



Choctaw Nation Continues to Grow with Construction Projects

There will soon be a new addition to the Choctaw Country Markets. The newest market will be located in Coalgate, Oklahoma. The first Choctaw Country Market, located in Clayton, opened its doors to the public on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016. The Choctaw Country Market in Boswell, will be opening soon. The Boswell and Coalgate markets will carry products similar to those found in the Clayton store, including fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a deli. The Choctaw Country Market in Coalgate is expected to open toward the end of 2019.

Keeping the Traditions of Our Ancestors Alive



Chief Gary Batton

The new year is a time to reflect on the past and look toward the future. Our nation has achieved so much throughout our history. When our ancestors left our homeland they had so many questions about our future.

In the 1830s, the Choctaw people were forcibly removed. They were made to leave the only home they had ever known, to travel thousands of miles to a land unfamiliar to them.

Over 15,000 of our ancestors began the long, agonizing journey to Indian Territory.

The Choctaw people traveled more than 500 miles over the grueling terrain. Approximately 3,000 Choctaw people died of starvation, exposure and disease during the Trail of Tears.

I can only imagine the heartache and uncertainty of our ancestors as they arrived in their new home. Just think how hard it must have been to have hope for the future after experiencing something so horrific.

Yet the Choctaw Nation has always been a nation of strong, independent and hardworking people.

They were true tvshkas who fought to ensure not only a future for themselves, but also for generations to come.

I believe our ancestors would be proud of what the Choctaw Nation has become over the years.

We are a thriving nation with a working government, judicial system, infrastructure, medical care, services and tribal employees who strive to put the needs of tribal members first.

Our tribe has grown from the roughly 12,000 people who survived the Trail of Tears, to a booming nation of 200,000 and growing.

Thanks to the perseverance of our ancestors we are now able to live out our Chahta spirit of faith, family and culture.

I want to thank the elders who are still with us. Though you didn't travel on the Trail of Tears, your struggles do not go unnoticed.

You are a vital part of building the nation and passing Choctaw culture to your children, even when it wasn't easy to do so.

It is our duty as tribal members to keep our traditions, culture and language alive. I urge all of you to seek out any opportunity to learn more about our heritage.

Take a language course offered through our School



by Stacy Hutto

During the Trail of Tears Walk at Tvshka Homma, tribal members reflect on the agonizing journey our ancestors were forced to make from the homelands to Indian Territory. The walk is held every year in May. It is one of many events throughout the year which give tribal members a chance to honor their ancestors and become closer to their culture and history.

of Choctaw Language. Join a beading class or one of the many other courses offered through our Cultural Services Department.

Attend your local Choctaw Community Center's activities or even join a stickball team. If you are a student, get involved in your school's Native American Student Association.

I look forward to the future of our nation and hope you all take the initiative to explore what it means to be Chahta. Our ancestors worked so hard to get us where we are today. Let's honor them by keeping their traditions alive.

Choctaw Nation Foster Care Program in Urgent Need of Foster Parents



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

I would like to wish you a happy New Year. It is amazing that another year has come and gone. However, 2018 was a great year here at the Choctaw Nation.

I cannot wait to see what 2019 has in store for our nation.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. Christmas is a season of giving and spending time with family.

Even though the holidays are a time of celebration, many young Choctaws are unable to spend the holidays with their family.

There are currently 575 Choctaw children in custody of the state of Oklahoma.

This is where the Children and Family Service's Foster Care and Adoption Program steps in, to ensure our Choctaw children in the foster care system are placed in homes that provide faith, family and culture.

The Indian Child Welfare Act is a federal law established in 1978 to keep native children in native homes.

There is an urgent need for more Choctaw placement homes. The Choctaw Children and Family Service's Foster Care and Adoption Program has 53 foster homes statewide, 32 of which are in the 10½ counties.

I urge you to consider becoming a foster parent. We

need more tribal members to open their hearts and homes to these children.

There are many types of placements needed. These placements are emergency, short-term, respite and traditional foster homes.

There are also kinship homes that place foster children with adults who have a familial relationship to the child.

Children and Family Services workers strive to help our foster families succeed.

The program assists the family to obtain services needed and provide cultural enrichment programs.

Tribal adoptive and foster care homes must complete at least 12 hours of yearly continuing education in areas such as culture, parenting, foster care and adoption.

Being a foster parent is about changing a child's life and giving them a home and love they desperately need.

No matter how long a child is in your care, you have the opportunity to change their lives.

Our Children and Family Service's Foster Care and Adoption Program is always seeking ways to recruit more homes.



by Deidre Elrod

Angela Connor, with Choctaw Nation Children and Family Services, adds another present to the pile of gifts to be given to Choctaw foster children for Christmas. With 575 Choctaw children in Oklahoma in state custody and only 53 Choctaw foster homes statewide, the Children and Family Service's Foster Care and Adoption Program is actively searching for more Choctaw foster parents.

If you or someone you know feels a calling to be a tribal foster parent, contact Kat Decaire at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2643. Visit ChoctawNation.com/tribal-services/member-services/foster-care-adoption for more information on becoming a tribal foster parent, no matter what your location is.

There is a Choctaw child out there who needs you.

Pastor Olin Williams

Visions and Ideals



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

With the arrival of the New Year, there is an atmosphere of newness in the air.

There is the inward feeling of fresh starts, new hopes and perhaps new efforts.

It is the time of year people traditionally make New Year's resolutions.

Common resolutions are, to lose weight or to quit certain bad habits that affect life. Certainly, there is much good in making resolutions.

However, like logs blazing with fire in the fireplace, our resolve begins to lose its glow over time.

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of concise and divinely inspired literature of ethical precepts about practical living.

Proverbs 29:18 reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Resolutions are often not carried through because we lose the vision.

Cherish the visions, cherish the ideals, cherish

the music in the heart and the thoughts in the mind. Remain true to them and delightful fruits will grow.

Dream dreams. Dream within and you will stir without. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the eagle waits in the egg; and the next poet, prophet, composer or architect begins life in the womb.

Dreams are the seedlings of realities. It is the vision, the dream, the ideal that pokes the dying ember of our resolutions.

In human affairs, there are efforts before results. In between effort and result is a period of faith exercised, trials and failures to encounter, sacrifices to be made and time to trouble the mind.

The end result is material, intellectual and spiritual possessions that have become one's fruit.

They are thoughts completed, goals accomplished and visions realized.

The thoughtless, the ignorant and the indolent see only the outward appearance of efforts and results and conclude that one was "lucky" or "favored."

However, mere human vision cannot always be good. There has to be a divine outlook.

The word "vision" here has to do with the Word of God.

Where there is no Word of God, there is no message of life. Without vision or the Word of God, the people perish.

"Perish" is a word from the original Hebrew meaning, to have no protection, to have no restraint, no standard or purpose.

In other words, people need the Word of God to guide, restrain and direct their thoughts and aspirations to a higher level of development, so their goals may achieve a truly meaningful impact on mankind.

BISKINIK

January 2019

KOINCHUSH HVSHI

wildcat month

In This Issue

- Faith Family Culture
- Nursery News
- Sports & Education
- Notes to the Nation
- Pow Wow
- Obituaries
- Iti Fabvassa
- People You Know

Page 1:

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Choctaw Country Market in Coalgate. The Country Market was one of many construction projects active in 2018.

Front Photos, from top, by Christian Toews, Deidre Elrod and 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.

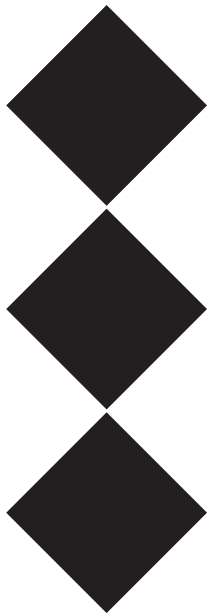
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www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK

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Dukes Receives Sports Excellence Award

Edwin “Eddie” Dukes was awarded the Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award at the 21st Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet.

Dukes is a family man, a career educator and one of the most talented football players ever to suit up for the Tulsa Golden Hurricane.

Dukes grandfather, Gilbert Wesley Dukes was Chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1900 to 1902.

Dukes grew up near the Kiamichi mountains in Tahleah, Oklahoma.

In high school he was an all-conference football player where he excelled as a running back and line backer.

In 1962 Duke transferred

to the University of Tulsa and was an integral part of two of the most successful teams in Golden Hurricane history.

The Golden Hurricane finished the 1963 season with a 9-2 record and won the Bluebonnet Bowl 14-7.

The following season Dukes was named to the All Missouri Valley Conference team and the Big Four All-Star Team.

Dukes earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from TU and a Masters of Counseling from Northeastern State University.

Dukes and his wife JoAnne have been married 52 years and have three children, eight grandchildren and five great-children.



Commissioner and Emcee Matt Roberts presents Edwin “Eddie” Dukes with the Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award at the 21st Annual Dream Keepers Awards Banquet.

Elliott Earns BA

Brianna Elliott graduated from the University of Phoenix on Oct. 11, 2018.

She received a Bachelors in English and graduated with a 3.98 GPA.

Elliott received funding from the Choctaw Nation which enabled her to complete her degree.

“I am forever grateful for the assistance and support I’ve received from the tribe,” said Elliott.



Davis Graduates

Joshua Davis graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance.

While at SOSU he played for the Savage Storm football team.

He will continue his education at Texas Women’s University pursuing a Master’s in Occupational Therapy.

Joshua is the son of Stanley and Beth Davis and grandson of the late Raymond Shoemaker, Sr.



Bradley Signs with SCU



(back from left) SCU Assist. Coach Chris McGraw, Steven Mapps from the Durant Choctaw Wellness Center, SCU Head Coach Kent Williams. (front, from left) Veronica Bradley, Bailey Bradley and Chad Bradley.

Bailey Bradley of Caddo, Oklahoma, signed to play college softball at Southwestern Christian University on Nov. 14, 2018.

Bailey is a senior utility softball player from Caddo High School.

Bailey has been using

the Choctaw Wellness Center in Durant, Oklahoma, for strength and conditioning workouts.

She is thankful to her personal trainer Steven Mapps.

Bailey was instrumental in getting the Caddo Lady Bruins to state in

the 2018 fast pitch season, hitting the walk off triple to win 3 to 2 in the regional game against the Rattan Rams.

Bailey is a member of the National Honor Society and Vice President of the Caddo FFA Chapter.

Truck Driving Training for Tribal Members

Kiamichi Technology Center, Antlers campus, is excited to partner with Central Tech to offer residents of southeast Oklahoma

Professional Truck Driving Training in 2019!

For program information contact:
Christie at 580-298-6354 or chyatt@ktc.edu
or Career Development: 866-933-2260

Student School and Activity Fund

Need money to buy school or activity clothing?

- \$100 VISA gift card available nationwide for Choctaw Tribal Members who are attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade.
- Each student with a tribal membership can receive funding one time per school year.
- Apply online at ssafapplication.choctawnation.com

Applications for 2018-2019 School Year
Available July 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019

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

Cooper Makes Varsity Debut

Freshman Ty Cooper made his varsity debut in the 58th Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament in Forst, Missouri.

Cooper scored 17 points his first game, 8 points in the second game of the tournament and was the high scorer in his third game helping his team, the Reeds Spring, Missouri Wolves place third in the tournament. Cooper was named to the All-Tournament Team and was also nominated for Player of the week in the Southern Missouri Region. Cooper’s parents are Glen and Kelly Cooper of Branson, Missouri. Cooper is a straight-A student and plans to attend college in the future.

Reserve your 2019 Labor Day RV Site

To reserve a RV site with electric and water hookups for the 2019 Labor Day Festival, please mail this reservation request form no earlier than **Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019**. No phone reservations will be accepted. Please include a copy of your CDIB card only. RV sites will be assigned on a lottery style basis. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME.** You will be notified by mail if you received a space.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Daytime Phone # _____
Cellphone # _____

RV Camper description: (Please make sure this is completely filled out.)
Please circle Trailer type: ☐ Bumper Pull Trailer ☐ 5th Wheel
Please circle which amp is required: ☐ 30 amp or ☐ 50 amp
Make: _____ Model: _____
Length of RV/Trailer _____ Number of slide-outs _____

If the size of your trailer changes before the festival, you must notify us. Failure to notify could result in not having a space to park your trailer/RV due to size restrictions.

We will do our best to respect the requests for preferred RV sites; however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested.

****Please only send one reservation per family.**
No reservations will be accepted before Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

****NEW MAILING ADDRESS****

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Attn: Janita Jeffreys
RV Reservations
20 Sandstone Road
Durant, OK 74701”

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center
January 2019 Health Fairs

Smithville
Wednesday, January 16

Broken Bow
Wednesday, January 23

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted.

District 6 January Events

- Jan. 2 - Commodities pick up in McAlester after lunch.
- Jan. 3 - Short shopping day.
- Jan. 4 - District 6 Councilperson Jennifer Woods Community Prayer Meeting at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast.
- Jan. 7 - Heritage Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Jan. 10 - Pocola Casino Day Trip, bus leaves at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 11 - Indian Taco and Bake Sale. Yard Sale 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Jan. 17 - Commodities pick up in McAlester, if needed.
- Jan. 18 - Long shopping day. Destination TBA.
- Jan. 20 - McAlester commodities pick up.
- Jan. 29 - Bingo Night and Potluck. 6 p.m.

Weekly Events

Monday - Senior Fitness Program for 55+ at 9 a.m. Chair Volleyball 9:30 a.m. at the Wellness Center, Language Class 6 p.m.
Tuesday - GED class 9 a.m.
Wednesday - Lunch and Guest speaker 11 a.m. There will be cake on the first Wednesday of the month for that month's birthdays.

LETTERS

We would like to thank the Atoka field office and staff for the use of the building and for providing the luncheon for the family during our loss of our family member. We appreciate the staff for everything they provided and help during our time of need. They made this time easier for the family that came from other states. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was there for us in our time of need.
The Family of Noah W. Perkins

Thank you for the lovely birthday card Chief Batton. It was kind of you all to remember! It's finally cooling off here in Las Vegas and I look forward to winter all year long. I hope all of your holidays are great and your families have time to enjoy each other.
Delores D. Dominguez
Las Vegas, Nevada

Preferred Supplier Program is on Facebook

The Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program can now be found on Facebook at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Preferred Supplier Program.
Each month the Preferred Supplier Program will be highlighting preferred businesses and posting announcements.
This month the highlighted program is Air Power Equipment located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Air Power Equipment is available to help with all your air compressor needs.
The Choctaw Nation builds up business and commerce through programs meant to grow and support local business owners. Programs like the Preferred Supplier Program work to foster this growth.
To register to be a certified member of the program a company must be 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by a federally recognized minority. To register please visit <http://preferredsuppliers.choctawnation.com>.

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.

January 2019 Community Center Schedule	February Community Center Schedule
1-3 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3	2-7 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-10 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3	2-14 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-24 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3	2-28 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-31 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3	

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, Nov. 10, were approved.

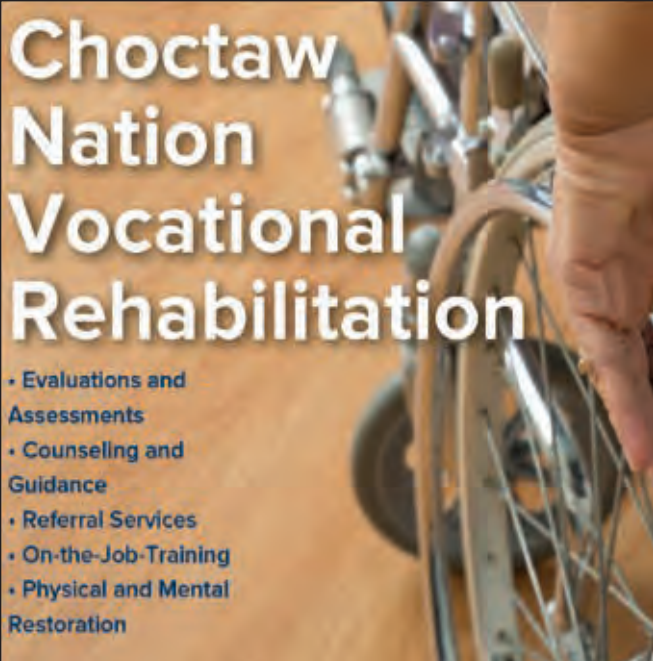
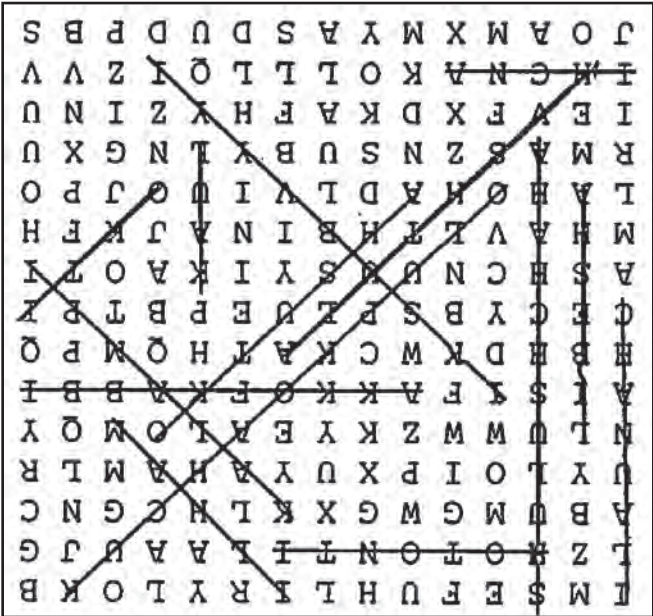
New business included approval of the following items:

- Amend CB-64-18 and to authorize Chief Gary Batton to place property in Bryan County in trust status with the United States of America, as amended.
- Authorize Chief Batton to place property in McCurtain County in trust status with the USA.
- Dispose of surplus capital assets.
- Rescind CB-117-19 for funding of Strategic Acquisition.
- Funds and budget for Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area No. 1.
- Funds and budget for the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Assistance Program.
- Funds and budget for Project Apelachi.
- Funds and budget for the Year Two of Five Continuation Cooperative Agreements for First Responders.
- Funds and budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation for the National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program.
- Funds and budget for Supplemental Award to the Cooperative Agreement to Implement Zero Suicide in the Health System—Project Zero Suicide.
- Funds and budget for the Year One of Five of the Indian Education Discretionary Grants Program—Professional Development Grants Program.
- Funds and budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation for the Injury Prevention Program.
- Funds and budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation for the Cooperative Agreements for the Tribal Behavioral Health—Project Embrace.
- Application for the Indian Community Development Block Grant.
- Choctaw Nation's participation in the Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network.
- A limited waiver of sovereign immunity (GCG Funding, 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, Jan. 12, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

January Word Search Answer Key Below



February 2019 Schedule

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

Feb. 6- Tallihina (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
Feb. 13- Poteau (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Feb. 20- McAlester (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

By Appointment

Wright City (Feb. 25)	Coalgate (Feb. 22)
Antlers (Feb. 5)	Broken Bow (Feb. 11)
Crowder (Feb. 8)	Idabel (Feb. 4)
Atoka (Feb. 22)	Wilburton (Feb. 27)

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

NURSE PREP CLASSES

will be held throughout the 10 1/2 counties during January & February 2019.

Offered by:
Career Development
Education Services

For information on
Locations and Schedules,
Call (866) 933-2260
www.choctawcareers.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

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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 Direct Member Communications 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.



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.

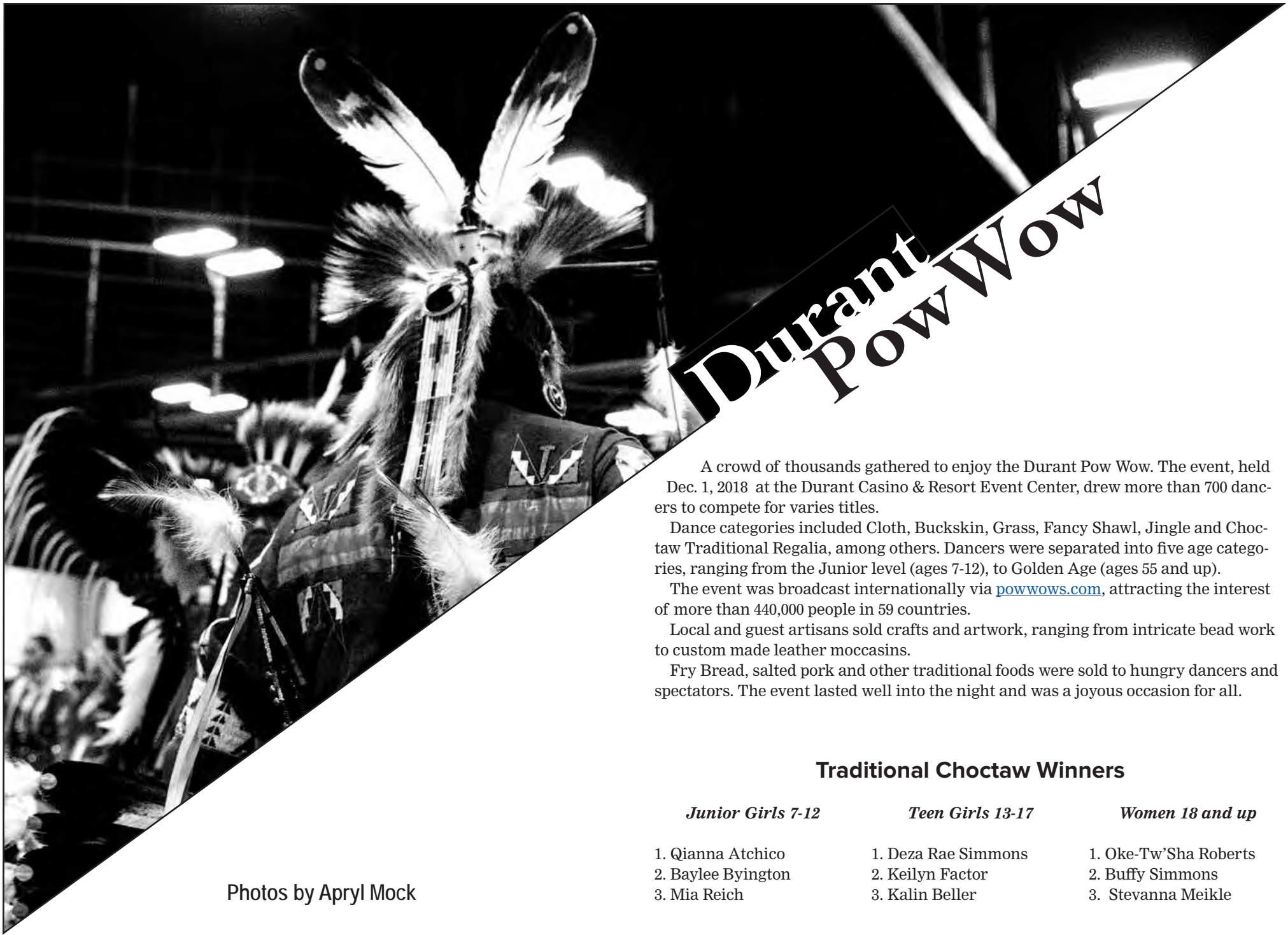
News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows.

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



Durant Pow Wow

A crowd of thousands gathered to enjoy the Durant Pow Wow. The event, held Dec. 1, 2018 at the Durant Casino & Resort Event Center, drew more than 700 dancers to compete for varies titles.

Dance categories included Cloth, Buckskin, Grass, Fancy Shawl, Jingle and Choctaw Traditional Regalia, among others. Dancers were separated into five age categories, ranging from the Junior level (ages 7-12), to Golden Age (ages 55 and up).

The event was broadcast internationally via powwows.com, attracting the interest of more than 440,000 people in 59 countries.

Local and guest artisans sold crafts and artwork, ranging from intricate bead work to custom made leather moccasins.

Fry Bread, salted pork and other traditional foods were sold to hungry dancers and spectators. The event lasted well into the night and was a joyous occasion for all.

Photos by Apryl Mock

Traditional Choctaw Winners

<i>Junior Girls 7-12</i>	<i>Teen Girls 13-17</i>	<i>Women 18 and up</i>
1. Qianna Atchico 2. Baylee Byington 3. Mia Reich	1. Deza Rae Simmons 2. Keilyn Factor 3. Kalin Beller	1. Oke-Tw'Sha Roberts 2. Buffy Simmons 3. Stevanna Meikle





SHORTS

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Eston “John” Coley

Eston “John” Coley, 73, passed away Nov. 27, 2018. John was born Oct. 5, 1945, in Red Oak, Oklahoma, to Ranes “Rufus” Coley and Lela Coley. John was preceded in death by his parents; wife Joann; sister Sue Jefferson; and brothers Cecil Coley, Solomon Coley and Wilburn Coley. He is survived by his wife Mary Coley; sons Marco Coley and Daniel Coley; brother Joe Coley and spouse Mary; sisters Dollie Scott and Bydia Pope; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends. For the full obituary, please visit [Jones Harkins Funeral Home](#).

Charles “Doug” Green

Charles “Doug” Green, 69, passed away Nov. 18, 2018. Doug was born July 31, 1949, in Paris, Texas, to Waylan and Billye Margarite (White) Green. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters Becky Williams and Gay Smith. Doug is survived by his wife, Glenda; sons Waylan Green and fiancé Kenda Johnson and Brian Green and spouse Amanda; grandchildren Georgia, Maggie, Lilli, Kaine, Cassie and Tyler; sister Sue Ross and spouse Rusty; brothers Jim Green and Greg Green; brother-in-law Rocky Williams; sister-in-law Beverly Stockton; and aunts Sonja Austin and Nell Sessions. For the full obituary, please visit [Owens and Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Billy Grimes

Billy Jack Grimes, 80, of Lubbock, Texas, passed away July 7, 2018. Billy was born March 14, 1938, in Hugo, Oklahoma. Billy was preceded in death by his parents Howard and Octavia (Locke) Grimes. He is survived by his wife of 41 years Gay Grimes; daughters Laura Flores and spouse Santos and Jackie Lee; son Cary Grimes; brother Thurman Locke and spouse Barbara; sisters Nancy Jones and spouse Clifford and Frankie Jo Grimes; nine grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit [Agape Funeral Chapel and Crematory](#).



Willis “Kee” Folsom

Willis “Kee” McKee Folsom passed away Nov. 19, 2018. Kee was born Feb. 27, 1936, in Garland, Oklahoma, to George Dewey and Linnie Folsom. Kee was preceded in death by his parents; son Jeffery McKee; and siblings, Jesse Morris, Robert L., Norman L., Lou Ella, Carolyn Sue and Franklin Dewey. He is survived by sisters Edith L. and Maxine L.; sons George Earl Doug Sigmon; and many other family and friends. For the full obituary, please visit [Mallory ~ Martin Funeral Home](#).



Tommy Herell

Tommy Lee Herell, 89, of Purcell, passed away Dec. 1, 2018. Tommy was born April 18, 1929, in Purcell, Oklahoma, to Thomas Green Herell and Abbie Gertrude (Bice) Herell. He was preceded in death by his parents. Tommy is survived by his wife of 62 years Claudine Ruth Herell; daughter Tammie Herell; son Dwayne “Fred” Herell and spouse Debbie; brothers Lowell Herell and spouse Jolanda and Gene Herell; sisters Judy Selman and spouse Joe and Carolyn Bennett and spouse Gary; grandchildren Trisha, Brandy, Samantha, Ryan, Tryce and Coleman; and five great-grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit [Wilson-Little Funeral Home Chapel](#).

David Coxsey

David Coxsey, 65, of Durant passed away Sept. 14, 2018. He was born Nov. 4, 1952, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, to Ralph L. Sr. and Pat Coxsey. He was preceded in death by his grandparents R.M. and Lillie Martin; parents Ralph and Pat Coxsey; and brother Ben Coxsey. David is survived by his wife of 39 years Margaret (Dillard) Coxsey; sons David Lee Coxsey and spouse Melissa, Chase Coxsey and spouse Stephanie and Dustin Coxsey; daughter Brooke Cooper and spouse Matt; brothers Ralph Lee Coxsey, Jr. and spouse Allison, and Bill Coxsey and spouse Thomas; grandchildren Nickolas Williams, Raiden Ammons-Coxsey, Benjamin Lee Coxsey, Noah Cooper, Parker Coxsey, Cain Coxsey, Azure Ammons-Coxsey, Clair Coxsey and Gracelyn Cooper; and special friends Mike and Connie Copeland, Sarah Quarles and Janelle and Greg Dunne. For the full obituary, please visit [Gordon Funeral Home](#).



Louis Bronaugh

Louis Alan Bronaugh, 87, passed away Nov. 24, 2018. He was born May 28, 1931, in Dallas, Texas, to Louis and Nina (Halliday) Bronaugh. Louis was preceded in death by his parents and son Timothy Edward Bronaugh. He is survived by his wife Charda Faith (Pierce) Bronaugh; daughters Tina Peavy and spouse Woody and Belinda Teer and spouse Craig; son Mike Bronaugh; brother Bob Bronaugh; grandchildren Christa Randolph Ogden, Alan Randolph and spouse Kellie, Rand Teer, Perrin Teer and Rae Lynn Randolph Bouillion and spouse Trace; great-grandchildren Peyton Bouillion, Ava Faith, Jason Louis and Timothy Michael; cousins Betty Jo, Richard and Sarah Jane; and many other family and friends. For the full obituary, please visit [Carroway Funeral Home](#).



Michelle Allen

Michelle Seon Allen, 45, passed away Nov. 24, 2018. Michelle was born Feb. 14, 1973, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Steven Allen and Eldonna Carrie (Nelson) Allen. Michelle was preceded in death by her father; grandson Da’Mani Brooks and brothers Jonathan Allen and Eric Allen. Michelle is survived by her husband of 26 years Tim L. Brooks; son Roberto Domingez; daughters Khadjah Brooks, Carrie Brooks and Elena Brooks; grandchildren Marcus Brooks, Asayah Brooks and Noemi Brooks; mother Eldonna Carrie Carney; and sisters Elizabeth Camp and spouse Salomon Pedraza, Charlotte Cooper and Gina Allen. For the full obituary, please visit [Brown’s Funeral Service](#).



Sybil McBride

Sybil Harris McBride, 87, of Texarkana, Texas, passed away Oct. 6, 2018. Sybil was born Oct. 13, 1930, in Harris, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her husband Bennie McBride and granddaughter Morgan Seals. She is survived by her sons Danny and spouse Lisa McBride and Doug and spouse Marti McBride; grandchildren Ryan McBride, Stefan McBride, Ethan McBride and Heath Seals; sisters Marinell Hubele and Margaret Coleman; and great-grandchildren Warren Douglas McBride and Zach McBride. For the full obituary, please visit [Chapelwood Funeral Home](#).



Cynthia Roberts

Cynthia Ann Roberts, 67, passed away Oct. 7, 2018. Cynthia was born July 7, 1951, to Leonard and Nola Abila. She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers Jim Abila and David Abila. Cynthia is survived by her husband of 49 years Paul Roberts; daughter Tomilyn Lane and spouse Kent; sons Andy Roberts and spouse Shannan and Steven Roberts and spouse Sara Ernestes; grandchildren Ashley Lane, Trenton Lane, Sutton Lane, Taryn Lane, Kateelyn Lane and Kennon Lee; and sister Tracy Abila. For the full obituary, please visit [Dignity Memorial](#).



Tommy Rose

Tommy Joe Rose, 73, passed away Oct. 4, 2018. Tommy was born June 13, 1945, in Tomaha, Oklahoma. Tommy was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Lucille Rose. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Carolyn Rose; children Jeffery Rose and spouse Penny, Larry Rose and spouse Anna, Jeremy Rose, Gabby Rose, Angel Rose and Dillon Rose; brother Jerry Rose and spouse Cavin; sister Mary Rose; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit [Whitton Family Funeral Service](#).



Douglas Fraley

Douglas Dale Fraley, 60, passed away Nov. 28, 2018. Douglas was born Oct. 7, 1958, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Dale and Emaline (Cole) Fraley. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers Dannie and Preston; and sister Emajeane. He is survived by his wife Robin Kay; sons Alfred Fraley and spouse Sia and Nathan Fraley; step-sons Tony, Justin, Floyd, Lonnie and Richard Klinekole; step-daughters Sunshine Snyder and spouse Christian and Summer Klinekole and spouse Donovan; adopted daughters Nathalia and Clarisse Fraley; nieces Jessica Daryl, Shelly Austin Fennell and Dana Aldrich; aunt Eugena Martinez; uncle Dwight Austin; cousin Veronica Ware; and grandchildren Brandon, Emil, Carlie Fraley, Mitchell, Juneau, Lucious, Major, Donovan, Kierra, Maclin, Kota, Kaliyah, Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Raynee, Devry, Kassain and Punkin Blackowl. For the full obituary, please visit [Serenity Funeral Home](#).



Betty Buchanan

Betty Ann Buchanan, 66, passed away Oct. 21, 2018. Betty was born Sept. 1, 1952, in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, to Thomas Murriel and Edna Bell (Youngblood) Stark. Betty was preceded in death by her parents; grandmothers Lela Sims and Lois Start; and grandfather Claud Stark. She is survived by her husband Carl Buchanan; daughters Christy Davidson, Paula Fox and spouse David, Ciara Buchanan, Kendra Buchanan, Pam Fivella, Brenda Hall, Susan Buchanan, Diana Verso and Neeice Brown and spouse Tasso; sons Matthew Buchanan, Blake Buchanan, David Buchanan and Carl Buchanan and spouse Mariam; 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brothers-in-law Willie Buchanan and spouse Betty and John Buchanan and spouse Barbara; and sister-in-law Regina Boucher. For the full obituary, please visit [Brown’s Funeral Service Chapel](#).



Lula Belle Shirn

Lula Belle (Everidge) Shirn, 99, passed away Nov. 15, 2018. Lula was born Dec. 16, 1918, to Pearl (Cooper) and Edward Everidge in Whitesboro, Oklahoma. Lula was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years George A. Shirn; seven brothers and sisters; and son-in-law Richard Smith. She is survived by her daughters C. Victoria Harvey and spouse George and Martha M. Barrett-Smith; grandchildren Aaron Lee Harvey, John Everidge Barrett, Dr. Mary M. Barrett and Dr. Katelee V. Barrett Mueller and spouse Andre; great-grandson Louca George Mueller; and several nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit [Whittier-Porter Funeral Home](#).



Loyd “Wayne” Leflore

Loyd “Wayne” Leflore, 65, passed away Nov. 30, 2018. Wayne was born Oct. 23, 1953, to Frankie and Bettie Lorene (Dixon) Leflore in Cloudy, Oklahoma. Wayne was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Robert, Roy and Larry; sister Louise Green; niece Elizabeth Green; mother-in-law Judy Cofelt; and grandparents Osburn and Alice Leflore, Emma Tindell and William R. and Sara Dixon. Wayne is survived by his wife of 20 years Janet (Penich-Tindell) Leflore; sisters Alice Darling, Linda Brines, Margie Ouellette and Karolyn Hurlburt. For the full obituary, please visit [Serenity Funeral Service Chapel](#).



Damien Draper

Damien Ward Draper, 42, passed away July 26, 2018. Damien was born July 4, 1976, in Pawnee, Oklahoma. He is survived by his son Corbyn Draper; daughter Kennedy Draper; step-daughter Kynzie Zellner; mother Linda Draper; father Douglas W. Draper; brother Dion Draper and spouse Brandie; nephews Dion Draper, Jr. and Brett Rexroad; and niece Jazmin Draper. Damien was laid to rest at Pleasant Valley Cemetery, in Wheatland, Oklahoma. For the full obituary, please visit [John M. Ireland Funeral Home & Chapel](#).

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

Iti Fabussa
Wildcat
Month

9

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 our ancestors were up to during each month.

The information in these articles come from a book titled, “Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge,” which will be published by Choctaw Nation later this year.

Koichush Hvshi, Wildcat Month, roughly corresponds with January, which is often the coldest part of the year.

As noted in last month’s edition, Wildcat Month, like Panther Month before it, draws its name from the fact that the coldest part of winter was the prime season for hunting fur-bearing mammals.

Choctaw men and boys used the softly tanned pelts from ferocious animals, like bobcats, for bedding.

They believed the prowess of these animals could be transferred to the sleeping person through the hides.

To the best of our knowledge, the activities our ancestors did during Wildcat Month were basically the same as described for Panther Month in the previous edition of *Iti Fabussa*.

Many of these activities took place in river cane breaks, where fur-bearing animals found food and shelter during the winter.

While the men were out hunting, the women in camp would have taken the opportunity to harvest river cane for making basketry and mats.

An excellent description of how Choctaw people traditionally harvested river cane has been provided by Tom Colvin (2006) and it was summarized in an *Iti Fabussa* article in 2011.

In honor of Wildcat month, we will add some more details to that description.

The best river cane grew on slightly elevated areas near



by Choctaw Nation

streams, reached occasionally by floodwaters that replenished the soil.

According to modern taxonomists, at least two species of river cane grow in the Choctaw homeland. The smaller species (*Arundinaria tecta*) is called “switch cane” in English and was known as **kushak** in Choctaw 300 years ago. It was, and still is, used for making arrows.

The larger species of river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), is called “giant cane” in English and **oski** in Choctaw. It was, and still is, used for making traditional basketry.

Canes of exactly the right size and age were selected for making basketry. Plants with the greatest distance between the nodes were favored.

After a bundle of green cane was cut and gathered, it was split lengthwise into pieces, a process known in Choctaw as **oskashiba**.

Then a knife made of hard, dry river cane was used to peel away the outer skin of the green cane, moving lengthwise down the split pieces to create long, thin strips.

Cane debris was thrown onto the roofs of the camp structures, making them more rainproof. The stripped outer skin was trimmed to have a consistent width. These thin, flexible pieces were rolled up into spools called **uski ttpa afohli**.

After a few days of drying, the spools of cane would be ready to use for making baskets, or ready to be dyed different colors.

Most basketry dyes came from different types of plants.

In many plants these natural dye substances are most potent during the wintertime.

Choctaw women may have gathered and used many of them while they were staying in hunting camps.

In addition to the natural cane, the colors on early Choctaw baskets commonly include brown /black, yellow and red.

The brown and black probably came from black walnut hulls, **hahe**. A large number of different plant materials can produce a yellow dye. One of these comes from the roots of the mulberry tree, **bihvpi**. The red dye was sometimes made by dyeing cane with the root of the curly dock plant, **pishaiyik** (a non-native), then burning equal parts of the bark of the red oak, **nusi** and the black gum tree, **chokcho**, into ash, mixing them with water to form a paste and then putting the paste on the yellow-dyed cane.

Over time, the alkalinity of the ash would turn the yellow dye to red. Dyes absorb darker into the interior side of the cane and so this part was usually made to face outwards on baskets.

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

Family Research Leads Sisters to Lost Cemetery

by JUDY ALLEN

Researching family genealogy for Janice Hay of Kansas and Yvonne Amerson of North Carolina was a great way to learn about their heritage and share with other family members.

They made trips to Oklahoma and saw sites where their ancestors had once lived.

The sisters even managed to track down an old family cemetery, a feat that was much more difficult than most people would imagine.

Off the road, up a hill, in the middle of a cow pasture, the cemetery had lain overgrown for many years and was not visible from the road.

The two ladies were stopping and knocking on every door and asking if

anyone knew of a Native American cemetery in the area.

The area was west of Hugo, Oklahoma, where people are known for hospitality and friendliness, so the sisters said they were often greeted with, “Come on in,” and everyone was very helpful.

Finally, a long-time resident was knowledgeable and directed them to rancher Bob Metzger,

whose property housed the cemetery.

“I had cleaned up the cemetery three different times and no one ever came by,” said Metzger. “It was sad to have it there and no visitors.”

He finally just let it grow up again. Over the years tombstones were damaged, some falling over and trees had fallen or lost limbs.

There were also a few armadillos who set up residence with holes in the ground for dens.

There are close to 70 marked graves in the cemetery.

“When Jan and Yvonne came looking and told me they were family to these people I was thrilled,” said Metzger. “I wanted to get the cemetery cleaned up if they wanted to visit.”

The sisters said they were interested in cleaning up the cemetery and repairing the stones.

They decided to spend several days of work at the site.

Metzger paid his ranch



Photos by Judy Allen

Descendants of the Roebucks, assisted by Bob Metzger and crew, cleaned up the Roebuck cemetery near Hugo and had a new sign placed. Pictured, from left, are Julie McElroy, Jan Hay, Tricia Bazzle and Yvonne Amerson.

hands and used his farm equipment to fix the fence, move the gate, trim trees, cut the overgrown weeds and grass and help with general clean up.

The ladies worked on cleanup, repairing grave markers and getting the cemetery up to par.

An ironwork company in North Carolina donated a new sign to mark the Roebuck family cemetery gate.

“We are so thankful for Bob and his workers,” said Amerson. Hay added, “We could not have done it without him.”



Several men with the Roebuck family visit with rancher Bob Metzger regarding the upkeep of the cemetery.

Chahta Anumpa
Aikhvna
Lesson of the Month
Word Search
Hvshtula - Winter

I M S E F U H L I R Y L O K B
L Z H O T O N T I L A A U J G
A B U M G W G X K L H C G N C
U Y L O I P X U Y A H A M L R
N L U W W Z K Y E A L O M Q Y
A I S I F A K K O F K A B B I
H B H D K W C K A T H Q M P Q
C E C Y B S P L U E P B T P I
A S H C N U U S Y I K A O T I
M H A V L T H B I N A J K F H
L A H O H A D L V I U O J P O
R M A S Z N S U B Y L N G X U
I E V F X D K A F H Y Z I N U
I H C N A K O L L L Q I Z V V
J O A M X M Y A S D U D P B S

ANCHI – quilt
HOTONTI – frost
IYYVBUSKI – socks
LUAK – fire
KUCHA OKPULO – bad weather

SHULUSH CHAHA – boots
HVSHTULA – winter
KALAMPI – freezing
MAHLI – wind

CHANUALI – January
IBBAK FOKKA – gloves
LIBESHA – warm
OKTI - ice
OKTUSHA - snow

Answer Key Page Five
www.choctawschool.com

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
1/4/19 PITTSBURG 9:00
1/4/19 SAVANNA 11:20
1/4/19 KIOWA 12:30
1/7/19 MCALESTER 9:00-2:30
1/8/19 CANEY 1:00
1/8/19 KEOTA 11:00
1/8/19 SILO 11:00
1/8/19 MCCURTAIN 1:00
1/9/19 BOSWELL 10:00
1/9/19 CADDO 10:15
1/9/19 CANADIAN 12:30
1/9/19 COALGATE 11:20
1/9/19 HUGO 9:00
1/9/19 TUPELO 12:30
1/9/19 CROWDER 1:30
1/9/19 INDIANOLA 10:30
1/10/19 CLAYTON 9:10
1/14/19 VALLIANT 10:00
1/14/19 ARKOMA 8:00
1/14/19 BOKOSHE 2:00
1/14/19 PANAMA 12:15
1/14/19 SPIRO 9:30
1/15/19 MOYERS 10:15
1/15/19 RATTAN 1:00
1/15/19 BROKEN BOW 10:55
1/15/19 HEAVENER 10:00
1/15/19 HOWE 9:05
1/15/19 WISTER 11:30
1/16/19 ANTLERS 10:00
1/16/19 CALERA 11:00
1/16/19 COLBERT 9:30
1/16/19 KINTA 11:30

1/16/19 QUINTON 10:00
1/16/19 STIGLER 12:30
1/16/19 WRIGHT CITY 10:30
1/17/19 FORT TOWSON 11:00
1/17/19 SOPER 1:00
1/17/19 TUSHKA 11:15
1/17/19 STRINGTOWN 12:30
1/18/19 HAILEYVILLE 10:00
1/18/19 HARTSHORNE 12:30
1/22/19 RED OAK 9:00
1/22/19 HAWORTH 12:30
1/22/19 POCOLA 11:30
1/22/19 POTEAU 9:00 & 1:00
1/22/19 CAMERON 8:00
1/23/19 BENNINGTON 1:00
1/23/19 ROCK CREEK 9:00
1/23/19 TALIHINA 1:15
1/23/19 WILBURTON 12:30
1/23/19 CALVIN 10:00
1/23/19 STUART 8:30
1/23/19 EAGLETOWN 11:20
1/23/19 IDABEL 10:40
1/24/19 ATOKA 10:00
1/28/19 BATTIEST 8:15
1/28/19 SMITHVILLE 9:55
1/28/19 LEFLORE 11:15
1/28/19 WHITESBORO 10:00
1/29/19 PANOLA 12:30
1/29/19 BROKEN BOW 11:30
1/30/19 COLEMAN 1:00
1/30/19 WAPANUCKA 9:51
2/6/19 DURANT 10:30
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.

Choctaw Artist Recognized by Houston Magazine

Choctaw artist Lauren Hawkins Miller has recently been recognized and featured by Voyage Houston Magazine. They saw her work and products in Fort Worth, Texas at an ArtsGoogle Event.

Lauren has had a love for visuals since she was a child. “Growing up, I had an intense passion for learning, but also images. All of my school notebooks were filled with random doodles on every page,” Miller said.

Miller’s first job as an artist was during her college career. “When I entered college, I applied for a graphic design position

primarily because I needed some money. To my surprise, I got the job, where I would be creating posters and advertisements for many of our university’s campus events,” said Miller.

Her college job was a valuable learning experience for Miller and helped her grow as an artist.

“I was horrible when I first started. I worked with several other graphic designers who were immensely and undeniably better at it than I was,” said Miller.

She describes the experience as frustrating at first, but she stuck with it. By

the end of her college career, Miller was made a marketing director for the university.

Miller added that inspiration for her work comes from a two-month summer internship in the Dominican Republic.

“The trip was a life-changer on many levels. But this is absolutely where I discovered my love of adventure,” Miller said.

To learn more about Miller and to check out her artwork, or join her email list, visit her blog Com-monCanopy.com.

See Miller’s full interview with Voyage Houston at voyagehouston.com.



Photo Courtesy of Voyage Houston Magazine

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Karson Dry Named A+ Athlete of the Week

by KXII NEWS 12

[Karson Dry of Rock Creek High School was recently named an A+ Athlete by KXII.](#) A+ Athletes must excel in their sport of choice and in the classroom.

Karson is a four-year member of the Mustangs basketball team, leading his squad to the playoffs in three of those years. He has made the court his second home, using all his free time to practice.

“If you want to see it pay off, you always have to put in the work,” said Dry. “You always have to be in the gym working on your craft. Hard work always pays off.”

Rock Creek head basket-

ball coach Craig Andrus said, “I feel extremely comfortable walking into any gym with Karson stepping off the bus first, and walking into those gyms, knowing that this is the quintessential person from Rock Creek.”

Karson is just as accomplished in the classroom as he is on the court. He’s in the National Honor Society, a member of Student Council, he has a 3.9 GPA and he is ranked number one in his class. He doesn’t plan on slowing down anytime soon.

“You always want to strive for greatness, so that’s what I try to do,” said Dry. “I may not have been the most athletic person on the court, or the

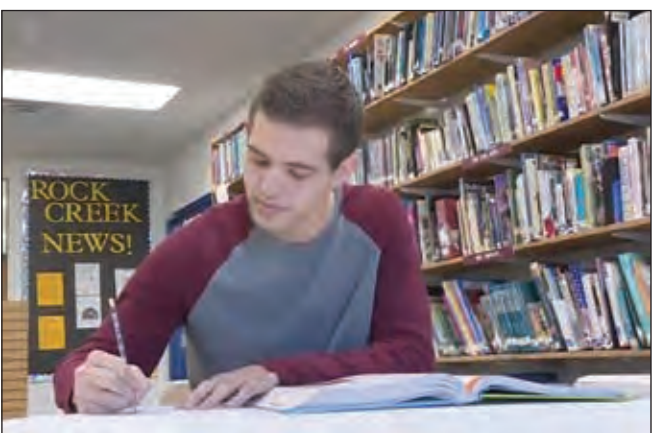


Photo Courtesy of KXII News 12

smartest one in the class, but I always wanted to be the hardest working one in the class. So, I don’t stop until I’m number one.”

Karson’s teacher Leandra Jestis said, “He comes in, he takes care of business and he’s always pre-

pared. I’ve honestly never heard him say a negative thing. He’s always happy.”

When he’s not acing a test or hitting a mid-range jumper, he can be found volunteering around the community, making this A+ Athlete a triple threat.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

LaDawn “Kay” Basura (Boyd) celebrated her 80th birthday in December of 2018.

Kay is the daughter of Audie L. Boyd.



Morgan Mathis celebrated her 27th birthday Dec. 11, 2018.

“Happy Birthday Pumpkin, I will always love you.” -Dad

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, Talihina, & 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 skills)
- 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.

FSelf@CHOCTAWNATION.COM | 800-522-6170 EXT 2192 OR 2504

SPIRIT OF EDUCATION

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

The Choctaw Nation offers Distance Learning High School Equivalency classes for all members. Classes are 3 days a week for 9 weeks with all books, supplies and testing fees provided.

Must have:

1. A tribal membership or CDIB card
2. A Social Security card, driver’s license or state issued ID

Session 3 starts on January 3, 2019. All classes will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at your local community center. Contact the number below to find out locations:

800-522-6170 ext. 2122
www.ChoctawNation.com

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Living out the Choctaw Spirit

ACCREDITED CHOCTAW LANGUAGE CLASS

Enroll Today!

Southeastern Oklahoma State University

For more information, contact:

Choctaw Nation
School of Choctaw Language
800-522-6170 ext. 2717

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COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

-The Choctaw Clothing grant is a **one time only** allowance.

-A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00-4.00

-A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00-2.99

Fall awarding is January 1 – April 1

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

APPLY ONLINE
ccaapplication.choctawnation.com
Paper applications NO longer accepted

OKLA CHAHTA CLAN OF CALIFORNIA

24TH ANNUAL GATHERING

MAY 4 & 5, 2019

Year of Dancing

Saturday Dinner Provided
Cultural Games & Activities
Traditional Choctaw Social Dancing
Storytelling | Princess Contest

Hart Park near Lake Ming
Bakersfield, California

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 - Seal all interior wall penetrations
 - Install LED bulbs throughout
 - Install programmable thermostats

Eligibility Requirements

- Choctaw CDIB & Tribal Membership
- Proof of Veteran Status
- Completed Application

CHOCTAWNATION.COM/TRIBAL-SERVICES/HOUSING | 580-927-1074

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

Adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY

- 1-2 layers
- long layer
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- warm shoes water proof

COLD

- 2-3 layers
- gloves
- warm hat
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- boots water proof
- 1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD

- 3+ layers
- 1 insulating
- gloves
- warm hat
- face mask
- outer layer to keep out wind
- boots water proof
- 2+ layers

Choctaw Nation
Emergency Management

weather.gov/cold

Teach To Reach

Teach To Reach is a program available to assist Native Americans who have been accepted into the teacher education programs at OSU, OU, ECU, NSU or UCO.

Benefits of Participation:

- Receive Funding for Tuition, Books & Fees
- Monthly Living Stipend
- Technology Allowance
- Mentor Teacher Support
- Professional Development & Culture Experiences
- Assistance with Job Placement
- Support for the First Two Years of Employment
- Funding for classroom school supplies upon employment
- Testing or Exam Fees

For program information and to apply contact:
Career Development: 866-933-2260
www.choctawcareers.com/T2R

*A portion of the total costs of the Teach to Reach program will be financed with Federal money.

Chief and Assistant Chief Spread Christmas Cheer to Students and Staff During Annual Christmas Party at Jones Academy

by DAVID SANCHEZ

Every year at Christmas time Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. make the trek from the headquarters in Durant to Jones Academy.

Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin have been faithful about visiting the students around this time.

They come bearing gifts, good cheer and a message of hope for the future to the students and staff of the school.

On Monday, Dec. 10, they met with the entire student body to share words of encouragement and support from the Choctaw Nation.

Their dialogue was full of praise and motivation.

Chief Batton told them he was proud of them for their hard work and expressed how faith compels us to serve and care about one another.

He wanted to impress on them how “we are all in it together.”

After their talks the Chief and Assistant Chief had a great time on campus listening to and conversing with students.

They chatted about the students’ plans, their homes and goals for the future.

There was a lot of joking around and laughter.

Their visits have always been a blessing and this visit was no exception.



(from left) Chief Gary Batton, Abigale Logston, Aaliyah Moore and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. pose for a photo during Chief and Assistant Chief’s Christmas visit to Jones Academy.



(from left) Chief Gary Batton shows students Emily Leyja, Makaiya Miller and Amariah Chee something interesting on his phone.



District 6 Councilperson Jennifer Woods, Chief Gary Batton, Sadi Vick, Onnaminti Watson and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. pose for a photo.



(from left) Chief Gary Batton, Jones student Priscilla Trejo Rains, her mother Stephanie Trejo-Rains and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. smile for the camera during the Christmas Celebration at Jones Academy.



Chief Batton shares a laugh with students (from left) Elajah Ellison, Royanna Warner and Amariah Chee during his visit to Jones Academy for Christmas on Dec. 10, 2018.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2019 Labor Day Festival Food Vendor Application

Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds
Tyshka Homma, Oklahoma
Wednesday, AUGUST 28, 2019 through Monday, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

FOOD VENDOR GUIDELINES

- Vendors must submit a picture of their food station with the application.
- Vendors are required to submit: (1) an up-to-date proof of liability insurance with the application and (2) proof of inspection from the Health Department.
- Vendors are required to pay a \$1,000.00 reservation fee if your selected you will be contacted by mail for instructions on where to submit your money order or cashier’s check to secure your vendor spot.
- All vendors will be selected by a committee.
- All vendors will be notified by direct mail.
- Deadline to submit applications will be APRIL 19, 2019
- For safety purposes, vendors will set up facing the east side of the cafeteria.
- Two (2) vendor passes will be issued to each vendor and must be attached to your windshield for the gate attendant to see upon arrival for entrance to on to the grounds. After you have unloaded, you will need to park your vehicle in the vendor parking area only. ****Extra vehicles will not be allowed to remain on the festival grounds. ****
- Set up may begin after 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – Do not set up until you have checked in with a representative from Cultural Resources Department.
- The Choctaw Nation will have ice available for purchase throughout the festival.
- Water will be provided. You are responsible for your own water hoses.
- Please bring heavy-duty trash bags to keep the area clean. You will be responsible for cleanup of your vendor area during and after the festival.
- Please bring your own generator if you need more electric than provided. We will be checking each box throughout the weekend. This should help take care of power outages.
- EACH VENDOR WILL BE PROVIDED WITH 50 AMPS OF ELECTRICITY. ANY VENDOR CAUGHT ALTERING THE PEDISTALS WILL BE ASKED TO VACATE THE PREMISES WITHOUT A REFUND. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Food Vendors will be allowed to park ONE RV/TRAILER behind their vendor spot. All other vehicles will need to park in the designated vendor parking. This is to keep the vendor area from becoming congested in the event of an emergency.
- Refunds will not be made after arriving at the festival.

YOUR COOPERATION IN ABIDING BY THESE GUIDELINES WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Application Deadline is Friday, April 19

For questions or concerns please contact Kay Jackson at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2504, cell at (580) 775-1774, or email kayjackson@choctawnation.com, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Or contact Valarie Robison at (800) 522-6170, ext. 4194, cell (580) 916-6784, or email at vjrobison@choctawnation.com, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2019 Labor Day Festival Food Vendor Application

Application Deadline is Friday, April 19

FOOD VENDOR SET UP

- Electric & water hook-ups, please park vendor trailer so the hook-ups are located in the middle of your trailer.
- You are allowed a total of 30 feet for your vendor trailer. (15 feet to the north and 15 feet to the south of the hook-up.) **If your vendor trailer will not fit in the space allowed, please do not return your application.**
- Vendor trailer must be set up in front of the utility hook-up and the east side of the trailer is at the edge of the paved area.
- You are allowed to park an RV/Trailer directly behind your trailer. The space provided is approximately 30 feet wide x 35 feet long. If your trailer RV/Trailer does not fit in this space, you will need to make other arrangements.

FOOD VENDOR APPLICATION

I AGREE TO THE SET UP AND GUIDELINES STATED. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I VIOLATE ANY OF THE SAID SET UP OR GUIDELINES, I MAY BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AND MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

SIGNATURE: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE (Home): _____

(Cell): _____

E MAIL ADDRESS: _____

BUSINESS E MAIL: _____

Please attached a copy of your Tribal Membership with your application.

MY VENDOR TRAILER MEASURES IN LENGTH _____ WIDTH _____

PLEASE LIST SOME OF THE FOOD ITEMS YOU WILL BE SELLING.

Please mail back to
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Cultural Services, Attn: Kay Jackson, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, Oklahoma 74701
You may also email your application at vjrobison@choctawnation.com or kayjackson@choctawnation.com

For questions or concerns please contact Kay Jackson at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2504, cell at (580) 775-1774, or email kayjackson@choctawnation.com, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Or contact Valarie Robison at (800) 522-6170, ext. 4194, cell (580) 916-6784, or email at vjrobison@choctawnation.com, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Broken Bow Stickball Field Honors Man who Helped Keep Choctaw Culture Alive

The Choctaw Nation unveiled the Curtis “Tody” Billy Stickball Field in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018.

The field will allow future generations the opportunity to participate in the ancient sport of Choctaw stickball.

The sport is America’s oldest field sport and is popular among southeastern tribes for ceremonial and recreational use.

Stickball was used to settle disputes among neighboring tribes and once served as a replacement for war.

The traditional name for stickball is ishtaboli, or little brother of war.

In the modern era, it is used as a tool to preserve culture and reap the health benefits of exercise.

There are adult, youth, co-ed and women’s teams.

District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward met with the local co-ed team to discuss the unveiling of a new field and the possibility of naming the field after someone.

“I asked the team if they would like to name the field

after someone and mentioned the name Tody Billy,” said Ward.

The team voted unanimously to name the field in honor of Billy, who helped pave the way for Choctaw culture to be practiced in Oklahoma.

During the dedication Chief Gary Batton said, “It’s emotional for me because I think about the Trail of Tears in the 1830s when we lost one-fourth of our people and we lost a lot of our tradition and culture.”

Billy began his career as an artist. He pursued his passion for art by obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Art Education with a minor in the Industrial Arts and a master’s degree in School Counseling.

Following his education, Billy spent a year teaching art in Miami, Oklahoma.

In 1973, he served as a mentor to a church youth group from the Choctaw Larger Parrish, a Choctaw branch of the Presbyterian Church.

The church received a Faith and Identity grant to

explore Choctaw culture.

The group planned a trip to the Choctaw Indian Fair located on the reservation of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

“The purpose of the trip was to learn dances and culture because we knew that other tribes had their dances and we wanted to learn ours,” Billy said.

Elders taught the youth group dances and stickball while Curtis and his wife Teresa served as translators.

Instructions were received in Choctaw, then recorded and taught in English.

From 1974-2004, Curtis served as Indian education coordinator and school counselor at Broken Bow High School.

Throughout his tenure he developed the Indian Arts & Crafts class and founded the American Indian Leadership Youth Council.

Under his leadership, the first Choctaw Language class was offered at Broken Bow for course credit.

Students were taught stickball, journalism,



Photos Provided

(from left) Chief Gary Batton, Curtis “Tody” Billy and District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward stand in front of the stickball field in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, named in honor of Billy.

photography, silk-screening, primitive pottery, traditional weaponry, stickball making, Choctaw dances, bead work, basketry, pottery and textile art.

Many of today’s stickball players and coaches were introduced to stickball through the school system and A.I.L.Y.C.

His Choctaw dance group and stickball team traveled the state performing for schools, organizations and tribal festivals.

Several former students went on to teach culture to others within their communities and careers.

“I think of Curtis as a cultural carrier and I want to thank him for blazing the trail for the tribe,” Batton said.

The unveiling ceremony involved Choctaw dancing, Choctaw hymns, gifts and speeches from alumni.

A traditional Choctaw meal was served and a stickball game was played in his honor.



Players from Tvshka Homma, Chikasha Toli, Okla Hvnnalu and Southeast Thunder team up to play an exhibition game in honor of Curtis “Tody” Billy.

2019 Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

Entries Due Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2019

Wilburton
(EOSC Campus)

Saturday, Feb. 2
Swine Show, Doe Show, Wether Show and Lamb Show

Sunday, Feb. 3
Steer Show and Heifer Show

Durant
(Bryan County Fairgrounds)

Saturday, Feb. 2
Swine Show, Doe Show, Wether Show and Lamb Show

Sunday, Feb. 3
Steer Show and Heifer Show

For more information:
www.choctawnation.com
Shalon Roe at Jones Academy
(888) 767-2518
or
Jody House
(580) 924-8280 ext. 2986

SCHOLARSHIPS

Competitive scholarships for all Choctaw students from High School Senior to Doctorate level degrees.

OPEN: January 15th

DEADLINE: MARCH 31st

CHAHTAFoundation.COM

Pastor Olin Williams

Visions and Ideals

Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

With the arrival of the New Year, there is an atmosphere of newness in the air.

There is the inward feeling of fresh starts, new hopes and perhaps new efforts.

It is the time of year people traditionally make New Year’s resolutions.

Common resolutions are, to lose weight or to quit certain bad habits that affect life. Certainly, there is much good in making resolutions.

However, like logs blazing with fire in the fireplace, our resolve begins to lose its glow over time.

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of concise and divinely inspired literature of ethical precepts about practical living.

Proverbs 29:18 reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

Resolutions are often not carried through because we lose the vision.

Cherish the visions, cherish the ideals, cherish the music in the heart and the thoughts in the mind. Remain true to them and delightful fruits will grow.

Dream dreams. Dream within and you will stir without. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the eagle waits in the egg; and the next poet, prophet, composer or architect begins life in the womb.

Dreams are the seedlings of realities. It is the vision, the dream, the ideal that pokes the dying ember of our resolutions.

In human affairs, there are efforts before results. In between effort and result is a period of faith exercised, trials and failures to encounter, sacrifices to be made and time to trouble the mind.

The end result is material, intellectual and spiritual possessions that have become one’s fruit.

They are thoughts completed, goals accomplished and visions realized.

The thoughtless, the ignorant and the indolent see only the outward appearance of efforts and results and conclude that one was “lucky” or “favored.”

However, mere human vision cannot always be good. There has to be a divine outlook.

The word “vision” here has to do with the Word of God.

Where there is no Word of God, there is no message of life. Without vision or the Word of God, the people perish.

“Perish” is a word from the original Hebrew meaning, to have no protection, to have no restraint, no standard or purpose.

In other words, people need the Word of God to guide, restrain and direct their thoughts and aspirations to a higher level of development, so their goals may achieve a truly meaningful impact on mankind.

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.

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