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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2016 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session June 11 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Approve the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Early Head Start Program (Sept. 1, 2015 - Aug. 31, 2016)
- Approve the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Head Start Program (Nov. 1, 2015 - Oct. 31, 2016)
- Approve to dispose of surplus equipment
- Application for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- Application for the Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program for Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Application for the Tribal Management Grant Program
- Application for the NEA Art Works: Media Arts Grant
- Application for the Indian Community Development Block Grant
- Application for the Native American Agricultural Fast Track Fund
- Approve a Service Line Agreement with Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company on Land USA in trust for the Choctaw Nation in LeFlore County, Oklahoma
- Oil & Gas Lease No. 503-8657 on Land USA in Trust for the Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations with Jess Harris III, LLC in Atoka County, Okla.
- Approve the NAHASDA 2017 Indian Housing Plan (IHP)
- Amend CB-87-16 Budget and Recontracting of Choctaw Nation Early Head Start FY/2016-17
- Tribal Transportation Program Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to <https://www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills>. Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Growth Continues in Choctaw Country



Photo by Tina Firquain

Chief Gary Batton joins the kids on the new playground during the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Bethel and Battiest Chahta Preschool on Thursday, June 16.

By COMMUNICATIONS STAFF
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation has been busy recently with numerous construction projects across the 10 ½ counties. In addition to work being done on several roads, in the past month there has been a groundbreaking for a Wellness Center in Antlers, a groundbreaking for a Travel Plaza and Casino Too in Hugo, a ribbon cutting for a new Choctaw Nation Community Center and Chahta Preschool between Bethel and Battiest in northern McCurtain County and a groundbreaking ceremony for a Wellness Center in Stigler.

Two miles of Rock Plant/Speer Road—a major connection between Hugo and the Speer Community—is among the road projects currently under way. The \$1.75 million project is along a heavily used route that connects with Hwy. 271 and Cotton Road leading to Hwy. 43. The first mile is a complete reconstruction of the road, including drainage pipes. The second half will receive new overlay.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 8, for a Choctaw Wellness Center in Antlers.

“I love seeing these facilities come, because I do believe we can make our tribal members live longer,” said Chief Gary Batton at the ground breaking. “This is 2.5 million dollars that is being invested here in Antlers, Oklahoma.”

The Wellness Center is being constructed near the Choctaw Nation Community Center located at 400 SW O St. in Antlers.

Stigler will also be getting a new Wellness Center. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Tuesday, June 28. The Stigler Wellness Center is being constructed on property next to the Choctaw Community Center at 2208 E. Main St.

“This is about improving the lives of our people,” Chief Batton said. “I hope this gives them hope—hope that they can live longer lives, hope that things are coming to southeast Oklahoma, that it is growing Stigler. This is our home, this is the Choctaw Nation so we’re wanting to grow our area.”

Both Wellness Centers will be in a 9,700-sq.-ft. facility that will include a half-court basketball gym and indoor walking track. A 2,500-sq.-ft space will be dedicated to top-of-the-line cardio- and strength-training machines. Another 2,000 square feet will be for group fitness classes. Other Wellness Center amenities will be men’s and women’s showers and rest rooms, as well as lockers for day use. The Wellness Center staff will offer free personal training programs, nutritional counseling, and comprehensive fitness assessments to Wellness Center members.

In addition to being open to tribal members, Wellness Centers are open to Choctaw Nation employees, veterans, active military, law enforcement, firefighters and rescue personnel.

On Tuesday, June 14, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Hugo for the new Choctaw Travel Plaza and Casino Too, which will be located on the northeast corner of Hwy. 70 and County Road 4214, across from the Hugo Livestock Market.

“I’m glad we got this here, we’ve been looking forward to it for a while,” District 8 Councilman, Perry Thompson said. “We’re just happy to get this. We’ve got to put businesses in for our people to have jobs.”

There will be four fueling locations that will offer gasoline and diesel (but not truck diesel) fuels. There will be a kitchen, which will offer hot prepared foods, fresh and healthy offerings. A Casino TOO with approximately 25 games will be included in the location. A portion of the building will house a Cultural Center to promote the Choctaw Heritage.

A ribbon cutting was held between Bethel and Battiest for a Choctaw Nation Community Center and Chahta Preschool on Thursday, June 16.

The Choctaw Nation Bethel Campus is a 25-acre site located approximately 1 ¾ miles east of Battiest on Battiest-Pickens Road, the main county road between the towns of Bethel and Battiest. The campus features a new community center, new preschool and three access-

sory/service buildings.

The Choctaw Nation Community Center is an almost 8,000-sq.-ft. community building that will hold a variety of events for the Nation. This community center features a large assembly space, full-scale commercial kitchen, Tribal Council offices, and an exercise room. The facility will bring a warm and inviting space for members of the Choctaw Nation to come together.

The Chahta Pre-School will accommodate up to 25 students and employ six people, including a lead teacher certified in Early Childhood Education. The technology-forward classroom is equipped with a Smartboard system and energy efficient floor-to-ceiling windows, providing students with a wooded view of natural wildlife. Additional noteworthy features include a full-service commercial kitchen, multi-purpose dining and parent meeting

room and FEMA-rated safe room for the protection of the students and staff.

“It is nice to be focusing on our elders,” Chief Batton said. Addressing tribal elders in attendance, he said, “This will hopefully be a facility that you will be proud of.”

Chief Batton also mentioned the preschool. He said, “This new head start is bringing state-of-the-art technology to Bethel. Our kids will have the best education that they could get anywhere.”

Work continues on the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic in Durant. As of the beginning of June the steel frame for the new clinic has been erected as well as the majority of the new roof structure.

“We are so excited to see the clinic begin to take shape,” said Teresa Jackson, Senior Executive Officer for Choctaw Nation Health Services. “Chief Batton and As-

sistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. made a decision early on to ensure that the clinic would provide tribal members with as many services as possible close to home and now we are beginning to see that vision take form.”

Installation of the wall cladding has started and brick masons have begun to add the new “Choctaw Blend” brick.

The Choctaw Blend brick was created exclusively by the ACME brick company of Fort Smith, Arkansas and will be released to the public after the clinic is completed.

According to Andy Kleinstein, an engineer on the project, spring rains have delayed efforts primarily on roof work. “We’re about a month behind,” he said, “but we have been concentrating on interior work and that’s allowed us to keep progressing.”

The estimated completion date for the new clinic is January 2017.

Burrage to be Inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

Michael Burrage is receiving the highest honor this year that any Oklahoman can be given by the state. Burrage will be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on November 17, at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Along with Burrage, fellow inductees Troy Aikman, Rita Bly Aragon, Dan Dillingham, Rebecca Dixon, Kelley O’Hara, and Russell Westbrook will be in attendance at the 89th annual banquet in November.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was established in 1927 and the 2016 inductees will be joining 677 other accomplished individuals in the Hall of Fame.

Burrage said, “It’s a tremendous honor and I am very humbled, especially when I look at the list of all the inductees over the years.”

Burrage was born in Durant and spent his early childhood in Sherman, Texas. After his parents divorce, his family moved around until settling in Antlers. Once settled, he took any job he could to support his three younger siblings when he was just 13.

Since then, Burrage has had many achievements and has raised a proud Choctaw family.

Burrage is married to Aletha Burrage and they have two sons, Sean Burrage, President of Southeastern Oklahoma State

University and David Burrage, a partner at Burrage Law Firm and Chief Justice of the Choctaw Constitutional Court.

His son, Sean Burrage said, “I never would have predicted that a person from southeast Oklahoma would be recognized like this, it means a lot to us (his family).”

Burrage’s reputation speaks for itself as to what he has accomplished.

“In his third year of practicing law, he was recognized as the most Outstanding Young Lawyer in Oklahoma in 1977 and in 1990 he became the president of the Oklahoma Bar Association,” said Sean Burrage.

Three years later, Burrage was nominated by Senator David Boren and then appointed by President Bill Clinton as a United States District Judge for Eastern, Western and Northern Districts of Oklahoma. By 1994, he was confirmed by the United States Senate for the position.

Burrage is believed to be the first Native American federal judge in United States history.

Sean Burrage said, “It all comes together and makes a lot of sense that he would be in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.”

After stepping down from the bench, Burrage



Photo Provided by David Fitzgerald

Michael Burrage (front) with his two sons, David (left) and Sean Burrage (right).

began his second legal career. According to his son Sean, “He was lead counsel for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation in their historic \$186 million settlement with the United States Department of Interior.”

Even after the success Burrage has had, his son said he doesn’t see retirement in the near future.

“No one accomplishes anything in life on their own—somewhere along the way, a person or persons provided support, guidance, and encouragement. Several people have done that for me,” Burrage said as he described what motivated him through the years.

His heritage has also been there through his life. Sean Burrage said, “When I think about Choctaw, I think about him.”

“My family and I are very proud of our Native American heritage—it has had a very positive influence on my life,” said Michael Burrage. “It means we, as Choctaws are part of the rich heritage that has made this country and Oklahoma a great place.”

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



Trip to Washington, D.C. Pays Respect to Past and Shares Choctaw Culture

The Choctaw Nation made a trip to Washington, D.C. in June to hold an arts and music festival at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. While there we visited Arlington National Cemetery and the Congressional Cemetery. I was asked what the trip meant to me and my first thought was “respect.”

Assistant Chief Austin and I participated in a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that sits on one of the rolling hills in Arlington National Cemetery. We were asked to walk with a guard to place the wreath in front of the final resting places of unknown soldiers from World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, a memorial representing all unidentified soldiers. I remember how quiet everything was. Scores of people stood in respect on the steps of the Memorial Amphitheater and it was heartwarming to know there were several there from the Choctaw Nation. We stood facing the monument while Taps was played, and we could see our country’s capitol across the river.

I couldn’t help but think of the ones who went before us and the soldiers who are currently serving. I thought of my son, David, who serves in the Army Reserves. It made me very proud of him and our men and women who serve this country.

The guards in charge of the tomb were fascinating to watch. Their precision and dedication were impressive as each in their turn paced back and forth, exactly 21 steps each way.

Later that day, our group paid our respects to former Chiefs Pushmataha and Peter Pitchlynn by placing wreaths at their gravesites at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department recently completed a project to repair the monument at Peter Pitchlynn’s grave. It stands whole again with a guardian angel watching over him.

Our royalty—Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatha Hardy, Junior Miss Loren Crosby and Little Miss Arianna Byington—were visiting for the first time and learning more about Choctaw history. Choctaw

songs were sung and played on the flute to honor these two Chiefs. While we walked through the cemetery, I thought of my Mom and my Grandpa, and of all the former leaders who have led the way for us. We are standing on their shoulders and I am so thankful that they are what have made us the great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The two-day Choctaw Nation Arts and Music Festival at NMAI began the next day and it brought people together from all over the world. Respect for our culture was shown through our dance, song, stories, art, pottery, beadwork, ancient weaponry, stickball, and through opportunities to educate others about our tribe.

Many of the visitors were Choctaw families from the area and it was good to see familiar faces. Some were wearing their traditional Choctaw clothing. Other visitors wanted to know about our culture. People from Switzerland, South Africa, France, and other countries were eager to share information about their culture and learn about ours.

I’m thankful we have the freedom to talk about our faith, family and culture everywhere we go and I’m thankful we have such wonderful members who are proud of their Choctaw heritage. Yakoke!



Our Father’s Blessings

There were many special Choctaw Nation events in June, from ribbon cuttings to arts and music festivals to youth summer camps and more. The month of June is also important to me because of Father’s Day. I hope everyone had the chance to spend it with his or her family, celebrating with their fathers or sharing cherished memories of them. We have three generations of fathers in my family now. I have learned so much from my Dad and am passing the valuable lessons on to my children.

Many men are away from home because they serve in the military or have jobs that take them elsewhere. I hope they were able to chat with their families on that special day. It’s important to keep a strong connection and let them know how much we appreciate them.

Choctaw history tells us the men in the tribe are compared to the powerful lightning that can split trees, or malvtha. One of Choctaw Nation’s Historic Preservation department’s Iti Fabvssa articles printed in the Biskinik describes the role of Choctaw men in the family. They were strong; they were our protectors. They hunted to supply meat for the family to eat and created weapons, tools and implements for the communities. Young boys began their path to adulthood early and they were trained to be honest and generous. It is a blessing to have the privilege to help shape our sons and daughters into the strong men and women who are the Choctaw Nation’s future. Our faith, family and culture are what bind us. When God gave us the Ten Commandments, He was thinking of His children—“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”—Deuteronomy 6:6-7. There is no greater gift than that of being a father.

The Iti Fabvssa articles are also archived on the Internet at <http://www.choctawnationculture.com/choctaw-culture/iti-fabvssa>. The articles focus on Choctaw culture, history, and many items of interest to all of us.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 7 Councilman Jack Austin Sr., and Stacie Kerns with the Antlers Community Center hand out gifts to local veterans at the Antlers Veterans Lunch on June 15.



Photo by Stacy Hutto



Photo Provided by Debbie Lloyd

Lt. Ratliff Awarded French Legion of Honor



A Choctaw Nation veteran recently had a birthday he will never forget. On Thursday, June 16, ten men were honored at the Oklahoma History Museum in Oklahoma City with the French Legion of Honor medal for their part in liberating France. Houston French Consul General Sujiro Seam, on behalf of French President Francois Hollande, awarded the medals to the men after a short speech and ceremony.

Lt. Clarence Paul Ratliff was born 94 years ago in Blanchard, Oklahoma. A member of the Choctaw Nation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August of 1942.

His nickname during his years in service was “Chief.” Lt. Ratliff flew F6F Hellcats off the deck of the USS Kassar Bay, a CVE 69 escort carrier, as part of the fighting squadron VF-74.

On August 15, 1944, Lt. Ratliff’s squadron participated in Operation Anvil Dragoon, liberating Southern France. The squadron provided air cover for Allied troops, as well as conducted seek and destroy missions.

Lt. Ratliff has never forgotten Lt. Commander Harry Brinkley Bass, who was a man he respected and admired. The commander of the VF-74 was lost to hidden ground fire on August 20, 1944. Lt. Ratliff was Commander Bass’ wingman that day and his commander ordered him to stay high and provide top cover while Commander Bass went after the ground targets. Lt. Ratliff has often said that Commander Bass was so eager to take on the enemy he

would make them stay under cover for him while he went after the enemy. Ratliff went on to say the USS Brinkley Bass, a DD-887 Gearing class destroyer, was named after his friend.

In November of 1944, Lt. Ratliff began a second cruise. This time on the USS Saratoga with the fighting squadron VF-48, flying F6F Hellcats in the Pacific Theater.

While in the Pacific Theater he participated in Operations against Mainland China and supported the invasion of Iwo Jima.

The USS Saratoga suffered heavy casualties from numerous kamikaze attacks and Lt. Ratliff narrowly escaped being one of those casualties, aided in recovering bodies and gave comfort to the wounded.

Lt. Ratliff’s third cruise began in April 1945, aboard the USS Monterey, again flying F6F Hellcats. He was assigned to the fighting squad BF-34.

Lt. Ratliff witnessed the signing of the unconditional surrender by Japan, which took place in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. Lt. Ratliff was on the flight deck of the USS Monterey, which was anchored nearby and witnessed the signing from there.

He and his wife Juanita have three daughters and one son; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great granddaughters.

His mother is the late Maggie Barnett, an original enrollee.

Although Lt. Ratliff is retired, he owns the 3R Bar Ranch, a third generation family business, which has also been designated an Oklahoma Centennial Ranch. The 3R Bar Ranch has been in existence since 1905 and is a Limousin cattle ranch in Washington, Oklahoma.



Jobs are being created in the Durant area!

Informational Session presented by CMC associates for tribal members

Join us to hear the

WHO • WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

on the hottest jobs in the region!
(Informational ONLY...not a hiring event!)

July 14th @ 6:30pm/Choctaw Community Center/Durant, OK

For more information, contact Jill Reyna 866.933.2260



Gospel Singing Photos Wanted

The Biskinik is looking for pictures from traditional Gospel Singings. Pictures from Choctaw churches, as well as other churches would be appreciated.

As the pictures will be going into archives, any pictures sent in **WILL NOT** be returned and will become the property of Choctaw Nation. Pictures can be emailed, mailed, or brought to the Biskinik office at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant.

Email to:
biskinik@choctawnation.com
or mail to:
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

OUTREACH AT THE BEACH

- Swimming
- Free Lunch
- Free Promo Items
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Beaver’s Bend Swim Beach
Hochatown, OK
Wednesday, July 20, 2016
10am-2pm

For More Information Contact:
Choctaw Nation Outreach Services 1-877-285-6893

Meet the Artist



Theresa Prough
SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016
11AM - 4PM
CHOCTAW COUNTRY WELCOME CENTER
1882 HWY 69/75 | COLBERT, OK 74733
580.296.2672
CHOCTAWSTORE.COM

HEALTH

July is Parks and Recreation Month

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito, Have a Super-Powered July with Choctaw Nation by celebrating Park and Recreation Month this July. Get ready to discover your super powers this July with Choctaw Nation and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by NRPA, Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the vital and powerful role local parks and recreation play in conservation, health and wellness, and social equity efforts in communities all across the country.

This year it's all about discovering your super powers at your local park and recreation facilities. From learning a new skill like gardening to meeting your fitness goals, your communities' park and recreation facilities can have you feeling like a superhero before July is through. NRPA and Choctaw Nation are encouraging everyone to get out there to experience the power of parks and recreation for themselves.

Our local parks and recreation directly contribute to reduced obesity rates, an improved ecosystem and increased property values." Choctaw Nation is leading initiatives and providing opportunities for people to achieve healthier lifestyles, promote and understand nature and conservation as well as bringing the community closer through a variety of

Geek Squad Academy Comes to Durant

By STACY HUTTO

Choctaw Nation

Almost a year after President Barack Obama spoke at Durant High School, the halls filled with the first step into the Promise Zone and ConnectHome initiative. Choctaw Nation partnered with Best Buy to bring the Geek Squad Academy to Durant on June 14-15. There were around 154 Choctaw students ages 10-18, who attended the two day academy. Now in it's 10th season, there are 23 Geek Squad Academies scheduled in the United States. The Choctaw Nation hosted the only academy in Oklahoma at the high school in Durant.



Photo by Stacy Hutto

Junior agents learn how to use a CAD Program in the 3D Design class during the Geek Squad Academy.

of them. He said their plan was to start now to teach kids to be the ones creating the machines. When Storey asked if in the future the students would like to be their own boss, he got an enthusiastic response. He said there were opportunities ranging from web design to creating a song for iTunes for \$1.99. After Storey finished speaking the junior agents followed the instructors of the first class they had been assigned to Literary Lane. Each class was 45 minutes long.

programs and services. Nationally, NRPA is celebrating with a month-long #SuperParkSelfie photo contest and is challenging people to get out to their park and recreation facilities and capture the super powers they gain from them. NRPA also encourages everyone to share their support of parks and recreation on social media with the hashtag #SuperJuly. For more information about the contest and Park and Recreation Month in general, visit www.nrpa.org/July. What would healthy activities be without healthy eating? This healthy recipe is a must while getting out and enjoying the parks and recreation areas.



Cranberry Almond Energy Bites

Author: Danielle Green

Cranberry Almond Engery Bites are a good way to get a boost of energy after exploring local parks.
Recipe of the Month

Cranberry Almond Energy Bites are a protein packed recipe that you can store in your freezer for a healthy and convenient snack or breakfast. They have plenty of protein, fiber and healthy fats to fill you up and give you the energy you need to conquer your day!

Ingredients

- 1 c. oatmeal
- 1/3 c. almonds, chopped
- 1/3 c. sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 Tbsp. ground flaxseed (optional)
- 1/2 c. nut butter (peanut or almond are both good)
- 1/4 c. honey
- 1 Tbsp. chia seeds
- 1/3 c. dried cranberries, roughly chopped

Instructions

1. Bake oatmeal, almonds and coconut for 8-10 minutes at 350°, stirring after 5 minutes. Allow the mixture to cool.
2. In a medium bowl microwave the nut butter for 20-30 seconds until runny, add the baked mix along with flaxseed, honey, chia seeds and cranberries to the bowl. Form into 1.5" balls and refrigerate. Store in an airtight container refrigerated for up to one week or freezer for 3 months.

Prep time: 5 mins Cook time: 10 mins Total time: 15 mins

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 ball Servings Per Container 16

Amount Per Serving Calories 123 Calories from Fat 63

Total Fat 7g Saturated Fat 1g Trans Fat 0g

Cholesterol 0mg Sodium 6mg Total Carbohydrate 14g

Dietary Fiber 2g Sugars 7g Protein 3g

I hope you will enjoy these energy pack snacks. For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext.: 6959.

Single Mom's Day Out!

For Single Moms living in McCurtain County!

July 16th, Totally Cosmo,

110 North Broadway, Broken Bow

1:00PM-5:00PM(First come first serve,

Will not accept clients after 4:00PM)

Free Hair cut/style, Manicure and Facial!

SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN OF "CHAHITA OHVOY TIKRA HIKIA" a Division of Choctaw Nation Outreach Services In honor of Erica Martinez!

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Totally Cosmo, Choctaw Nation Outreach Services

Contact Melissa Cross for more information: 1-800-522-6170

NURSERY NEWS

Jewell Shooting Star Gentry

Jewell Shooting Star Gentry was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 27, 2016, at 12:04 a.m. and weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces and was 18 3/4 inches long. Her parents are E. David and Kristin Gentry. She is the granddaughter of the late Patricia Hoover. Great-grandfather is the late Jack Benjamin.



Agriculture Department Pays Visit to Top Choctaw Food Sites

By CHARLES D. CLARK

Choctaw Nation

Eddie Longoria, Special Nutrition Programs Division Director with USDA, accompanied by two others from the Dallas office, toured the Choctaw Nation's "Hoop House" and Food Distribution Building June 16 in Durant for a site visit of a program the federal agency is funding. Longoria, who had been to the program previously, explained to his co-workers, "You are about to see the best of the best."

Choctaw Food Distribution Director Jerry Tonubbee and his staff pointed out that the specially designed "Hoop House," located by the Choctaw Community Center in Durant, is doing more than growing fresh vegetables for use in the Choctaw Nation's Senior Nutrition and Food Distribution programs. A number of tribal elders also participate by volunteering their agricultural skills and knowledge. Youth get involved by taking field trips to see the microcosm of farming.



Photo by Lisa Reed

Later, Longoria joined Max Finberg, Director of Washington, D.C.-based AmeriCorps VISTA, and Carla Knapp, national director of the Native Service Unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America at the Durant Boys & Girls Club. "I was contacted by Carla of the Boys and Girls Clubs in Indian Country," said Finberg, "and she asked if I could add an additional dozen workers for the summer. I said, 'How about 50 instead?'" The VISTA workers will add considerably to the staffs of the clubs that also serve nutritional meals to youth through the summer months. Three have been assigned to the Durant program. The national announcement of increased numbers of VISTA workers to be placed in the summer youth programs was made in Durant because, as Knapp said, "The successful Promise Zone program that the Choctaws are operating and we wanted it to be at a Boys & Girls Club in Indian Country." More information can be found online at www.ChoctawNation.com.

It was love at first sight ...

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

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

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

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

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

***** HOURS *****

Open 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thursday

Antlers: 200 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443

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

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

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

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

JULY	AUGUST
ANTLERS Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, and 29. Cooking with Carmen: July 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	ANTLERS Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, and 29. Cooking with Carmen: July 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
DURANT Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, and 29. Cooking with Carmen: July 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	DURANT Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
McALESTER Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, and 29. Cooking with Carmen: July 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	McALESTER Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
POTEAU Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, and 29. Cooking with Carmen: July 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	POTEAU Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 and 31. Cooking with Carmen: August 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NOTES TO THE NATION

LETTERS

Yakoke (Thank You)!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Chief Batton, who I met during a cultural meeting in Oklahoma City a few years ago. I explained to Chief Batton that I was beginning my journey as a PhD student through a program called UCO@Swansea University. I wanted to study the method by which early childhood teachers were teaching the Choctaw culture in preschools across the Choctaw Nation. Chief Batton put me in touch with the Choctaw Nation Internal Review Board as well as Rebecca Hawkins and Katy Pruitt, directors of the Choctaw Nation Head Start program. This greatly helped to jump start my thesis which is entitled "Embracing the Past, Empowering the Future: Head Start's Role in the Preservation of the Choctaw Culture for the Tribe's Youngest Members." During the past two years, I have traveled throughout the Choctaw Nation visiting Head Start Centers in Durant, Atoka, Coalgate, McAlester, Wilburton and Broken Bow. I have met the most dedicated and exemplary supervisors and early childhood teachers who are committed to making each of these communities a better place through early childhood education. I would like to thank Chief Batton, Rebecca Hawkins, Katy Pruitt and all of the Head Start supervisors, teachers and staff members at each of the above locations. I am still in the process of writing my thesis, but wanted to show my appreciation for the warm welcome I have received from my tribe. Thank you.

Jennifer Airington Richard
Oklahoma City, OK

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

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

- Family law (adoption, divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications

Contact the community center to confirm the attorney will be there before traveling. The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters.

July Community Center Schedule

July 7 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
July 12 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
July 21 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3
July 28 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3

August Community Center Schedule

August 4 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3
August 11 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
August 16 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3
August 25 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3
September 1 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Poteau Community Center Events

7/11 Home Finance Class 9:30-11 am and 1-2 pm

Talihina Community Center Events

7/13 Health Fair 10-11:30 am

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

Send thank you notes and event notices to:
Biskinik, Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

or email to: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

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

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

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the 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.



Storm Shelter Phone Number Clarification

An incorrect number was given in the article about the Choctaw Nation Storm Shelter article on the front page of the June issue of the Biskinik. The correct phone number for the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is 1-800-235-3087.

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for everything they have done for me while attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Thank you for the scholarships, clothing allowance and laptop. I could not have done it without your support.

Laci LeFlore
Durant, OK

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the storm shelter they provided my family in Texas. I was able to qualify for the aboveground shelter because of a disability. It is reassuring to know we have this safe place to go in case of a storm. One of the many great services available to the Choctaw Nation and we will always be grateful for the assistance.

Toby Taylor

Makenzie Adele Cline, a great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Etha May Spring Robinson, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin on Saturday, May 21 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nutritional Science. She plans to attend graduate school. Makenzie and her family members are very thankful to the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance with her graduation. Thank you.

Donald Ruth

Ward, Casey Family Reunion



The Ward and Casey family held a family reunion at the Choctaw Community Center in Spiro on Saturday, May 28. Pictured are family members who attended the potluck reunion.

Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna

Lesson of the Month

Issi Ebi Ha

Clelland Billy

Itibapishi tuklo hosh pala ishi cha ninak o issi hoyot ittiachi tok. Akni ak osh pala ishi hosh tikba anya ma, isht aiopi ak osh tanampo ishi hosh okballa anya tok. Atokosh lumsa ahli itionachi mut nishkin chito fehna hon akni hut o plali mut nukhlanacha ai anhli tok. "Tushpa, tanampo et amma, micha pala a issi chito pan on palanli," akni hut achi. Atuko, isht aiopi vt pala wilih ma, akni hut issi chito pit hunssah ma, issi vt illit ant itulat tok minya. Yohmina pala honkli ash osh, "HIMAK OKA NO ISSI CHITO CHIEMI O EBI HA" achi, mihma akni hut, EBI CHIKKI. ABILIK MA" achi tok, micha issi ai itula nowat itionachi mut achukmat okla ma. Imahona im issuba haksobish falaia hosh itunla tok. Yohmi pisat okla mut ik anumpolo hosh heli tok o, akni hut, "PO-LUNKA ISUBA EBI HA," achi ma isht aiopi vt; "EBI CHIKKI ISHBI HA," IM ACHIT TOK."

Translation: We Killed A Deer
by Clelland Billy

Two brothers were spotlighting for deer one night. The oldest brother was walking in front with the light and the younger brother was walking behind him carrying the rifle. When they reached the end of the swamp the older brother shined his light on some very large eyes that surprised him. "Hurry, hand me the rifle and keep this light on the big deer," he said. So while, the younger brother held the light on the deer, the oldest brother shot the deer and they heard it fall to the ground. Then the younger brother said, "WE REALLY KILLED A BIG DEER THIS TIME DIDN'T WE?", and the eldest brother said, "What do you mean?", "WE KILLED IT, "WHEN I KILLED IT!". They walked to where the deer had fallen and as they took a better look at it, it was their family's first owned mule lying there. When they saw that it was their mule, they both stood speechless, and then the eldest brother said, "SO WE FINALLY KILLED A MULE DIDN'T WE?" The youngest brother said to him, "What do you mean? "WE KILLED IT, YOU KILLED IT!!!!!"

www.choctawschool.com

EVENTS

Cornerstone Full Gospel
Church Revival

Friday-Sunday, July 8-10
316 N. Main St., Caddo, Okla.

Friday and Saturday the revival begins at 7:30 p.m.
The revival begins at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information call,
Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127

Baker Family Reunion
Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m.

Choctaw Community Center, Antlers
Descendants of Noel S. and Roxie Loman Baker, their friends and all relatives are invited to a potluck meal. Please bring old pictures, especially of Grandpa and Grandma Baker, albums, records, etc. Any questions, or for more information contact Darren at 903-647-3504, or Mary at 580-982-8100.

McCurtain Family Reunion

Saturday, July 16 starting at 10 a.m
Heavener Runestone Park
Heavener, Okla.

Relatives and friends of Nail Perry, Elum and Choctaw Chiefs Cornelius, Jackson Frazier, Aaron Edmund, David Cornelius and Greenwood McCurtain are invited to attend. Choctaw recipes are encouraged for the potluck meal.

For more information email,
babysquaw@yahoo.com

Rasha 2016 Family Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
898 Mary Niblack Rd.
Ardmore, Okla.

The family reunion will be held at the Ary Niblack Church. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish, or drinks and an item for the silent auction. To order a Rasha family shirt call Serena Underwood at 918-820-2629.

For questions contact

Laura Holbrook..... 580-221-7950
Mikeal Popkess..... 832-4213436
Kim Hume..... 405-250-2134



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. are pictured with youth from the Outreach program before the Texas Rangers home game against the Boston Red Sox on June 26.

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

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

Earn Money for Saving Money!

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

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

CHOCTAW 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 to 4.00.
- A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00 to 2.99.
- Students earning a semester GPA of 1.99 or less can re-apply once a semester GPA of 2.00 is achieved.
- A COLLEGE transcript is required to apply. Applicants must be full-time students and must have completed at least one semester of college prior to application.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 2016

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Idabel by appointment

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

OBITUARIES

Robert ‘Bob’ Bacon Sr.

Robert Joseph Bacon Sr., 68, passed away on Jan. 16, 2016. He was born on June 17, 1947, to Everett A. and Naomi “Norma” Ruth (Fisher) Bacon in Talihina.

Bob graduated from Buffalo Valley High School in 1965. He went on to get his licensed practical nurse degree from Haskell Indian Nations University in 1967. Later he went through the physicians assistant program in Phoenix.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army in July of 1967, where he studied to become a medical corpsman. He proudly served in the 2nd Medical Battalion in Korea. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and was an Expert M14 Rifleman Medal recipient. Bob was honorably discharged in December of 1970 with the rank of SP5.

On Feb. 13, 1971, he married Sue James in Talihina. They spent the next 45 years raising their children.

Bob was a dedicated PA. He worked at Talihina Indian Hospital before moving on to the Broken Bow Indian Health Clinic, where he worked for eight years. After spending three years at the Jicarilla Apache Reservation health clinic in New Mexico, he went to Tahlequah to WW Hasting Indian Hospital where he retired after 35 years.

In his spare time Bob liked to go hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed traveling and camping with the family and going to a good hog fry and family reunions. Bob was very proud to be Choctaw, and served on the Choctaw Nation Historic Board. He loved the Lord and was a member of Swimmer Baptist Church. He served on the Falls Creek Baptist Association Board, attended Choctaw singings, and served on the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee.

He is preceded in death by both parents; daughter, Marlena Bacon; grandchildren, Kourtney Bacon and Everett Torrez.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sue of the home; daughters, Andrea Torrez and her husband Bobby of Tahlequah; Jennifer Bacon of Tahlequah; son, Robbie Bacon Jr. of Checotah; grandchildren, Nigel Torrez, Joseph Bacon, Kyle Bacon, Ethan Bacon, Kyndall Bacon, Zoe Bacon, Marlena Torrez, Taylan Bacon, and Valor Bacon; brother, Ronnie Bacon; sister, Becky Sexton and husband Bruce; as well as a host of other family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Reed-Culver Funeral Home in Tahlequah. Interment was at the Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Carol Ann Treat

Carol Ann Treat, 78, passed away on March 28, 2016, at her home in Ada. She was born on March 8, 1938, to Aubrey Reuel and Madelon B. Anderson Rutherford in Ada.

Carol attended Summers Chapel grade school and graduated from Vanoss High School. She received a bachelor’s degree from East Central University.

She married Leroy Treat on Dec. 27, 1996, in Ada. They were married for 19 years. Carol was a homemaker, and also worked at McCall’s Chapel as a Qualified Developmental Disability Professional. She was a member of Colbert Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by both parents; and brother, Jim Rutherford.

Carol is survived by her husband, Leroy of the home; son, Kevin Jumper and wife Laurie of Geary; daughters, Anita Leveridge of Cashion and Andra Iafate and husband Gary of Brownwood, Texas; stepsons, Marvin Treat of Ada, and James Treat of Ada; brother, Ted Rutherford and wife Bobbie of Stonewall; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Criswell Funeral Home in Ada. Interment was at the Swan Hill Cemetery.

Wanda (West) Yeary

Wanda (West) Yeary, 93, passed away on March 26, 2016, surrounded by family at Sunset Estates in Purcell. She was born Sept. 12, 1922, to John Thomas West and Edith Lee (Hunter) West in Sulphur.

Wanda’s family moved to Purcell in 1940, and she graduated in 1941 from Purcell High School. Her first job was with the Canadian Theater as a cashier. Wanda worked at the theater a short time, and then enrolled in Draughn’s School of Business in Oklahoma City. She met her husband, the late James L. Yeary, at the theater, and the couple married on Dec. 24, 1941.

In the late 1950s, she was employed at the Purcell City Hall as a bookkeeper. After that she went to work at the McClain County Bank, where she stayed for the next 36 years. Wanda started as a bookkeeper at the bank working her way up. She retired in 1987 as vice president.

Wanda was an avid china painter and member of the Purcell China Club since 1970. She had other hobbies, which included traveling with her niece Rose McCurdy, watching OU football on TV, mowing on her riding tractor, and spending time with family. She was also known for her pancakes.

Wanda was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church and had been for over 50 years.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband; both parents; brother, J.T. West; sister, Edith Mills; sisters-in-law; Roberta Mantooth, Imogene Reynolds, Virgie Lane, Dorothy Reese; brothers-in-law, TS Yeary, Darst (Bo) Yeary, Pard Reynolds, Olin Reese, Aubrey Mills, and Russell Mantooth.

Wanda is survived by her son, James L. Yeary Jr.; daughter-in-law, Gail T. (Barthel) Yeary of Purcell; grandson, Mark Bradley Yeary of Norman; granddaughter, Laura and her husband, David Zych, great-grandson, James of Allen, Texas; special sister-in-law, Ruth West; numerous beloved nieces; and would like to have adopted Benny Akerman and family.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell. Interment was at the Hillside Cemetery in Purcell.



Doris Olene Thompson

Doris Olene Thompson, 83, passed away on March 16, 2016. She was born on Nov. 23, 1932, to Claude and Maude Paddock.

Doris was a member of Newark Church of Christ. She was known for her kindness, generous spirit, and her love for the Lord.

Doris was preceded in death by both parents; sisters, Pauline Damron and Cleo Aileen Waffle; and son, David Emerson. Survivors: Daughters, Lisa Pollard and Susan Lee and husband, Yee Kow Lee; son, Stephen Emerson and wife, Tajuanna; daughter-in-law, Nita King; lifelong friend, Cecil Emerson; grandchildren, Rachel Elder, Cherie Tapley, Nathan Brainard, Wayne Emerson, Lauren Lee Merewether, Chanton Emerson, Brandon Lee, Chatham Emerson, Jordan Lee, Megan Lee, Chase Emerson and Taylor King; great-grandchildren, Luke Tapley, Ian Elder, Scout Tapley, Hudson Elder and Everette Emerson; and many other loving family members and friends.

Interment was at Gethsemane Cemetery in Caddo.



Charlie Rudolph Lewis

Charlie R. Lewis, 88, passed away on March 17, 2016, at the Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado. He was born on Feb. 26, 1928, to William James and Zella May (Singleterry) Lewis in Alamo, Colorado.

Charlie graduated from Huerfano County High School on May 14, 1942. After graduation he worked as a farm and ranch hand. He was then drafted into the Army and stationed in Taegu, Korea, with the service company 1st Infantry Regiment, driving a truck. He was honorably discharged as a Corporal. He returned home and began driving trucks for Huerfano Freight Line of Walsenburg, Colorado and eventually went to work for Wright Motor Lines in Rocky Ford, Colorado and then became a owner/operator.

In his retirement, he enjoyed riding his horses and helping with branding. Charlie loved participating in the local parades. He also enjoyed the coffee shop talk, and will be missed dearly by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by both parents; five siblings; and a great-granddaughter.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Alma (Inskeep) Lewis of La Junta, Colorado; children, Linda Roberts, Alan Lewis, Warren Lewis, Lori Kitzman, Leola Kelley, and twins, Ralph and Randal Lewis; 15 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by both parents, five siblings, and also a great-granddaughter.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Peacock-Larsen Funeral Home & Arkansas Valley Crematory. Interment was at the Fairview Cemetery in La Junta.



Georgia Faye Antuna

Georgia Faye Antuna, 83, passed away on March 28, 2016, in Ardmore. She was born Aug. 2, 1932 to George and Minnie Rasha John in Ardmore.

Georgia graduated from Dickson High School in 1949. She married Joe Antuna Oct. 5, 1949, in Ardmore. Before she retired, Georgia worked for Alsup’s Drug, Cooks Laundry, The Salvation Army, Ardmore City Schools, and did some private duty nursing.

Georgia was a member of the Concord Indian Baptist Church. Georgia had the gift of gab and loved life. She loved her OU Sooners, Oklahoma Thunder, her “baby” Elvis Presley, her grand-dogs, Cooper, Nevaeh, and Lily, and any social event that included family or friends.

She was preceded in death by both parents, husband, Joe; son, Michael Ray Antuna; brother and sister-in-law, Edmond and Martha John; and sister, Louzella John.

Georgia is survived by her sons, Jerry Antuna and Jimmy Antuna and his wife Pat; daughters, Brenda Antuna and Shelly Antuna all of Ardmore; brother, Donald John and his wife Opal of Ardmore; sister, Lillian D. Vaughn of Ardmore; grandchildren, Amy Antuna of Ardmore and Dustin Antuna and his wife Emily of Yukon, along with many nieces and nephews, and numerous friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Craddock Funeral Home in Ardmore. Interment was at the Concord Cemetery.



Rebecca J. Spradlin

Rebecca J. Spradlin, of Broken Bow, passed away March 31, 2016, in Haworth. She was born Nov. 28, 1964, to Clarence Wayne Spradlin and Wanda Lou Lambert in Wichita, Kansas.

Rebecca had lived in McCurtain County all of her life. She enjoyed fishing, mudding, being a true country girl, being outdoors, reading her Bible, and taking care of her grandkids. She also loved having a good time with her loved ones, preaching the Word of God, camping and cooking outdoors.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Wanda; brothers, Billy Wayne Spradlin, Mark Lambert, Don Jay Spradlin; her Memaw, Mary Lambert; grandson, Angelo Tushka; nephew, Victor Lambert; niece, Martitia Lambert; and uncles, Doyle Lambert and Newyt Lambert.

Rebecca is survived by her son, Kenneth Tucker, of Idabel; daughters, Amanda Tucker, Crystal Pugh, Wendy Pugh, and Jamie Pugh, all of Broken Bow; sister, Matilda Peters, of Idabel; grandchildren, Thristan Tucker, Roger Bean, Jr., Shelby Bean, Truck Bean, Kamarah Boswell, Leah Watson, Kendan Pugh, Destini, Patience, and Kaven Gill, Tessa Tucker, Brooklyn Tucker, Tatum Barnes, Gage, Katelynn, and Haevan Smith; niece, Lacey Peters and nephew, Cody Peters, other relatives, and many friends; and very special friends, Larry Dome and Bertha May.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow. Interment was at Redland Cemetery in Broken Bow.



Charles Ray Usry

Charles Ray Usry, 87, passed away on March 29, 2016, at Stillhouse Rehab and Health Center in Paris, Texas. He was born on Dec. 13, 1928, to Homer Woodrow and Mildred Lloyd Usry in Bennington.

Charles attended Bennington School, and later attended Lamar Business College. He was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

Charles married the love of his life, Alva Ruth Bryan on Feb. 3, 1954, in Paris. They had six children. She preceded him in death on Dec. 28, 1997.

During his lifetime, Charles worked hard for his family’s needs being employed at Swift, Champion Box, and Southern Ice. He retired from Campbell Soup in 1991. He loved to watch his grandchildren play baseball, soccer, and football, and was an OU Sooner fan through and through, but cheered local school teams.

He was preceded in death by his wife; both parents; brother, Homer Lee Usry; son-in-law, Steve Cannon; brothers-in-law, Frank Roberts and John Walker; and niece, Cindy Dale Chapman.

Charles is survived by his sisters, Ramola Walker, Geraldine Usry both of Antlers, Janice Roberts of Bennington and Donelda Blanton (Don) of Midlothiam, Texas; sons, Lloyd Usry (Debra), Michael Usry (Tammy) of Paris, Ronny Usry (Gail) of Durant; daughters, Sherry Marsters, Charlotte Cannon and Donna Moseley of Paris; grandchildren, Charlie Usry, Jillian Ingram, Kristie Nutt, Marcus Cartwright, Brandon Marsters, Aaron Marsters, Darla Marsters, Stephen Cannon, Heather Cannon, Kaelyn Usry, Kassie Usry, Lorrie Winget, Austin Moseley and Tiffany Morgan; great-grandchildren, Carle Short, Lucas Simpson, Caiden Usry, Taylor Usry, Alissa Nutt, Neil Nutt, Brayden Cartwright, Allie Cartwright, Shawna Pool, Ashton Benedict, and Brooke Johnson; and great-great-grandchildren, Taylor McFadden, Kassi Short and Ryleigh Pool.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Fry-Gibbs Funeral Home in Paris. Interment to follow at Evergreen Cemetery.



Lera Louise Belvin Frazier

Lera Louise (Belvin) Frazier, 92, passed away on April 4, 2016. She was born on Nov. 27, 1923, to former Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jimmie Belvin and Lucille (Brightwell) Belvin.

Louise was an educator for over 25 years, starting her successful career as a classroom teacher. She retired as an administrator of the Fort Worth Public School System.

Louise was a devoted mother and loving wife of 67 years. She enjoyed many creative avenues and loved to travel. She cherished her long time group the “Brown Baggers” and the PEO Sisterhood.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Colonel Howard W. Frazier; and grandson, Todd Brendel.

Louise is survived by her daughter, Carrie Brendel of Ozona, Florida; son, Bob Frazier and wife Jenna of Ingram, Texas; and daughter, Nancy LaCaze and husband Michael of Durant; grandchildren, Pastor Ryan Frazier and wife Megan of Boerne, Texas, Tina Lindsey and husband Eric of Ozona, Adrian Layne and husband Darin of Austin, Texas, Trent Brendel and wife Dana of Ozona, Nicole Caton of Windsor, England, Scott LaCaze and wife Briana of McKinney, Texas, and Robert Frazier of Houston; great-grandchildren Abigail, Jack and Levi Frazier of Boerne, Eli Layne of Austin, Kai, Kira, and Koah Lindsey of Ozona, Charlie Brendel of Ozona, Jonah Holmes, Phoenix and Conrad Caton of Windsor, and Jaxon LaCaze of McKinney.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home in Durant.



Sarah Ellen Hardy

Sarah Ellen Hardy, 79, passed away on March 5, 2016. She was born on July 24, 1936, in Snow.

Sarah was a resident of Hugo, where she had lived since 1978. Sarah became a Jehovah’s Witness in 1973. She enjoyed sewing, reading, listening to religious music, and reading the Bible. Sarah loved animals, especially cats and enjoyed nature.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth (Hardy) Ludlow; brothers, Billy Joe Ludlow and Johnny Ray Ludlow; and sister, Lettie Jean Hardy.

Sarah is survived by her sons, Ivan Nelson and Norman Nelson, both of Hugo; daughter, Geri Cooper and husband James of Oklahoma City; brothers, Roy Ludlow of Finley and Gaylon Ludlow of San Antonio, Texas; sister, Lucille Ludlow of Hugo; three grandchildren, Nathan Cooper, Sean Cooper and Zachary Nelson; two great-grandchildren, Kira and Raya; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; along with many other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Miller & Miller Funeral Home in Hugo. Interment was at Nashoba Indian Cemetery in Nashoba.



Bobby C. Williams

Bobby C. Williams, 77, passed away on March 26, 2016. He was born on Sept. 18, 1938.

Bobby worked and lived in Rogers, Arkansas, before moving to Shelbyville, Kentucky, after retirement.

Bobby is survived by his wife of 55 years, Phyllis (McDaniel) Williams; son, Roger D. Williams and family of Shelbyville; and daughter, Robin Stroman and family of Rogers.

Arrangements were made under the direction of WEBB Funeral Home in Shelbyville. Interment was at the Gracelawn Cemetery in Tuckerman, Arkansas.



OBITUARIES

Charles ‘Charlie’ Homer Lynn

Charles “Charlie” H. Lynn, Jr., 83, passed away on April 6, 2016, in Decatur, Texas. He was born on May 26, 1932, to Charles Homer Lynn, Sr. and Marie Chaney in Ardmore.

The family lived most of their life in both Texas and Oklahoma, but work in the oil field finally took them to Eunice, New Mexico. Charlie met the love of his life in Eunice, Bonnie Sue Mayberry. They married on July 10, 1951. They had two children, Danny and Linda. Bonnie and Charlie were married for 52 years.

He was preceeded in death by both parents; wife, Bonnie; and daughter, Linda.

Charlie is survived by his son, Danny Lynn; grand-daughter, Brandy Lynn; sisters, Sandy, Faye, and Carolyn; brother, Mike Lynn; along with many loved nieces, nephews, aunts, and cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Foust & Son Funeral Home in Grapevine, Texas. Interment was at the Alvord Cemetery in Alvord, Texas.

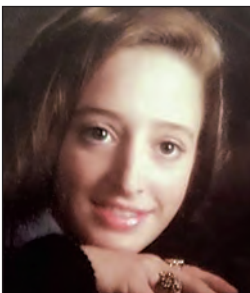


Andrea Diane Hulsey

Andrea Diane Hulsey, 42, passed away on Oct. 29, 2015, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, surrounded by family. She was born on Jan. 13, 1973, to George and LaDeana Hulsey in Tulsa.

Andrea loved the outdoors, tennis, and was the epitome of a free spirit. She was a loving mother, sister, daughter, and friend to many. Her transparent soul, unconditional love, and truth will never be forgotten.

Andrea is survived by her four children. Donations may be made to Domestic Violence Intervention Services.



Maggie (Roebuck) House

Maggie Mae (Roebuck) House, 93, passed away on April 29, 2016. She was born Sept. 12, 1922, to, David B. and Mary M. (Crowder) Roebuck on the family homestead near Hugo.

She attended Goodland Indian School, and Oklahoma Presbyterian College in Durant.

She was preceded in death by both parents; first husband, Leon J. Riney; second husband, James M. House; four brothers; and two sisters.

Maggie is survived by daughter, Margaret W. Riney of Tahlequah; son, J. Michael House, and daughter-in-law, Connie J. (Peters) House of Enid; grandchildren, Kristin (House) Booth and husband, Coy, of Fairmont and their children, Austin, Lexi and Allie, Sarah (House) Naab of Drummond and children, Jake, Emma and Mary, and Justin House and wife, Melody, of Portsmouth, Virginia and their children, Jessa, Jeremiah, and Joshua.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home in Hugo. Interment was at the Soper Cemetery.



Joyce LaDon (Anderson) Moran

Joyce LaDon Moran, 77, of Centennial, Colorado, passed away on April 12, 2016. She was born on June 25, 1938, to Coy and Edith (Beams) Anderson in Maysville. Joyce was a graduate of Wayne High School.

On June 15, 1957, she married Al Moran, of Coleman in Gainesville, Texas. After their marriage, they lived in Oklahoma City, and Kansas City, Missouri. They moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1964.

While in Denver, she worked for Van Schaack and Company and Pro-Tec Industries. She also worked for over 37 years overseeing the Accounting and Human Resources department at the Denver Jet Center at Centennial Airport.

Joyce had a deep love and passion for her family. She loved the holiday season. She would always go over the top to make sure every special occasion was better than the last. Joyce also loved art. She was an active collector of American Indian artwork including jewelry, hand-made pottery and complimentary works by many prominent artists. She would attend numerous American Indian markets both locally and in the desert southwest.

She was preceded in death by both parents and brother, Garland Anderson.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Al; son, Gregory (Bridget) Moran of Denver; grandchildren, Ian Moran, Conor Moran, and Maeve Moran all of Denver; sisters, Donna Williams of Purcell and Diane (James) Herrin of Justin, Texas.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Newcomer Funeral Homes & Crematory in Aurora, Colorado.



Rebecca L. (Peters) Cole

Rebecca L. (Peters) Cole, 89, passed away on April 29, 2016, in Coalgate. She was born on March 12, 1927, to William and Tracy (Taylor) Peters, in Talihina.

Rebecca was a lifelong resident of Atoka. She attended Goodland Boarding School, and trained as a teacher's aid at East Central University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Rebecca was a teacher's aid at Lane Schools. After that she then became a nurse's aid at Hubbard's Nursing Home and Atoka Memorial Hospital. She married Benjamin Cole in Bryan County.

Rebecca was of the Presbyterian faith and was a member of Double Springs. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, and crossword puzzles.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Benjamin; sisters, Lorene Lombless, Edna Jackson, Betty Gibson, and Esther Nelson; and brother, Sam Peters.

Rebecca is survived by daughters, Shirley Cole of Atoka and Stella Johnson of Coalgate; son, Lloyd Cole of Lane; grandchildren, Travis Cole and wife Katherine of Coalgate, Tonya Roberts and husband Darwin of Coalgate, Shane Cole and wife Ronda of Coalgate, Brian Johnson of Coalgate, and Justin Johnson of Coalgate; great-grandchildren, Trevin, Miguel, Lily, Mavryck Cole, Bless, Mia, Erin, Lorna, Isaac and Daniel Roberts, Shelby and Colton Wood, Montana and Dakota Johnson; sister, Lizzy Leflore of Atoka; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brown's Funeral Home in Atoka. Interment was at the Double Springs Cemetery in Lane.



Rebekah (Coleman) Moran

Rebekah (Coleman) Moran, 78, passed away on April 30, 2016. She was born on Sept. 26, 1937, to William and Patsy (Nelson) Coleman in Hugo.

Rebekah married Oscar Moran on August 16, 1991. She lived in the Choctaw County area most of her life, and she was a member of Unity Baptist Church in Hugo. She enjoyed taking photos, reading, volunteering, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Oscar Moran; brothers, Jacob Coleman, David Coleman, Eli Coleman, Matthew Coleman, Jonathan Coleman, and Isaac Williams; sisters, Mary Logan, Minnie Coleman, Martha Coleman, Neoma Coleman, Ruth Wilson, and Leah (Coleman) Scrivner.

Rebekah is survived by her daughters, Jeanne Rorie and husband, Guy, of Hugo, Debbie Davenport; grandchildren, Olivia Davenport and Tyler Rorie; along with many other family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Mt. Olive Funeral Home in Hugo. Interment was at Springs Chapel Cemetery in Hugo.



Easter Fernandis (Beal) Gammon

Easter Fernandis (Beal) Gammon, 101, passed away on April 7, 2016. She was born on June 28, 1914, to W.T. Beal and Callie (Sylar) Beal in Bentley.

Easter married Lewis Gammon on Dec. 14, 1935. Lewis passed away on Jan. 11, 1980.

She was a cook at Bently School for a number of years. Easter was a member of the Bentley Baptist Church. She was an active member of the church and community until she suffered a stroke in 1999.

She enjoyed sewing quilts and doing crafts. Easter also enjoyed her grandchildren, taking care of her yard, and helping other people.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis; both parents; son, Doyle Alvin Gammon in 1944; brothers, Smith Beal and wife Marie, Andy Beal and wife Geneviva, Alford Beal and wife Lenita; sister, Martha (Beal) Gammon and husband Glenn; brothers-in-law, LeRoy Cowlings, Doyle Cook, and Max Melton.

Easter is survived by sons, Roy Gammon and wife Alice of Tahlequah, and Troy Gammon and wife Ruby of Bentley; sisters, Inez Cowling of Bakersfield, California, Louise Cook of Lane, and Doris Box and husband Dean of Yukon; grandchildren, Sharen Caldwell and husband Velton of Atoka, Roy Edward Gammon of Atoka, Kim Eaton of California, Teena Gwinn and husband Roger of Bentley, Troy Gammon, Jr. and wife Amber of Bentley; 10 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren; along with several nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Atoka Funeral Home. Interment was at the Bentley Cemetery.



Jerry Wesley Pebsworth

Jerry Wesley Pebsworth, 75, passed away on April 21, 2016. He was born Aug. 18, 1940, to Roscoe Pebsworth and Juanita (Moore) Pebsworth in Bennington.

Jerry had lived all of his life in Boswell. Jerry married Glynnie Krebs on June 8, 1990, in Boswell. He was a Corrections Officer at McCloud Correctional Center in McCloud.

Jerry enjoyed fishing and hunting, liked to read, and enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandkids. He was affiliated with Grace Fellowship Pentecostal Church of Durant.

He was preceded in death by both parents; granddaughter, Cathy Dill; and brother, Buddy Pebsworth.

Jerry is survived by wife, Glynnie; sons, Josh Pebsworth of Boswell; Big Jim Dill and wife Melody of Boswell and Terry “Bullet” Dill and wife Denise of Boswell; daughters, Vickie Ensey and husband Buck of Unger, and Inez Springfield and husband Eddie of Boswell; brother, Jaime Pebsworth of Boswell; sisters, Shirley Ann Pebsworth of Boswell and Vera Mae Ferguson of Dallas; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; along with numerous other family members and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Miller & Miller Funeral Home in Hugo. Interment was at the Dill Family Cemetery in Boswell.



Patsy Charlene Willmond

Patsy Charlene Willmond, 65, passed away on April 26, 2016, in Oklahoma City. She was born on Dec. 10, 1950, to Charley Russell John and Pauline (Lewis) John in Talihina.

Patsy attended Springdale and Ardmore Schools. She also attended Carter Seminary, and received her GED. Patsy married Eugene Willmond on Dec. 30, 1969, in Ardmore.

Early in her working career, she worked for the Burger Hut in Madill. Patsy then became a Certified Nursing Assistant, working for many of the nursing homes in the area. She took a position with Mercy Memorial Hospital, where she worked for seventeen years before retiring to care for her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both parents; adopted mother, Ollie Lewis John; grandchild, Adrian Velazquez; and brother, Walter Russell “Sonny” John.

Patsy is survived by her daughter, Lee Ann Willmond and Charles Azim of Lone Grove; son, Marc Willmond and wife Jenny of Lone Grove; daughter, Eva Willmond and Juan Gutierrez of Ardmore; daughter, Thea Turman and Husband Oscar of Ardmore; grandchildren, Oscar Turman III, Taylor Turman, Eddie Villasenor, Marissa Villasenor, Jose Velazquez, Adrian Velazquez, Leigha Christie, Eric Villasenor, Cheyenne Christie, Jacob Willmond, and Sean Willmond; great-grandchildren, Noah Gutierrez, Neveah Moore, Brennan Turman, Peyton Turman, Jude Turman, Isaiah Santiago, and Israel Christie; sisters, Ollie and Carl Marris, of McMillan, and Leona Taylor, of Ardmore; cousins, McDaniel Scott, Josephine Ned, and Benjamin Scott Jr.; nieces, Valerie McDonald, Kristen Marris, Sydney Rae Marris, Kobe McDonald, Jessica Willmond, Marquita Embry, Sonya Tsoodle, Robin Miller; nephews; Charles Marris, Justin Marris, Brandon Marris and Caleb McDonald, Michael Smith, Donald Lynn Johns, Jason Willmond, Joshua Willmond; along with a host of family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Griffin –Hillcrest Funeral Home in Ardmore. Interment was at Durwood Cemetery in Ardmore.



Robert William Dyer

Robert William Dyer, 66, passed away at his home in Anadarko, after an extended illness, surrounded by his family. He was born on Aug. 1, 1949, to Bobby Edsel and Zona Mae (Duree) Dyer in Anadarko.

Robert married Shirley Faye Hood on Sept. 12, 1974, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He went to work in 1973 for the Public Service Company of Oklahoma/American Electric Power Plant, and worked as a supervisor until his retirement in 2010. He also served as the past minister at the Church of Christ.

Robert enjoyed watching and playing sports. He drove a stock car. He enjoyed playing pool, golfing, and was on a bowling league for many years. Robert loved the Lord and his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bobby; grandparents, Otto and Zella Duree; and great-grandson, Lucas Lee Wilkerson.

Robert is survived by his wife, Shirley Dyer, of the home in Anadarko; sons, Gregory Daniel Orcutt and his wife Delores of Lake Stevens, Washington, and Rodney Brian Dyer of Oklahoma City; daughters, Janice Lynn and husband Jeffrey Briggs, Springfield, Missouri, Jeanne Marie and husband, Benjamin Powell, Tulsa, Monica Renee and husband Raymond Ferris, Anadarko; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; mother, Zona Mae Clark, Midwest City; brother, Michael Allen Dyer and his wife Kathie, McCloud; and sister, Linda Carol Daniels and husband, Mark, Sallisaw.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Smith Funeral Home in Anadarko. Interment was at the Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko.



Barbra Ann (Tiner) Moshier

Barbara Ann (Tiner) Moshier, 78, of Henderson, Nevada, passed away on Tuesday, April 6, 2016, surrounded by her family and friends. She was born May 31, 1937, to Leroy Tiner and Mae (Copen) Tiner in Lawton.

She lived on a farm at Alec in her younger years. When she was a teenager she lived with her sister Ellen in Norwalk, California, where she attended and completed high school.

She joined the United States Air Force after high school, and completed administrative training and served one tour of duty. Her last assignment was Hancock Air Field in Syracuse, New York.

After her service, she was employed as a secretary to Western Electric at Hancock Air Field in an atom bomb proof building. That is where she met Richard G. Moshier of Sisseton, South Dakota. He was a Field Engineer with International Business Machines Corporation and maintaining the early warning computer there. Barbara married Richard at Fort Gordon, in Augusta, Georgia, on June 27, 1959. Richard was sent to Baumholder, Germany, and she joined him there. In 1961 she and Richard returned to the United States, and he returned to IBM and was sent to San Jose, California. She worked for a bank and then went to work at the IBM plant. She retired after 25 years with IBM and moved to Kingston, Washington. Two years later she and Richard moved to Henderson, Nevada, where she lived until her death.

She was preceded in death by both parents; brother, JD Tiner; and sisters, Charlotte and Ellen Tiner.

Barbra is survived by her husband, Richard. Arrangements were made under the direction of Calhill Funeral Chapel in Sisseton, South Dakota. Interment with military honors was at the St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery.



Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes or other official sources. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Notices may be edited for space limitations.

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

EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION— YAB Facilitates Personal Growth

By
Conner Wilson

I joined the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board in the summer of 2011 in my eighth grade year. Over the years YAB has nurtured my growth as a leader, given me a greater desire to serve and has opened doors for me in several aspects of my life. From the very first meeting I attended, I realized that YAB and the community service projects it offered was going to play a big role in my life.

My first YAB meeting was very eye opening. There were new faces, multiple items on the agenda and rules that I was expected



to follow as a member of YAB. However, it didn't take long for me to feel comfortable around these new people and to let my guard down. After a few short weeks, I was officially a member of YAB and I began to see the importance of YAB projects and the importance of serving in my community.

Now, years later, I am still an active member of YAB and I find that I have grown as a person because of the lessons I have learned as a YAB participant. I am much more

comfortable with speaking in front of people. I am not afraid to take a leadership role and help guide other students as we serve together. At the end of my junior year, I was elected as the Hugo YAB Representative and I began to lead all of the YAB meetings. Being a member of YAB has facilitated my growth in character. I have a greater compassion for other people and a greater desire to help other people because of YAB. I most definitely believe YAB has given me the tools to participate in and lead service projects wherever I may go in life for the rest of my life.

Truthfully, I joined YAB because my friends were joining and I knew it would look good on my resume one day. What was first a need to accumulate required hours to go on a YAB trip soon became the satisfaction of seeing a smile on someone's face and the good feeling inside when I knew that I had helped someone in need. Also, the friendships that I have formed with other YAB members while serving side by side has been an added bonus. These friends have become like brothers and sisters to me.

Another wonderful bonus has been the friendships that I have formed with four great YAB sponsors; Christie Adams, Dana Dunlap, Melissa Cress and our current leader, Angie Smith. These women exemplify dedication and commitment when it comes to leadership. It can be quite a challenge to work with teenagers, I suppose, but these women are true professionals and they have always taught by example. Angie Smith is a firecracker and keeps us hopping from one project to the next. She leads us with enthusiasm and genuine joy. Most importantly, she's not afraid to show us that she loves us and she is teaching us to love others through service, just as Jesus did. In Mark 10:45 Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." What greater example of a servant could we have than Jesus?

These are just a few of the reasons that I am a proud member of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. Not for the pride of seeing how many service hours I can accumulate, or how good it will look on my resume, as I have accumulated far more than service hours from YAB. I've learned that helping others in their time of need and supporting my community with my actions is where inner fulfillment comes from. I've learned that a few willing people working together can accomplish a lot. I'm proud that I have had these opportunities.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is a large part of my life. I am thankful that I didn't have to hold a CDIB card to be a member of YAB. I would have missed out on so much if that had been a requirement. I am thankful for the wonderful opportunities and wonderful people associated with YAB that have contributed to my own personal growth. YAB has increased my awareness of the beauty in serving and helping others. I have had my perspective of service completely changed from having to serve because I know it's good, to the desire to serve because I know of the good that it does. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board member. I will always remember the great times I've shared and the numerous life lessons I've learned. I am forever grateful.

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship second place essay. The writer, Conner Wilson, was awarded a \$750 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tushka Homma on Wednesday, April 20. The first place essay was in the June 2016 issue. The third place essay will be in the August 2016 issue.



STUDENT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY FUND

NEED MONEY TO BUY SCHOOL OR ACTIVITY CLOTHING?

- Applications for 2016-2017 School Year available July 1st 2016 and will end May 1st 2017. Each student with a tribal membership can receive this one time per school year.
- \$100 Assistance available Nationwide for Choctaw Tribal Members attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade High School Students.
- Apply Online at ssafapplication.choctawnation.com

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDS BEGIN JULY 1ST 2016

COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

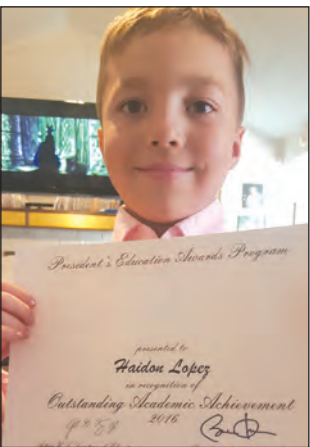
We are accepting applications for the 2016 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost free to families. **Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms.** Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post- Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.jonesacademy.org or write to:
Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshome, OK 74547

Haidon Lopez Ends School Year With Honors

Haidon Cruz Lopez, a student at Plato Elementary School in Duncan, received numerous awards at the end of the school year. In addition to the President's Education Awards Program Outstanding Academic Achievement, Lopez received numerous reading awards and a Soaring Toward Success Award. He is the son of Amber Brea, and the great-grandson of Betty Jo Cox.



Hadley Accepted Into Fellowship Program

Brooke Hadley, a junior at Dartmouth College and a member of the Choctaw Nation, was accepted into the Melton Mayes Undergraduate Fellowship program at Dartmouth College. Hadley was one of six juniors to be accepted into the program. The objectives of the Fellowship are to reduce, over time, the serious underrepresentation of individuals from minority groups in academia, as well as to address the consequences of these racial disparities.



Scroggins Elected State Officer of SkillsUSA

Amanda Scroggins, 17, is a senior at Putnam City North High School and the Pre-Engineering Academy at Francis Tuttle Technology Center's Portland campus. Scroggins was elected as Oklahoma State Officer of SkillsUSA, where she will serve as the State Reporter for 2016-17. In addition to being a State Officer, Scroggins volunteers with special education students, plays marching clarinet and oboe/English horn for concert band. After high school her plans include getting a double major in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering with a Leadership minor.



Stroble Earns Business Management Bachelor's

Bobby Burris-Stroble, of Tahlequah, graduated from



Northeastern State University on Saturday, May 8, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Her mortarboard was lined with green beads and had a feather hanging down. She also wore a green stole signifying Native Americans. Burris-Stroble was on the front page of the Muskogee Phoenix for the many colors she wore. She is married to Sean Coleman Stroble and is the granddaughter of the late Bobbie and Huck Burris of Eufaula.

Free Online Language Classes



Registration for Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 will be available June 1 to August 19. Go online to register for classes, find required materials, and use the student checklist.
WEBSITE: www.choctawschool.com
LANGUAGE DEPT.: (800) 522-6170
J.T.: ext - 5163
JUNIOR: ext - 4021
LILLIE: ext - 2101

Hurry Now and Register!

Carleigh Holt Places First at State Competition

Carleigh Holt of Corinth, Miss. recently won first place at the Future Business Leaders of America in the area of Digital Media presentations at the State Competition. She is the daughter of Randy and Susan Holt. She is a tenth grade student at Kossuth High School. She will advance to Atlanta Georgia this summer to compete at the National Level representing the State of Mississippi.

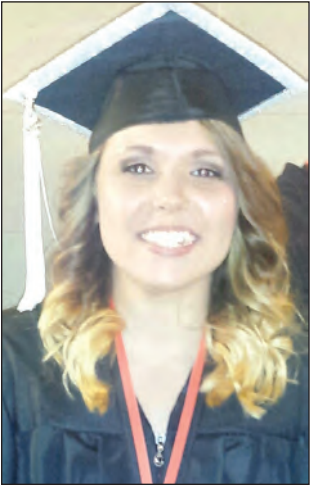


Shaw Named AISES National Grand Award Winner



Randa D. Shaw of Oxford, Fla. was named the American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Grand Award winner for her mean acoustics engineering project. Shaw represented the tribe and AISES as an Intel International Science and Engineering and Engineering Science Fair finalist. She competed in Phoenix, Ariz. in May. As an upcoming high school sophomore, Shaw hopes to continue designing engineering projects around ocean sustainability in the Gulf of Mexico. Shaw was supported by family in Phoenix and is the granddaughter of Greg Norris and the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Frank Annukweatobi.

Wade Earns Associate's Degree



Maty Wade, the daughter of Tim and Donna Wade, graduated from Connors State College in Warner with an Associate's Degree in Agriculture Equine. Her plans for the future include training young horses.



Dutton Receives Psychology Degree

Farrah Dutton of Durant recently received her Bachelor of Science in General Psychology. Dutton attended Clovis Community College after high school then moved to Iowa and enrolled in Kirkwood Community College.



Spring Graduates OSU

Karissa Marie Spring graduated with an Accounting Degree from Oklahoma State University on Saturday, May 7. Karissa was on the President's and Dean's Honor Rolls throughout her college career. She will pursue a career that will allow her to use her Accounting degree. Karissa is the daughter of Bruce and Karen Spring of Dallas, Texas. She is also the great-great-granddaughter of Choctaw's light horseman, Peter Conser, whose monument is in Wilburton State Park. Conser's historical homestead is in Heavener.

Coleman Graduates With Honors

Levi Coleman recently graduated with honors from Piedmont High School. He plans to study biology at Southwestern Christian University, Bethany, Okla. where he has earned academic and athletic scholarships. Coleman is the reigning 5A Suburban Conference Boys Singles Tennis Champion and was a four-time qualifier for the OS-SAA State Tennis Tournament. In addition, he was active in the National Honor Society, the French Club and the American Sign Language Club. Levi is a proud member of the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma and son of tribal members Brad and Robie Coleman. He is the grandson of Mary Ann Childers, Idabel, and Bob and Janice Coleman of Oklahoma City, and the late Charlene Ezell, Tishomingo, and the late Robert Thomas of Madill.



2016 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency (HSE)
Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID). The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

July - September	October - December
Tuesday, July 5, 5 - 8 p.m. Durant, Headquarters South Building	Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, July 5, 1 - 4 p.m. Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m. Broken Bow, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, July 5, 9 a.m. - noon McAlester, Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester Campus	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Durant, Headquarters South Building
Monday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon Poteau, Carl Albert State College	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Clarkson Wins for ‘Uncle Willie’s Birth’

Karen Clarkson, a Choctaw artist, won first place in the mixed media painting division at the Heard Museum Indian Market in March for her painting “Uncle Willie’s Birth.”

The painting is based upon the June 1902 birth certificate of Willie George Nail who was born to Clarkson’s great-grandmother Luann Nail and great-grandfather Robert Nail in Rush Springs Indian Territory. Willie’s sister, Maggie Nail, was her grandmother.

Clarkson said, “I decided it would be important to paint the birth certificate in the background and paint a woman in the foreground to resemble Luann. The Choctaw woman I painted is from the well-known series of Choctaw families taken during the same time frame.”

The painting is part of a larger series Clarkson is doing using other personal family documents and historical photos.

Clarkson added, “I want to put into context what was happening to the Choctaw people as their land was being redistributed and land allotment was made mandatory.”

Amos’ Roaring Birthday

Walter Amos of McAlester celebrated his 90th birthday. He was surrounded by his eight children, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Much of his extended family and friends joined in on the celebration. He had a photo booth and many participated in games centered around his party theme of the roaring “20’s” as he was born on October 10, 1925. He attended the Goodland School for a short time when he was thirteen but otherwise he attended school in McAlester. He joined the United States Army and afterwards went on to marry Sarah Welsh of McAlester. He remains very active in his personal life and goes on the many District 11 Senior Citizen recreational trips provided by the Choctaw Nation.

Brence Wins First for Her Art

Grace Brence won first place in the 9-12 year old category for her pencil drawing, “Ultimate Love” at the Home School Convention in Oklahoma City.

She also received first place for “People’s Choice” with over 1,000 votes.

Grace is in the sixth grade and is home schooled with her older brother and younger sister. She is the daughter of Deanna and Randy Brence of Okemah Oklahoma, and the great-granddaughter of Capitola Lowe.



Hannah Shares His Family’s History

Richard Ray Hannah has been a Choctaw Nation member for a few years and just recently found out he is related to a past Chief.

Hannah is related to Peter Pitchlynn who was elected Principal Chief of the Choctaw in 1864 and served until 1866. After his tenure he retired in Washington, D.C. and devoted his attention to pressing the Choctaw claims for lands sold to the United States in 1830.

Pitchlynn is Hannah’s fourth great uncle and Hannah said, “I have a lot of history with my family and I am proud to be a Choctaw.”



Koebele Scores High in Geographic Bee

Fifth-grader Spencer Koebele earned a spot as one of the 100 top-scoring fourth through eighth grade students throughout Texas in the National Geographic Society’s Annual Geography Bee. Performing exceptionally well, Spencer came close to the final round by missing only one question: “Name the island that is home to volcanic eruptions that disrupted European air travel in 2010.” The answer: “Iceland.”



Photo provided by Jeff Schroeder

Choctaw Nation took to the Skies

From left to right: Chief Batton, Juanita Gonzalez, Chayla Huggins, Nicholas Smith, Leslie James, Gracie Mattox, Jennifer Roberts, Senior Miss Choctaw Nation Neitha Hardy, Little Miss Choctaw Nation Ariana Byington and Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Lauren Crosby.

Back row: left to right: Waddel Hearn Jr., Triston Gonzalez, Allen Bacon and Scott Wesley.

All were at the Take to the Skies AirFest at the Durant Regional Airport April 16

Frances Stuart Turned 97

Frances Talbert Stuart celebrated her 97th birthday May 24, with family in her Lewisville, Texas home. Frances was born on May 24, 1919. Her family said, “Happy birthday mother, we love you.”



Luman is 93

Camelia Steelman Luman celebrated her 93rd birthday at her home on May 28. Mom is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and continues to attend the weekly Seniors Luncheon at the Dale Cox Community Center in Poteau. She is the daughter of original enrollee Eliza Ann White Steelman.

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

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

People You Know Submissions
Biskinik, Attn: People You Know
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@choctawnation.com



Iti Fabussa

By JOE WATKINS
Contributing Writer

In 1974, as a second year graduate student at Southern Methodist University, I visited my grandmother – Louisa Willis Watkins – at her home on Cypress Creek west of Wright City, Oklahoma. I spent the day listening to my grandmother talk about family histories, listening to tales about ghosts and “the old ways,” and generally soaking in whatever she wanted to tell me. My aunt translated from my grandmother’s Choctaw into my English, and from my English to Choctaw.

Later in the afternoon, after the laundry had been finished and the cast iron cooking pot removed, we talked about corn and its importance in Choctaw foodways. My grandmother talked about the tools she used long ago to process corn prior to it being cooked. She pointed to an upright piece of tree trunk in the corner of the yard – the old mortar (Choctaw word “kiti”) and pestle (“kitush”) that had been in her front yard forever. She also brought out her three split-cane baskets that she used to sift, winnow, and hold the processed corn meal.

My brother, sister and I had played with the mortar and pestle as kids, not really understanding what they were. My uncle had told us about it at times, but much of what he told us must have passed out of our heads rather quickly, as some stories were likely to do. But that afternoon in 1974, I was curious and asked my grandmother what she knew about making them.

Since it was not possible for me to make a full-sized kiti, we started with a small stump (about 14 inches

high) of red oak. Normally a person would use a waist-high trunk of hickory or similar hardwood. Swanton (1931:40), in describing the materials used in making the mortar and pestle, noted that

[h]ickory wood was the kind out of which they were usually made because it conveys the best taste to the food. Failing that, they employed oak, though it gives food a puckery taste. Beech could be used but it was scarce, but some woods were not used because of the bad taste they communicate, in particular maple, which gives a taste “sufficiently bad to ruin one’s stomach.”

My grandmother used her axe to create a series of crossing and slightly overlapping chops into the top of the log, about one-quarter to three-eighths of an inch deep, in a circular area centered in the log top. The circular area was a little more than twice as wide as the axe face. We removed as much of the wood chopped out of the area as much as possible to create a depression. Then she scraped a handful of coals from the fire onto a piece of tree bark, and placed them in the depression. She fanned the coals to make the fire burn hotter. As the coals burned, she used the axe to widen the burning area, feeding the fiery coals with the dislodged wood chips. She also used the axe to shape the burned area into a circular basin, focusing the axe on areas that had been burned or blackened by the fire. We would alternately feed more coals to the growing basin and chop out the burned areas of the tree stump.

After a bit, my grandmother had me blow through a piece of water hose to further focus the fire, much like a black-

smith’s bellows. She said that the old Choctaw didn’t have water hoses, but would often use reeds or cleared river cane (the diaphragms between the nodes broken or burned through) to focus air to the fire in the same way as I used the hose.

When the basin was the diameter she wanted, we let the fire burn a while, adding small sticks and wood chips to keep the coals hot. She used the axe less often, but enough to get the basin shaped to a width and depth suitable to show me the second part of the process.

To begin the second basin, she used the axe in the center of the burned basin to begin another, smaller and deeper depression. The inner basin was where the secondary pounding of the corn kernels was focused,

and the area where the finer corn meal would settle and be collected. Twigs were used to supplement the coals to further increase the heat of the fire, and the axe wielded time and time again until the basin was “deep enough.”

Ultimately, when viewed from the top, the inner basin was approximately five inches in diameter and three to four inches deeper than the surrounding basin into which it had been made. The surrounding basin was about ten inches in diameter and about three inches deep. The walls of the upper basin sloped toward the middle, inner basin. In cross section it was shaped like an inverted baby bottle nipple (only much larger!).

The pestle (“kitush”) was made from a long, slender piece of wood, usually from four to six feet long and from four to six inches in diameter. One end of the piece was left at its original diameter for a length of from eight to ten inches while the remaining length was trimmed to about two

inches in diameter. The top portion provided weight for the downward “pounding” thrust, while the thinner portion more easily fit the hands and the smaller basin. The small end was rounded to shape to fit roughly within the smaller basin and served as the actually pounding surface of the kitush.

All of this work took about three hours, but the time flew by as if it were only minutes. My grandmother and I did not make a full-sized kiti or kitush, but we followed a process that Choctaw craftsmen had used for centuries to make the materials needed to process corn into meal. Though our “models” were much smaller than their full-sized cousins, they were faithful replicas. I took the kiti and the kitush back to my apartment in Dallas, and stored it in the attic of Dallas Hall on the Southern Methodist University campus during one of my subsequent moves. When I returned to campus in 2015 to give a public lecture in honor of the

Department of Anthropology’s Golden Anniversary, I looked in the attic for that kiti, but it was nowhere to be found.

My grandmother passed away in 1982, and I have no idea what became of the kiti that stood in her front yard for so long. I received her three split-cane baskets after her death, and they hang in a place of honor in my living room here in Takoma Park, Maryland, on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Each time I see a picture of someone using the mortar and pestle to process corn, I think of that afternoon in 1974 when my grandmother and I bonded over a bit of traditional cultural knowledge passed on through the generations.



(Above) Wanda Russell, Don Russell and District 6 Councilman Joe Coley at the Wilburton Wild Onion Dinner June 14.



(Left) Janet Sam, Manager of Wilburton Tribal Plaza, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Barbara Morgan talking at the Wilburton Wild Onion Dinner June 14.



(Right) Chief Batton is deep in conversation with Keaton Gotes beside Keaton’s grandmother, Bydia Pope in Wilburton at the Wild Onion Dinner.

(Far right) Matthew Sam is dishin’ up the salt pork for the Wild Onion Dinner in Wilburton.



Photos by Lisa Reed and Judy Allen

SPORTS

Youth Take Part in Annual Native Vision Camp



Photos Provided by Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach

Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach had the opportunity to take 46 youth to the 20th Annual Native Vision camp hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the Okmulgee High School and Mvskoke Sports Complex. The three-day camp provided Native youth an opportunity to play and learn side-by-side with professional and collegiate athletes. The Okmulgee camp held approximately 600 youth from the Five Civilized Tribes and surrounding tribes of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. The campers were guided through sports clinics and life skill workshops while the community-at-large participated in parenting workshops, community feasts and tribal celebrations. The Native youth chose to participate in one of the six sports clinics that were offered – football, basketball, volleyball, running, soccer, and lacrosse. The workshops consisted of Cour-

age to Care, Goal Setting, Decision Making, Self-Esteem, Culture as Prevention, “Honoring Your Ancestors, Honoring Yourself,” Nutrition, and Arts/ Crafts. The majority of the youth from the Choctaw Nation participated in basketball and lacrosse with a few participating in volleyball and soccer. The Native Vision camp is a unique youth enrichment and empowerment initiative for American Indian children, operated by the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian health. Launched in 1996 in partnership with the NFL Players Association

and the Nick Lowery Charitable Trust, Native Vision camp sites have previously been hosted by White Mountain Apache Tribe, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and Navajo in Shiprock, New Mexico, Tuba City, Arizona and Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Goals are to improve physical fitness, promote healthy food choices; increase sense of connectedness to culture, community, and nature; increase self-esteem and vision for the future, and improve youth academic process.



Logan Johnson Selected to American Football Team



Logan Johnson, the son of Linda Musick and a 17-year-old senior at Cyril High School, was selected to represent Oklahoma and the United States on the American football team. The American football team will be participating in the 2016 Down Under Bowl held in Brisbane, Australia. Johnson will be participating in the 28th Annual Down Under Bowl.

Down Under sponsors seven sports and is an international organizational competition referred to as the “Mini Olympics,” as several countries are invited to participate. Every year the organization search and select athletes with competitive stats, are involved with the community and are considered good role models.

Zack Rice Pitches State Championship Game



Zack Rice, an incoming senior at Grapevine High School in Texas, plays varsity football and baseball while maintaining a 4.5 GPA. He is a left-handed pitcher for both Grapevine High School and his club team, the Dallas Patriots. In baseball he currently hits a .444 and is a starting cornerback for the Grapevine Mustangs football team. Rice recently celebrated with his team as they won the UIL 5A Texas State Baseball Championship.

Holt Broadcasts OSU Baseball in Omaha

After a 17-year absence, Rex Holt, the play-by-play voice for Oklahoma State’s baseball program, returned with the Cowboys to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., June 18-28. Holt, the veteran sports director of Stillwater Radio, called the play-by-play action in early June when O-State went undefeated in the NCAA’s Clemson Regional in Clemson, S.C.

He broadcast the Cowboys’ sweep of South Carolina a week later in the NCAA’s Super Regional in Columbia, S.C. that punched OSU’s College World Series ticket for the first time since 1999. “Going through this season with this team there were times I wasn’t sure they were good enough to get to Omaha. But, some injured people got healthy and all of a sudden the Cowboys were playing their best baseball of the season at the right time,” said Holt, the son of former Love County/Carter County resident Gladys Bowden Holt and the late Walon Dare Holt. “It was exciting. I knew they had a bunch of veteran pitchers and they out-pitched everyone, made no errors and had a bunch of timely hits. Going to the College World Series is a fun ride. It never gets old,” added Holt, who was born in Gainesville, Texas, in 1955 when his dad was vocational agriculture teacher at Thacker-ville.

This will be Holt’s 10th College World Series to broadcast in his 34-year career behind the microphone. He has broadcast 32 College World Series games in his career. He followed OSU to the CWS in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1999. He attended the 1982 CWS as a sportswriter for the Stillwater NewsPress. Holt, a Guthrie graduate, began providing commentary for OSU wrestling matches in 1977 before sharing play-by-play duties with the legendary Bill Platt for OSU baseball games in 1983. Platt retired in 1996. Holt, who is married and the father of two daughters, is a recognizable name in Stillwater and around OSU athletics. Besides providing commentary for OSU baseball and wrestling, he has a daily morning sports talk show and has been host of the Gameday Live From Eskimo Joes show prior to OSU football and basketball games for the past 27 years. In addition, he broadcasts Stillwater High School football, basketball and selected wrestling and baseball events.



Holt Places Third



While her father burns up the airwaves providing the play-by-play for OSU and her alma mater, Stillwater High School, Bayley Holt captured third place in the pole vault event at the Class A State Track Meet held May 13-14 in Moore. Holt, the daughter of Rex and Penny Holt and granddaughter of former Ardmore resident Gladys Bowden Holt, had a leap of 10 feet, six inches. The former gymnast has been competing in pole vault for two years.

3-on-3 Basketball

Team Name: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Saturday, Sept. 4

Category / Division
circle one:

4 MAN ROSTER

WOMEN ALL STARS	AGES 18 & UP
MEN YOUNG GUYS	AGES 18 TO 35
MEN OLD TIMERS	AGES 36 & UP

5 MAN ROSTER

MINI COED	AGES 9 TO 11
TWEENS COED	AGES 12 TO 14
TEENS COED	AGES 15 TO 18

Entry form must be postmarked by August 25:
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball, ATTN: Kerry Steve
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
or fax to 580-924-8280

Co-Ed teams must have either 3 boys and 2 girls or 3 girls and 2 boys.
Teen players who are 18 must still be in high school
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 TEAMS

Horseshoes

Saturday, Sept. 3

Tvshka Homma

Registration 8 to 9 a.m.
Single elimination tournaments begin at 9:30 a.m.
Men, Women, Youth (up to 13) and Seniors will start at the same time and play concurrent.
There is a limit of 32 women and children, and 64 men (seniors play with the men's group).
A singles tournament will be held for women, youth and men (seniors), a doubles tournament for women and men (seniors), and a ringers championship for women, youth and men (seniors).

Maggie Anderson continues to enjoy singing traditional Choctaw hymns at her church in Coalgate. She is 91 years old.

Maggie Anderson is the July elder in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.

If you are interested in entering a team in the **2016 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival Volleyball Tournament**, contact [Jasen Baker](#) at 580-924-8280 ext. 2926, 580-212-5058, or email at jasenbaker@choctawnation.com. Team spots are filling fast on a first come first serve basis.

FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT

September 2-3-4
at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds
in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma

– Deadline for entry is August 5 –
For more information, please call 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170, ext. 2224, or fill out the application below and return to our office.

Name of team: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please circle one:
Men's team or Women's team

and return to:
Larry Wade
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

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

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

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

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

Yakoke to all of the Biskinik Readers for all of your Box Top contributions!
You are making a difference!

For further information, contact Jerry Tomlinson at 580-924-8280, ext. 2904

14TH ANNUAL CHIEF BATTON LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday, September 4, 2016

Team Cash Prizes

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

Individual Prizes

- Closest to Pin
- Longest drive

- Hosted by Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton, OK
- 9 hole, Par 36
- 4-person Mixed Scramble, 18 holes
- Teams selected by Handicap, 100% Blind Draw
- First Group will tee off at 9:00am, 2nd group at 1:30pm
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time.
- No requests for partners.
- Mulligan tickets are available for \$10 each, maximum 2.
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)

Deadline to Enter: August 29th; No applications or requests will be taken prior to July 18th. First 72 Registered Golfers Will be Accepted

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Handicap: _____ Shirt Size: _____

(Valid Handicap Card required) Tee Time: 9am or 1:30pm

Mulligan Purchased: Yes or No (circle one)

Mail Entry Form to Nate Cox, 2101 West Arkansas St., Durant, OK 74701
Enclose Money Orders or Cashier's Check Payable to: 14th Annual Gary Batton Labor Day Golf Classic
For More Info. please contact Nate Cox at (580) 380-1633 or Gregg Robinson at (580) 916-0510.

2016 YOUTH DEER HUNT

CHOCTAW NATION TI VALLEY RANCH

OKLAHOMA DEER GUN SEASON

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN AN ENTRY TO THE 2016 CHOCTAW NATION YOUTH DEER HUNT. CHOCTAW YOUTH AGES 10-15 ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A DEER MANAGEMENT HARVEST. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2016. TWO HUNTERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM EACH CHOCTAW DISTRICT ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016 AT THE CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL. (DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN)

REGISTRATION ENTRY FORM
PLEASE RETURN TO PO BOX 837 DURANT OK 74702

NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE#: _____

RULES: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT (PREFER THEY HAVE A LEGAL STATE HUNTING LICENSE). MUST BE CHOCTAW CDOB HOLDER. MUST ABIDE BY ALL STATE HUNTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS. MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AND HAVE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE OKLAHOMA HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATION. FOR DETAILS ON OKLAHOMA HUNTING REGULATIONS VISIT: WWW.WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM
FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL DALE JACKSON AT (580) 924-8280 EXT. 2738

Veterans Meals



Youth Advisory Board member Jasmine Plata serves dessert to the veterans at the Atoka Community Center Veterans Lunch on Wednesday, May 25.



Cooks (from left) Carla Noah, Rose Ellison, Lori Pugh and Rachael Verdagore prepare to serve the meal at the Wilburton Veterans Lunch.



Veterans gather with Councilman Tony Ward, Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. for a group picture at the Bethel and Broken Bow Veterans Lunch.



Tribal Councilman Joe Coley hosts the Wilburton Veterans Lunch on Wednesday, May 18.



As festivities draw to a close at the Wright City Veterans Lunch on June 22, District 7 veterans gather for a group picture.



Councilman Anthony Dillard, District 10, calls the raffle ticket belonging to Joe Ray Hayes, a veteran, during the Atoka Veterans Lunch.



Deloris Cox (left) and Rick White (right) are at the Spiro Veterans Lunch at the Spiro Choctaw Community Center on June 15.



Randy Steelman (left) speaks with Harlin Wright (right) from Veteran's Advocacy during the Poteau Veterans Lunch.



Clifford McDonald and Janet Campbell honor veterans at the Poteau Veterans Lunch.



Veterans gather for a group picture at the annual Antlers Veterans Lunch on June 15.



R.J. Frazier speaks with Chief Batton at the Bethel and Broken Bow Veterans Lunch.



Councilman Delton Cox shakes hands and thanked veterans for their service during the Poteau Veterans Lunch on Wednesday, June 8.



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin Sr. (center standing) helps distribute gifts to veterans at the annual Choctaw Veterans Lunch June 22 in Wright City.



Tribal Councilmen Ron Perry, District 5 (front row, second from left) and Delton Cox, District 4 (front row, far right) host a Veterans Lunch at the Spiro Choctaw Community Center on Wednesday, June 15 to honor veterans.



Durant veterans from all branches of the military attended the Durant Veterans Lunch on June 15. The lunch was hosted by District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh to honor service men and women. Chief Batton also attended.



District 12 Councilman James Frazier and District 12 Little Miss Princess Cherokee McCoy pose for a picture with District 12 veterans during the Coalgate Veterans Lunch.



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant poses for a picture with fellow veterans during the June 16 Veterans Dinner in Tahina.



Lowell Nicholals and Councilman Kenny Bryant at the Smithville Veterans Lunch.



Councilman Ronald Perry of District 5 helps Stigler honor their veterans with a Lunch on June 22 at the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler.



Councilman Bob Pate, District 11 (far right) hosts a Veterans Lunch to honor Choctaw veterans on June 17 at the McAlester Choctaw Community Center.



Councilman Perry Thompson of District 8 and Robyn Morgan from the Hugo Field Office handed out gifts to the veterans at the Veterans Lunch June 8 in Hugo.



Councilman District 7 Jack Austin Sr. speaks with two veterans at the Antlers Veterans Lunch on June 15.



Choctaw Nation Color guard members stand with Eugene Branam at the Stigler Veterans Lunch on June 22.



Councilman Kenny Bryant of District 3 visits with WWII veteran Jewett Potts. Jewett was a member of the Army 27th Infantry Division, and fought in the battles of Okinawa and Saipan. Jewett will celebrate his 95 birthday on July 24.



District 1 veterans are honored with a Veterans Lunch at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel on June 22.



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant hosted a Veterans Lunch on June 15 to honor and thank local Choctaw men and women who served in the military.

Photos by, Kendra Germany, Tina Firquain, Melissa Stevens, Vonna Shults, Verree Shaw, Charles Clark, Stacy Hutto & Ronni Pierce

Choctaw Arts & Music Festival



Honoring those who Served

By RONNI PIERCE

Choctaw Nation

Paying respect to those who came before, for those who sacrificed their lives for our Nations, for those who died so we may live—that overwhelming sentiment is what the group of Choctaws who made the trek to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Congressional Cemetery carried with them.

Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. participated in a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier honoring U.S. soldiers who fought in the country's wars. And as fate would have it, one of the guards assisting with the wreath ceremony, Jeff Dickerson, (*far left, also pictured on page 2*) is Choctaw.

A warrior and a diplomat, Choctaw Chief Pushmataha was known for his leadership talents on the battlefield, his negotiating

skills with the U.S. government, and his agricultural and cultural advancements for the Choctaw people.

Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Austin, Choctaw Royalty, and a group from Choctaw Nation visited the tombs of Pushmataha and former Chief Peter Pitchlynn at the Congressional Cemetery to honor their dedication to the tribe. They are the only two Choctaw chiefs buried at this location. Pushmataha died on December 24, 1824, and was buried with full military honors as a Brigadier General of the U.S. Army.



Choctaw Cultural Events employee Brad Joe starts the festival with The Lord's Prayer accompanied by Choctaw Royalty.



Folk singer Samantha Crain entertains the audience singing cover songs by Neil Young and tunes from her album, *Under Branch & Thorn & Tree*.



Wearing her traditional Choctaw clothing, Charis Piester, age 6, from Arlington, Virginia, takes a turn with the dancers.



(left to right) Lorelye, Amanda, Hazel and Cuyler O'Brien from Virginia learn to make corn husk dolls from our Cultural Services employees.



Malachi McDonald (*center*) from Baltimore, Maryland, joins Dr. Ian Thompson and Jordan Eagle Road during The Walk dance. Malachi's family is originally from Leflore, Mississippi.



Storyteller Tim Tingle tells his tale, *How the Rabbit Lost Its Tail*, with a little reenactment help from the kids.

Josie (*left*) and Karlle Hayes join Choctaw Royalty during a break in the festival.



Erica Lewis from Virginia places a pin in her city on the visitor's map. Guests from Switzerland, South Africa, France and several other countries stopped by to talk to Choctaw artists and employees.



OKC Community Meeting & Red Earth



Melvin "Doc" Douglas Maytubbie presents Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin with one of his original paintings.



Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin posed with several representatives of Choctaw Royalty. Over 840 people attended the Community Meeting in Oklahoma City.



Charles Slinker and cousin Laverna Berryhill take a moment during the OKC Community Meeting.



Artist Carolyn Bernard Young marches in her first pow wow grand entry during Red Earth.



Members of the Choctaw Nation try their hand at making necklaces during the OKC Community Meeting. Several employees of the Choctaw Nation can be seen in the background assisting visitors and answering questions.

Riley Waterman (Choctaw/Seneca) from Oklahoma City wears a traditional dress and proudly poses with her parents, Billy and Ruth Waterman.



Photos by Ronni Pierce & Lisa Reed.



Assistant Chief Austin and Chief Batton lead a contingency of Choctaws in the Red Earth parade.

Several members of the Choctaw Nation from McAlester lined the street for the Red Earth parade, then visited with the Choctaw artists inside the convention center.

