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July 2017 Issue

This Land Is Our Land

#### by STACY HUTTO

Perhaps the most diversionary and contentious struggle between Native Americans and early European settlers in the United States was the concept of ownership. And ownership of land specifically.

The land grab of the Five Tribes—the Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations—began with the Dawes Act of 1887 and continued with the Act of Aug. 4, 1947, also know as the 47 Act or the Stigler Act.

According to Josh Riley, Senior Policy Analyst for Choctaw Nation Government Relations, since these acts, there have been many pieces of legislation meant to undermine the Native concept of land and what it means to be the caretakers of the land.

However, on May 23, 2017, sponsor Congressman Tom Cole (R–OK 4) introduced H.R. 2606-Stigler Act Amendments of 2017 to the House of Representatives. The legislation which was co-sponsored by Congressman Markwayne Mullin (R–OK 2), Rep. Frank D. Lucas (R-OK 3), and Rep. Steve Russell (R–OK 5) amends Section 1 of the Stigler Act so that land in Oklahoma belonging to a lineal descenWhat is this you call property? It cannot be the earth, for the land is our mother, nourishing all her children, beasts, birds, fish and all men. The woods, the streams, everything on it belongs to everybody and is for the use of all. How can one man say it belongs only to him?

-- Massasoit Sachem, leader of the Wampanoag during the 1600s

the Stigler Act of "one–half or more Indian blood."

IN FOR

The Stigler Amendment of 2017 was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources the same day it was introduced to the House of Representatives. The Act was referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs on June 7, 2017.

"The Senate is waiting for the Stigler Act Amendment to pass the House, then they will adopt the House version of the bill," Riley said. The Act is expected to pass the House of Representatives.

Once the Act passes the House and the Senate it goes before the President of the United States for his signature and then becomes law.

Once the Stigler Act Amendments become law, land belonging to tribal members will remain in restricted free status and passed out of the one-half degree blood quantum, the land would lose its restricted free status. Federal law does not dictate a minimum Native American quantum requirement for any other tribe in the United States other than the Five Tribes.

Restricted free status means the land is under tribal jurisdiction, as well as federal government jurisdiction. It is not part of the State of Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma cannot tax the land. Land in restricted status is protected from state overreach. It is essentially trust land, sovereign land.

The Stigler Act also stated the State Courts of Oklahoma had exclusive jurisdiction of all guardianship matters affecting tribal members of the Five Tribes. The state courts were also given jurisdiction over all proceedings to ad-

be protected from state overreach.

The original Dawes Act allowed the federal government to survey tribal lands and take the land from tribal communal holding and disperse the land out to individual tribal citizens. minister estates, to probate the wills of deceased members of the Five Tribes, as well as to determine heirs.

Land that lost the restricted free status was no longer sovereign land and was subject to taxation by the federal government. It

#### History of Land Allotments by Acre

	Original Allotments	Current Allotments as of Feb 2016	Total Loss of Arcreage
Choctaw	6,952,960	135,263-41	6,817,696.59
Chickasaw	4,707.051.72	37,215.991	4,669,865.73
Muscogee Creek	2,993.920	133,399.04	2,860,520.96
Cherokee	1,552,034.34	105,885.77	1,446,148.57
Seminole	359.575	12,858.28	346,716.72
Five Tribes	16,565,571.10	424.622.491	16,140,948.60

dant by blood of an original enrollee whose name appears on the Final Indian Rolls of the Five Tribes in Indian Territory will remain in restricted status until an Act of Congress determines otherwise.

In the amendment, land restrictions will be lifted for Five Tribes members whose blood quantum is one-half degree or more American Indian blood.

Section 1 of the Act of August 11, 1955, is the only part of the Act where a blood quantum is mentioned. Removing the section will continue the goal of the Stigler Act Amendment.

It also repeals Section 2 of the Stigler Act. Section 2 details how to determine the quantum of Indian blood of an heir or devisee. The Amendment Act also removes any mention in The Stigler Act was yet another way to take land away from tribal control and place in state control so the state would be able to tax the land.

Over the years and through treaties, the Five Tribes received a total combined original allotment of 16,565,571.10 acres. The current allotments, as of February 2016, was 424,622.491 acres. Over the years the Five Tribes have lost 16,140,948.60 acres. (*See* graphic for breakdown by tribe.)

The actual title to the allotment parcels were set forth in the Stigler Act. The Stigler Act stated, upon probate, if the heirs of an original allottee would

also enable oil and gas companies to enter the land without having to go through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In July 2015, Choctaw Chief Gary Batton, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anotubby, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo, and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker unanimously signed a resolution at the Inter–Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes denouncing the impact of the Stigler Act. The resolution ended with a request to Oklahoma congressmen to begin reformation of the Stigler Act.

# New Choctaw Nation Seal Represents Chahta Sia



he Choctaw Nation of

Oklahoma has a proud and storied heritage. Ours is a story of faith-the promise of hope and a future; of courage-resilience in the face of adversity; and a story of compassion-a nation of humanitarians.

We have endured much—a journey of displacement, of rights stripped, of a sovereignty infringed upon, but today we stand at the beginning of an entirely new era.

With all that we have endured, our people, their strength, courage and commitment to the tribe, are what have allowed us to become the third largest Native American tribe in the United States.

We strive to better the lives not just of our people, but all who we interact with in southeast Oklahoma, the United States, and across the world.

Our children are more educated than ever, our members' access to health care has never been wider spread and our commercial entities have never been more successful. Nevertheless, there is more to be done.

For our members to take pride in being Choctaw, our name must stand for all that we are: an enduring tribe that brings positive change to those it interacts with.

We want to be known for what we are—a thriving people-thus creating a renewed sense of pride for the Choctaw people.

As a sovereign nation as well as individually, our tribe and its members maintain relationships multifaceted in nature.

Across all, the personality with which we carry forward ourselves directly reflects on our nation. In achieving our vision of living out the Chahta spirit we want to be known as big-hearted, humble, and strong.

We are humanitarians at our core. With numerous acts of kindness throughout our history, the Choctaw Nation

has earned a name synonymous with generosity. We take care of those, both near and far, who

need our help. It's in our culture to give and share without hesitation and without expectation of getting something in return.

Regardless of what happens to us, we never lose our compassion for others-when others are in pain, we feel it. Having a big heart comes from all the experiences we have been through. It is the essence of who we are as a Nation.

We have much to be proud of, yet we remain humble. We do not brag—so much so that our friends and neighbors are largely unaware of all our successes.

Our humility is not a lack of confidence; rather, it comes from confidence in our strength as a Nation. We know that we are strong, that we have beaten the odds and will continue to endure.

Being humble and strong means that we have faith in our abilities and that we're satisfied with

quiet successes. We don't need to draw attention to ourselves.

These very personality traits are what characterize a true Choctaw Tvshka. Tvshka means warrior, and it carries a sense of duty and honor. We take great pride in our heritage, and we are fiercely protective of it. But a warrior's duty is also to help those in need. The honorable title of Tvshka is bestowed only on those whose great deed or continual service has had a positive impact on the tribe.

We're a peaceful people, but that doesn't mean we don't have fight. Living out the Chahta spirit takes tremendous courage and fortitude.

Being Tvshka means standing up and fighting for the well-being of the Choctaw Nation, for our people, for all that we value and hold dear.

A bright future lies ahead for our Nation—a future that holds prosperity for our children and many more generations to come. They will live out the Chahta spirit through faith, family, and culture.

The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation has been updated to have one culturally accurate official image that stands for everything we are.

The idea of a seal was first formalized in 1857 in the constitution signed at Skullyville, Oklahoma. The description added in an 1860 act was, "a great seal with 'The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation' around the edge, and a



The newest version of The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation was approved by Tribal Council on June 10, 2017. It took months of research to identify and create the most accurate visualization of the traditional Choctaw items.

design of an unstrung bow, with three arrows, and a pipehatchet blended together engraved in the center."

There have been many variations of the seal through the years culminating in 1940 with a design by Oklahoma City architect, Guy C. Reid.

The center elements were not indicative of a traditional Choctaw bow, arrows, and pipe-hatchet. There continue to be changes, and our Great Seal has drifted in many directions.

The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation is a representation of Choctaw people throughout the world. It should always be used with reverence and responsibility.

A group of cultural and member service leaders have worked for months to research, identify, and create the most accurate visualization of the traditional Choctaw items. Significant input from tribal historians and elders was reviewed concerning the limited modifications.

In accordance with official tribal policy, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council approved The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation on June 10, 2017.



#### In This Issue

#### 2 Faith Family Culture

Starting with the Dawes Act and continuing with the Act of Aug. 4, 1974, or Stigler Act,



Summer 2017 marks the third official year of the Choctaw Nation Internship Program. The program collaborates with multiple Choctaw Nation resources such as Higher Education, Career Development, the Chahta Foundation, Job for the Day, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as several surrounding colleges. It offers opportunities to students who live throughout the United States.

Participation increases each year through outreach and the continued success of the pro-

gram. There were 22 in 2016 and this year we have 38 bright young men and women interning with Choctaw Nation government,

Internship Program Teaches

health care, and commerce divisions. They have come to us from all over Oklahoma as well as Michigan and Texas.

It's a wonderful opportunity for both the interns and the Choctaw Nation. The interns are learning valuable skills in positions of Ambulatory Care, Curatorial, Human Resources, Fitness Counseling, Information Technology, and Revenue Audit. An intern is also in the Biskinik and helped in the preparation of this month's edition as well as taking the photos for this column.

The internship program is one of several in the Choctaw Nation that helps prepare youth for the future. The interns learn through hands-on experience. The experience is invaluable in ensuring they are prepared for a successful career. The program has

proven to be successful for both the Choctaw Nation and the interns. Many have been hired to continue in fulltime positions since the beginning of the program in areas of Information Technology, Risk Management, Human Resources, and Accounting.

I am proud of the departments that have invested the time and resources to offer these opportunities. They are showing true Chahta spirit by training and working with the interns.

Gabe Lewis learned about stickball during a class on Choctaw cultural traditions. The interns were introduced to several other activities including social dancing and Choctaw history.



e-mail and if the team is a men's team or women's team to:

Choctaw Nation Hugo Community Center

Attn: Larry Wade P. 0. Box 86 Hugo, 0K 74743

Photos by Wyatt Stanford

Megan Doyle and Savanna Mann meet

during orientation. Internship training

includes classes on tribal sovereignty

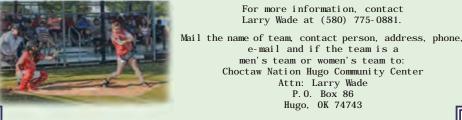
as well as workplace lessons in time

management and goal setting.

## Labor Day Softball/Fast Pitch Registration

The deadline to register for Softball/Fast Pitch games held during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma is

#### Saturday, August 12. For more information, contact Larry Wade at (580) 775-0881.





land belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes has slowly been lost. With the proposed Stigler Amendment, blood quantum regulations will be eased and tribal members' land will remain in restricted free status and out of state control.

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

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

- www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma f
- www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK
- 1 www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK
- www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation



# **CHOCTAW YOUTH HUNT**

## DRAWING, AUGUST 1, 2017

#### WHITETAIL DOE HUNT

Choctaw Youth from the 10 1/2 counties (Two youth per district) of the Choctaw Nation will be randomly selected on August 1<sup>st</sup> for a One-Day Whitetail Doe Hunt at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge. Every Choctaw Youth that completes the Hunter Safety Course at Tuskahoma, will be entered to win. Selected hunters may bring one person with them. (Must be between the ages of 13 - 18 years old to be eligible.)

#### HUNT INCLUDES:

- · All meals and one overnight stay in the Choctaw Hunting Lodge
- One-Day Rifle Hunt
- A gun handling course
- A wildlife life cycle education

Name	
Address	
Age	
CDIB #	District#
Parent or Guardian	
Phone Number (	)
Email	

#### $\mathcal{T}CHOCTAW$ www.choctawhuntinglodge.com

HUNTING LODGE



# **Trail of Tears Bike Team Finishes 500 Mile Ride**



#### by KENDRA GERMANY

On May 26, 2017, the Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Bike Team pedaled their way to the finish line at the Tribal Headquarters in Durant, marking an end to their seven day journey.

The team covered 500 miles across four different states including Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. This is the sixth year the team has embarked on this journey in honor of our ancestors who traveled the Trail of Tears in the 1800s.

According to Teresa Eagle Road, RPMS Technician, the group traveled around 50 to 70 miles a day, making their way through all different

kinds of weather conditions and terrain.

"There was cool, heat, rain, bad roads, and we even had dogs chase us," said Eagle Road.

Eagle Road stated she suffered from heat exhaustion during the trip, and one rider, Jana Boykin, Deputy Director of Tribal Transit, had a wreck during the journey that left her right arm in a cast. Boykin broke her thumb and fractured a finger, but still continued riding.

For many, the ride is an emotional connection to their heritage.

"I feel that my ancestors endured a lot going through the terrain they had to go through in order to leave Mississippi and make it to Oklahoma," Boykin said. "I do feel truly, that there was a lot of perseverance to do it. That is really emotional for me."



by Kendra Germany

The Trail of Tears Bike Team and Chief Gary Batton pedal into the Choctaw Tribal Headquarters on May 26, escorted by tribal police. They were welcomed back by a crowd of cheering fans.

Johnnie Anderson, Pharmacy Automation Specialist, has been a part of this ride for five years. For Anderson, who took the journey this year with his son Austin, the ride is a learning experience.

"Growing up, I learned about the Trail of Tears in history, but it's just a story. When you're out there at the different places you stop and learn about, it brings it home."

Chief Gary Batton joined the team for the last leg of

the race.

According to Chief Batton, this bike ride is an opportunity to connect with our Choctaw ancestors and their struggles.

"The ride is an opportunity for participants to learn more about and experience more closely, our history, namely the removal from our homeland," said Batton. "The ride is strenuous, it's long, and it gives riders time to reflect, and to remember."

# Recipe of the Month Pico de Gallo & Chile-Lime **Tortilla Chips**



EatingWell.com

#### Ingredients Pico de Gallo

- 3 cups diced ripe tomatoes (3 to 4 medium)
- 1 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 to 2 jalapeno peppers, stemmed, seeded, and finely chopped
- 1 lime, zested and juiced
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

#### Spencer Ruth Debo



Spencer Ruth Debo was born Nov. 11, 2016, at the Southeastern Oklahoma Medical Center in Durant. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 191/2inches long.

Spencer was welcomed into the world by her parents Brandon and Stormi Debo of Hugo. She is the granddaughter of Randy and Charlotte Debo of Hugo, Bobby and Delannia Cleveland, and Terry and Mikki Fox of Lone Grove.

Her great-grandparents are Norma and Charles James of Hugo, Vicky and James Stephenson of Hugo, Quinton and Linda Overstreet of Coleman, Roy Reed of Tishomingo, Nita Holt of Ardmore, and the late Jackie Debo, Anita Wade and Terry Fox.

#### Samuel Rex Ray

Location	CHOCTAW Women, Infants Days	s and Children Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Boswell 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Daily Mon Fri	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Coalgate 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Durant 580-916-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
McAlester 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Poteau 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Smithville 580-244-3289	1st Thurs. Every Month	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

# **NURSERY NEWS**

#### Chile-Lime Tortilla Chips

- 12 6-inch corn tortillas
- Canola oil cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon chili powder
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon salt

#### Preparation

1. Prepare Pico de Gallo: Combine tomatoes, onion, cilantro, jalapeno to taste, lime zest and juice, and sugar in a medium serving bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

2. Prepare Chips: Position oven racks in the middle and lower third of oven; preheat to 375°F.

Coat both sides of each tortilla with cooking spray and cut into quarters. Place tortilla wedges in an even layer on 2 large baking sheets. Combine lime juice and chili powder in a small bowl. Brush the mixture on each tortilla wedge and sprinkle with salt.

Bake the tortillas, switching the baking sheets halfway through, until golden and crisp, 15-20 minutes (depending on the thickness of the tortillas).

Make Ahead Tip: store in an airtight container for 1 to 2 days.

Nutrition Facts: Pico de Gallo Servings 16 Serving size ¼ cup

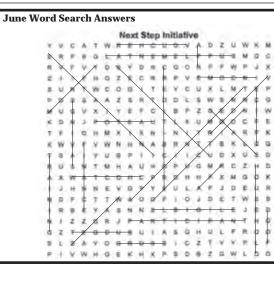
Per serving: 11 calories; 0g fat; 1g fiber; 2g carbs; 0g protein; 7mcg folate; 0mg cholesterol; 1g sugars; 271 IU vitamin A; 6mg vitamin C; 6mg calcium; 75mg sodium; 81 mg potassium

#### **Chile-Lime Tortilla Chips**

#### Servings: 6

Serving size: 8 chips (per serving) 198 calories; 10g fat (1g sat); 2g fiber; 25g carbohydrates; 2g protein; 1mcg folate; 0mg cholesterol; 219 IU vitamin A; 2mg vitamin C; 12mg calcium; 115mg sodium; 10mg potassium

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





Samuel Rex Ray was born March 17, 2017, at Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds and was 18.6 inches long.

Samuel was welcomed into the world by his big brother Easton Ray and his parents Cory and Nikki Ray of Wister. Paternal grandparents are Turb Buckner of Spiro and Donna Ray of Wister. Maternal grandparents are Rex and the late

Debora Smith of Wister. Great-grandparents are the late Riley and Easter Buckner of Panama, Jerry Ray of Wister, Louise Buckner of Poteau, the late Dyer and Flossie Smith of Henryetta, and JoAnn and the late Jerry Williams of Henryetta.



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

breastfeeding resources

latch frequency of feedings

positioning

growth spurts

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

#### Idabel

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

#### Poteau

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

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

Talihina Tuesday • Aug. 15 • 9am Wednesday • Oct. 18 • 1pm Located at Kiamichi Vo-Tech

#### CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Antlers: 400 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443 Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842 **Durant:** 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773 McAlester: 3244 Afullota Hina, (918) 420-5716 Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

#### August

#### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 & 31.

Cooking with Carmen: August 10 & 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### **BROKEN BOW**

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 & 31

Cooking with Carmen: August 1 & 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### **DURANT**

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 & 31

Cooking with Carmen: August 8 & 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### **MCALESTER**

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 & 31

Cooking with Carmen: August 9 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### **POTEAU**

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for: Closed: August 30 & 31

Cooking with Carmen: August 3 & 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Ad-ditionally, program information may be made available in language other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



# Youth Events Hosts Sells Graduates **Stickball Camps**

#### by WYATT STANFORD

The Choctaw Nation Youth Events Department hosted stickball camps for tribal youth in Tvshka Homma May 30-June 2.

The Youth Events Department held its two annual summer stickball camps for tribal members ages 8-18. The first camp for youth from the southern districts of the Choctaw Nation took place May 30-31, and the second, for the northern districts took place June 1-2.

Students learned the fundamentals of stickball, from how to throw, catch, and score a goal to the history behind the game and its significance in Choctaw culture. In addition, the youth learned the social and exhibition types of play as well as the rules and field positions for each.

Coaches from the Choctaw Nation stickball team instructed students with assistance from local players. Participants tested their skills through scrimmages and

individual skill competitions.

This year, 141 youth from the north took part as well as 141 from the south, making the total number of participants 282. Javen Henson from Youth Events coached students throughout the camps.

"We look forward to continuing to grow our stickball camp numbers as well as our community of youth stickball players," Henson said.

The stickball camps are two of the many camps offered throughout the summer by the Youth Events Department. The other camps include other sports, such as golf, softball, baseball, and basketball, as well as cultural enrichment.

For more information on the summer camps, visit Choctaw-NationCulture.com.



by Wyatt Stanford

Stickball campers quickly work to pick up a ball. Students learned the fundamentals of stickball as well as its history and significance in Choctaw culture.

In other Choctaw Nation Stickball news, the World Series Stickball Tournament begins July 3 in Choctaw, Mississippi, with Lady Tvshka Homma vs. Tiak Hikiya Ohoyo at 7 p.m. and in the 35+ Men's Division, Tvshka Homma vs. Red Clay Hills at 8 p.m. Tvshka Homma plays July 8 at 8 p.m. They will face the winner of Oka Homma vs. Koni Hata.



# Shelby and Moudy Land Top Ten Finish

Garrett "Moose" Shelby, right, an eighthgrade student at Choctaw Middle School, and his teammate Carson Moudy, left, landed a ninth place finish during the final weekend of competition for the 2016–2017 Oklahoma High School BASS Nation season at Lake Eufaula the weekend of June 3. The pair caught a limit of

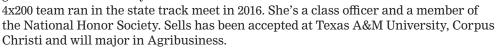
four bass weighing 9 pounds, 7.4 ounces total. Shelby and Moudy finished the season ranked 35th in the state. They fished against 136 teams from across the state in grades eighth through 12th. The 2017–18 season starts Sept. 23-24 at Lake Tenkiller.

# **Amos Places Third** at State Track Meet



Amber Sells graduated from Thrall High School in Thrall, Texas, with a GPA of 4.1959. She was the vice president of the Thrall 4-H club and has shown animals at the Houston Livestock Show and the Austin Livestock Show. Sells recently placed second with her market goat and 10th with her lamb. She placed ninth with her goat at the San Antonio Livestock show.

Sells has been on the varsity volleyball team for three years and her team played in the state tournament this year. It was the first time Thrall has had a team go to state. Sells has been on the varsity track team for four years and her team made it to the regional track meet three years in a row. She and her





# Ag in the Classroom **Visits Jones** Academy

by DAVID SANCHEZ

Ag in the Classroom can answer many questions. How would you like your Maine-Anjou cooked? Why can't you drive a Limousin? Would you like a glass of chardonnay with your Charolais? If these words all sound foreign to you, they are.

The Maine-Anjou, Limousin, and Charolais are all names of species of cattle raised in different parts of Europe and France. The chardonnay, of course, is a French grape wine.

The vocabulary is all part of the curriculum taught by representatives of the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach Program. The Ag in the Classroom members have been visiting with the Jones Elementary students all year in an effort to promote awareness of the daily role agriculture plays in each of our lives.

The curriculum is hands-on, riveting, and fun for students of all ages. Do you know why milking cows do not give milk or what dirt babies grow up to be? The answers are provided in the curriculum and classroom activities.

Oklahoma is the second leading producer of beef in the nation. By-products from cattle can include lipstick, chewing gum, perfume, shaving cream, photography film, and various facial cosmetics.

These fun facts were part of the lessons that the Ag in the Classroom staff explored with the Jones Academy students during the year.

For the dirt baby project, students saw firsthand what was required for successful plant growth, providing a closer view into the plant life cycle.

Students also studied pollination and planted a vegetable garden on a raised bed consisting of tomatoes, basil, cilantro, cantaloupe, watermelon and sweet peppers.

According to their website, the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach works with youth, community and agriculture producers to provide education requiring participation and researchbased information to help agriculture ventures expand and thrive.

And, if you are wondering why milking cows do not give milk, it's because milking cows are used to nurse calves and not for dairy products.

Diligent staff members of the Ag in the Classroom Program were Nikki Schuth-Mitchell, Macy Vansickle, Lakesha Hawkins, Larriann Chambers, and director Jody House.





Jacob Amos, a junior at McAlester High School, won third place in the long jump at the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association 2017 5A State Track Meet held May 12–13 at Yukon High School in Yukon, Oklahoma. Amos jumped 22 feet 11/4 inches. He is the son of Robert and Jennifer Amos Watkins. He is the grandson of Paul Amos and Roberta Hood. His great-grandparents are Walter and Sarah Amos of McAlester and the late Calvin and Etta Green, also of McAlester.



## **Newcomb Earns Associates Before High School Graduation**

Kaleigh Michelle Newcomb graduated with an Associate Degree of Science from Frank Phillips College three weeks prior to her high school graduation on May 26, 2017.

During the high school awards presentation the principal announced this was the first year for this degree to be offered. Newcomb was nominated along with approximately 200 candidates for a Dual Credit Associates Degree Program at Frank Phil-

lips College in Borger, Texas. She was selected along with 22 other students to actually participate in the Honors Program offered through Borger High School and Frank Phillips College. The program began the summer before her junior year. For two summers she took summer college classes and did not have a break from school until the end of her senior year. Newcomb's future plans include going to Amarillo College in the Fall of 2017 and finishing up the few prerequisites she has left. She will then apply to the RN nursing program beginning January 2018. Once the RN nursing program is completed, Newcomb will go to West Texas A&M University to earn a BSN degree and would like to work in a Hospital Labor and Delivery unit. She is the daughter of Brent and Tiffany Newcomb. Her brother and wife are Lane and Paige Newcomb and her niece is Brecklyn of Ft. Riley, Kansas. She is the granddaughter of Jerry and Peggy Newcomb of Fritch, Texas, and Randall and Linda Robinson of Borger, Texas.



# **Dixon Earns Degree in Computer Forensics**

Jeremy Haywood Dixon recently earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Forensics at Oklahoma State University OKC. He is the son of Kimberly Thomas and David Dixon.

# **Carra Rentie Clarification**

The Biskinik received incorrect information on the graduation announcement for Carra Rentie, an Arlington Juan Seguin High School graduate, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from Stanford in June 2017. She will continue her studies in the fall at Stanford Law School. While Rentie has wonderful financial aid, Stanford Law School does not give full scholarships.



## by David Sanchez

Barbara Porter is pictured with her raised bed garden. The raised bed gardens at Jones Academy has tomatoes, basil, cilantro, cantaloupe, watermelon and sweet peppers.

# Fleming Graduates Middle **School with Many Honors**

Chandler Fleming recently graduated from Rector Johnson Middle School in Broken Bow. He was awarded the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma Student of Today Award, Athlete of the Year award, U.S. History Award, Oklahoma Middle School Honor Society, and Top Ten Percent of his class since fifth grade. He was the starting quarterback in football, a starter in basketball, baseball pitcher, and won several medals in track.

# CHOCTAW NATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT



# **Cyber Security Robotics & Biomedical**

## POTEAU, OK STEM SUMMER YOUTH CAMP JULY 17, 18, and 19, 2017. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Choctaw Tribal Members Only; 9th-12th grades

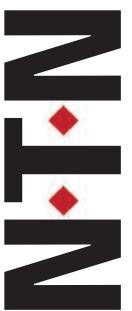
To apply, go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7Q6BP7Q







For more information: Hugo area: Michele Frazier, 580-326-4910 Poteau area: David Billy, 918-448-4808



# Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

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

During the regular, session committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following items:

- Dispose of surplus capital assets.
- Application for the Social and Economic Development Strategies.
- Application for the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Grant.
- Funding for construction of a new judicial building.
- Oil and Gas lease No. 4200034378 on land held in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations with Stephens Production Co. in LeFlore County.
- Choctaw Nation Seniors Farmer's Market Nutrition Program budget FY 2017.
- Choctaw Nation WIC budget FY 2017.
- A limited waiver of Sovereign Immunity (Micros Fidelio Worldwide, LLC).
- A limited waiver of Sovereign Immunity (Mythics, Inc).
- A new official seal of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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

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

# \*\*\*\*\*

Judicial Branch Seeking Peacemakers

The Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch is currently seeking Peacemakers to serve the Tribal District Court in an effort to resolve disputes in a fair, informal manner in accordance with the traditions of the Choctaw people. Applicants must be of good moral character, be familiar with the history and traditions of the Choctaw people, and proficient in oral and written communication.

Interested applicants should contact Donna Heffin by phone at 918-567-4134 or email: dbeflin@choctawnation.com



#### The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

- Family law (divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications
  The office does not provide upprocented

The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. At this time the legal

# LETTERS

I would like to take the time and give a big thank you to the Oklahoma School of Welding. I am proud to say I have been attending the school here in McAlester for Structural Welding. I love the hands on experience. The instructors, William Roberts, John Allen and Sterling Taylor help us so much. They are amazing people who demonstrate and motivate us in so many ways. Thank you for having the patience to teach me the skills needed to achieve my goal to become a welder. I would also like to give a



big thank you to Larry Amos and the Choctaw Nation for providing the funding for my schooling.

#### Nakina Rachelle Williams McAlester, Oklahoma

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the funeral assistance provided for Kiley James Russell. His untimely death was devastating to his young wife and small sons, as well as his parents, siblings and their families. The assistance is greatly appreciated by the entire family. We cannot adequately express our gratitude for the consideration and kindness shown at the challenging time.

#### Pamela and Donald Wells

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief and all who make it possible that I receive my birthday cards each year. This marks my 84th year on this Earth. I am so very proud of my Choctaw heritage. I stem from the Folsom Ward–Thompson–Kelly families. Thank you Chief Batton and the many who lead this great Choctaw Nation!

#### Patsy S. (Kelly) Mandrell Yuma, Arizona

I want to thank the Chief, tribal council and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for supporting the higher education goals of its members. This past year I successfully completed my first year of medical school at the University of California Riverside with financial assistance from the Higher Education Assistance Committee. With your help, I was able to focus on the business and excitement of learning to become the best doctor that I can be. I've used my time to focus on my studies and to become a student leader at our free health clinic, where I am able to further give back to the local community.

#### Margaret Clark Riverside, California

Much thanks and appreciation to Sue Folsom and the Choctaw Nation Cultural Affairs Team. We could not have asked for any more support for the recent 150th Anniversary Celebration of the historic Choate Cabin in Indianola. The cultural exhibits and presentations were outstanding. It was extra special to have Dr. Ian Thompson with us on Saturday afternoon to speak specifically on Choctaw Cabins. There were approximately 350 participants at Choate Prairie and Indianola for the event, as well as Choate family members and guests from all over the country.

Mike Cathey

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

# **EVENTS**

# Choctaw Nation Community Center July Health Fairs

There are no Health Fairs scheduled for July. The Health Fairs will resume on Wednesday, Aug. 9 in Wilburton.

55th Open Air Annual Gospel Singing Saturday, July 1 at 7 p.m. Rock Creek Church Honobia, Oklahoma

Everyone is welcome. Bring your own lawn chairs. Concession stand will be available.

# Hudson Family Gathering & Horseshoe Tournament

In remembrance of Lita Baxter & Chop Hudson Saturday, July 1 The Hudson House (a.k.a. Chop's House) 851 Joe Ford Rd. Smithville, Okla.

Horseshoe Tournament registration begins at 10 a.m. There is a \$10 entry fee. Free hot dogs, chips and drinks Covered Dishes are welcome For more info, call R.E. Hudson at (479) 226-9720

# Indian Falls Creek

#### Monday, July 31-Friday, August 4

Indian Falls Creek is a camp for the entire family. Information for registration, program, and housing can be found at IndianFallsCreek.net, or contact Executive Director Victor Cope at (405) 395-4226 or (405) 388-1568.

#### **2017 EDUCATION CLASSES**

#### Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

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

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

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

#### July - September

Monday, July 3, 9 a.m. - noon Poteau, Carl Albert St. College, Ollie Bldg. Thursday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon McAlester, Eastern Okla. State, Clark Bass Bldg. Thursday, July 6, 1 - 4 p.m. Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr. Thursday, July 6, 5 - 8 p.m. Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.

## **ELECTION VOTING LOCATIONS**

The Tribal Election will be held **Saturday**, **July 8**, from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.** at all voting locations. Locations marked wiith \* will be open for Early

department is not providing assistance with wills and probate. **To make an appointment**, or for any questions, contact Samantha Guinn at **(580) 380-8149**.

July Community Center Schedule 7-6 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3 7-13 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3 7-27 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3 August Community Center Schedule 8-3 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3 8-10 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3 8-24 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3 8-31 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Jack Austin Jr.

Assistant Chief

Gary Batton Chief

> The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 <u>www.ChoctawNation.com</u> 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 space, proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive. Items are printed in the order received.

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



and choclaw Revolving Loan Fund

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

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

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

#### Idabel Community Center July 14 9 – 11 a.m.

Voting on July 5, 6, and 7, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., as well as July 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

District 4 (Northern LeFlore County): Heavener -

First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 201 E. Avenue B \* Poteau -

Choctaw Community Center, 208 B Street

\* **Spiro** - Choctaw Community Center, 19400 AES Road

District 6 (Latimer County): \* Buffalo Valley -Buffalo Valley School, 4384

SE Hwy. 6 Quinton - Quinton

Community Center, 1020 Main Street

\* Red Oak - Red Oak High School Home Ec. Room, 404 N. Main Street \* Wilburton -

Choctaw Community Center,

1056 NW 1003 Avenue

District 7 (Pushmataha County):

\* Antlers -Choctaw Community Center, 400 SW O Street

\* Tuskahoma -Arts & Crafts Building on the Tvshka Homma Grounds

**Rattan** - RAM Hall (High School), 420 West Main

\* Wright City -Choctaw Community Center,

5718 Rodeo Grounds Road

District 9 (Bryan County): Bennington -

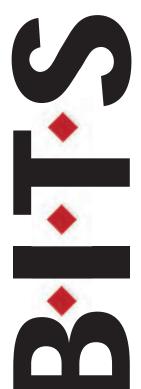
Choctaw Head Start, 820 North Perry

\* Durant -

Choctaw Community Center, 2750 Big Lots Pkwy.

# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 2017        Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday      Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday      Idabel by appointment        Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115      Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com						
Sun	Mon	<b>Tue</b> 1	<b>Wed</b> 2	Thu 3	Fri 4	Sat 5
6	7 Durant 8:00-4:30	8 Talihina 10:00-2:00	9 Antlers by appt.	10	11	12
13	14 Broken Bow by appt.	15	16 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	17	18 Wright City by appt.	19
20	21	22 Poteau 11:30-1:00	23 Crowder by appt.	24	25 Atoka & Coalgate by appt.	26
27	28 Idabel by appt.	29 Wilburton by appt.	30	31		



# 6

**Patsy Lou Bates** 



Patsy Lou Bates, 63. of San Angelo, Texas, passed away April 27, 2017.

Patsy was born Dec. 3, 1953, in Borger, Texas, to Lonnie and Francis Fern (McClellan) Grossman.

She is survived by husband James Bates; children Raymond Bates and Laurie Bates; sister Shirley Yake; brother James Grossman; five grandchildren Che Archer Bates, Ethan James Bates, Magdalynn Amber Bates, Gabriella Rae Bates and Natalie Ann Bates; and greatgrandchildren Aiden James Bates and Valleta Rae Bates.

To read the full obituary please visit Shaffer Funeral Home.

#### **Mary Ann James**

Mary Ann James, 69, of Hugo passed away June 7, 2017. Mary was born July 4, 1947, in Allen to Elliot and Lee Fannie (Shields) Roberts.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Levi James Sr.; sister Frances (Titta) Shields; granddaughter Megan James; and grandson Bryan James.

Mary is survived by sons Levi James Jr. and spouse Angela, Timothy James and spouse Billie, and Tony James and spouse Brenda; brothers Osborne Roberts and spouse Christine and James Roberts and spouse Kizzie; sisters Deana Roberts and Juanita Taylor and spouse Ellis; sister Brenda Roberts; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Hampton Chapel Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Miller & Miller Funeral Home.

#### Floyd Lynn Fulsom

Floyd Lynn Fulsom, 62, of Hooks, Texas, passed away May 1.2017.

Floyd was born Aug. 17, 1955, in Talihina to Frank and Frances (Webster) Fulsom.



#### **Demarcus Quintel Colbert**

Demarcus Quintel Colbert, 17, passed away May 23, 2017, in Coalgate.

Demarcus was born Feb. 3, 2000, in Ada to Tanya Jean Colbert.

He is preceded in death by grandparents C.W. and Ernestine Colbert; Uncle Tyrone Shields Colbert; Aunt Erica Elaine Colbert; and cousin Paula Colbert.

Demarcus is survived by mother Tanya Jean Colbert; brother Devon Neal Colbert; sister Dejaneigh Colbert; niece Nayona Ernestine Colbert; uncles Johnnie Colbert, Orlan Hill Jr., and C.W. Colbert Jr.; aunts Dianna Colbert Savala and spouse Joe, Lisa Colbert, Carolyn Colbert, Pam Colbert, and Cassandra Colbert along with a host of other family and many dear friends

Interment was held at Green Hill Cemetery in Atoka.

To read the full obituary please visit Brown's Funeral Service of Atoka.

#### **Frances L. Anders**

Frances L. Anders, 79, of Lubbock, Texas, passed away April 23, 2017.

Frances was born Dec. 6, 1937, in Bennington to Mack "MM" and Winnie (Smyth) Gardner.

She was preceded in death by her husband John K. Anders; her parents; greatgrandchild Josiah "Jojo"

Keith Turner; and brother Harve M. Gardner.

Frances is survived by son Larry K. Anders and spouse Nesa; daughter Brenda Jo Turner; grandchildren Adam K. Anders, Austin K. Anders, Allison M. Anders, and Danielle N. Turner; and great-grandson Eli.

Interment was held at Resthaven Memorial Park. To read full obituary please visit **Turrentine-Jack-**<u>son-Morrow Funeral Home</u>.

#### Helen Marie Key

Helen Marie Key, 75, of McAlester, passed away May 17, 2017, at Sparks Medical Center, in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Helen was born Dec. 27, 1941, in Coalgate to Roy and Susie Mae (Summers) Thomas.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister.

Helen is survived by her

husband Walter Everett Key; sons Gregory M. Key and Dennis Key and spouse Michal; daughter Kimberly J. McFarland and spouse Ken; grandchildren Krista Loudermilk and spouse Kevin, Cody Key and spouse Emily, Magen Key, Stephen Key, Jonathan Key, Haley McFarland, and Kacie McFarland; and great-grandchildren Alyssa Loudermilk and Eleanor Key.

Interment was held at Oak Hill Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit **Brumley-Mills** Funeral Home.



#### **Anabell Barbee**

Annabell Barbee, 94, of Whitefield passed away June 9, 2017, at her home.

Annabell was born Feb. 14, 1923, in Red Oak to Duke and Emaline (Baker) Stallaby.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband John Barbee Sr.; and granddaughter Lisa Renee Barbee.



Annabell is survived by son John Barbee Jr.; daughters Jeneva Jim and spouse Danny, Carolyn Branam, Sybil R. McGhee, and Linda McCarrol and spouse Rick; grandchildren John Barbee III, Tony Barbee, Michelle Barbee, Randy Jim, Jeff Jim, Michael Dunegan, Kyle Dunegan, Bryan Barbee, Kendra Hess, Ricky McCarroll Jr., Alisha McCarroll; 14 great-grandchildren; and sister Janie Tomlinson.

Interment was held at Whitefield Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit King and Shearwood Funeral Home.

#### **Terral Paul Meisenheimer**

Terral "Terry" Paul Meisenheimer, 62, of Chino Hills, California, passed away March 18, 2017, at his home. Terral was born April 21,

1954, in Spokane, Washington, to Rosetta Staley.

He is survived by wife Adel; sons Terral James and Terris Kenlin; and sisters Mary Kay Allen and Cheryl Laney.



#### Jacinda Marie Holliday

Jacinda Marie Holliday of Hugo passed away June 7, 2017.

At the time of death, Jacinda was 19 weeks and six days gestation. Her parents are Toni Hurd and Micheal Gregg Holliday.

She is survived by her parents, grandparents Jerry Hurd, Luellla Hurd, and Amanda Gallie; uncles Jerry Hurd and Dontavius Hurd; aunts Jerrica Scott, Whitney Hurd, and Arien Whisenhunt; grandmother Crystal White, great-grandmothers Geraldine Wright and Susan Dunn; great-aunts Gevena Wright and Jeri Wright; great-grandfather William Eugene Gallie; great-uncles Harlin Wright and Harly Wright; and uncle Caleb Holliday.

To read the full obituary please visit Holmes-Coffey-Murray Chapel.

#### Lloyd Harrison

Lloyd Harrison, 54, of Newport, North Carolina, passed away April 29, 2017.

He was preceded in death by his father John Harrison and brother Rodrick Harrison.

Lloyd is survived by his wife Gina Harrison; daughter Melissa Harrison Clark and spouse Everett; mother Thelma Harrison; and grandson Eddie Clark.

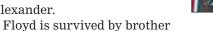
To read the full obituary please visit Munden Funeral Home.







He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Vernon G. Fulsom and Kenneth Leon Alexander.



Gary Wayne Alexander and spouse Jan as well as numerous cousins, friends, and loved ones.

Interment was held at Finley Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

#### **Mason Tyler Elliot**

Mason Tyler Elliot, 15, of Boswell passed away June 11, 2017.

Mason was born March 29, 2002, in Talihina to Courtney Elliott and Lahona Alvarez.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather Troy Chumley; maternal greatgrandparents Leroy and Jesse

Lawrence; paternal great-

grandfather James Elliot; his aunt Michelle Chumley; and cousin Bradley Modlin.

Mason is survived by his mother Lahona Alvarez and spouse Jeronimo; father Courtney Elliot and fiancé Jamie; siblings Kelsi Elliott, Jasper Alvarez, and Emilee Alvarez; maternal grandmother Betsie Hunter; paternal grandparents Loretta Elliott, Kevin Watkins, and Harvey Patterson; great-grandparents Pete and Arlene Peterson and Pete and Claudia Chumley; and uncles Chris "Peewee" Elliott, Casey Elliott, Billy "Smiley" Hunter, and Michael Douthit along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Restland Cemetery.

To read full obituary please visit Miller & Miller Funeral Home.

#### James H. Prewitt Jr.

James "Bow" H. Pewitt, Jr., 64, passed away April 24, 2017, at his home.

James was born Nov. 24, 1952, in Broken Bow to James H. Prewitt Sr. and Bessie Bell Prewitt.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

James is survived by his children Carol Zimmerman

and Jason Bagwell; sisters Mary Prewitt and Patricia "Corky" Gibbs; grandchildren Emily, Ayden, Asher, and Madilynn.

Interment was held at Grissard Cemetery in El Paso, Arkansas.

To read the full obituary please visit Smith-North Little Rock Funeral Home.



#### **Gary Lee Blevins**

Gary Lee Blevins, 70, of Tuttle passed away May 3, 2017.

Gary was born July 18, 1946, in Hollis to Carl Frank Blevins and Ramona (McNeil) Blevins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his infant twin sister Sharon Gwen Blevins; and grandson Logan Hodge.

Gary is survived by his wife Becky Blevins; daughter Mi-

chelle Kemery and spouse Mike; granddaughter Carly Hodge; and many other loved ones and friends.

Internment was held at Blanchard Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Eisenhour Funeral Home.

#### **Elmer Allen West**

Elmer Allen West, 74, of Ada passed away June 11, 2017, in Oklahoma City.

Elmer was born April 5, 1943, in Sulphur to Elmer and Lorene (Tyler) West.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, and two sisters.

Elmer is survived by his wife Barbara; sons Tim West

and spouse Ronda, Keith West and spouse Beth, and Steven West and spouse Danae; daughter Kim Brown and spouse Mike; 11 grandchildren; seven greatgrandchildren; and a host of longtime dear friends and neighbors.

Interment was held at Frances Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Smith-Phillips Funeral Home.

#### **Obituary Policy**

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Due to space limitations, there is a 150 word limit for obituaries. Full obituaries can be read online. Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik

PO Box 1210

Durant OK 74702 or email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Shirley Yvonne Cole, 61, of Atoka passed away May 12,

Shirley was born Oct. 23, 1955, in Talihina to Benjamin and Rebecca (Peters) Cole. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Shirley is survived by son Travis Cole and spouse Katherine; daughter Tonya Roberts

and spouse Darwin; son Shane Cole and spouse Ronda; sister Stella Johnson; brother Lloyd Cole; grandchildren Trevin Cole, Miguel Cole, Lilyan Cole, Mavryck Cole, Bless Roberts, Mia Roberts, Erin Roberts, Lorna Roberts, Isaac Roberts, Daniel Roberts, Shelby Wood, and Colton Wood; great-grandson Romulus Cole; nephews Brian Johnson and Justin Johnson; and other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Double Springs Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Brown's Funeral Service.

#### Fayetta (Glenn) West

Fayetta (Glenn) West, 67, passed away May 5, 2017.

Fayetta was born July 27, 1949, in Hugo to Henry Grady Glenn and Wannetta (Siddle) Glenn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers Billy and Parker.

Fayetta is survived by her sons Kenny, Kelly, Henry, and

Avery; daughter Alicia; siblings Billy Steve Glenn, Mary Elizabeth Glenn, Dorothy (Dot) Glenn, Kay F. Glenn McIntyre, Larry Jack Glenn, and Parker Glenn; and 10 grandchildren.

To read the full obituary please visit Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home.

#### **Nancy Darleen Hampton**

Nancy Darlene Hampton, 59, of Brooksville passed away April 14, 2017, in her home. Nancy was born May 12,

1957, in Ada to Beenie Hampton and Patsy Grisson.

She is survived by son John Kimer; daughters Shanna Rider and Darla Kimer; brother Darrell Hampton; sisters Vicky Pond and Amanda

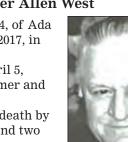
Weaver; seven grandchildren including Christina Rider, Alice Laterra, and Lexi Harris along with three great-grandchildren.

To read the full obituary please visit Merritt Funeral Home.









2017.

#### **Kelly Dean West**



Kelly Dean West, 47, of Hugo passed away May 29, 2017.

Kelly was born Aug. 14, 1969, in Hugo to Danny and Fayetta (Glenn) West. He was preceded in death by his mother

Fayetta. Kelly is survived by his father; brothers Kenny West, Henry West, and Avery Amos; and sister Alicia Amos.

#### Norma Maxine (Sockey) Austin

Norma Maxine Austin passed away on May 27 surrounded by her family.

Born Aug. 17, 1940, in Talihina, Norma was the daughter of Mariorie Caldwell and Rubin Sockey.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister Barbara Lowrimore; and nephew Donnie Sockey.

She is survived by husband Jack Austin Sr.; daughters Triva Cain and spouse Tony and Tonya Fowler and spouse Rick; sons Jack Austin Jr. and spouse Philisha and Louis Holstead and spouse Mandy; grandchildren Amanda Cain, Zack Fowler, Josh Fowler, Clark Austin, Melissa Thompson, Malacha Sisk, Hunter Holstead, Mathew Cain, Havley Holstead, and Samuel Austin: great-grandchildren Dawson Sisk. Lucas Thompson. and Drake Sisk; brothers Billy Sockey and spouse Sarah, R.L. (Jr.) Sockey and spouse Janet, and Bobby Sockey; sister Charlotte Oswell and husband Glenn; nephews Ryan, Steven, Mike, and Eddie Sockey; niece Michelle Wood and many loved ones and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit Burkhart Funeral Home.

#### **Margaret Rizor**

Margaret Rizor, 70, of Cambria passed away May 10, 2017, at her home.

Margaret was born Sept. 22, 1946, in Wilburton to Marlow and Bessie (Wall) Gage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Harry Gage; sister Mary Ann Godosky; niece Anita Godosky; and nephew James Godosky.

Margaret is survived by son

and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Cherish Rizor; grandchildren Scotlin, Jae'Cee, and Jaxxon Rizor; and niece Erika Godosky.

Interment was held at Gowen/Cambria Cemetery. To read full obituary please visit Brumley-Mills Funeral Home.

#### **Bernice Fields**

Bernice Fields, 92, passed way Feb. 11, 2017.

#### **Rosetta Jean Staley**

Rosetta Jean Staley, 91, passed away April 29, 2017. Rosetta was born March 3,

1926, in Pittsburg.

She was preceded in death by first husband Hiles K. Meisenheimer; second husband Glen H. Staley; and children Rollyn W. Meisenheimer and Terral P. Meisenheimer.

Rosetta is survived by chil-

dren Cheryl M. Laney and Marry Kay Allen; grandchildren Jordan J. Davis, Kenny Allen, T.J. Meisenheimer Jared Laney, and Terris Meisenheimer; and sisters Joan Crain and Rowena Meder.

#### **Harold Buck Jones**

Harold Buck Jones, 80, of Arpelar passed away May 6, 2017.

Harold was born Nov. 25, 1936, to Malcolm "Mack" and Vera (Riddle) Jones.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Frances Jones; brother James "Jim" Jones; father-in-law and mother-in-law Edgar and Loren McClendon; and brother-in-law Billy McClendon.

Harold is survived by his daughter Pamela Elaine West and spouse Eric; grandchildren Krystle Orr and spouse Jeremy and Jeff West and spouse Ashley; great-grandchildren Payton Bennett, Janson West, Riley West, Turner West, Jaxton Countz, and Braxton Counts; brothers Glenn Jones and spouse Carol and the Rev. Charles Jones and spouse Barbara; sisters-inlaw Ann Jone and spouse Bob, Jo Sanders and spouse Freddie and Anita McClendon; and brother-in-law Simp McClendon and spouse Carol.

Interment was held at Arpelar Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit **Bishop Funeral** Service.

Betty Sue Johnnie, 81, of Keota passed away June 12, 2017, in Broken Arrow.

in Cartersville to Leard and Alva (Tom) Falconer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; grandson Andrew Johnnie; son Michael Johnnie; and brother David Falconer.

Betty is survived by daugh-

ters Linda Johnnie and Tammy McMahan and spouse Chuck; son Bill Johnnie and spouse Cheryl; uncle Perry Falconer; brothers Donnie Falconer and spouse Kathy and Ronnie Falconer and spouse Sharon; brother Norman Falconer and spouse Barbara; grandchildren Elizabeth Bryant and spouse Nick, Sara Higley, Justin McMahan and spouse Jodee, Josh McMahan, and Nikki Elrod; and great-grandchildren Riley, Jackson, Addilynn, Allyson, Justin, and Isabella.

#### **Robert Lee Wright Jr.**

Robert Lee Wright Jr., 66, of Antlers passed away June 10, 2017, at his residence.

Robert was born Feb. 3, 1951, in Artesia, New Mexico, to Robert Lee Wright Sr. and Claudia Reba (Ditzler) Wright



#### Kenneth Ray "KJ" Johnson

Kenneth Ray "KJ" Johnson. 70, of Achille passed away May 13, 2017, in Denison, Texas. KJ was born April 27, 1947, in Lane to Esias J. and Marie (Leflore) Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Marla Johnson; brothers Edward Johnson, Jerry Leflore, and Alvin Johnson; and sister Anna Johnson.



KJ is survived by wife Darlene Johnson; brothers Bobby Johnson and spouse Sara, Richard Johnson and spouse Pat and Richard Guiterrez; sister Debbie Williams and spouse John; sister Anita Johnson and Cleta Johnson; stepson Eugene Bowles and spouse Stephanie; stepdaughter Crystal Glasco and spouse Rob; stepdaughter Mandy Lee and spouse Robert; stepson Steven Bowles and spouse Mellisa; grandchildren Nashona and Tushka Hamrick; 17 stepgrandchildren; three great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and close friends.

Interment was held at Rosewood Cemetery. To read the full obituary, please visit Brown's Funeral Service.

#### **Kiley James Russell**

Kiley James Russell, 27, of Sherman, Texas, passed away May 3, 2017.

Kiley was born Jan. 29, 1990, to Michael and Pamela (James) Russell.

He was preceded in death by his father Michael Russell; grandparents Billy Joe and Eula Mae Mitchell; grandparents Mike (Jr.) and Lola

Russell; and great-grandfather and original Choctaw enrollee Rufus Leo James Sr.

He is survived by his wife Liz; sons Knox and Zane; parents Pamela and Donald Wells; brothers Andy Russell and spouse Lacy and Cody Russell and spouse Jasara; sister Lonni Beth Pennington and spouse Michael; nieces and nephew Laney, Landry, Gentry, Gabby, Lyza, and Cade; and grandparents Dan and Patty Wells.

To read the full obituary please visit Waldo Funeral Home.

#### **Clarence Newell**

Clarence Newell, 70, passed away May 20, 2017.

Clarence was born March 21, 1947, in Grandfield to Clarence Newell and Lois Newell Ellis.

He is survived by his wife Gail; daughter Becky Michael and spouse Randy; son Cody Newell; brother Carl Newell; sister Mary Bales; grandchildren Maddie Michael, Mia Michael, and Jarrin Ferguson.

To read the full obituary please visit Owens & Brumley Funeral Home.

#### Lina Louise Coley

Lina Louise Coley, 76, passed away April 25, 2017, in Oklahoma City.

Lina was born Jan. 1, 1941. in Claremore to Joseph Taylor and Edna Harjo Taylor.

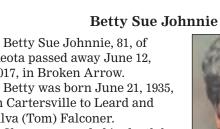












Bernice was born May 10, 1924, in Haworth to George and Bettie (Fitzpatrick) Hudson.

She was preceded in death by her parents: stepmother Berta (Trammell) Hudson; brother Eugene Hudson; and the father of her children Athell A. Fields.

Bernice is survived by children LaHoma Fields, Betty Woodrow, Ace A. Fields Jr., Glenda Davis, and George Fields; 15 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Pleasant Valley Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Kaufman Funeral Home.

#### **Pansie Pauline Phillips**

Pansie Pauline Phillips, 94, passed away peacefully Dec. 5, 2015.

Pansie was born June 23, 1921, in Tuttle to Marion Lee and Mary Savannah Caldwell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings James, Esther, Iness, Marion Catherine, Ernest, Wayne, Juanita, and Russell; her first husband

Harvey Parrott; her second husband Ellsworth Phillips; daughter Edna Lynch; and grandchild Kim Montelongo.

Pansie is survived by daughters Willa Peay and spouse Jack and Wilma Mendoza and spouse Jimmy; son Harvey Parrott and wife Geri; son-in-law Leo Lynch; brother Donald Caldwell; sister Margaret Voels; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren and 15 greatgreat-grandchildren.

#### **Cleta A. (Quinton) Parks**

Cleta A. (Quinton) Parks, 82, passed away peacefully May 25, 2017.

She was preceded in death by husband Wallace Parks; parents William and Maybelle Quinton; grandparents Pat and Nellie Hood; brothers Oliver and R.J. Quinton; and sister Rita Quinton Trollinger.

Cleta is survived by children Barbara Parks and Darrel

Dyke, and Ray and Cyndi Parks; grandchildren Court and Amy Dyke, Sidnee and Bob Whitaker, Shannon and Jeremy Parks-Ayala, Chase Parks; great-grandchildren Eric Kenitzer, Miguel Ayala, Alyssa Ayala, and Robbie Whitaker.

To read the full obituary please visit Smith Family Mortuaries.

He is survived by his son Robert "Bubba" Wright III and spouse Patricia; daughters Cora Atterberry and



spouse Bryan and Rebecca McCarty and spouse Kyle; sister Gloria Moore; brother Nathanial Wright; grandchildren Casey Soliwoda, Aryan Soliwoda, Jayden Kay Wright, Austin Atterberry, Dustin Atterberry, Mason Atterberry, Elizabeth James, Colby McCarthy, and Brennon McCarthy; niece Kassie Bridges; and nephews Maverick Bridges and Camron Moore along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Antlers City Cemetery. To read the full obituary visit Miller & Miller Fu-

neral Home.

#### R. A. Lindsey Jr.

R. A. Lindsey Jr., 93, of Wilson passed away April 25, 2017, in Ardmore.

R. A. was born Jan. 29, 1924, in Bokchito to Russell Albert Lindsey St. and Gladys Aribell

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Bill

R. A. is survived by daughter Barbara Jean Avery; sons Rob-

ert Lee Lindsey and spouse Karen and Bobby Wayne Lindsey and spouse Deanna; sisters Mariquinn Cole and Joyce Cooper; brothers Deryal Lindsey and spouse Wanda, and Dwain Lindsey and spouse Shelia; sisterin-law Elaine Lindsey; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren along with a host of other family and friends.

Interment was held at Hewitt Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit Alexander Fu-<u>neral Home.</u>

#### Margaret Ann (Scott) Gipson

Margaret Ann (Scott) Gipson, 59, of Atoka passed away May 23, 2017, in Oklahoma City.

Margaret was born March 7, 1958, in Talihina to Jasper and Savanna (Williams) Scott.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Nehemiah Gipson; and son Tunstubi Gipson.

Margaret is survived by son

Steven Onssi Gipson and spouse Kayla; son Chunsa Peter Gipson; sister Stella Scott; brothers Ronnie Scott, Roger Scott, Nathan Scott, Jimmie Scott, Martin Scott, and Preston Scott; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many friends.

Interment was held at Coal Creek Cemetery. To read full obituary please visit Brown's Funeral Service.



She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Delores Taylor Norman and Betsy Taylor Casteel; and brothers Calvin Taylor and Robert Taylor.



Lina is survived by daughter Tina McDowell; brothers Rev. Leon Postoak and spouse Wanda, Jimmy Wayne Taylor and spouse Idaline; grandchildren Daniel Sanders and Taylor Sanders; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Spring Baptist Cemetery in Sasakwa.

To read the full obituary please visit **Stout-Philips** Funeral Home.

Deena Rae "Maw" Burland

Deena Rae "Maw" Burland, 65, of Durant passed away April 24, 2017.

Deena was born June 9, 1951, to Ivan Floyd Ray and Bobbie Jean (Cundiff) Adams.

She was preceded in death by grandparents Gordon and Bessie Cundiff; parents Ivan Floyd Ray and Bobbie Adams; and husband Gene Burland.





Deena is survived by sons

Bubba Burland and spouse Carol, Floyd Burland and spouse Corky and Bobby Burland and Erika Johnson; daughter Sherri Burland and Jerry Lawton; 16 beloved grandchildren and 14 beloved great-grandchildren.

To read the full obituary please visit Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home.

#### **Edna Aubidene Davis**

Edna Aubidene Davis, 86, of McAlester, passed away April 7, 2017, in Sherman, Texas. Edna was born March 12,

1931, to Jesse Robert and Annoleta (Roberts) Webb.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, and a brother.

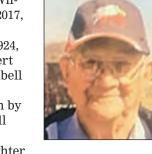
Edna is survived by husband Gloster "Red" Eldridge;

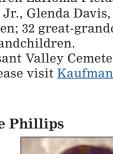
children Mike and Michelle Williams, Tony Davis, Cheryl and Russell Garrett, John and Donna Davis; grandchildren Kaci Terry, Garrett Williams, Keli Willig, Collin and Emily Williams, Garret Williams, Skeet Williams, Eddie Davis, Ian Davis, Amber Cummings, Nicole Garrett; 11 great-grandchildren; brother Jerry Webb; stepson Steve Eldridge; and daughter Madelyn Eldridge.

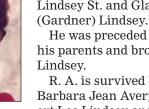
Interment was held at Oak Hill Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Chaney's Memorial Chapel.

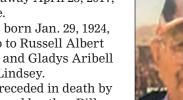


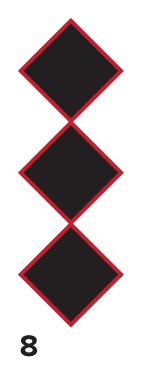












# **Choctaw Asset Building 2017** Financial Education **Class Schedule**

Saturday, July 15 Choctaw Community Center 3105 Elks Rd. McAlester

Saturday, August 19 The Ross Group 510 E. Second St. Tulsa

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





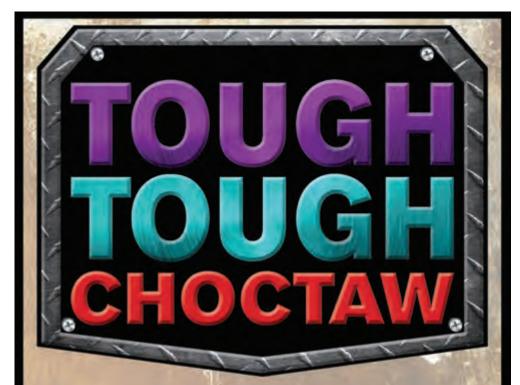
# July 14th, 2017 **Rosebure Park**

Proceeds will be donated to \*Community Backpack Nutritional Program \*\*\* \*\*\*Wilburton City Pound\*\*\*

Pre Registration is \$25 (Deadline Date is June 19, 2017) On Site Registration is \$30 Registration begins @ 7:30 p.m. Race begins @ 9:00 p.m.



First 100 Pre-Registered participants will receive a t-shirt and glow in the dark accessories Elite Race Company will be timing this event For more information contact Nicole Norris @ 580-775-3974



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 Registration at 3:00 p.m. Event begins at 4:00 p.m. This year will feature a male and female division. Prizes awarded for First and Second Places.



# CHOCTAW NATION **OF OKLAHOMA**

# LABOR DAY FESTIVAL **5K RUN** NEW START TIME: 7:30AM! **SEPTEMBER 2, 2017** TUSKAHOMA, OK



AGE CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, and succeeding 5 year age brackets up to 70 and older

for women and 75 years and older for men. Top three finishers in each age bracket for men and women will receive medallions.

> RACE DIRECTOR: Shane Haddock ASST .: Kathy Bench

1-800-522-6170 ext. 2258 or 2122

or 580-924-8280 ext. 2258 or 2122

APPLICATIONS FOR MINORS ACCEPTED ONLY

WITH A PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

Race day registration is from 6:15 am until 7:15 am at the race starting line, located at the Capitol Museum.

Pre registration for all ent	
marked by August 28, 201	7.
Pre registration	\$ FREE
Race Day Registration	\$ FREE

DETACH AND SEND ENTRY FORM TO: CHOCTAW NATION ATTN: SHANE HADDOCK **5K ROAD RACE/WALK** P.O. Box 1210

DURANT, OK 74702-1210

WAIVER FOR ENTRY FORMS I know that running a road race is a potential-			М	F
ly hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that although police protection will be provided, there will be a possibility of traffic on the course. I assume the risk of running in traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with	PRINT NAME			GENDE
running this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and or humidity, and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I agree to vield to all emergency vehicles. I also am	SIGNATURE			DATE
fully aware that pushing, pulling, dragging, wearing, carrying or leading any thing or anyone is strictly prohibited. This includes strollers, joggers, pushed wheelchairs, roller blades, skateboards, wheels of any kind (except competitive wheelchairs), animals and flags - I agree not to have them on the course. I am fully aware that it is a	ADDRESS			
fraudulent act to buy, sell, switch, or in any way wear someone else's number or allow anyone to wear my number. Furthermore, I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing the race or relay leg and I agree not to cross the finish in a relay unless I am running the final leg. Furthermore, I agree	CITY PHONE ()	STATE		ZIP
not to hold hands, embrace or touch other participants or connect two or more runners (i.e.	e centinedes) I am also aware that th	is waiver applies to sanctioned ra	aces and	d fun runs

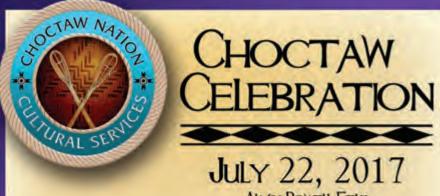
Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive and release and discharge any and all race sponsors, race officials, volunteers, local and state police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or anyone acting for or on their behalf from any and all claims or liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of,

my participating in this event whether same be caused by negligence or fault. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind of nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants full permission to sponsors and or agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose Minors accepted only with a parent or guardian's signature

Free T-shirts to participants.

# **Contact Waddel Hearn**

800.522.6170 (ext.2524) whearn@choctawnation.com CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL 2017 TVSHKA HOMMA, OK



ALVIN POWELL FELD 8TH STREET & BURTON AVE. KEOTA, OK 74941



# 9:30 AM- 2:00 PM CHOCTAW NATION CULTURAL SERVICES, KEOTA ESA, & UNITED: HASKELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT

CHOCTAW CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS, LOCAL ARTISTS, FOOD & FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



For more information, please contact: Kay Jackson, CNO Cultural Services @ 580-924-8280 Ext. 2504 or Rhonda Hurst, Haskell County Election Board @ 918-967-8792



# Iti Fabussa

# Life in the Saddle ofa Choctaw Cavalry Trooper

By 1860, the Choctaw Nation had made great lengths in recovery since the removal 30 years prior. Choctaw businessmen and farmers had productive trade in crops, cotton, timber, cattle, horses and coal.

Students who graduated from boarding schools were sent to college and were coming back as leaders with degrees in business, law and medicine.

However, just a year later the American Civil War broke out, plunging the Choctaw Nation into turmoil once again.

Unable to stay out of the war, the Choctaw Nation sided with the Confederate States of American as allies in the summer of 1861.

Leaving their communities and their fields, Choctaw brothers, uncles, fathers, and cousins answered the call to protect the lands that they called home.

The Choctaw Nation organized four regiments of cavaliers. These regiments would be First Choctaw Mounted Rifles, Second Regiment Cavalry, Third Regiment Cavalry, and the First Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles.

The beginning days of a Choctaw cavalry trooper would have been hard because the regiments were not well supplied. Many of the men were supplied equipment and weapons from their home or communities.

Their gear would have been a saddle, blanket, mess kit, tobacco, pipe, and a horse or mule.

They wore Euro-American clothes such as hats and bandannas on their head, hunting jackets, vests, trousers, leggings and boots.

Others wore traditional dress consisting of turbans, feathers, skinned animal heads, leggings and breach clout, beaded sashes and bandoleer bags.

Weapons included hunting knives, black powder rifles and muskets, black powder pistols, shotguns and bows. Since many of the weapons were single shot, Choctaws were known to carry multiple weapons.

Despite being poorly armed and outfitted, Choctaw troops were noted to be fierce fighters, especially in close combat.

When not on campaign, the day-to-day life of Choctaw



by Nick Wallace

Choctaw Cavalry reenactors demonstrate how a cavalry trooper would be outfitted and the gear they would have used while fighting for the South in the **Civil War**.

troops was mostly dull. The men tended to their equipment and weapons, but most importantly their horse.

Being a mounted unit, a soldier would take care of his horse before himself. They would water and feed their horse before attending to their personal needs. Horses would need to be brushed and have their hooves checked daily.

Choctaws were very casual about their view on enlistment. If there was nothing to be done, they would travel to their communities to attend fields or home affairs.

Other times, they would leave the garrison to go on personal raids against Union troops. Choctaw troops would also hold stickball games for entertainment and to keep their edge as warriors.

Forts in Indian Territory were more logistic centers that issued supplies than fortified garrisons. In the summer of 1832, Choctaw and Chickasaw troops built Fort McCulloch with redoubts and bastions to protect Fort Washita and Texas.

To read more about Fort McCulloch, please look at the Iti Fabvssa in the March 2014 and April 2014 issues of the Biskinik.

As the war progressed, newer weapons were acquired from raids; Colt or Remington revolvers, Sharps rifles and various other guns. Eventually, the Confederate army issued Choctaw troops with Texas or Tyler rifles.

Rations of corn, pork, and beef were issued to the soldiers, as well as local foods. By 1864, as the war made its way deeper into Indian Territory, Choctaw communities and fields were destroyed or abandoned and soldiers and families relied on imported foods and supplies.

Other native people, such as the Muscogee and Cherokee people, made their way into the Choctaw Nation looking for safety and food, putting a larger strain on food supplies.

Choctaw cattle and horses were being stolen by Texans and resold back to the Confederate army.

In the spring of 1865, these brave men would finally get to go home. In 1866, a treaty was signed between the Choctaw Nation and the United States, ending the war between the two Nations.

Despite over one-third of the tribe destitute from the ravages of the war, the Choctaw Nation would rebuild itself once again.

Many of the warriors who fought to protect their families, communities, and their Tribe would continue to serve Choctaw people as Lighthorsemen, community leaders and chiefs.

See the online version of this article on ChoctawNation. com for references and citations used.



This annual event promotes fitness and health in a fun and challenging atmosphere. The challenge will conclude with a tug-o-war contest and each participant will receive a free T-shirt.

## Contact Waddel Hearn

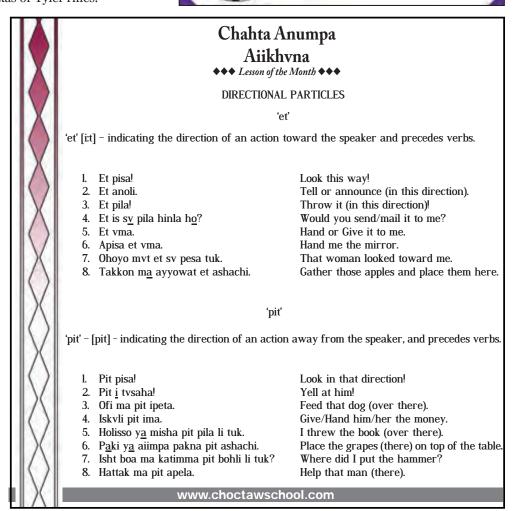
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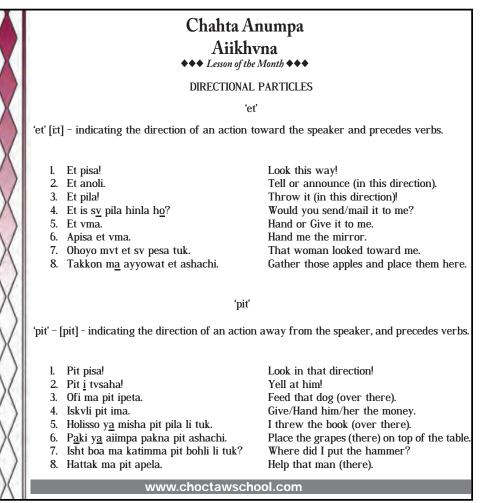


# -YOUTH OF THE NATION-

ty and there I will major in Elementary Education and become a second grade teacher.

Falvmmichi has also taught me a lot about responsibility. People always say "be a good YAB kid" and stuff like that, but they never tell you someone is always watching. That's one thing that has stuck with me on a personal level. There's always someone watching, so for the younger kids that means that I have to be a good role model and show them the right way. For the older people it means that I have to show them I'm responsible and a good citizen in my community. Someone who can be trusted and respected, and that's all I've ever wanted to be. Falvmmichi has given me that reputation, seeing the kids at football games or just around town they get so excited, and I'm not gonna lie, I get excited too. I can hear my name being screamed across Walmart on any given night by at least one Falvmmichi child I have been in class with. I just grow a bond with each individual child even after he or she goes on past the second grade. That's where the responsibility comes in. It's my responsibility to make sure these kids know to be a part of our community. Build up the community! I tell kids all the time I'm in YAB and that's why I get to see them so much and when they grow up they should join YAB just like I did. I'm forever grateful for the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. I've learned social skills I will take with me wherever I go. Before YAB I was just fine sitting in the corner by myself. Now looking back on my freshmen year I think about all the opportunities and things I just let pass by me. All because I was to afraid to say something or do something. Now I know it's ok to go after what I want, and I know it's ok to ask questions. It's good to ask question and just little things like that have really changed the way I do things and overall how I act. YAB helped me to knock down these walls of fear. I now can talk to anyone and feel confident about talking about anything. I hope I win this scholarship, but YAB has really helped me to grow so much as a student and as a person. To the point where you really can't put a price tag on that. I've gained so many friends and made connections I believe will last a lifetime. I've been welcomed by so many and I feel like I have so many extra families through YAB. To me those are just extra blessings. YAB is a blessing and I'm just thankful that I got to spend four years with the best people in the 10 1/2 counties, students and staff all included!







by Stacy Hutto

# Learning Leadership and Social Skills hv Mikayla Simone Hampton

I have been a member of the Hugo Chapter of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board for four years.

Through these four years I've learned so much about leadership, responsibility, and also what it means to be a good citizen.

YAB is about so much more than just community service hours. When I first joined it was by complete accident. I had heard about YAB before, but I didn't really know how to join and wasn't too much interested. But, one day I went to pick up something at the local Boys and Girls Club and Angie Smith invited me to attend my first YAB meeting. Ever since then I've been welcomed and loved by every YAB person, young or old, that I have met.

One specific event I can remember that has impacted ALL of my decisions since was the first Falvmmichi class I did. I went to Falvmmichi training not having a clue what it was and just being excited that I got to miss a day of school.

Well, the training was fun and luckily I didn't have to speak. For most of the day I went unnoticed by anyone, so it seemed like a win-win to me. Little did I know that the training was nowhere near close to what it's actually like in the real classroom.

When going into the classroom I couldn't just disappear into the back of the class or just stay to myself, I had to interact with the kids. The moment I got in that class something changed. I fell in love with the atmosphere, the feeling of the classroom, and the kids! I was hooked. I wanted to be at every Falvmmichi class, even after I graduated, it was that much fun! Just being around little kids.

It was that event that helped me realize how much I truly loved children. That day I realized when I grew up I wanted to be a teacher. And that's what I'm now working towards! I have been accepted into East Central Universi-

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship second place essay. The writer, Mikayla Simone Hampton, was awarded a \$750 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tvshka Homma on Wednesday, April 5. The first place essay was in the June 2017 issue. The third place essay will be printed in the August issue.

CHOCTAW TRAVEL PLAZA

ANTLERS - ATOKA - BROKEN BOW - DURANT EAST - DURANT WEST - GARVIN - GRANT - HEAVENER HUGO - IDABEL - MCALESTER - POCOLA - POTEAU - STRINGTOWN - WILBURTON - GARVIN

#### Your car can't run on an empty tank and neither can you! But when you pull up to a Choctaw Travel Plaza, it doesn't matter which tank is empty. We offer fuel for your car, a tasty selection of food and drinks to fuel you, cultural centers to fill up on heritage, and a Casino Too with plenty of ways to fuel a little fun. So whether you have an empty tank, an empty tummy, or just need to liven things up, visit a Choctaw Travel Plaza near you and fill 'er up! Choctaw Travel Plazas: the perfect place to fill up on fuel, food, and fun!

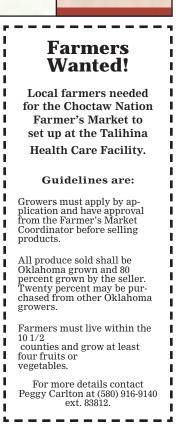


#### **Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!**

We are accepting applications for the 2017 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 https://www.choctawnation.com/applying-jones-academy or Jones Academy write to: 909 Jones Academy Rd. Hartshorne, OK 74547

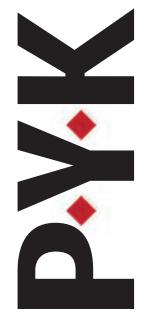


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1801 E. MAIN

**TIGLER, OK 74462** 

ChoctawTravelPlaz





10

# Devon Mihesuah: feeling empowered

#### by TINA FIRQUAIN

Devon Abbott Mihesuah is a proud and strong Choctaw woman, much like the women from Choctaw history. She is an endowed professor, a published author, an indigenous food connoisseur, but most importantly, she is Choctaw.

"Choctaw is my identity." Mihesuah explained that no matter what she has pursued in her life, being Choctaw has been her constant and will always be who she is.

From a young age, Mihesuah has been aware of her culture, but has wondered about her history.

Mihesuah reflected on her family's history and stories, "You grow up learning about your trip and about your family. You hear stories that were told to your family by their ancestors."

She has since then found out that her ancestor

Lewis Wilson signed the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in Mississippi and his son, Charles, was a Lighthorseman.

She also found out that Charles was brutally murdered and she said, "that has really left me with a burning curiosity and I just want to know more."

Mihesuah first went to Texas Christian University and was the

first woman to receive a scholarship under Title IX. At that time she was also studying

biology and physics, which she said, was a bit overwhelming. After graduating with a master's degree, she taught high school science in New Mexico.

During her first year of teaching in New Mexico, Mihesuah was presented with an opportunity to go back to TCU and study history with a scholarship for Native students. She said, "I just jumped into it with both feet and then realized, this is very much what I'm interested in and what I want to do."

Now, Mihesuah holds a doctorate in American History and is a historian and the Cora Lee Beers Price Endowed Teaching Professor at the University of Kansas. When she was hired as an endowed professor, there was only one other Native woman in her type of position, and so, she said, it has been an uphill battle.

According to Mihesuah, "Just writing does not get you anywhere if you are a female scholar." She continued, "It's a double whammy if you are a Native scholar and a woman." This has not stopped her from pursuing her research and writing 16 books, two of which are anthologies.

Her first book was on the Cherokee females in seminary. She has written about stereotypes, Indigenous women, and methodologies of writing about Natives. She has started a child's adventure series and has written four novels.

Mihesuah has won several awards for her writing such as Critic's Choice Award, Best Fiction, Best Research Book of the Year, and even an Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History Award by the Oklahoma Historical Society for Choctaw Crime and Punishment: 1884-1907.

After an abrupt career change and fighting the battle of being a female and Native scholar, Mihesuah is starting to feel "somewhat confident" at 60 years old, but she said, "I should have been feeling confident in my 30s."

She continued, "There are always people who don't want you to succeed," but she said that has never stopped her from doing exactly what she wants.

For nine years she was the editor of the American Indian Quarterly. She also regularly speaks at symposiums and events about issues that have affected or are facing indigenous people.

An issue that she is passionate about is indigenous food ways.

Her book, Recovering Our Ancestors' Gardens: Indigenous Recipes and Guide to Diet and Fitness tied for a Special Award of the Jury of the Gourmand World Cookbook with Martha Stewart.

She is also the creator of the website American Indian Health and Diet Project, which is a "website devoted to recovering the health of Indigenous peoples."

Mihesuah said, "I am a very ardent believer in investigating our traditional ways of eating and our ancient food ways."

She has found that family gardens were a symbol of stability and the family staying together.

"As a historian, I don't just start in the past, I look at where we are today then I look backwards to see how we got here." Mihesuah takes this philosophy and uses it in everything she does whether it is writing about indigenous people and their foods or teaching her humanities students.

Mihesuah has had trials along her path, much like her ancestors, and being a historian she knows "What it means to be Choctaw is, you are a part of an extremely complex, rich history."

And she feels her knowledge of history gives her confidence in her path as a Choctaw woman regardless of what is happening in her life and whatever may come.

# The Mazars 50 Years Strong

Walter and Vivian Mazar were married on July 1, 1967, in Reno, Nevada. They are both retired and love to travel. They have one son Walter J. Mazar and daughter-in-law Rebel. They have several grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

The Dennys

69 Years Strong

Robert "Bob" Denny and Anna Lue Standridge were married May 1, 1948, in Van Buren, Arkansas. There were both graduates of Eufaula High School. They have four children: Charlotte Denny Fox, Charlene Denny Strong, Alan Denny and Colleen Denny Seaman. They also have three granddaughters: Christen Nicole Seaman, Casey Anna Strong and Carey Denny Strong Munoz. Their family hopes they had a wonderful anniversary this year.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joshua Jade Knight celebrated his first birthday April 13, 2017. He is the son of Rickey and Stacey. Brother of Hannah, Ciera, Kiera and Camron. His grandparand Linda ents are Lee Knight.

## TO YOU

Makayla Hood turned 13 on March 8. She is the daughter of Christie and Thomas Hood. Her family hopes she had a happy birthday. They also wish her "Papa" a happy 72nd birthday, which was March 9.

### AND YOU

Marvin Shoemake celebrated his 80th birthday May 24, 2017. His daughters, along with the extended family send their love and best wishes.

### **AND YOU**

Billy Royce Young will turn 80 on July 20. He was born the youngest of two boys on his grandmother's allotment. He is the son of C.A. "Buddy" Young and Norma McCage. His family would like to wish him a very happy birthday.

Wilma tain Miller her "big" 85th

19, 2016. She is the daughter of the late Greenwood Mitchell and Julia Ward McCurtain. She has four children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## ΌU

AND

Frances (Taylor) Adkins turned 90 on May 13, 2017. She is very proud of her Choctaw heritage. She is the daughter of Beulah and Boag Taylor and her grandmother was an original enrollee.

## AND

Hogan cel-Joan ebrated her 97th birthday She was born in on May 25, 2017. Tuskahoma in 1920. She lived and taught school in Tuskahoma until 1964. She now resides in McAlester. Her family would like to say, "We love you Mother."

**(OU** 

#### **POST PURCHASE EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

Atoka July 11 Poteau August 8

To pre-register, please contact: Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA P.O. BOX G HUGO, OK 74743

# 

McCur-

celebrated

birthday Dec.

**CHOCTAW ASSET BUILDING** (matched college savings program) is now available in all 50 states for Choctaw tribal members. Information will be available at the Labor Day festival.

**Come by the Education Tent Friday and Saturday September** 1-2 during the festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more information on this new addition.

(866) 933-2260 www.ChoctawCareers.com/cab

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Choctaw Nation Health Services will be sponsoring the Summer Food Service Program this summer. The USDA oversees this federally funded program in which the State of Oklahoma administers for them. The Summer Food Program (SFSP) ensures low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. The SFSP is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children have access to the nutritious meals they need through the summer months. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger may also make children more prone to illness and other health issues. All children in the below area are invited to our Summer Food Services Programs. You DO NOT have to be Native American to participate. This is an Equal Opportunity Program.

SFSP sites this summer are located at:

Broken Bow Choctaw Head Start Building	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Talihina Boys and Girls Club	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
Broken Bow Choctaw Boys and Girls Club	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Tvshka Homma Cafeteria (specific days)	12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
Hugo Choctaw Head Start Building	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	(specific dugs)		
Spiro Choctaw Community Building	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.			
Talihina Hospital Cafeteria	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.			



*Top:* Atoka was represented by 14 local veterans at the 2017 Veterans Dinner held June 14. *Top Right:* Chock McDaniel was presented with a patriotic

wreath.

*Right:* Autumn Celestine went around the community center making sure to shake every Veteran's hand and that them for their service. Autumn is part of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

Photos by Kim Eberl, Tina Firquain, Kendra Germany, Stacy Hutto, Vonna Loper, Ronni Pierce, Wyatt Stanford and Krislan Turner.







# Coalgate

*Top:* Cherokee McCoy, Little Miss, *left*, and Chayenne McCoy, Jr. Miss, *right*, performed the Lord's Prayer June 14. *Middle:* District 12 singers dedicated "Amazing Grace" to all the veterans in attendance.

Bottom: District 12 held their Veteran's Appreciation Lunch June 14, 2017.



*Top:* Poteau held a Veterans Dinner May 24. The dinner was to honor the veterans of the Poteau community.

*Left:* Judy Melton, a community center volunteer is making plate a of food to serve to the veterans and other community members.

*Right:* Choctaw Color Guard member Sampson Moore attended the Poteau Veterans Dinner to post and retire the colors.



# Antlers

Top left: Danny Belvin attended the Antlers Veterans Dinner with his wife. As a member of the Color Guard he helps post and retires the flags. Top right: (front row) James Motley, Sadie Lessenger, (back row) Leroy Chavez and Debbie Chavez were at the dinner. James is an 88-year-old veteran. Bottom: There were 15 veterans honored in Antlers May 3.



# Idabel

*Top:* Josephine Baker, *left*, and Juanita Lajeunesse, *right*, cooked up a storm for the Idabel Veterans Dinner May 10. *Middle:* There were 11 veterans honored at the Community Center. *Bottom:* District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston greeted people along with his 4-month-old granddaughter, Amelia Delaine Williston.



Hugo

*Left:* RD Payne of Hugo proudly showed off his blanket. Payne, an Army Veteran, served his country from 1954 - 1963.

*Right*: Hugo Youth Advisory Board Chapter Representative Zack Skelton helped serve meals.

*Below:* A total of 32 veterans attended the Veterans Dinner in Hugo June 7.





More Veterans Dinner photos will be featured in the August edition.



#### by LISA REED

The 105-year-old Choctaw sits in his home in Long Beach, California, surrounded by University of Oklahoma memorabilia.

Harold "Pop" Spring was born in Jumbo, he said, in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, in December 1911. He grew up there, attending school through second grade. He learned Choctaw and English at the same time.

His dad, James Franklin Spring, was half Choctaw and his mom, Della, was English. Pop still uses the Choctaw words he remembers such as achukma (good) and tanchi palvska (corn bread).

Spring's family would bring a sack of corn to the gristmill in Jumbo where it would be ground into cornmeal. He said his mother would make tanchi palvska.

Spring started going to school at Goodland Academy after his mother passed away and it became hard for his dad to work and raise all five kids.

The 9-year-old boy had four sisters and all but the oldest went to Goodland. One of Spring's chores at Goodland was to go to the post office every day to pick up the mail and carry it back.

"We used to speak Choctaw there all the time," Spring added, repeating from his remarkable memory what the children were told, "If you are going to live with other people you have to speak English. Don't speak Choctaw anymore! If you do you have to walk around the ring for one hour on Saturday.""

Did he have to walk on a Saturday? Yes, he said with a deep chuckle. They would get demerits for speaking Choctaw and he walked the ring many times.

After he finished Goodland, he and a friend, Richard Fitzgerald, decided they would go to school at Chilocco, "waaaayy up in the top northern part of Oklahoma. We hitchhiked there, only a few miles from the Kansas line. We went there and talked to the disciplinary," he said.

"Oh yeah!," they were told. "We got to have you two boys, fine lookin' men, come to school here." "Come supper time, it was roll call, get out and fall in line!" Spring's voice becomes the strict voice of a disciplinarian. They would be marched to the dining room, eat, and repeat the same thing when they woke up and went to breakfast.

"I told my buddy, 'I don't think I'm going to like this.""

He said the same thing. It was two miles from Chilocco to the highway. They walked out there and caught a ride with two girls who took them to Ponca City.

The boys decided to try Murray College in Tishomingo, which was good.

In those days, hitchhiking was considered a normal way to travel. Spring took it to extra lengths when he decided to hitchhike to Los Angeles to watch the 1932 Olympics.

He said he made the decision while he was sitting in a pool hall, went to his house, got his suitcase with the Murray College sticker on it, and left. He made it almost 106 miles from Durant to Mineral Wells, Texas, before dark.

Spring remembers crawling under one of the big billboards and going to sleep. When he got up the next morning, he caught a ride from Mineral Wells all the way to Abilene.

"I was standing in a service station, drinking a Coke, and a guy comes up in a Model T car–'tookalooka, tookalooka, tookalooka," he mimics the car and laughs.

"'Oh, there's Bud Spring," an old friend called out. "'Come here! Where you going?"

"I'm going to California," Spring said. He was told he would have a ride if he could wait a week. His friend was working on a Deusenberg automobile from Germany so he decided to stay the week. They worked on the car during the day and at night, they would get in the Ford and drive to a prairie where they would hunt jackrabbits.

Not having a ticket didn't stop Spring from attending the Olympic games. He crawled under the fence. He had traveled all those miles to watch William "Bill" Arthur Carr from Stanford, who held the world's record for running. He looked just like a friend of Spring's from Goodland. Carr ran the 4:40 dash and won, tickling Spring.

As soon as the games were over, it was time to go home. Spring caught a ride to Long Beach where a man in a Packard touring car stopped and said, "Get in! I'm going to San Diego." He remembered the vehicle had a windshield between the front and back seats. He let the young



by Lisa Reed

Pop Spring picks up a project in progress at his laithe. He still works in his shop, fashioning things out of bois d'arc when he can get it. His granddaughter, Susan, finds a variety of wood for him to work with.

Okie off in front of a motel in San Diego.

"The going was pretty tough on the way home. That night I got to Phoenix and decided it was going to take me too long. Hitchhiking wasn't any good there," Spring said.

"I went down to the train depot and asked, 'Hey, Mack, what train goes to Fort Worth or Dallas?""

He pointed out the train and Spring got on it, riding it all the way to Dallas. It took about three or four days.

"When I got to Dallas, I took a bath, put on clean clothes, and hitchhiked back to Durant."

Spring stayed in Durant for a while attending Southeastern Teacher's College, but soon found his way to Chickasha. He started selling shoes at Cannon Shoe Company where he met the love of his life, Aldene when she came in to buy a pair of shoes.

Spring blushed as he told how he whispered in her ear, "You're kinda pretty." He sold her a pair of shoes, asked her out, and they soon married.

The Cannon Shoe Company owners decided Spring would make a great manager and asked Spring if he wanted to go to school to learn management. Spring agreed and was sent to Oklahoma City where he was a manager–in–training. After four weeks, they shipped him to Hutcheson, Kansas, for six months and then he went to Nebraska. Spring recites every address where he lived as he moved from one management position to another.

It wasn't long before the Spring family decided it was time to move home to Oklahoma, and eventually they moved to California.

They made in to the Golden State in about a week with no plans other than to go to work and find a home.

Selling shoes was familiar, so he went to work at Walker Department Store until "Uncle Sam" told him you either get in the Army or in defense. Spring chose defense and attended a trade school at Long Beach where he worked in a machine shop.

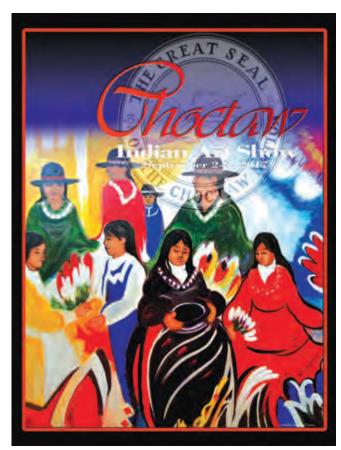
"Work, work, work, at night," he described it. "I got to where I could operate the machine pretty good and I got a job at Douglas Aircraft.

He remembers working on the airplane carrier, Kitty Hawk, and the Big Mo from Missouri.

Years later, he and his wife obtained their real estate licenses. He stays abreast of everything going on by reading the papers and watching the news. His memory is better than many people a third of his age, and independent throughout his life, he drove until he was 101.

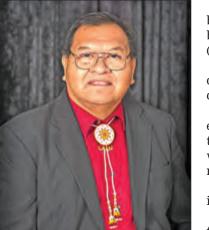
The full story can be read at the Biskink News Room on ChoctawNation.com.

## 



manent exhibits featured at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum. Many artists featured





Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13 KJV). The Apostle Peter was a prominent disciple during the ministry of Jesus and had a tremendous impact on the early church. This first letter was written to the believers to encourage them to endure the intense persecution that was prevalent in the area. Christians were being persecuted and executed by the Roman Emperor. They were being forced to renounce their faith in Christ and worship the Roman gods. The metaphor that the Apostle is using was taken from a type of dress which consisted of a loose outer garment reaching to the feet. To prevent the loose garments from getting in the way during times of battle or some type of

# 14th Annual Choctaw Indian Arts Show Opens Labor Day Weekend

The 14th Annual Choctaw Indian Arts show will officially open to the public Saturday, Sept. 2, during the Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma.

The show will be housed in the upstairs art gallery of the Capitol Museum and will be open for viewing until 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 3.

Many Choctaw artists have submitted entry forms to the show with works in seven categories: painting, graphics, pottery, basketry, sculpture, jewelry and cultural.

The Annual Indian Art Show has grown since its inception in 2003.

Over the past five years, the average number of works featured in the show after judges view the submissions for eligibility, overall quality and appropriateness has been over 100.

Awards are given for first, second and third places in each category, as well as three Heritage awards, one People's Choice award and one Best of Show.

Pieces purchased from the show have gone on to be included in both tribal and non-tribal collections, as well as part of the per-

The painting titled Uncle Willie's Birth won Best of Show at the 2016 Labor Day Art Show in Tvshka Homma. It was painted by Karen Clarkson. Uncle Willie's Birth was based upon the June 1902 birth certificate of Willie George Nail. in the show are part of the Choctaw Artists' Registry and are featured at tribal events across the country such as community meetings, cultural gatherings and Choctaw Days at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Choctaw artists ages 18 and up are eligible to enter up to three original artworks in any category.

Each year, works are submitted by Choctaws from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, California, Washington, Oregon and Connecticut, just to name a few.

This year, awards will be presented during the VIP reception and pre-sale Friday, Sept. 1, and the show will open to the public Saturday at 10 a.m.

People's Choice ballots may be cast by any visitor to the show all day Saturday. The winner will be posted Sunday as the show re-opens for viewing.

For more information about the Annual Choctaw Indian Arts Show, please contact the Cultural Services Department at (580) 924-8280, ext. 2377.

Pastor Olin Williams Employee Chaplain

labor, a girdle was worn around the waist in which the ends could be tucked into for efficiency of movement.

In the metaphor, the message is to encourage the believers to be mentally alert, and to stay focused on the upcoming promise and to set affections on things above (Colossians 3:1).

The enemy's purpose is to divert our minds. Instead of being spirituality minded, we can become carnally minded (Romans 8:6). A loose garment or loose thinking creates our minds to stumble and we can allow loose living to master our thought life.

We can become cold, indifferent, dull and listless in spiritual things and become engrossed in the secular life. To gird up the loins of your minds is to prepare to battle the opponent and to labor for the glory that is forthcoming.

The second part of this verse exhorts the believer to "be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming (1 Thessalonians 2:19 KJV)?

This same Jesus who ascended into heaven will again visit the earth in a bodily presence (Acts 1:11) at the end of the age (Matthew 24:3).

He will come in power and glory to destroy the Antichrist and evil (2 Thessalonians 2:8). The power and glory now possessed by Christ will be revealed and disclosed to the world.

Christ is now reigning as Lord at God's right hand (Hebrew 12:2), sharing God's throne (Revelations 3:21). His authority is not discernible to the world now, but will be made visible by His "appearing." The return of Christ will also be a "revelation" or a "removing the cover" from something that is hidden.

The Apostle Peter is encouraging Christians to gird up the loins of the mind and to be steadfast in the faith knowing that this present life is just a pilgrimage to a permanent residence in Glory with our Lord.

