship, negotiations and growth strategy. Previous 40 under 40 winner and President and CEO of the Ongweoweh Corporation Justin Bennett was present to congratulate Purtell.



(from left) Kaelynn King, Small Business Liaison Officer Raven Smith and National Center President and CEO Chris James.



(from left) Ongweoweh Corporation CEO Justin Bennett, Clinton Purtell and President and National Center CEO Chris James.

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f t i y

FREE ACT Prep Workshop

Grades 9-10 on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Idabel Kiamichi Tech Center located at 3205 Lincoln Rd. NE, Idabel, Oklahoma.

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

SMALL BUSINESS FORGIVEABLE LOAN PROGRAM

What is the Small Business Forgivable Loan Program?

The purpose of the Small Business Forgivable Loan Program is to evaluate the needs of qualified Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs and provide the capital necessary to successfully begin or grow their small business. Qualified tribal members are eligible to receive a loan for up to \$5,000 for a period of one year; the loan will be amortized over a predefined period based on the loan amount and assistance provided. The original loan amount may be forgiven on the anniversary date of the origination if all requirements outlined in the loan program are met. Fund recipients must meet all reporting requirements (as outlined in the final loan approval), work with a Choctaw Business Development Advisor closely to ensure the business remains in good standing, and use the funds appropriately to receive loan forgiveness.

For more information contact:

Angel Rowland
Choctaw Development Fund Manager
580-924-8280 ext. 2371
arowland@choctawnation.com

f t i y

CHOCTAW NATION HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

2019 LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE!

Eligibility Requirements

- Choctaw Tribal Members
- Oklahoma Residents

To apply, please visit
HuntingandFishing.ChoctawNation.com

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks processing time for receipt of license. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation applicable laws apply to Choctaw License holders.

Annual application process for new or renewal of licenses from October 1-September 30. Any applications received after September 15 will be processed for the following season.

If you have questions, contact the State of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at 408-521-3852 or visit their website at: <https://wildlifedepartment.com/>

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Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Nov. 10, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, Oct. 13, were approved.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Funds and budget for the Choctaw Nation Family Violence Prevention program budget FY 2018-2019.
- Funds and budget for the supplemental award for the Ywar Atwood Five Continuation of the Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment and Development (1-Lead) – Chahta Himmak Pila Pehlich.
- Funds and budget for the Year Two of Three Continuation of the Behavioral Health Integration Initiative.
- Funds and budget for the Year Three of Five Continuation of the Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program – Chahta Inchukka.
- Funds and budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative – Project Homakbi Ribbon.
- Funds and budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative – Project Strong.
- Funds and budget for Project Apelachi.
- Funds and budget for the Year One of Three Continuation for the Social and Economic Development Strategies grant.
- Funds and budget for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area No. 3.
- Funds and budget for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area No. 4.
- Funds and budget for the Year One of Three Continuation for the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP).
- Funds and budget for the Year One of Five Continuation for the Project Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program – Chahta Vila Apela.
- The release of royalty income funds held in escrow by the United States Government for certain tracts of land in the area of the Arkansas Riverbed.
- Oil and gas lease No. 42000106947 in favor of R.K. Pinson and Associates on land held by the USA in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in McClain County, Oklahoma.
- An electric line easement in favor of Choctaw Electric Cooperative Inc. on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land in McCurtain County, Oklahoma (Idabel Pecan Farm).
- An electric line easement in favor of Choctaw Electric Cooperative Inc. on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land in McCurtain County, Oklahoma (Garvin Pecan Farm).
- Rescind CB-83-84 and CB-57-85 and approve the Choctaw Nation Health Services Act of 2019.
- Amend the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance adopted in CB-124-18.
- Resolution to honor Chihowa (God) for His great blessings over the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and proclaim the Choctaw Nation a nation of the Christian faith.

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

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

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- Referral Services
- On-the-Job Training
- Physical and Mental Restoration

January 2019 Schedule

Durant: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Idabel and Broken Bow by appointment

Jan. 9- Tallihina (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
Jan. 23- Poteau (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Jan. 16- McAlester (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

By Appointment

Wright City (Jan. 21)	Coalgate (Jan. 25)
Antlers (Jan. 8)	Broken Bow (Jan. 14)
Crowder (Jan. 4)	Idabel (Jan. 28)
Atoka (Jan. 25)	Wilburton (Jan. 30)

Phone: (580) 326-8304
Fax: (580) 326-0115
Email ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Veteran Leads Interesting Life

by THOMAS DAVIS

In June of 2018, Rhonda Schwerdel crafted a patriotic painting and gifted it to Tommy Davis. *See the August 2018 issue of the Biskinik.*

Davis was a member of the 1966 Oklahoma State Class B Football Champions. His brothers, Floyd Gene Davis and Kenneth Dewayne Davis were also members of that same Oklahoma Championship Football Team.

Davis played college football at Oklahoma Military Academy and Southeastern State University. Then began his military career in 1969 by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps and later serving under Honorable conditions in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve. He earned the title of “Mustanger” or a person who began his career as in enlisted person; “Private to Staff Sergeant” then was commissioned as an Officer Second Lieutenant to Major.

In fact at one point in time in his career, then Captain Davis, while assigned to the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, in Tulsa, was tasked for duty within the province of Luxemburg, Belgium area. This resulted in presenting Chief Hollis Roberts with the Coat of Arms from the province of Belgium in token of appreciation of sharing the Choctaw Nation Culture via July Allen of the Choctaw Nation. This action was to show respect for his Uncle’s Military Service to our country.

The Bacon Boy “Everett, Theodore, Gilbert or Wilburn and Leonard, Bobby Joe and Dennis,” and his brothers, the Davis Boys’ “Floyd, Johnathan, Kenneth, Dwight, David and Adam.”

Davis, gives tribute to all Choctaw Veterans and Native American Military Veterans, who served this country in the United States Armed Forces and asked nothing in return.

Davis graduated from Talihina High School in 1967. He earned numerous college degrees in many subjects. Davis has served his country in the United States Military and United States Department of Interior with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in numerous capacities from coast to coast.

Davis has served for many years as a member of the Cherokee County Mounted Horse Patrol, in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Although, Davis has been retired for many years, he continues to play an active role within his community Grays Harbor County, Washington, by helping the indigent, ICWA Advocate, Military Veterans and the senior citizens.

He is an active church member who serves as a Deacon and is the Emergency Management Coordinator. He is also trained and qualified as a Community Emergency Response Team member, “CERT” which is under the United States Department of Homeland Security and is also trained and qualified as a Community Emergency Response Team member. Davis likes to attend pow wows as often as possible to watch and listen to the sound of the drums, while enjoying traditional Choctaw/Native cuisine and conversation.

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
- Guardianship 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.

December Community Center Schedule	January 2019 Community Center Schedule
12-6 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3	1-3 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3
12-13 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3	1-10 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3
	1-24 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3
	1-31 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We 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 welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn’t possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer’s full name and city will be published.

All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.

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

Mail to: Choctaw Nation
Attn: Biskinik
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10½ 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 10½ 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:

Antlers Community Center
December 13
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

EVENTS

District 6 December Events

Dec. 4 - Buffalo Valley Christmas Party at Buffalo Valley School cafeteria at 6 p.m.

Dec. 5 - Commodities pick up.

Dec. 6 - Quinton Christmas Party at 6 p.m.

Dec. 7 - District 6 Councilwoman Jennifer Woods Community Prayer Meeting at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast.

Dec. 11 - Grant Casino Day Trip, bus leaves at 9 a.m.

Dec. 12 - Community Christmas Dinner at noon.

Dec. 14 - Community Center closed for Chief’s birthday weekend.

Dec. 15 - Christmas Parade downtown Wilburton at 6 p.m. Mickey Mouse theme, date and time for decorating float to be announced.

Dec. 20 - Commodities pick up in McAlester

Dec. 24–25 - Community Center closed for Christmas.

Date TBA - Senior Bingo Night and Potluck at 6 p.m.

Other activities and day trips to be announced.

Weekly Events

Monday - Chair Volleyball 9 a.m., Language Class 6 p.m.

Tuesday - GED class 9 a.m.

Wednesday - Chair Volleyball 9 a.m., Lunch and Guest speaker 11 a.m.

Thursday- GED class 9 a.m.

District 9 December Events

Nov. 30 - Vendor booth set up for Pow Wow at the Event Center.

Dec. 1 - 14th Annual Choctaw Nation Pow Wow at the Event Center. Grand entry at noon in regalia.

Grand Theater entrance all District 9 seniors join in to sing around the Christmas tree in regalia with songbooks.

Dec. 2 - 14th Annual Choctaw Nation Pow Wow at the Event Center.

Dec. 5 - Senior lunch, December birthdays (Please stand after prayer to be served lunch first.), White Buffalo Sale (Thrift Store open before and after Wednesday lunch.), Silent Auction Sale (No clothing.), Exercise by Shirley McLain, sing traditional Choctaw songs, Millennium Home Care blood pressure check and crafts.

Dec. 7 - White Buffalo Sale in bus barn at Choctaw Community Center, open to the public at 8:30 a.m. at 2746 Big Lots Parkway in Durant.

Dec. 8 - Christmas lights in Plano. Day trip to Prestonwood Baptist Church, 6801 Peak Blvd., Plano, Texas for “Gift of Christmas Pageant” matinee at 2:30 p.m. two busses load at 10 a.m. with lunch at Golden Corral in Sherman at 11 a.m. This is in lieu of the annual Christmas lights tour.

Dec. 12 - Chief Gary Batton Birthday Celebration lunch with a command performance by the District 9 Roadrunner singers.

Dec. 19 - Senior lunch “Prize Bingo,” pick up Bingo card at 10:45 a.m., Bingo starts promptly at 11 a.m.

Dec. 26 - No lunch served, Center closed, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays.

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
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of the

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Dara McCoy, Executive Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
Apryl Mock, Reporter/Photographer

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(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170

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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for space, 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. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK or 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.





6

by JUDY ALLEN

Charles “Beaver” McIntyre, 83, grew up around Hugo, Oklahoma. He came from a low-income family, so he worked at a young age to help earn money.

Jobs he had as a youth included working at the Cotton Club west of Hugo as a dishwasher starting when he was in fourth grade.

He cleaned up at the end of the night on weekends.

He said he walked home across the railroad tracks. If boxcars were there, he waited on the cook, Melvin, who checked things out to make sure no one was hiding in the cars.

Charles also picked up aluminum, brass and copper to sell. “I even picked up bones and sold them.

“I worked at Johnny Steel’s Dairy and at the Bowling Pin downtown Hugo. We had to set up the pins by hand back then.

“I harvested corn, picked and chopped cotton, baled hay. I worked for 75 cents a day. I got a job working at the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company for 25 cents an hour and thought I was doing great.

“I always did a lot of reading. At the drugstore I would get a Daily Oklahoman for a nickel and read about sports and the war,” McIntyre said.

After graduating high school, Charles attended Murray State College for two years.

“Then someone put a bug in Oklahoma Presbyterian College President Amy Robinson’s ear in

Charles McIntyre Shares Story of a Lifetime of Helping People

1952 that a poor Indian boy needed an education. So, I was the first male to attend OPC,” said McIntyre.

“I didn’t readily agree, but she kept encouraging. At first, I took Bible classes there and took my regular classes at Southeastern and the next year other males attended at OPC.”

Gwen, Charles’ wife, said “He knew he had a scholarship to go to Murray after high school. He came from a poor family who didn’t encourage him. He was still at home when it was time to be at school.”

Charles laughed, “We were taught to respect our teachers and elders. I was asked by one of my high school teachers why wasn’t I at Murray, when the football players are already working out? I responded, ‘I am just wanting to get some things done.’ You get up there! My teacher told me. I went that next day.”

Charles and Gwen have been married 62 years. They met at OPC, and went to a softball game on their first date.

“I liked her smile,” said Charles. “There is an old Perry Como song, once you have found her, never let her go.”

Charles has fond memories of his time at OPC and SOSU.

“The main cook was Mrs. Trout. I was in football at SOSU and needed more to eat, so the cooks were really good to me. My room at OPC was on the bottom floor next to the cooks.”

Charles was drafted into the U.S. Army and after two years went back to OPC.

He remained active in National Guard and Army Reserves.

“Bloomer Sullivan was the Director of the Athletic Department at SOSU while I was at college there. Dave Stevens and Pudgy Bowers were also in the Athletic Department,” said Charles.

“I was fortunate to be co-captain of the football team with Bill McClain from Oklahoma City.”

Charles realized that he was very blessed to have received the benefits of



by Judy Allen

Charles McIntyre shares a photo of himself in an old yearbook. He went to college at Murray State College, Oklahoma Presbyterian College and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He has spent his lifetime teaching students. Part of his 50-year teaching career was spent on the Hopi Reservation.

a college education and football training through the generosity and caring of others.

He was determined to help other youth, so he wanted to teach and coach.

Charles said, “Part of my 50 years in an education career was on the Hopi reservation, although most of my time was on the Navajo reservation.

“I spent time teaching in public schools and also reservation schools.

“One of the people I taught while in Gallup took a position with Thio-kol Chemical Company and presented a vocational training sponsored by the BIA and the chemical company.

“One of the career trainings was a Police Training, and the Director of Programs called and asked that I take the position of Manager of the National Indian Police Academy.

“Cadets traveled from all across the United States to attend.

“Each class averaged about 34 students. We learned plaster casting, fingerprinting, how to make arrests, etc.”

McIntyre said, “Most of the work was social work. The schools taught the importance of being honest, listening to teachers. It was a lot of public relations.

“I finally came back to Oklahoma at the request of Choctaw Chief Jimmy Belvin to run the Choctaw Nation Housing.

“I ran Housing about eight years. We built our fair share of homes, all over the 10½ counties.

“And there was \$3.2 million in a nest egg when I left Housing. After Hollis Roberts became Chief, I went back to New Mexico to teach.”

Charles continued, “In the 50 years I was teaching, most of the time I was also coaching.

“The years I played took a toll on me—that may be why my knees have been replaced and why my shoulder gives me trouble.”

According to Charles, his favorite place to teach was Gallup High School.

“It is a public school, but is close to the Navajo reservation,” said Charles.

“About 60 percent of the

students were native. A mix of Zuni, Hopi, Apache and Navajo.

“Another 30 percent were Hispanic. The rest were a mix of Italian and Anglo.”

While on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, every morning, Charles enjoyed being on Flag Duty.

“Four of us would march up to the Post Headquarters and put the flag up the pole on a chain and every afternoon we would bring it down and fold it and put it to rest overnight at the MP Headquarters.

“One time, one of my officers said ‘McIntyre, you are handling that flag as if it were a little baby.’”

Charles said the flag was very important to him and deserved to be handled as if it were as precious as a baby.

“I have always believed in community services. At OPC during the holidays we would get together, collect clothes and food and deliver to needy families.

“Always being poor myself, I was always for the little man,” said Charles.

“A message I would like to leave for the next generation is ‘Be true to yourself and family and your country. Stay hooked—don’t deviate from what you strongly believe in,’” said McIntyre.

“One of our schools in the BIA system had a motto, ‘make our schools a sacred place for children.’

“I always liked that and it has stuck with me,” said Charles.

“Now I spend a lot of time picking up aluminum cans on behalf of my grandson, who is an autistic 5-year-old.

“I sell the cans at the recycling center and the money goes to his education fund. I enjoy making an effort for the youngster,” McIntyre said.

When asked if there was anything he would have done differently in his illustrious life, McIntyre stated, “Maybe take more advantage of opportunities and I would have worked harder.”

He went on to say, “Everything has been very good. I love the United States of America and the Choctaw Tribe.”

The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

1

Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs

2

Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets

3

Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources

4

Make sure your tree has a stable platform

5

Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant

6

If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered

7

Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire

8

Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use

9

When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places

10

Designate a sober driver

11

When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat

12

Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F

Happy Holidays

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For more information, please contact (800) 522-6170 ext. 2175 or ext. 2463

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Amos Taylor Jr.

Amos Taylor Jr. passed away Nov. 8. Amos was born Jan. 11, 1945, in Durant to Amos and Agnes Tubbee Taylor Sr.

Amos was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter Mindi Brock; and brothers Harold and Geno Taylor.

Amos is survived by his loving and devoted spouse, Edna Taylor; children Mildred Taylor, Billy Taylor and spouse Joanna and Monty Taylor and spouse Sara; grandchildren Penny Bechthold, Manda Esparza and spouse Noel, Brandon, Coby, Peyton and Skylar Taylor, Avery Enoch and Taylor Bumgardner; great-grandchildren Madison, Rameigh and Leilanie Brock, Adriana and Amelia Esparza and Chase and Beau Bumgardner; brothers Jerry, Johnny, Daryl and Randy Taylor; sisters Nancy Wallace and Barbara Morgan.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown’s Funeral Service](#).



Mindi Brock

Mindi Louise Brock, 27, passed away Oct. 29. Mindi was born Oct. 21, 1991, in Sherman, Texas, to Mildred Taylor of Calera and Harold Brock of Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Mindi was preceded in death by her grandfather Richard Brock; grandmother Dessie Hernandez; great-grandmother Lucille Gibson. Since Mindi’s passing her grandfather, Amos Taylor Jr. passed away.

Mindi is survived by her beautiful daughters Madison and Rameigh Brock; mother Mildred Taylor; father Harold Brock; sister Penny Bechthold; niece Leilani Brock; grandparents Edna Taylor, Donald Gibson and Barbara Brock; and numerous extended family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown’s Funeral Service](#).



Dr. Bruce Clifton



Dr. Bruce Clifton Stanton, 71, passed away Oct. 20. Bruce was born June 28, 1947 in McAlester, the first child of Arthur, Jr. and Loeva (London) Stanton.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his spouse David; his son Todd and Natalie Kussart and daughters Harper, Amelia and Camella and his son Bryan and spouse Jeanette, and sons Jackson and Collin; brother Bradley and spouse Linda; sister Gayla Howard and spouse Gary; and many nieces and nephews.

For the full obituary, please visit [Fitzgerald Funeral Service](#).

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Randall Jones

Randall Lynn “Randy” Jones, 62, passed away Sept. 21. He was born May 12, 1956, to Clinton “Clint” and Patsy Lou Jones in Duncan.

He was preceded in death by his mother; grandparents, Joe Jones, Dealie Jones Baugh; step-grandfather Doris Baugh; and Ernest and Lula Mae Rogers.

Randy is survived by his father and step-mother, Clint and Jeanne Jones; daughter Shelly Wingard and spouse Chris; sisters Sharon Jones and Sheila Leuch and spouse Jerry; grandchildren Max and Sophie; half-brother, Beau Jones; step-sister Tracy Jones; and many other family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Wilson Funeral Home](#).



Alyene Tomlinson

Alyene (Johnston) Tomlinson, 100, passed away Oct. 27. She was born Oct. 19, 1918, to Joseph Lee Johnston and Dona “Doney” (Gore) Johnston in Lula.

She was preceded in death by her spouse Ulyessess Tomlinson; her parents Joe and Doney Johnston; granddaughter Janet Mowdy Buchanan; son-in-law Glenn Mowdy; brothers Norris Johnston, Howard Johnston and Art Johnston; and sister Jewel Roach.

She is survived by sons Donald Tomlinson and spouse Nell, and Wayne Tomlinson and spouse Linda; daughters Ulene Mowdy, and Lawana Dansby and spouse, Ronald; grandchildren Annette Hamm and spouse Jerry, Tony Mowdy and spouse Buffy, Tammi Stephens and spouse Harold, Michael Tomlinson and spouse Lynn, Walinda Harbour and spouse Robbie, Joann Flowers, Daniel Tomlinson and spouse Amanda, Darin Dansby, and Justin Dansby and spouse, Ashley; 28 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren with two more on the way; brother Clement Johnston; and five nieces. For the full obituary, please visit [Brown’s Funeral Home](#).



Hiram Impson

Hiram “Hi” William Impson, Jr., 83, passed away Oct. 4. He was born March 11, 1935, to Hiram William Impson and Bess Hardaway Impson in McAlester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, spouse and sister Irma Sue Allen.

Hiram is survived by his three children Kim Bourgeois and Melvin, Karen Long and Rick, B-O-B Impson and girlfriend Becky Smedley; grandchildren Rachel Elwell and Ryan Giblin, Nathan Elwell and Taylor; great-grandchildren Braxton and Nolan Elwell, Connor Giblin; brother Bob Impson; and four nieces.

For the full obituary, please visit [Bishop Funeral Service](#).



Oral Mae Keener

Oral Mae “Tiny” Keener, 96, passed away Nov. 3, 2018. She was born Nov. 1, 1922, to Ode Edge and Susie (Leflore) Edge in Boswell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her spouse Judge Keener; sisters Reba Maxwell, Lora Ada (Bill) Bornnman and Lola (Sleepy) Crowder; brothers Stanley Edge, Frank Edge and Eli Curtis; nieces and nephews Sondra Townley, Billy Ray Bornnman, Sterling Maxwell, Barney Maxwell, Dorothy Maxwell, Julius “Dude” Crowder, Mary Sue Owens, Clark Crowder and Ila Jean Curtis.

She is survived by nieces and nephews Mac Edge, Jan Edge, Joan Edge, Judy Hollcroft, Billie Smith, Vivian Ardis, Virginia Ary, Verlin Bornnman, Ramona Pugh, Betty Jo Robinson, Ueal Bornnman, Brenda Maxwell, Edward Crowder, Tommy Crowder, Gail West and Armon Curtis.

For the full obituary, please visit [Miller and Miller Funeral Home](#).



Steven Dillishaw

Steven Duane Dillishaw, 46, passed away Oct. 29, 2018. He was born Nov. 6, 1971, in Talihina, to Clarence Ivory and Betty Jean (Tupper) Dillishaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Clarence R. “Pete” Dillishaw, David Dillishaw; and grandson Gage Knight.

He is survived by daughters Ashley Woods and spouse Connor, and Heather Knight and spouse Dakota; brothers Jackie Dillishaw, Ricky Dillishaw, Gary Dillishaw and Michael; sisters Phyllis Conley, Linda Conley and Janet Cole; grandchildren Leeon Tay “Peaches” Woods, Aryiana Woods, and Sabrina Woods; along with many other relatives and a host of friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Serenity Funeral Service](#).



Richard Ables

Richard Glen Ables, 72, passed away Oct. 9. He was born March 7, 1946, to James Raymond and Nedra Burney (Keeton) Ables in Caney.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Enos Ables.

He is survived by his spouse, Mary Jane Ables; sons Richard Glen Ables Jr. and spouse Maryava, Brent Alan Ables, Matthew Blake Ables and spouse Rachel; daughter Melissa Jane Ables; grandchildren Gibson Hicks, Joshua Ables, Roslynn Norris, Madelynn Ables; brother James Ables; sister Viola Lang & spouse J.D.; Aunt Jimmie Culbreath; sister-in-laws Betty Ables, Ruth Keeler and Artie Powell.

For the full obituary, please visit [Atoka Funeral Home](#).



Doris Ann Pilgreen

Doris Ann (Anthony) Pilgreen, 77, passed away Oct. 3. She was born May 11, 1941.

She was preceded in death by her father, Glenn Anthony.

She is survived by her mother, Ethel Anthony; children Christy and Chuck Green, Debra and Rene Rodriguez, and Tammie and Pierre Rostant; grandchildren Ryan and Amanda Mora, Ethan, Pax and Emersyn, Daniel, Skyler and Hayden Rodriguez, Sara, Lance and Hudson Hodges, Jarrett Green and Audrie Rostant; brother Wayne and spouse Regina Anthony; niece Jennifer Carr; nephew Jeff Anthony who knew her as “Aunt Doe.” She will be forever remembered by her numerous cousins; extended family, and dear friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [The Duncan Banner](#).



Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw Nation tribal members only and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. Family members/individuals may submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspaper 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. The online issue of the Biskinik will contain links to the full obituaries.

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Paul Brown

Paul Stephen Brown, Sr., 86, passed away Nov. 5.

Paul was born Nov. 7, 1931, to Abel and Elizabeth (Cordray) Brown in Ringgold.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; and 10 brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his children Steve Brown, Jr. and spouse Nancy Becky Fields and spouse Wayne, Blane Brown and spouse Lucia and Robin Weaver and spouse Shane; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; brother Larry Brown; sister Wanda Brown; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Jones Harkins Funeral Home](#).



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Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Choctaw Adverbs

akinli – too, also, anyhow, as well
atuk o? - And so?

beka – usually, sometimes
bilía – to do an action, always; usually

Akinli follows the future tense ‘a-chi’ after a verb.

1. Il ia chi akinli.
2. Chi pisa la chi akinli.
3. Ish vla chi akinli ho?
4. Holisso ma hochefo la chi akinli.

We are going too.
I will be seeing you also.
Will you be coming as well?
I will read that letter too.

Atuk o? is expressed at the beginning of a sentence.

1. Atuk o, ish ia chi ho?
2. Atuk o, katimma impvt ia chi bvna?
3. Atuk o, il ia chi ho?
4. Atuk o, katimma ish ia chi?

And so, will you be going?
And so, where do you want to eat?
And so, will we be going?
And so, where will you go?

Beka will follow a verb and end with a past tense.

1. Tvmaha ia li beka tuk.
2. Kanimikma okla talowa beka tuk.
3. Chim vlla yvt chi hobachi beka tuk.
4. Kvta hosh i kafi ya pa talali beka tuk?

I usually go to town.
They sing sometimes.
Your child sometimes imitates you.
Who usually sets their coffee here?

Bilía will follow a verb.

1. A hattak vt owattvt nowa bilía.
2. Ohoyo mvt shulush himona chompa bilía.
3. Vlloso mvt na yukpa bilía.
4. Tvmaha ia li bilía.

My spouse always goes hunting.
That woman always buys new shoes.
That baby is always happy.
I am always going to town.



Iti Fabvssa Panther Month

This article is part of a series titled “A Year in the Life.” Focusing on the time period of around 1700, the series follows the traditional Choctaw calendar through a year, with each article providing a glimpse of the activities that our ancestors were up to during each month.

The information in these articles is taken from a book titled, “Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge,” which will be published by

Choctaw Nation later this year. This edition of Iti Fabvssa presents Panther Month. **Koi Chito Hvshi**, Panther Month, roughly corresponds with December. In late December, the sun reclines to its most southern position, bringing the winter solstice, followed by the coldest days of the year. In the early 1700s, the planet was experiencing the Little Ice Age, but on average, the coldest winter temperatures in the Choctaw homeland may not have been much different from today. One interesting Choctaw place name that does indicate cold weather is a stream located in present-day Green County in southern Mississippi, which was called **Okti Abeha**, Blocks of Ice Therein. This name indicates that the weather did occasionally get cold enough even in the southern part of Choctaw

believed that the prowess of these animals could be transferred to the sleeping person through the hides. This is probably why the coldest part of the year in the Choctaw calendar included Panther month. Canebrakes were the main winter hunting grounds. They provided shelter for fur-bearing animals, were the highest-yielding source of winter forage for deer and bison and were where black bear hibernated. Not all of Choctaw country produced quality peltry. The southern-most regions, such as the lower Tombigbee River, were sufficiently warm enough that pelts from the animals there were thin all year. Other regions of Choctaw country produced somewhat better quality peltry. Like the Owachito, or as an extension of it. Hunters would set up temporary base camps, sometimes with their women and children, in places several miles from their village where they could easily access the swamps and canebrakes where pelt-bearing animals could be found. Choctaw hunters were conspicuous for their skill in hunting panther. In the mid-1800s, and possibly before, beaver, fox and wolf were sometimes caught by trapping. Some of these species of animals were also probably shot with arrows. After deer, black bear were the most important source of animal protein in the Choctaw diet. Many bears migrated into Choctaw country during late fall, to avoid colder temperatures to the north. By December, they were at their fattest and moved slowly. Among all of the Southeastern tribes and Euro-American communities, Choctaw men were said to be the best at the dangerous job of hunting the bear. Certain places were favored for bear hunts, such as

country for ice to float in the streams. The coldest part of the year is the time when fur-bearing animal pelts are at their prime. Choctaw men and boys used the softly tanned pelts of ferocious animals, like panthers, for bedding. They

Nita Abi, Bear-Killer, which was located south from the mouth of the Alabama River. The most important resource that Choctaw people obtained from the bear was the fat. The fat was rendered into bear oil for transportation and storage. Bear oil was used as a moisturizer for human skin, it was used in the hair and as a binder for face and body paint. It was also used to fry foods. The hides from black bear were tanned with the fur on for robes and blankets. In the early 1700s, bison were an important food source for Choctaw people. In the southern part of Choctaw country, was a place called **Bok Yvnnvsh Foni Ka**, Bayou of the Buffalo Bones. It was so named because the bones left from a bison hunt were still visible in the water long after. Choctaw hunters would have taken bison when the need and opportunity arose, but they may have favored the period from roughly December 15, to January 15, when the animals’ winter robes are at their prime. Groups of Choctaw men are said to have hunted bison on foot. Deer continued to be hunted in the winter when they were available. By January, the deer rutting season reaches even the most southern bounds of Choctaw country. At this season, the fawns are independent of mothers, so the does could be hunted without jeopardizing the fawn population. While Choctaw hunting parties were out and about during the winter, they took the opportunity to acquire additional resources that were rare or absent around the villages. One of these was salt. They located good sources of salt by the large numbers of deer and other animals that came to lick it up. These included salt springs, **kvli hvpi oka**, and natural salt licks, **lukfapa**. Such localities included Blue Licks in present-day Noxubee County, Mississippi, and Hvpi Bokushi, Little Salt Creek, located in present-day southwestern Alabama. Water from the latter was so salty that three gallons, when evaporated, would produce one gallon of salt.

Editor’s Note: For Iti Fabvssa stories you might have missed please visit choctawnation.com and click on History & Culture.

COMMUNITY MEETING UNITES CHOCTAWS

ARDMORE



Dorislene Morgan and Chief Gary Batton visit before the Ardmore Community Meeting starts.



Tribal members update information in the lobby of the Ardmore Convention Center after registering at the Community Meeting.



Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. answered questions Marvin Wallace had about different departments and who to contact.



Lillian Vaughn visits with Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.



Drummer Mike Scott and chanter Wesley Scott wait for the Community Meeting to begin in Ardmore. Mike and Wesley begin the meeting by leading in Chief, Assistant Chief and social dancers.



Adelyn Smith of Ardmore gave Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin a high-five after meeting them at the Ardmore Community Meeting.



Photos by Stacy Hutto

Marie Arnold, 90, of Maysville was the eldest Chahta present at the Ardmore, Oklahoma Community Meeting. Chief Batton presents Marie with a medallion as her sister peaks over her shoulder.

PHS students attend AISES National Conference

Four Choctaw Nation members from the Paris High School robotics program attended the America Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference. The event took place on Oct. 3, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Daniel Bohanan, Asher Andoe, Allyssa Standifer and Corbin Martin participated in the Boeing STEM Day for Pre-College students. Students spent the day

competing in hands-on experiments in chemistry, manufacturing, aerospace and engineering. Students learned about AISES Pre-College opportunities and gained skills in resume building. They received college application tips from both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. The event was funded, in part, by a donation made by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



(from left) Allyssa Standifer, Corbin Martin, Daniel Bohanan and Asher Andoe.

Native Authors Meet to Discuss Future of Children’s Literature

by STACY WELLS

In September of this year, a group of Native American Young Adult and children’s authors converged in Minnesota’s north woods. Writers from the north slope of Alaska, Muskogee-Creek Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and other Native nations were eager participants. We shared a common purpose: to build a community passionate about changing the landscape of Native representation. We were joined by Arthur Levine of Scholastic Press, Cheryl Klein of Lee & Low and Yolanda Scott of Charlesbridge—influential representatives of the industry. Currently, Native written books are almost non-existent, especially in the young readers market (ages 0-18). Last year, the top five publishers in the U.S. published over 215,000 books for young readers and from that vast number, only one book featured a Native author (Choctaw

author Tim Tingle’s short story was included in the anthology, “Flying Lessons & Other Stories”). Turtle Mountain Ojibwe author Dawn Quigley stated, “In schools and libraries our American Indian identities are still being taken today, although perhaps unwittingly, through the use of biased and misrepresented Indigenous characters portrayed in literature, thereby taking away our right to a true and respectful representation of Native American people.” We Native authors, by writing about the beauty, humor, and depth of our culture allow Native children a reflection of the pride of our past, along with a hope of a bright and promising future. Tingle observed, “With the rising number of Native students, we must encourage them to share what they know: to write their own stories, their tribal and family stories of tragedy and triumph, of overcoming. “We must share the truth of our country’s history, which begins with us,” Tingle said. “Powerful things hap-



A group of Native American authors recently met in Minnesota to discuss the future of Native American literature. Their goal was to create a community of author’s passionate about increasing Native American representation in literature.

pen when Native people gather,” said retreat founder and organizer Debby Dahl Edwardson. That power was evident with the eight writers’ who attended. We were intent on improving craft while addressing issues specific to Native writers—lack of representations, identity and the right to tell our own stories. Most importantly building a network of authors devoted to making Native voices more prominent was a priority. Leading advocate for

authentic Native voices in children’s literature, Debbie Reese (Nambe Pueblo) said, “We learned, laughed and got to know each other. “The coalitions we form, formally and informally, have sustained indigenous people for hundreds of years. “It is why we are still here, fighting—with our words—for our Nations and our children.” Together we are carving a path for change, for our tribes and our Nation’s youth—one word, one story at a time.



Delphie, Tommy Whiteman Recognize 40th Anniversary

Tommy and Delphie Whiteman celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 30. The couple has two children and four grandchildren. The Whitemans said, “We are blessed and thankful for each other and our family. Thank God.”



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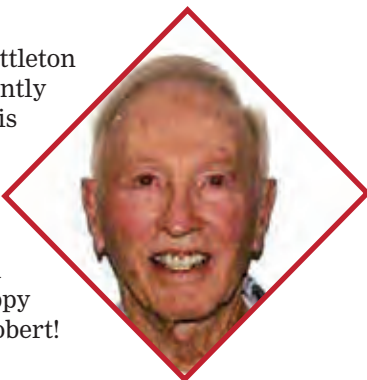
OUR LEGACY

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BIRTHDAY WISHES

Robert Fleak, Littleton Colorado, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Robert is the son of original enrollee, Ruth Sexton and Ray Fleak. Happy birthday Robert!



Bailey Reid Thorne, Tucson, Arizona, celebrates his 13th birthday on Nov. 29. He is the son of Mike and Krista Thorne, the grandson of LaHoma (Murphy) Crauthers and the great-grandson of the late Ella and William Murphy.



Jessie Michael Christopher Pace celebrated his 21st birthday on Oct. 8. Happy birthday from your grandma Tammy Nunn!



Free ACT Prep Workshop

Thursday, Dec. 6 8:30 a.m. - noon

Presented by Educational Talent Search

For grades 9-12

Idabel Kiamichi Tech Center
3205 Lincoln Rd NE
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

Must be a Choctaw Tribal member or a Talent Search student to attend. Pre-register at 1-800-522-6170 Ext. 2711.

CHOCTAW PRINCESSES IN TRAINING

Achieve your dream of being a District Princess or Choctaw Nation Tribal Royalty

January 26 - Stigler Community Center
(Poteau, Spiro, Wilburton, Tahleah, & Smithville)

February 2 - Atoka Community Center
(Durant, Coalgate, Crowder, & McAlester)

February 9 - Hugo Community Center
(Broken Bow, Bethel, Idabel, Antlers, & Wright City)

All trainings are 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Participants (ages 8-22) will learn skills such as:

- Choctaw language (some conversational only)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Perfecting their talent
- Regalia and jewelry contact information
- Communication skills

If you miss one training, you may attend one of the other trainings.

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Thanksgiving



District 1 Senior Miss Mandy Steel plays with 4-month-old Ileana Garcia at the Idabel dinner.



Kenneth Freeman Jr. poses for a photo at Hugo.



Judd Elrod smiles for a photo during the Atoka dinner.



Toree Billy, 4, takes a piggy back ride during the Broken Bow Thanksgiving Dinner.



Chief Gary Batton and District 12 Councilperson James Frazier share a laugh at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner.



Durant staff load plates during the Thanksgiving dinner.



New faces full of smiles help make a full house at the Choctaw Community Center at Wright City.



Wesley Taylor, 18 months, and his father Quincey Taylor pose for a photo with Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. at the Antlers Thanksgiving Dinner.



Councilperson Tony Ward poses with Lucy White, Virginia Jefferson, Leona Rivers and Gayle Franklin at Bethel.



Councilperson Anthony Dillard addresses the crowd at the Atoka Thanksgiving Dinner.



Councilperson Ronald Perry visits guests of the Coalgate Thanksgiving Dinner.



Janell Ward, Kris Nelson, Brynson Ward, Britton Ward, Linsy Ward and Maleah Shomo prepare to feast at the Bethel dinner.



Chief Gary Batton serves guests of the Idabel dinner.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Councilperson James Dry serve guests at the Durant dinner.



Councilperson Perry Thompson prays with his granddaughter Mallory at the Hugo dinner.



Ethel Jean Jones and Lois Geneva serve drinks at the Coalgate Thanksgiving dinner.



Councilperson Kenny Bryant poses with District 3 Junior Miss Aryanna Ludlow and Little Miss Soledad Garcia-Mejia.



Army veteran Minnie Wade quietly reflects on the story of Pvt. Charles Kaniatobe the night before his remains are returned home. Councilperson Williston discussed Kaniatobe at length.

Dinners



Chief Gary Batton spends a precious moment with 10-month-old Mackenzie Christenberry at the Poteau dinner.



Councilperson Williston takes a moment to honor veterans during the Idabel dinner.



Abree Anderson, 2, prepares to dig in at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving meal.



Avery Cusher, with the Smithville eighth grade class, serves food at the Smithville Thanksgiving Dinner.



Spiro elders show off the desserts they are about to enjoy.



John A. Hooser and Lucille Hooser pose for a photo at the Tvshka Homma dinner. They have been married 73 years.



Sophia Shoemaker, 6, excitedly checks her raffle ticket during the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner.



Kyle Burch serves dessert at the Spiro Thanksgiving dinner.



Councilperson Jennifer Woods visits with Clare Harvey, Gary Smith and Pete Swafford during Wilburton's lunch.



Corbin Cook prepares to enjoy his pie at the Antlers dinner.



Ariana Flanigan, 2, and Amelia Flanigan, 5, pose for a photo at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner.



With a full tummy it was time to bundle up before heading outside and home for a nap after the Wright City dinner.



Chief Batton visits each table to converse with guests at the Tvshka Homma Thanksgiving dinner.



Choctaw veterans gather at the table reserved for them during the Wilburton Thanksgiving Dinner.



Councilperson Delton Cox celebrates his birthday with Chief Gary Batton and wife Delores at the Poteau dinner.



Councilperson Bob Pate prepares to enjoy some pumpkin pie at the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner.



Councilperson Ronald Perry chats with guests of the Stigler Thanksgiving Dinner.



Choctaw Nation employees serve guests at the Coalgate dinner.

Photos by Apryl Mock, Charlie Clark, Christian Toews, Dara McCoy, Deidre Elrod, Karen Jacob, Kendra Germany, Lisa Reed, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.

Veterans Revered During Tvshka Homma Ceremony

by APRYL MOCK

The Choctaw Nation has a long tradition of honoring service members. During the Veterans Day ceremony at Tvshka Homma, more than 1,400 Chahta continued this tradition by gathering to pay their respects to those who have served and those who continue to serve the United States of America. The Choctaw Nation Color Guard, which is celebrating 20 years of service this year, posted the colors and performed a 21-gun salute in honor of veterans. Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. welcomed veterans and invited them to stand so those in attendance could thank them for their service. Miss Choctaw Nation Loren Crosby, Junior Miss Kalin Beller and Little Miss Mia Reich performed the Lord’s Prayer in sign language, accompanied by Chantelle Standefer. Standefer is the great-granddaughter of Code Talker Tobias Frazier. Chief Batton introduced the family of Pvt. Charles

Gibson Kaniatobe and presented them with a Choctaw Nation flag and an American flag preserved together in a glass shadowbox. Kaniatobe had been missing in action since the Korean War. His remains were identified and returned to his family on Nov. 15, after 68 years of his body being unidentified. He was laid to rest in Idabel on Nov. 17, with full military honors. Guest speaker retired Army 1st Sgt. Dale Cantrell shared his life experiences, including his time served in Iraq. President of the Code Talkers Association Nuchi Nashoba discussed the importance of the Code Talkers, who were the first to use their native tongue as a means to protect valuable intelligence from enemy forces. This year marked the 100-year anniversary of the Code Talkers who served in World War I. A booth tended by Carole Ayers and her husband, Don, allowed veterans and guests to sign up for the Code Talk-

ers Association. Those who donate \$100 or more will receive a Choctaw Code Talker commemorative coin. Guests could also explore historical fiction by Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, including her work, “Anumpa Warrior: Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I.” “Anumpa Warrior” (Language Warrior) is the first novel on the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and combines extensive historical research on the Code Talkers with first-hand insight into Choctaw culture, which are woven together into a beautiful story of redemption. To conclude the ceremony, the District 7 choir performed Hymn No. 48. Afterward, veterans and their families were provided lunch in the Tvshka Homma cafeteria. If you would like to donate to or join the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, contact Carole Ayers at (405) 990-0030. Sawyers’ book, “Anumpa Warrior,” is available in the [Choctaw Store](#) and [Amazon](#).

Photos by Deidre Elrod



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard prepares to perform a 21-gun salute in honor of Veterans Day.



Author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer presents her new work of historical fiction, “Anumpa Warrior.”



Guest speaker retired Army 1st Sgt. Dale Cantrell addresses the crowd Nov. 10.



Members of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association pose for a photo at the Veterans Day ceremony.



Choctaw Code Talker Association President Nuchi Nashoba addresses a crowd of more than 1,400.

Pastor Olin Williams

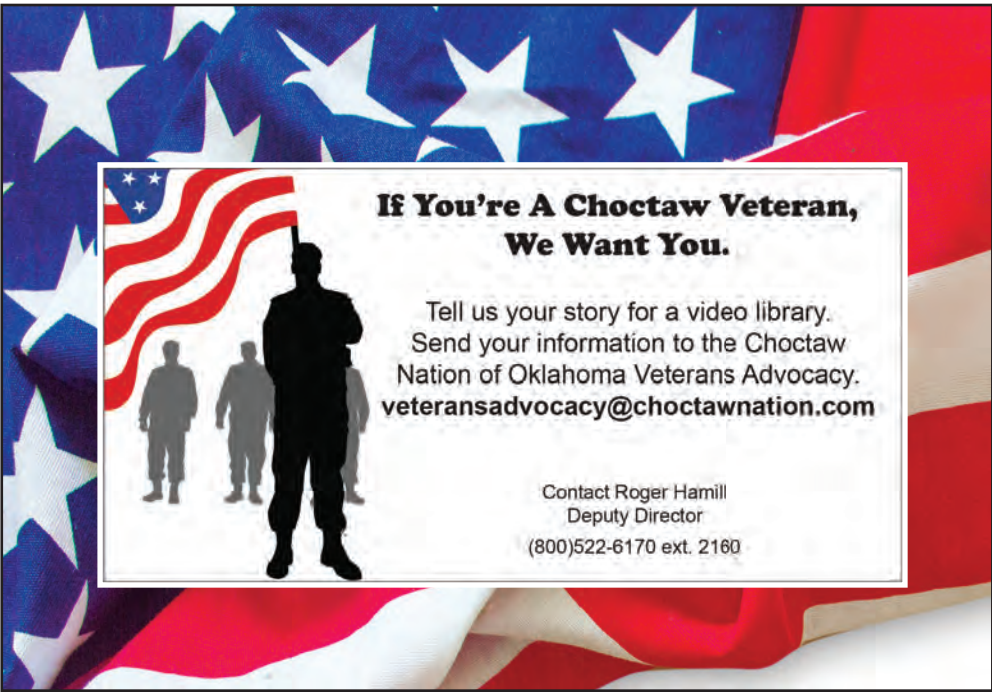
What is Love?




Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

One of the principles of love is to lose independence to gain intimacy. To attain the fulfillment, security and sense of worth of love, one must limit his or her freedom. The loss of some personal autonomy ignites the joy and freedom of love. A deep relationship is not a unilateral decision. A healthy love relationship involves mutual loss of independence, unselfish service and limited personal options. Human beings are most alive and free in relationships of love. Freedom is not the absence of limitations and constraints, but it is finding the right ones that fit our nature and liberate us to become ourselves. Both sides adjust to the other and a relationship develops. The love of God is much the same way. God adjusted himself to us. God, the Father, gave up His only begotten Son, to become a limited human being, vulnerable to suffering and death. On the cross, He submitted to our condition as sinners and died in our place to forgive us. John

3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” At first thought, one thinks about his loss of freedom in loving God. He thinks about all the constraints the love of God requires. But, when he accepts God’s love and realizes that God sacrificed himself to mankind first, then he does not see the constraints as oppressive anymore. He desires to mutually give, adjust and change and begins to discern the full meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:14, “For the love of Christ constrains us.” For the Christian, the love of Christ gives freedom in the constraint. Freedom cannot be defined as choosing our own beliefs and practices. There is an authority in place that defines that true freedom evolves from the constraints and restrictions. When you fall deeply in love, you want to please the beloved. You don’t wait to be asked to do something. Love has liberated you to deny yourself to please the one you love. Inconvenience and money does not limit you. You eagerly research how you can do something to please the beloved. However, the spirit of fear of not having mutual involvement keeps a lot of people from loving God or others. But we must remember 2 Timothy 1:7 which says, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.”





**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



Community Center Christmas Parties

Children’s Parties

Tushkahoma	Dec. 2, 2 p.m.	Wilburton	Dec. 8, 2 p.m.
Idabel	Dec. 4, 6 p.m.	Spiro	Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
Buffalo Valley	Dec. 4, 6 p.m.	Antlers	Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
Smithville	Dec. 4, 6 p.m.	Broken Bow	Dec. 13, 6 p.m.
Quinton	Dec. 6, 6 p.m.	Stigler	Dec. 13, 5 p.m.
Talihina	Dec. 6, 6 p.m.	Durant	Dec. 13, 6 p.m.
Atoka	Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m.	Hugo	Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
Coalgate	Dec. 7, 6 p.m.	Poteau	Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
Crowder	Dec. 8, 1 p.m.	Wright City	Dec. 16, 2 p.m.
McAlester	Dec. 8, 1 p.m.	Bethel	Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

Community Parties

Coalgate	Dec. 5, 12 p.m.	Hugo	Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.
Bethel	Dec. 5, 12 p.m.	Spiro	Dec. 12, 12 p.m.
Atoka	Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m.	Durant	Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.
Crowder	Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.	Antlers	Dec. 13, 12 p.m.
Wright City	Dec. 12, 12 p.m.	Talihina	Dec. 18, 11:30 p.m.
McAlester	Dec. 12, 11:15 a.m.	Poteau	Dec. 19, 12 p.m.
Broken Bow	Dec. 12, 12 p.m.	Stigler	Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m.
Wilburton	Dec. 12, 12 p.m.	Smithville	Dec. 19, 12 p.m.