

by STACY HUTTO

Choctaw Nation Food Distribution administers the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or FDPIR.

FDPIR is an alternation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. According to Jerry Tonubbee, Food Distribution Director, FDPIR was created because many of the reservations in the United States did not have a grocery store nearby, or if it did the prices were extremely high.

On Tuesday, March 21, Tonubbee testified before the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Nutrition in Washington D.C.

In his opening statement Subcommittee Chairman Glenn 'G.T.' Thompson said, "each subcommittee was undertaking a comprehensive review of the current Farm Bill as they move to draft the next." The Farm Bill funds FDPIR, among other food distribution programs.

Testifying along with Tonubbee were Carrie Calvert,
Director of Tax and Commodity Policy, Feeding America,
Washington D.C.; Frank Kubik, CSFP Director, Focus:
HOPE, Detroit, Michigan; and Diane Kriviski, Deputy Administrator Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs,
Food and Nutrition Service, Alexandria, Virginia.

Tonubbee was testifying regarding the achievements of the Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Program, the challenges his department faces, and recommendations on how to ensure improvements in the implementation of the program to feed tribal members around the country through the next Farm Bill.

There are a few differences between FDPIR and SNAP. While SNAP participants get their benefits on an EBT card, FDPIR participants receive food items.

Tonubbee claims FDPIR is healthier than SNAP because the food supplies participants receive every month fall under strict nutritional guidelines. The food is low sodium, low fat content, and little to no sugar.

Every month participants receive fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, beans, lean meats and other items that can be prepared into nutritional meals.

Twice a month at the five Food Distribution Centers in Choctaw Nation there are cooking classes held to teach people how to turn the items into meals.

Tonubbee stated the healthier food items are better for tribal members considering the history of heart disease and diabetes among tribal members.

Participants in FDPIR cannot participate in SNAP in the same month. Both programs have similar criteria to

FDPIR is intended to be a supplemental program, but for a large number of Choctaw tribal members, it is their primary source of food, according to Tonubbee.

The Food Distribution serves approximately 5,000 to 6,000 people or 2,500 to 3,000 households a month. Tonubbee said the program helps any Native American with a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe in their service area.

The Choctaw Nation service area stretches over 11,000 square miles. Tonubbee informed committee members Choctaw Nation is one of the largest, most rural, and highest need tribal areas in the country.

He went on to say all of the 10 ½ counties located within the Choctaw Nation fell into the USDA's extremely high

poverty designation. A large portion of the area is also

classified as a food desert by the USDA.

Tonubbee had a few recommendations on how to improve the program and better serve Choctaw tribal

Currently, Food Distribution is barred by the USDA from providing FDPIR to residents of any urban place. The USDA defines an urban place as any city or town with a population over 10,000 people.

According to the 2010 US Census, McAlester has a population of 18,383, and Durant has a population of 15,856.

To serve tribal members in areas with a population over 10,000, the Food Distribution program has to apply for a waiver from the USDA.

Tonubbee stated needing to apply for the waiver was an unnecessary burden that delays service to some of their neediest citizens.

The limitation also excludes Choctaw tribal citizens from receiving services who live outside the 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ counties. Every single state has Choctaw tribal members who

live there.

There are many Choctaws who live in Oklahoma, but outside the Choctaw Nation. Tonubbee said the large population of Choctaws who live in and around Oklahoma City and need food assistance cannot access EDPIR

City and need food assistance cannot access FDPIR.

While they may be eligible to access other federal programs like SNAP, those programs do not have the same

nutritional focus as FDPIR.

Tonubbee told committee members removing the urban place limitation from FDPIR would let Choctaw Nation better serve tribal members who live in slightly larger communities, as well as tribal members who live near Tulsa and Oklahoma City for whom the Choctaw Nation provides other tribal services.

Choctaw Nation has received support for the request from other tribal nations across the United States. In 2016, Choctaw Nation passed a resolution with the National Congress of American Indians.

The resolution, NCAI Resolution #SPO-16-022 titled "Remove the 'Urban Place' Limitation in USDA's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations" passed upanimously

Another issue Tonubbee addressed to improve the program was funding. He stated funding can be uncertain and change from year to year.

Currently he has to seek Choctaw Tribal Council approval for a tribal dollar match. The USDA funds 75 percent and the Choctaw Nation funds 25 percent for administrative costs. The food for the program is funded 100 percent by the USDA.

Most of the time they have to go in front of the tribal council before they know what the federal funding amount will be. Tonubbee asked committee members to consider a carry–over provision for FDPIR funding in the next Farm Bill that would allow them to carry forward a certain percentage of their annual FDPIR amount.

"This would better enable us to serve our tribal citizens in a continuous and consistent manner that effectively manages both tribal and federal funds," Tonubbee said.

He went on to say it would be helpful if they could get annual federal FDPIR budgets approved in a more timely fashion. Often they are halfway through the fiscal year before they know the final approved budget.

Looking beyond FDPIR to see how the Food Distribution Program can help tribal members. Tonubbee stated the Emergency Food Assistance Program would be a good fit.

At the moment TEFAP does not allow for tribal administration of the program. The rules currently state the Choctaw Nation would have to apply to the State of Oklahoma in order to become an eligible recipient agency.

To do so would subordinate the Choctaw Nation to the State, which would create a complicated relationship.

"It is not acceptable to us as a sovereign nation, to be subservient to the state," Tonubbee said.

While in Washington D.C., Tonubbee asked the committee to consider amending and expanding TEFAP to allow for tribal administration.

If TEFAP is allowed to come under tribal administra-

tion, it would free up funds from Choctaw Nation's Next Step Initiative that could be used elsewhere in the program, according to Tonubbee.

Over the years the Food Distribution program has grown. In the past, participants would fill out a sheet of paper and have food handed to them in a box or handed to them out of the back of a truck.

The labels would be black and white and only say USDA and the name of the contents. Or, there would be no label at all, just printing on a can.

Today, tribal members can choose food with dignity. They are able to decide what items they want and put them in a shopping cart and check out just like a grocery store. Tailgates are a thing of the past. No longer do tribal members have to wait at the back of a truck to get food.

The items available to program participants have increased. Recently, the Durant Distribution Center had items like ground bison, chicken breasts and whole chickens, real butter, butter substitute, and a variety of canned foods.

The canned foods have changed as well. Gone are the black and white labels. Now the cans have the same labels as those found in grocery stores. Out of all the items offered, there was only one item that did not have a label.

The checkout process is the same as any other store. The only difference is money does not change hands. The cashier makes sure every participant gets their allocated amount for the month.

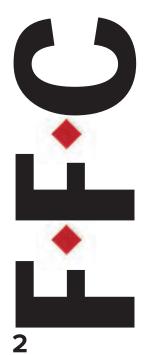
Tonubbee said he is currently working with the State of Texas and the State of Arkansas to be able to serve Native Americans living in parts of the states that touch the

Choctaw Nation boundaries.

Details of the agreements are being worked out with the Texas and Arkansas Departments of Human Services. Tonubbee is hoping the agreements will be in place towards the end of the year.

"This is a continuance of our mission for providing opportunities for growth and prosperity to our tribal members no matter where they live, and I appreciate the hard work of Jerry Tonnubbee to make this a reality," Chief Gary Batton said.

The "Subcommittee on Nutrition–Public Hearing: The Next Farm Bill: Nutrition Distribution Programs" video can be found on the House Agriculture Committee's YouTube page.



Programs Work Towards Enriching Tribal Members Lives



education on concerns within the Native American population such as diabetes and heart disease. Good health is taught to expecting mothers

ters have a variety of services and steps leading to

good health. They provide health fairs, 5k runs, and

before their babies are born and continues through programs such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

As the Choctaw Nation begins working with early child development, they provide an environment that encourages self-discovery and a commitment to learning. Enhancing social skills and creativity is more successful with an early start.

Incentives prove effective with the Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) Program.

Choctaw STAR provides each student an opportunity to be awarded for achieving all A's or A's and B's, and Perfect Attendance.

The program is offered to students from second grade through high school seniors. Choctaw STAR

is in its tenth year and recently began awarding internationally.

Currently, almost 20,000 Choctaw boys and girls are enrolled in the program. Encouragement to make education a priority leads to improved graduation rates and better work eth-

The Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) is a Choctaw Nation summer learning initiative that provides intervention in reading and math to students in kindergarten through third

It began five years ago in three locations with a total of 212 students and has expanded to 39 locations with 3,861 students.

There are more educational programs and health initiatives for students, and as they near graduation, the possibility of attending institutions of higher learning or

choosing training for a specific career is becoming easier. Programs offering mentoring, adult education, scholarships, and career development are geared to help Choctaw members make the best choices.

Outreach, family, and social programs are available to help make a difference in the paths we take. More information about the programs can be found on ChoctawNa-

We are blessed with continued growth of the Nation, and that has helped provide the funds to assist with education. And as new businesses are created, there are more jobs available to sustain Choctaw families.

All have an important role in guiding us toward a productive future for our tribal members.



Before the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Head Start in Atoka on Thursday, April 13, Chief Batton talked to the Head Start students and answered questions about many things, including his medallion. Programs such as Head Start and Early Head Start help prepare our children to be successful as they get older. The programs provide an environment that encourages a commitment to learning.

The annual Senior Day last month in Durant reminded me of just how important our elders are. The morning started with thunderstorms and rain, but the Event Center was filled with Choctaw senior citizens who had traveled up to four hours to spend the day with elders from other districts. It was great seeing them participate in activities, espe-

cially since many of them are in their 80s.

There was also an outpouring of participation on the day of our Trail of Tears Walk and Heritage Day. Choctaws gathered at Tvshka Homma and again I saw a connection between them and their friends and family members as they enjoyed the day.

The wholeness of the Nation begins at an early age and thanks to the many programs offered by the Choctaw Nation, we can start preparing our children to be healthy and successful in their golden years.

Without good health, it is difficult to attain our dreams. The Choctaw Nation hospital, clinics, and wellness cen-

The History of Tvshka Homma, the Heart of the Choctaw Nation



The Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds, Tvshka Homma, is becoming the center of many of the Nation's activities year-round. At the heart of the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 counties, the grounds have a long and interesting

The decision was made to relocate the tribe's capitol to its location in Pushmataha County in the late 1800s. The striking red brick capitol building, completed in 1884, stands tall over the grounds that were named Tvshka Homma or "red warrior."

It was built during Chief Jackson McCurtain's term, and he made his farewell speech

It once housed the offices of the chief, legislature, and judicial branches and staff.

The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, now serves as a museum highlighting Choctaw history with an art gallery and several displays, including exhibits on

the Trail of Tears and Choctaw Code Talkers. There is also a gift shop featuring Choctaw art, jewelry, books, and gifts.

The Council Chambers is located north of the Capitol Building. Our Tribal Council holds meetings with tribal leadership throughout the week and continues to hold its regular sessions every month. Many historic decisions are made in the chambers, all for the best interests of the tribal members.

Also on the grounds are an arts and crafts building, cafeteria, amphitheater, playground, traditional village, chapel, sports complex, stickball field, war memorial, and veterans cemetery.

It is one of the largest areas to encompass such a variety of historical sites and activities in southeastern Oklahoma.

Because of the multiple venues, its location, and cultural significance, the grounds are often the site of annual tribal events such as the Easter Ceremony, Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk and Heritage Day, Labor Day Festival, a juried art show, concerts, and gospel singings, safety camp, fitness challenges, Veterans Day ceremony, and Christmas in the Park.

The Walk and Heritage Day last month brought people from all over Oklahoma and several states. Choctaw people are a proud people. We recognize the sacrifices made during the treacherous removal from Mississippi and honoring our ancestors is something we do, not only on the third Saturday of May every year, but also in our day-to-day actions as we continue to live out the Chahta spirit.

The memorial to our Choctaw veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice, the landscaped history trail with its sculptures commemorating influential people in Choctaw history, and the new Ten Commandments monument also reflect that

The grounds at Tvshka Homma will be bustling this summer as the Cultural Services division holds camps for the youth.

Hundreds of kids will be bussed in to participate in activities enhancing their knowledge of the Choctaw culture, wildlife conservation, stickball, softball and baseball.

I enjoy being on the grounds, whether they are full of people or on a day when it is quiet and I can enjoy the serenity of the heart of the Nation nestled in the hills and valleys. It will always be a significant part of Choctaw Nation. It is where we share our faith, gather with our families, and ensure our culture will never be lost.



Tvshka Homma, the location of the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds, is the heart of the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 counties. Many activities are held there throughout the year, including the Trail of Tears Walk and the Labor Day Festival. The historic grounds have a long and interesting history. It is one of the largest areas in southeastern Oklahoma to encompass a variety of historical sites and activities.

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The Food Distribution Program, known by some as commodities, has gone through many changes. Choctaw Nation Food **Distribution Director Jerry Tonubbee spoke** in Washington D.C. regarding the program on Indian Reservations and what changes it faces under the new administration.

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

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

www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma

www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation

From the Choctaw Nation Mail Room

When sending mail to the Nation please address as follows:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Name of Department) P.O. Box 1210 **Durant, OK 74702**





Water Safety Tips From Choctaw Emergency Services

Drowning, it can happen in an instant. Not including boating incidents, on average about 10 people die from drowning every day in the United States, according to Injury Facts 2016, the annual statistical report on unintentional injuries produced by National Safety Council.

Teens and young adults often don't think about safety.

When we think of water safety, we often think of the potential for young children to drown. But drowning also is a concern for teens and young adults. While drowning is more common for children 5 and younger, it's the second leading cause of death for people age 5-24. Ac-

cording to National Safety Council data, 710 people age 5 to 24 drowned in 2013.

Swimmers should keep a few safety precautions in mind. Parents are cautioned all the time about water safety, but drownings still occur. Always be aware and be in the present moment with your children. Following are a few water safety precautions:

- Never swim alone
- Make sure the body of water matches your skill

Recipe of the Month

Orange-Jalapeño Salmon



menshealth.com

Ingredients

Orange-Jalapeño Marinade

- ½ c fresh-squeezed orange juice
- ¼ c orange marmalade
- 1–2 jalapeños, stemmed and sliced
- 2 Tbsp chopped cilantro 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ tsp each kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1½ lb wild Alaskan salmon (about half a side; 1" thick)

Preparation

Location

580-298-3161

580-889-5825

580-241-5458

580-380-2518

Broken Bow

580-584-2746

580-927-3641 Durant

580-916-2100

580-326-5404

580-286-2510

918-423-6335

918-649-1106

580-244-3289

918-962-5134

918-867-4211

918-567-7000

Wilburton

918-465-5641

Smithville

McAlester

Coalgate

x 83517

Hugo

Idabel

Poteau

Spiro

Stigler

Talihina

x-6792

Antlers

Atoka

Battiest

Boswell

 Prepare Marinade: Add all ingredients to medium bowl and whisk until combined. Reserve 1/4 cup for serving.

2. **Prepare Salmon:** Coat grill or grill pan with cooking spray and prepare for medium-high heat. Brush salmon with marinade and place skin side down on hot grill. Grill until salmon is opaque, 14 to 16 minutes, basting periodically with more marinade. Remove from grill and let stand on platter, covered, 3 to 5 minutes. Cut into 4 pieces and drizzle each with 1 Tbsp reserved marinade.

Nutrition Facts: Makes five servings (per serving) 304 cal, 37 g pro, 11 g carb, 0 g fiber, 10 g sugars, 12 g fat, 2 g sat fat, 304 mg sodium

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

Days

Mon. Wed., Thurs.

1st & 2nd Tue.

Every Month

1st Thurs. Every

Daily Mon. - Fri

1st Wed. of Every

Every Tue.

& Fri.

Month

Month

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Month

& Fri.

Every

Thursday

Mon – Fri.

Mon. - Fri.

Mon. - Fri.

Mon. - Fri.

Mon. – Fri.

Mon. & Tue.

Mon., Tue., Wed.

1st Thurs. Every

Wed., Thurs. & Fri.

Women, Infants and Children

Hours

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

level; swimming in a pool is much different than swimming in a lake or river, where more strength is needed to handle currents

- If you do get caught in a current, don't try to fight it; stay calm and float with it, or swim parallel to the shore until you can swim
- Don't dive in unfamiliar areas
- Never drink alcohol when swimming; alcohol is involved in about half of all male teen drownings, according to **KidsHealth.org**
- Never leave your child alone; if you have to leave, take your child with you
- Find age-appropriate swim lessons for your child, but keep in mind that lessons do not make your child "drown-proof"
- Lifeguards aren't babysitters; always keep your eyes on your child
- Get training in CPR

The younger the child, the greater the risk.

Most parents think water safety is first and foremost on their minds whenever they are enjoying summer activities with their young kids. But when the unthinkable happens and a child drowns, parents and caregivers have been known to say, "I only looked away for a

NSC statistics point to drowning as a leading cause of death for young children—mostly due to children falling into a pool or being left alone in the bathtub.

Of the 3,391 drownings in 2013, more than 12 percent were children age 5 and younger, according to Injury Facts 2016. These statistics are in line with Consumer Product Safety Commission reports, which state more

NURSERY NEWS

Bryce Edward Cole Gibson

According to National Safety Council statistics, drowning is the leading cause of death for young children. It is important to take safety into consideration when swimming with your family this summer.

than 200 children ages 1 to 14 drowned in pools and spas during summer 2013. Bathtubs, toilets, and even buckets also can pose a danger for very young children.

Every pool, every lake, and every warm summer day holds the possibility of new, fun summer experiences. All you need to add is your undivided attention.

You can connect with Emergency Services on Facebook on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management Facebook page, on Twitter @CNO_EM. Or you can contact the Choctaw Nation Disaster Hotline at (844) 709-6301.

Choctaw Elders age 80 & up

You have stories to tell, let us preserve them.

Contact: Deidre Elrod **Choctaw Nation Communications** 800-522-6170 delrod@ChoctawNation.com



Bryce Edward Cole Gibson was born Feb. 1, 2017. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20 inches

Bryce is the son of Danica Miller Gibson and Joshua Gibson of Durant. He is the grandson of Sally Miller of Platter, and Jerry Gibson and Larhonda Gibson, both of Durant.

Himona Laine Supernaw



Himona Laine Supernaw was born at 2:17 p.m. March 31, 2017, at Integris Baptist in Oklahoma City. She weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and measured 21 inches long.

Her proud parents are Casie Renee and William "Son" Supernaw IV. She has two older brothers, Nashoba age 41/2 and Tashka, 3. She is the granddaughter of William "Kugee" Supernaw III and Phyllis Warrington of

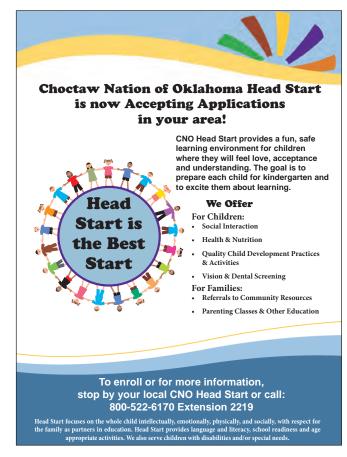
Skiatook, Barbara Jefferson Lester of Oklahoma City, and the late LaCreda Weller Daugomah of Binger.

Carsyn Lyn Davis



Carsyn Lyn Davis was born April 3, 2017, in Paris, Texas. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 20 inches long. She is the daughter of Cassidy Davis and Alison Davis of Hugo. She is the granddaughter of Sam Davis of Fort Towson, Gem Davis of Hugo, and Sherre Wolfe and the late honorable Jamie Wolfe of Hugo. Her great-grandparents are Mary (Jim) Davis of Fort Towson and the late

Charles (Cotton) Davis of Fort Towson, the late Dr. and Mrs. A.L Fountain of Hugo, Dr. and Mrs. H.D. Wolfe of Hugo, and A.W. (Jiggs) and Wray Percival of Hugo.



Choctaw Nation WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling

Many moms think that breastfeeding might be too hard for them to do, but most mothers and babies can learn to breastfeed with just a little practice and patience.

Breastfeeding is worth the effort!



Call 580-916-9140 ext 83854 or text 580-380-2515 with questions about breastfeeding, or to find a breastfeeding class near you.



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

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

breastfeeding resources **Durant**

frequency of feedings

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)

growth spurts

Poteau

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

Talihina

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





When he was in high school, a boy lent him a guitar. "The neck was so crooked you couldn't fit a capo on it. It wouldn't work, but I felt around on that until I bought my own."

Grant started singing as soon as he heard that first song on the radio. "It felt natural," explained Grant.

His mother taught him how to chord and sing on their old piano.

When Bill Monroe was performing nearby, Grant would go on stage and sing with him.

Grant met Delia Bell in 1959 through her husband, Bobby Bell, who was a friend of Grant's.

The duo traveled and played at many festivals with Bell on guitar and Grant playing the mandolin.

The harmony duo played mainly bluegrass and old time music. They were regulars on the Little Dixie Hayride radio show on KIHN Hugo.

Grant formed his own record label, Kiamichi, in 1971. In addition to singing, Grant and Bell also wrote numerous songs. They recorded many albums and made 11 tours to England and Ireland.

While Grant stayed with bluegrass, Bell ventured into county music. Coun-



Bill Grant has written over 80 songs and during his 40 year partnership with Delia Bell they produced 32 albums together. There are a lot of musicians who credit Grant with being a huge influence to them.

> try singer Emmy Lou Harris would record Bell's "Roses in the Snow" and make it her title track for her bluegrass album.

Grant was so proud of Bell's accomplishments. To this day you can here the pride in his voice when he talks about Bell.

In the early to mid 1970s Grant visited his friend Monroe, who had the Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival in Indiana.

When Grant saw what Monroe was doing he felt the same thing could be done in Hugo and that was how the Bill Grant Bluegrass Festival was born.

The festival opened in August 1969 and drew more than 1,200 people to Hugo. It was the first bluegrass festival west of the Mississippi, according to Grant.

Among those attending the festival was Orville Bonham. After the festival, he went home and told his family there was

Mail to:

something special there. The following year Grant heard Orville playing with his brother and shortly after that the Kiamichi Mountain Boys was formed.

The Bonhams, Orville, Glen and Virgil, played with Grant and Bell for many years. Grant likes to talk about Virgilstanding on a box so he could play the bass. Virgil was 11 years old when they recorded their first album.

The Kiamichi Mountain Boys parted ways when the Bonhams decided to stay close to home.

Virgil is one of many musicians who credit Grant with being a big influence musically.

The bluegrass festival ran for 35 years, until 2004 when Grant's health no longer

allowed him to produce the show. Grant continues to perform on a limited basis with his step-daughter, Amy Patrick.

Grant met her mother, Barbara, when he was delivering the Kiamichi Country magazine to Wheelock Academy where she worked.

While sharing a mutual love of history, Bill and Barbara discovered their families were connected.

To this day Barbara loves hearing Grant talk about the history of southeastern Oklahoma. She writes down the stories so they will not be forgotten.

Barbara said her husband still gets calls from the Oklahoma Historical Society when they need information and can't find it.

The couple continues to live in Hugo, not far from where Grant was born. Earlier this year Grant was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

Presenting the honors was Grant's old Kiamichi Mountain Boys band mate, Virgil Bonham.

Grant, a very humble man, said, "You sure know how to make a country boy proud. I can hardly express words to say what is in my heart."

by STACY HUTTO

Billy Joe Grant was born on May 9, 1929, in Hugo. He is an only child.

Grant's family was in the livestock business and his dad, Ray Grant, had a plan for him. His idea was to send Grant to the Fort Worth Stockyards so he could work a year so Grant would know what was going on with the livestock business.

But Grant got a job at the stockyard in Hugo instead and worked there off and on for several years.

Today the name Bill Grant is synonymous with bluegrass music, especially in Oklahoma.

In 1940, Grant's family purchased a battery-operated radio. When he discovered the Grand Ole Opry and the Chicago Barn Dance radio shows, the music spoke to him.

"It related to my way of life. Listening to Jimmy Rogers and Bill Monroe, it fit me and struck me solid," Grant said.

9th Annual Jim Thorpe 5K Race

N.M. USATF 5K Road State Championship & Grand Prix Series Event

Race serves as: Native American 5K National Championship - Community 5K Run

Saturday, June 24, 2017

certified & sanctioned by USATF

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN **POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE** 9169 Coors Rd. NW - Albuquerque, NM

(Southeast of Paseo del Norte & Coors Boulevard) **5K RACE DIVISIONS**

The Native American 5K National Championship is open to all American Indian / Alaska Natives and First Nations people of Canada. (Separate awards from the 5K run)

The NM 5K Road State Championship is open to all 2017 New Mexico USATF registered participants. (Additional awards separate from Open 5K run)

The <u>2017 USATF NM Association Grand Prix Series</u> is open to all USATE NM members with a 2016 membership (Points and cash prize race)

The Community 5k Run is open to all with no restrictions.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD:

Theresa Clay

FOR MORE INFORMATION: SportsWarriorsTC@aol.com (505) 710-3323 http://nativeamerican5kchampionships.org/

There will be a traditional Pueblo style throw open to everyone in attendance.

Competitive Races

• 5 K Runs (All Divisions) 8:00 am 1K Kids race (12 & Under) 9:00 am

Non-Competitive Races

• 1 & 2 Mile Fitness Walk/Jogs 7:30 am 300 Meter Toddler Dash 300 meter participants receive goodie bags



Proceeds go to assist Native Health Initiative's Sports Warriors TC & SIPI's Body Mind & Spirit Club.

The 5k course is a two-loop paved flat course designed for extremely fast altitude times. All participants of the 5K run are eligible for NM state age group records

Attention CHOCTAW ARTISTS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A JURIED AND JUDGED CHOCTAW INDIAN

ART SHOW, LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please complete the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the 2017 Choctaw Indian Arts Show held Labor Day weekend at Tyshka Homma, Okla. Must be 18 years of age & a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to participate. Categories include: Painting, graphics, cultural, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, & basketry. Please complete the form and mail to the address below.

Name: Address: Phone: Email:

PO Box 1210

Shelley Garner - CNO Cultural Services

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of March 31, 2017

Tribal Choctaw Government **Businesses** Total Cash and Investments 1,846,817,538 1.684.133.559 162.683.979 Receivables 223,025,477 41,982,281 265,007,758 15,353,180 4,811,873 20,165,053 Inventory **Prepaid Expenses** 4,401,204 2,887,515 7,288,719 Other Assets 654.926.589 707.700.742 1.362.627.331 Fixed Assets Less Payables (398,204,088) (93,014,530) (491,218,618) **Net Assets** 2.173.094.614 837.593.167 3,010,687,781

> The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Six Months Ended March 31, 2017

	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	128,300,643	589,984,442	718,285,085
Expenditures General Government Health Expenditures Education Expenditures Human Expenditures Community Expenditures Cultural Expenditures Legislature Expenditures Judiciary Expenditures Internal Service Expenses Business Expenses Total Expenditures	65,953,152 64,752,093 15,422,767 9,219,866 10,750,546 4,819,540 - 649,048 44,566 - 171,611,578	- - - - - - - 391,369,569 391,369,569	65,953,152 64,752,093 15,422,767 9,219,866 10,750,546 4,819,540 - 649,048 44,566 391,369,569 562,981,147
Transfers	207,990,603	(207,990,603)	-
Increase in Net Assets Beginning Net Assets	164,679,668 2,008,414,946	(9,375,730) 846,968,897	155,303,938 2,855,383,843

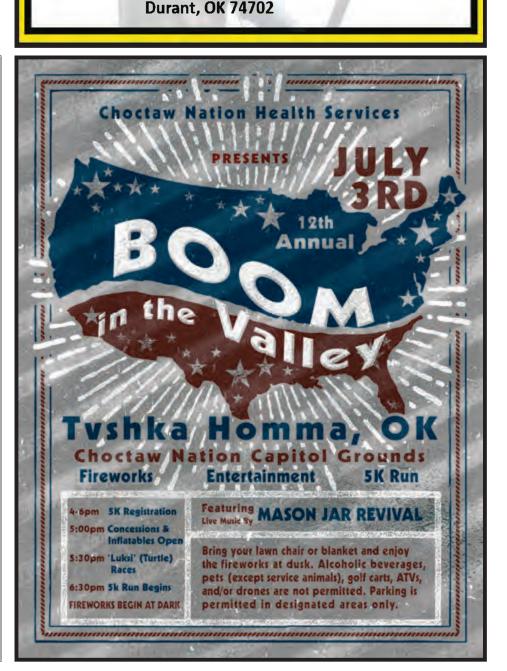
2,173,094,614 837,593,167 3,010,687,781

Ending Net Assets

The Housing Authority of the **Choctaw Nation** of Oklahoma needs to get in contact with the following people:

Sherrill Compere Dustin Minton

Please contact the Housing **Authority office** at (580) 208-2241 or (580) 579-6799.





Iti Fabussa

Charles McGilberry: The Triumph of a Choctaw Spirit

Earlier this month two staff members from the Historic Preservation Department had the honor of being asked to travel to Pennsylvania to speak at a celebration commemorating the 100 year anniversary of a young Oklahoma Choctaw man's graduation from that elite institution.

The event and the preparations for it, made us aware of an incredible Choctaw story, which we had not heard before. We'd like to share it with our readers.

Imayachi, "In the Race," was a Choctaw boy born at Boggy Depot in 1893. He came into a harsh world.

Sixty years after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the federal government was attempting to terminate the sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation, to destroy the Choctaw community, and once again, take Choctaw

Imayachi was known in English as "Charles McGilberry," or simply as "Charlie." In his first years of life Charlie knew little of the 400-year-long story of colonization, but he experienced firsthand its cruel affects.

The McGilberry family moved to the San Bois mountains in Charlie's infancy. Tragedy soon struck, taking the life of Charlie's mother before he was two.

This left Charlie's father, and three young children on their own, doing the back breaking work of subsistence farming. Before he was six years old, Charlie was accustomed to rising at 4 a.m. to begin helping his father work on the farm to provide food for the family.

Charlie's father remarried, but under great economic hardship. It was not possible for the couple to care for their five children. The family was broken apart when two of Charlie's siblings went to live as laborers on the farm of their relative Chief Green McCurtain.

The family was further separated in 1899 when Charlie was taken to the Jones Academy Boarding School. Tragedy struck again when in 1902 Charlie's father was wrongfully convicted of murder in a Euro-American court, simply because he was Choctaw.

He was imprisoned in Leavenworth, Kansas. Wrongfully imprisoned, constantly harassed for being Native American, and not allowed to write letters to his son Charlie in their native tongue, Mr. McGilberry one day had more than he could bear and beat one of his tormentors to the ground, breaking his nose.

This earned him solitary confinement and the nickname "Crazy Injun," but no one picked any more fights

Jones Academy was a Choctaw-run boarding school. Although a far better place than the federal boarding schools, even here young children received little affection, hard manual labor, and harsh physical punishment for minor infractions.

Charlie was left with nothing but his father's occasional letters from Leavenworth written in broken English and his strong faith. Rather than become bitter or lose hope, he grasped onto the promise given in Romans 8:28; "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Young Charlie put all of his energy into learning what the school had to teach him. He was by no means trying to give up his Choctaw identity, but rather trying to understand the Euro-American's knowledge and way of thinking in order to empower himself and the broader Native American community to rise above the

inequities they faced in a colonized world. Charlie completed his studies at Jones Academy with honors. This allowed him to continue on to high school at Chilocco Boarding School.

To get to the school up near the Kansas border, Charlie took his first train ride. Chilocco had a military feel. The boys were outfitted with military-style uniforms and divided into companies and platoons.

In this environment, Charlie was exposed to a number of different tribal cultures among his classmates. He earned the respect and friendship of some of his traditional peers when he charmed a bird from a nearby tree to alight on his outstretched hand.

At the same time, he impressed the school faculty with his abilities in writing, debate, and on the football field.

Charlie came to be-

lieve that his calling in life was to go on to college and return as a teacher. He worked even harder to get the grades to earn entry into college.

This determined effort caught the attention of the Chilocco superintendent, who recommended Charlie for a special new program. Mercersburg Academy, an elite prep school in Pennsylvania, was looking for three exceptional Native American students to enroll. Upon graduation, they would have the opportunity to attend Princeton University, expenses paid.

Charlie was one of the three from around the country who were accepted. Unknown to them, they were part of a racial experiment conducted by a wealthy benefactor and the school to see if Native Americans were intelligent enough to hold their own academically with the most privileged of Euro-American society.

Almost 1,300 miles from home, Charlie began his time at Mercersburg as a second-class human, constantly ridiculed by his classmates because of his Choctaw heritage.

His positive attitude and his determination to take every opportunity to grow soon brought him success even in this environment.

Charlie excelled academically, in debate, and in writing for the school paper. As a senior, a serious bout with diabetes kept him in the infirmary for months.

After his condition was diagnosed and his health returned, Charlie put together an almost super-human effort to catch back up in his studies in time for gradu-

Mercersburg required its students to participate in sports and early on Charlie had chosen football.

However, as a Native American, he was not given a real chance to play. For three years, he served as the most energetic cheerleader from the bench.

Finally, in 1917, his senior year, Charlie was allowed to play. That year, the Mercersburg team went undefeated until the final game.

In the waning seconds, Mercersburg found itself on defense in a tie game.

As the opposing team's ball carrier was running in the backfield, there was suddenly a vicious "crack" as one of the two Native American players on the Mer-



from "Touched by Greatness" by S. Wayne and Carolee Maxwell

Despite the hardships in his life Imayachi, or Charles Mc-Gilberry, went on to teach generations of Native American youth. He found his calling as a teacher in high school while at Chilocco Boarding School near the Kansas border.

cersburg team collided with him and dislodged the football into the Mercersburg end zone.

Out of nowhere, a Choctaw streak, Charlie, darted around the other players and recovered the

The two Native American players, who had not even been allowed to play until their senior years, had preserved the school's undefeated season.

Of the three Native American students originally enrolled at Mercersburg, only Charlie was able to graduate.

This earned him the opportunity to continue on to Princeton. He would never make it. His plans were interrupted by Wold War I and his subsequent marriage.

Charlie and his wife, Vivian, a Chickasaw, attended East Central Teacher's College in Ada, Oklahoma.

Charlie went on to receive a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and did his graduate work at Columbia College.

His years of work in school allowed him to reach his calling-a career in teaching young people in tribal schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and rural schools in Oklahoma.

In getting to know the story of Imayachi and walking in some of the same places that he did, beyond anything else what impresses this writer is this young man's strength of spirit.

Living in a world where he and other Choctaw youth faced so much adversity, Imayachi relied upon his faith to rise above the situation that he was born into.

He worked hard to realize his full potential. He kept his faith and hope even when he was in very dark places.

Through his career, he contributed to the lives of generations of young Native American students. Imayachi, Mr. McGilberry, thank you for the example you have given to us.

The account above is excerpted from the book "Touched by Greatness," by S. Wayne and Carolee

The Historic Preservation Department is grateful to Wayne and Carolee, Charles McGilberry's granddaughter, for making us aware of his story.

Financial Exploitation of Elders a Big Problem for Elder Advocacy

by JIMMY SMITH

Over the last few Nation Elder/Vulnerable Adult Advocacy Program has been running articles about our program.

This month we want to focus on one of the biggest problem areas that we see and that is financial exploitation.

One of the aspects of financial exploitation is when adult children or grandchildren start taking money from their elderly parents or grandparents.

We all know how much money it takes to survive throughout the month and when a person has to give up part of that it makes it even harder to make it.

The majority of our elderly live on a fixed income, which is hard enough to live on, but if they start losing part of that then where do they turn to, to even pay their monthly utility bills.

This is a difficult problem for our program to work, because of the people involved.

The elderly will help their children and grandchildren before they help themselves and then do not want to report what they have done to anyone because it might get their family in some type of

Not only do we have cases where this happens, but we have cases where our elderly have payees to help with their finances.

We have cases where the payee will help themselves to the money before they take care of their responsibilities as a payee.

Either way, this makes it very difficult for our elderly to survive throughout the month.

These are just two of the different types of financial exploitation that we see on a daily basis.

These are two of the most unreported situations because most of the time it involves the family.

One of the things we can do is to help our elder family member with their record keeping.

This way you will know if their monthly bills are being paid and their other essential needs are being met.

If you have a situation like this or any other that you may suspect an elder family member is being taking advantage of, please contact our office at (580) 326-8304 or (877) 285-6893.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

♦♦♦ Lesson of the Month ♦♦♦

Directional Particles

Ant-indicating the direction of an action toward the speaker, precedes verbs, used with verbs of motion, and usually employed with the word 'come.' Pronunciation: AHnt

1. Ant pisa!

2. Ant pi taloa.

3. Ant ish sv pisa chike!*

4. Okla ant sv pisa tuk.

5. Aheka ant vma tuk.

6. Indian Taco ant ish chompa chike!*

7. Ohoyo mvt ant ia tuk.

8. Ant ish impa chike!*

Come and look!

Come and sing for us.

You come and see me!

They came to see me.

She (came and) brought me a bill.

You come and buy an Indian Taco!

That woman came by here.

(Be sure) to come by here and eat!

Ont-indicating the direction of an action away from the speaker, precedes verbs, used with verbs of motion, and usually employed with the word 'go.' Pronunciation: OHnt

1. Ont pisa!

2. Ont <u>i</u> taloa.

3. Ont ish pisa chike!* 4. Okla ont chi pisa chi.

5. Iskvli ont ima.

6. Indian Tacos ont ish chompa chike!*

7. Aiittatoba ma ont ia li tuk. 8. Ont ish impa chike!*

Go and see!

Go and sing to him/her/them. You go by and see him/her/them! They will go by and see you.

Go and give him/her/them money. You go by and buy an Indian Taco. I passed by that store.

You (be sure) to go by and eat!

*chike-future tense, with the sense of an invitation-"you must go and....."

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

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

It's easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops! It's simple: Buy the products; clip the Box Tops; drop off or send the Box Tops to the Choctaw Nation and

help earn cash for things the school needs like school supplies, playground equipment, teacher training.

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

difference!



—YOUTH OF THE NATION—

Living Faith, Family, Culture

Claire Young

The Choctaw Nation is my future. my present and my

It is my history and what I am to be. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has increased the pride I have in who I am and from where I come.



by Stacy Hutto

It has helped me realize my true

potential. It has helped me make a difference and become a leader in not only my community, but my tribe.

Without the support and opportunities that the Youth Advisory Board has offered me, I would not have reached so many of the goals I have set for myself.

My first introduction to YAB was in the eighth grade. I joined as soon as I was old enough. This early experience was more than just the first real organized effort that I was able to be a part; it was my introduction to a group that truly cares for its members as family, a group that is not only devoted to its projects, but also intensely committed to each other.

With countless volunteer hours, I have been able to mentor young children, organize community projects, and support the growth of our rural area. I am involved in tribal, community, school, and faith based organizations.

As an active member of the Choctaw Nation and our Youth Advisory Board Council, I am hopeful for the future of our tribe and want to be an integral part of the progressive path forward.

I plan to complete undergraduate studies in history and political science at Dartmouth College, an Ivy League institution, and obtain a law degree, which will prepare me for service in an unlimited number of areas. One of which is tribal law. A degree in law is an ideal way for me to give back to my tribe and make a meaningful difference in my community.

I am active in all of the organizations my rural school has to offer and I have made the most of the resources provided by Choctaw Nation to its members to help create a brighter future for myself and others.

The development of our towns and the people who live here are all things that the Choctaw Nation YAB has made their mission to strengthen. To this point in my life, I have focused on bettering myself and those surrounding me. I owe YAB for the vitally important role it has played in opportunities to serve and inspiration to commit the hard work of change.

As a leader, in both my school and community, volunteerism, leadership, and academic excellence are all priorities in my life. Although maintaining all A's and volunteering for over 600 hours has been hectic, it has been worth the change I have seen in my community.

The majority of the volunteer hours that I have been able to complete have been from my time spent with the McCurtain County Chapter of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory.

Being able to help the underprivileged members of our county by providing them with fans during the summer and donating blankets for sick, hospitalized children throughout the year have both been experiences that have taught me the true meaning of compassion and empathy.

The opportunity to teach second graders that "It's Not Cool to Hit!", as Freddy Falvimichi would say, has been a way to spread awareness of, and advocate against, youth violence, while teaching the second graders alternate ways to handle their

The time I have spent volunteering with my fellow YAB members has been time for teaching, time for mentoring, time for leading, and time for giving back. YAB has truly helped shape me into the leader, student, and person I am today. Without the persistence of my advisor and the determination of my fellow members, I could not have accomplished the goals I have accomplished thus far.

From a very early age, I dreamed of going to college at an Ivy League school. In October 2016, I was accepted into the Dartmouth Bound: Native Community Program and was flown to Hanover, New Hampshire. I was given this opportunity, along with 50 other select high school seniors, to explore and learn about the college.

My community involvement and academic performance were both factors in my acceptance into the program. The time I spent with YAB as a leader and in community service was weighted as heavily in their consideration for my acceptance as were my academic achievements. Without YAB, I would not have been selected to attend this program.

The opportunity to participate in the Dartmouth Bound: Native Community Program opened the door for me to actually go to college at Dartmouth. Now, because of my connection with my tribe and our Youth Advisory Board, my dream of attending an Ivy League college has become a reality.

The financial burden that comes from accepting the offer of admission to this prestigious institution is significant. I sincerely appreciate your support and consideration to invest in my continued success with the award of a scholarship. Regardless of your decision, I can assure my lifelong commitment to the Youth Advisory Board and my gratitude for all that it has contributed to my life.

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship first place essay. The writer, Claire Young, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tvshka Homma on Wednesday, April 5. We will be printing the second and third place essays in the following months.



Redding Graduates from UC Berkley

Karina Treacil Redding graduated from U.C. Berkley with a Bachelor's in Geology and a minor in Energy and Resource Studies. She is the granddaughter of Nawatha L. (Krebs) Redding of Eufala.

STUDENT SCHOOL AND ACTIVITY FUND



NEED MONEY TO BUY SCHOOL OR ACTIVITY **CLOTHING?**

2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDS BEGIN JULY 1, 2017.

- Application for the 2017-18 school year will be available on July 1, 2017, and will end May 1, 2018. Each student with a Choctaw tribal membership can receive this one time per school year.
- \$100 assistance available nationwide for Choctaw tribal members attending 3 year-old day care to 12th grade high school students.
- Apply online at www.ssafapplication.choctawnation.com.

First Class at Battiest **Preschool**

The first class in the new Chahta Preschool in Battiest are (top photo, front row, from left) Jerra Bean, Mariela Bohanan-Nunez, Maecian Bond, Hunter Barrick, and Matthias Bohanan-Nunez. (middle row, from left) Mason Baggs, Oaklee Tisho, Halleigh Talley, Caleb Barrick, Canion McKinney, Katrina Bohanan-Nunez, Katalina Bohanan-Nunez, and Jaylyn. (staff, back row, from left) Michael Gills, Vanessa Jefferson,



Tacha Barrick, Charissa Billingsley, Melissa Baker, and Leona Rivers. The Choctaw Nation Early Steps to Literacy Book Mobile visited the Chahta preschool. Students toured the book mobile, looked at books and enjoyed listening to Julie Brock read a book. The Early Steps to Literacy program shares the enjoyment of reading and the importance of getting an early start. The children and staff greatly appreciate and enjoy the new facility. They would like to give the Councilman, Chief Gary Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. a big yakoke for the new facility. Chahta Preschool in Battiest is now accepting enrollment applications for 2017-18. For more information, call (580) 241-7781.



Warren Accepted to Tech Trek STEM Camp at SWOSU

Jada Warren, 13, attends Durant Middle School and is actively involved with band, choir, FCA, dance, the arts program at the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, and is the seventh grade Student Council Representative at her school. She is involved in tribal activities such as JOM program, FCA Choctaw Youth, cultural events, and other camps held by Choctaw Nation. To be considered for Tech Trek STEM camp students had to be nominated by a teacher and placed on a list for interviews. Tech Trek received several hundred nominations from across the state. Only 125 girls were interviewed and 20 were selected. The camp will be held at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Warren was nominated by her science teacher and JOM school rep, Mrs. Ridenour.

Dodd to Graduate with Honors

Austin Dodd will soon graduate from Midwestern State University. Dodd has been inducted into the National History Honors Society, Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He had also made the President's Honor Roll and plans to continue his studies in Spain this summer. He is the son of Scott and Jennifer Dodd. He is the grandson of Tommy and Carol Dodd and Weldon and Billie Gorham. Dodd is the great-grandson of Hubert and Connie Wall, Lonnie and Esta Faye Hoffman, Minyard and Elsie Gorham, and Jack and Virginia Dodd.



Rentie Graduates from Stanford

Carra Rentie, an Arlington Juan Seguin High School graduate, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from Stanford in June 2017. She graduated with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.84 and was a member of the Cap and Gown Women's Honor Society, Director of the Stanford Gospel Choir, and studied abroad in Santiago, Chile. Rentie volunteered with several charitable organizations, tutored local preschoolers, and recorded audiobooks for the blind and those with learning disabilities. She is the daughter of Caesar Rentie and Andrea Kelly. She will continue her studies in the fall with a full scholarship to Stanford Law School.

Griffin Nominated for the Congress of Future Science and Tech Leaders

Emma Griffin, a tenth-grade honors student at Bartlesville High School, was selected to sit as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Lowell, Michigan, June 29-July 1. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate, and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream, and, after the event, to provide a path, plan, and resources to help them reach their goal. Griffin was nominated by Dr. John C. Mather, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics and Science and Director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists, to represent Bartlesville High School based on her academic achievement, leadership potential, and passion for science and technology. She is

the daughter of Alyssa Dobyns Foresman of Bartlesville and descendent of Polayah Homma and Sophie Roebuck. "We are thankful we are surrounded by a sup-



portive community that values education," Emma's mother said. "Everyone has been extremely generous helping Emma make it to Boston." During the three-day Congress, Emma will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science recipients talk about leading scientific research; be given advice from deans of the world's top tech universities; be inspired by fellow teen science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.



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



continued at state in the two events. Approximately 50,000 students from private, charter, and home schools participated in PSIA this year.

Ferris Wins

Big at State

Texas, won first place in

Private Schools Interscho-

lastic Association, or PSIA

Academic State Meet, on April 29 at Texas Christian

University in Fort Worth,

Texas. Ferris qualified for

placing first at the district

charts. His winning streak

the state competition by

level in Grade 5 spelling

and maps, graphs, and

two contests at the 2017

Carson Ferris of Austin,



Jones Academy Corner

Constitutions.

2017

Jones Academy Seniors





Zachary Hunter Bennett, 18, is the son of Perry and Melissa Bennett. He is from Meeker, and is a member of the Chickasaw tribe. Zach has been a resident of Jones Academy since the third grade. He has been a member of the Hartshorne High School band for five years and received a superior rating in state competition in 2017. Zach has been a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. He was the 2016-2017 first semester Outstanding Geometry Student at Kiamichi Technology Center and Student of the Month in April 2017. Zach is enrolled at Rose State College for the fall and plans to major in cyber security.



Shoshanah Eva Hardy, 19, is the daughter of Cassandra Chee and Merlin Benally of Lukachukai, Arizona She is the granddaughter of Darren Kevonnie and Harriett Chee. Shoshanah is a member of the Navajo Nation. During her time at the academy, Shoshanah was a participant of the Learn and Serve and PACE programs at Jones Academy. She was also active in FCCLA at Hartshorne High School. Shoshanah's post-secondary plans include joining the army and pursuing a vocation in nursing.

Graduates are not listed alphabetically due to





Mariella Deluz Chatkehoodle, 19, is the daughter of Sherri Chatkehoodle and Mario Torrez of Tulsa. She is a member of the Kiowa tribe. Mariella first enrolled at Jones Academy in the fall of 2008. She has been an active member of the 4-H club at Jones Academy. She is on the Jones Academy Yearbook staff and the principal writer of the Jones Academy Warrior Newsletter. Mariella wants to pursue a career in cosmetology.



Bryan William **Hawkins**, 18, 18 the son of James Hawkins of Pawnee, and the late Lisa Ann Hawkins. Bryan is an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe. He has attended Jones Academy since the third grade. Bryan was a starter on the varsity football team at Hartshorne High School. He also competed on the power lifting team and track and field. Bryan was also a member of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School. He participated in the PACE running program, Learn and Serve, and 4-H at Jones Academy. Bryan is enrolled at Rose State College for fall classes. He is seeking a career in business management.



Adanya Annette Sewell, 18, is the daughter of Tambra and Charles Sewell II from Seminole, and Winnebago, Nebraska respectively. She is a member of the Seminole Nation. Adanya has been a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. Adanya plans to attend Seminole State College in Seminole, and pursue a degree early childhood development.



Cody Alan Clark, 18, the son of Alan Clark and grandson of Louis and Lenora Clark of Haworth. Cody is a member of the Comanche Nation. He has been active in 4-H at Jones Academy for five years, winning numerous awards, including Grand Champion swine at the **Choctaw Nation Livestock** Show 2016, Bronze overall swine at the CN Livestock Show 2017, Pittsburg Co. Supreme Champion Gilt 2017, and first place and premium sale Duroc Barrow at the 2017 Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City. Cody received his certified welder's card at Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester. He plans to attend classes at KTC on the Idabel campus in the fall where he will continue his training in welding.



Araceli Teresa Ortiz, 18, is the daughter of Cruz and Jodyann Ortiz of Tulsa. Araceli is enrolled in the Kiowa tribe. Araceli first reported to Jones Academy in January 2006. She received her Certified Nursing Aide training at Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester, as well as Registered Medical Assistant and Home Health Aide. She is currently pursuing a certificate in phlebotomy at KTC. Araceli has applied at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas where she will pursue a degree in nursing.



Mika Elias Henri Sam, 17, is Mariel Sam's twin brother. Mika was a member of the PACE runners' club and the Jones Academy botball team. He was also active in the Hartshorne High School choir, where he was part of an ensemble that won a superior rating at the state competition in 2017. Mika will enroll at Carl Albert State College for the fall. He is planning to become a physical therapist.



Camden Ryan Coleman, 18, is the son of Derek and Donna Coleman from Oklahoma City. He is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation. Camden has attended Jones Academy for three years. He has been a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School. While at Jones Academy, he was active in the PACE 5K and 10K running program and Learn and Serve. Camden has enrolled at Oklahoma City Community where he will attend classes in the fall. He is interested in pursuing a career in the field of radiology.



Tanner Miles Henry, 18, is the son of Malesia Willis and Milton Ray Henry of Choctaw, Mississippi. Tanner is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Tanner was a participant of the PACE runner's club, Learn and Serve, and agriculture program at Jones Academy. During his time at the academy, Tanner was employed by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services as a member of the Hartshorne High School custodial staff. He was commended for his hard work and dedication to the school. After high school, Tanner plans to enter the workforce or enroll in a vocational training



Kanani Don Watashe, 18, is the son of Levi and Candi Watashe of Tulsa. He is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Kanani has been a resident of Jones Academy since 2009. He has been a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. Kanani has also participated in the botball and the PACE 5K programs at the academy. He is registered at Tulsa Community College for the fall classes. Kanani plans to major in Computer Science.



Mathew Dean Dawson, 18, is the son of Charley Stevens and Clinton Dawson of Oklahoma City. Mathew is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was active in 4-H at Jones Academy. Upon graduation, Mathew plans to join the armed forces or be gainfully employed in construction.



Mariel Kolbi Missy Sam, 17, is the daughter of Kathy and Norman Sam of Philadelphia, Mississippi She is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Mariel first attended Jones Academy in August 2011. Mariel has participated on the high school varsity softball team. She has also been part of the Jones Academy stickball team, Learn and Serve and the robotics botball club. Mariel will attend Meridian Community College in Meridian. Mississippi in the fall. She is interested in becoming a dental hygienist.

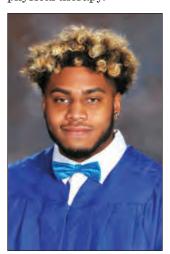


Serena Margaret Santos, 18, is the daughter of Vernon and Jessica Joaquin of Pisinemo, Arizona. Serena is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'Odham Nation. She has been a resident of Jones Academy since 2013. Serena has been a member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School. In 2017, she received a first place finish at the regional FCCLA competition at Eastern Oklahoma State College in McAlester for her Children's Literature Presentation. Serena subsequently placed second at the state level tournament for her entry. She was a member of the high school choir for four years and a participant of Jones Academy PACE program. Serena has applied at Haskell Indian Nations University where she plans to major

in education.



Romeo Keylan-Bryce Farve, 18, is the son of Beatrice Johnson and Clint Farve of Philadelphia, Mississippi Romeo is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He first enrolled at Jones Academy in August 2014. Romeo participated in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School. He was also involved in Learn and Serve and the PACE runners' program at Jones Academy. Romeo is interested in a career in physical therapy.



Jawaski Vishon Johnson. 19, is the son of Beatrice Johnson and Jardei us Peeples of Philadelphia, Miss. Jawaski is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He has attended Jones Academy since 2013. Jawaski was a member of the successful stickball team at Jones Academy for four years. He also participated on the high school varsity basketball team where he received several honors including: All-Tournament Team at the Tushka Invitation 2015 and 2017. Wilburton All-Tournament Team 2016, Hartshorne All-Tournament Team 2016, First Team All-Black Diamond Conference 2015-2016, All District First Team 2015-2016, and the Basketball Tulsa World Honorable Mention 2017. Jawaski was a recognized as a State Basketball Academic Champion. He has also been invited to compete in the 45th Annual Kiamichi All-Star Classic at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton on May 26-27. Upon graduation, Jawaski would like to attend college and be a head basketball coach.





OKLA CHAHTA

Left: Joshua Jacob, Cultural Services employee, assisted with the gathering by instructing guests on how to make miniature set of stickball sticks.

Below: The snake dance is is one of the more popular events during the gathering with the Choctaw families in attendance.





Top: Tribal Council Speaker, Delton Cox, introduces the council during Sunday morning opening ceremony during the annual Gathering in Bakersfield, California.

Right: The newly crowned Okla Chahta Clan royalty for 2017-2018 pictured with Sarah De Herrara, far left, and Chief Gary Batton, are Little Miss, Taloa Felihkatubbee, Junior Miss, Torey Dolan, and Miss Okla Chahta, Aimee Roldan.





Top: The theme for the 2017 Gathering was to honor the children. Each child was presented a medal by Chief Gary Batton as a reminder to honor their heritage and culture.

Right: Jared Tom leads a group of youngsters on the basics of how to hold their sticks in order to throw the stickball before the pole game.

Photos by Vonna Loper

Sheila Watson, Lawanna Thompson, and





Mary Gideon prepares the traditional tanchi labbona at the Crowder dinner.

Cheyenne Hill of McAlester was hospitalized with spinal meningitis last year. She spoke in front of the guests thanking them for all their support during her illness.





Sondra Hatcher and FFA princess take a moment to pose with District 12 Councilman James Frazier during the Crowder dinner.

Photos by Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, Stacy Hutto, Ronni Pierce, and Kaitlyn Riley.



Author Sarah Elizabeth Sawyer (right) discusses

people.

some of her work including "Touch My Tears" and

"Third Side of the Coin." Sawyer is a storyteller who publishes fictional accounts of Choctaw history and

Sharon Dodson walks with her granddaughter Katelyn O'Steen.



daughter Charslee O'Steen (middle) and



Choctaw royalty (left to right) Little Miss Choctaw Nation Isabella Muncy, Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Savannah Herndon, and Senior Miss Choctaw Nation Karen Crosby take a moment in the shade.



Mary Frazier from Antlers displays her pottery under the arts and crafts tent.







Prior to the Walk, the new Ten Commandments monument was unveiled by Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Austin Jr., and the Tribal Council.



Sharoyn Armor and Wanda Bell scoop up dessert for the Hugo Wild Onion Dinner on April 26.



Chief Gary Batton visits with Jan and Gene Arpelar from McAlester during the Wilburton dinner.



(left to right) Wallace Carney, Ethan Wolbert, Inell **Bailey and Lisa Wolbert visit after the Wild Onion** Dinner in Hugo.



Lysander Melton (striped shirt), his father James Melton, and his uncle Willis Melton (far right, red shirt) and aunt Martha Comby (pink shirt) came from Talihina for the dinner

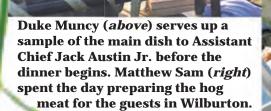


sented District 6 Councilman Joe Coley with a cake in honor of his May 15th birthday.



District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson chats with Jimmy Taylor prior to the **Hugo Wild Onion Dinner.**







Joan Sybil Roe



Joan Sybil Roe, 86, passed away April 18, 2017.

Joan was born March 19, 1931, to Tannie Roe and Ida Nix.

She was preceded in death by child Douglas Stead; brother Tannie; and sisters Mable, Dorma, Annie Maude, Geraldine, and June.

Joan is survived by children Leslie Croson, Laura Stead, Clayton Stead, and Terri Umphlett; along with many nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Arlington National Cem-

Buddy Lee Craig

Buddy Lee Craig, 84, passed away March 29, 2017.

Buddy was born May 29, 1932, in Seminole to Dawson Vernon "DV" and Anna (Coldren) Craig.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Jack Craig; and nephew Jackie Craig.

Buddy is survived by his wife of 67 years Joyce (Jump) Craig; daughters Jeanie Brown and

spouse Ken, Shirley Henson and spouse Mark, and Sandra Williams and spouse Jim; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; six brothers and sisters; and numerous nephews, nieces, and dearly loved friends.

To read the full obituary please visit **Browns Funeral** Home.

James Lester Plunkett

James Lester Plunkett, 93, passed away March 22, 2017, at Clyde Cosper State Veterans home in Bonham, Texas.

James was born April 11, 1924, in Quail, Texas, to Robert Plunkett and Mary E. (Platt) Plunkett.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marilyn Ardell Martin Plunkett; his parents; two

brothers; and five sisters. James is survived by son James M. Plunkett and spouse Martha; daughters Linda Atnip and Sue Vaughan; two sisters Ethel Pankratz and Marilyn Jesse; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Lillian "Lee" Mae (Frazier) Kincaid

Lillian "Lee" Mae (Frazier) Kincaid, 74, passed away June 15, 2016, at her sister's home in Paris,

Lillian was born Sept. 26, 1941, in Neshoba to Eslin Nelson and Lillie Mae Taylor Frazier.

She is preceded in death by husband Talma Earl Kincaid; son David Kincaid; her parents; and

siblings Kenneth Frazier, Virgil Frazier, David Frazier, Darrell Frazier, Brenda Dudley, Sandra Frazier, and Lula Frazier.

Lillian is survived by sisters Linda Frazier and Terry Hood; brothers Leonard "Buck" Frazier, Allen Frazier,

Austin Frazier, and James "Barney" Frazier; many nieces and nephews Dana, Robin, Bradley, Dustin, Brandon, Russell, Jason, Susan, John, Shaun, Liane, Kenneth Jr., Amanda, Destiny, Stormy, Joshua, and James; several great-nieces and nephews; step-children Veta Bratton, Mickey Kincaid, Bobby Kincaid, and Karen Kincaid. Interment was held at Highland Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit Wood Funeral Homes.

Kim Teresa Bates

Kim Teresa Bates, 59, passed away March 23, 2017, at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California.

Kim was born Dec. 13, 1957, in Salinas, California, to Harry and Joyce (Howard) Eckelman.

She is survived by her parents; daughter Jennifer Bates and future son-in-law Michael Behnke; son Justin Bates and his spouse

Elisabeth; beloved granddaughter Natalee Bates; brother Steve Eckelman; nephew Sam Eckelman and niece Lucy

Eckelman.

Interment was held at Millville Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Allen and Dahl Funeral Chapel.

Betty June (Keeling) Piacenti

Betty June (Keeling) Piacenti, 84, of Dallas, Texas, passed away peacefully April 6, 2017.

Betty was born Nov. 13, 1932, in Durant to Fred and Hazel Keel-She was preceded in death by

husband Ron Piacenti and grandson Lucas Piacenti.

Betty is survived by children Ron and Terri Piacenti, Rick and

Grace Piacenti, Randy Piacenti, Rhonda Piacenti and Roger Piacenti; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and her sister Sue Jansing.

To read the full obituary please visit Restland Funeral Home and Memorial Park.

Karen (Snell) Eaves

Karen (Snell) Eaves, 65, passed away April 13, 2017, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

Karen was born Feb. 6, 1952, in Toledo, Oregon, to Doyle Eugene and Pauline (Sam) Snell Welsh.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Karen is survived by children Brain Eaves, Clint Eaves,

Krista Orr and spouse Brian, and Beth Haile and spouse Luke; sisters Janet Wyatt and spouse Bernie and Billie Eaves and spouse Ronnie; grandchildren Stacey Melton and spouse Brian, Jersey Orr, Charlie Orr, Tucker Eaves, Jazson Eaves, Graham Haile, Seth Haile, and Alyssa Haile; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many dear friends.

Interment was held at Bentley Cemetery.

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

Joshua James Sexton

Joshua James Sexton, 71, passed away April 18, 2017, at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas.

Joshua was born March 31, 1946, in Sulphur to David C. Jr. and Ruth Mae (Ott) Sexton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son Michael James Harjo; brothers Daniel Sexton and Paul Sexton Sr.; sisters Beatrice

Cacy, Edith Greenwood, Betty Lou Watkins, and Teresa Deluna.

Joshua is survived by wife Debra Ann Sexton; children Jay Harjo, Chris Benner and spouse Laura, Brandee Jones and spouse Michael, and Joey Hughes and spouse Stephanie; grandchildren Joshua Benner, Matthew Harjo, Hannah Petsemoie, Joka Fowler, Kira Fowler, Hayden Jones, Masyn Jones, and Kinsley Benner; 11 great-grandchildren; brothers Isaac Sexton and spouse Judy and Tim Sexton and spouse Shirley; sister Barbara Freeman, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many dear friends.

Interment was held at Buffalo Creek Cemetery in

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

Virgil Lee Noel Jr.

Virgil Lee Noel Jr. passed away Feb. 27,2017.

Virgil was born June 10, 1940, to Virgil Lee Noel Sr. and Marie

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepdad Riley Tallant; and brother Wayne Tal-

Virgil is survived by son Vic Noel; daughter Elizabeth Noel;

grandchildren Savannah, Lila Lee, Nathan, and Bo (Virgil Lee Noel IV); relatives Don, Nancy, Gary, Wayne (deceased), Lillie, Sherri, Julie, Jeffrey, Greg, Bev, Barbara, Danny, Shannon, Patty, John, Traci, Valerie, Keith, Sandy, Stacy, Mike, along with many others; and special friends Billy Absher and Bradford.

David Stanley Ward

David Stanley Ward, 62, passed away April 12, 2017, at his home in Idabel.

David was born July 8, 1954, in Talihina to Wilson and Eva Mae Byington Ward.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Cheisa Ward: and brother Jonah Ward.

David is survived by his wife Roberta Ward; daughter Angela

Wilkerson; son Gary Ward; grandchildren Taya Ward, Takara Ward, Blade Wilkerson, Trent Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson, Gabriel Rachal, Eva Rachal, Marcus Jordan, Miles Jordan, and Alexandria Jordan; brother Bobby Byington; sister Shirley Lambert; several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.

Interment was held at Denison Cemetery in Idabel. To read the full obituary please visit White Family Funeral Home.

Billie Jo Lawrence

Billie Jo Lawrence, 94, of Stuart passed away March 20, 2017, at Oklahoma Heart Hospital South in Oklahoma City.

Billie Jo was born Oct. 14, 1922, in Stuart to Joseph and Lucy Lee (Randolph) Wooley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Cassel Osbourn Lawrence; grandson

Michael Stephen Lawrence; and brothers Robert "Bob" Wooley and Richard "Dick"

Billie Jo is survived by sons Charles Alan Lawrence

and spouse Vivian, David Lee Lawrence and spouse Lee-Ann, Dannel Rex Lawrence and spouse Sheree and Sidney Osbourn Lawrence and spouse Lydia; brother Jack Leonard Wooley and spouse Sophia; a number of nieces and nephews; 16 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren and are expecting another in June that will hold her name Serenity Jo.

Interment was held at Pryor Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Bishop 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

Glenn Ford Hosay

Glenn Ford Hosay, 55, died Oct.

17, 2016, at his residence in Krebs. Glenn was born May 27, 1961, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Alexander

and Gladys (Billy) Hosay. He was preceded in death by wife Denise Hosay; parents Alexander and Gladys Hosay; brother Aubrey Hosay; and sisters Cheryl Hosay and Lou Jean Jundt.

Glenn is survived by brothers

members and friends. To read the full obituary please visit **Chaney-Harkins**

Betty Clinkenbeard

Betty Clinkenbeard, 91, passed away March 30, 2017, at her home in Owasso.

Funeral Home.

Betty was born June 18, 1925, in Boswell to Critten and Ida (Jones) Gardner.

She is survived by sons Ronald Clinkenbeard and spouse Mary and Vernon Clinkenbeard; grandchildren Megan Clinkenbeard, Molly Allen, Shelly Willett, and James Williams; great-grandchildren Zach Willett,

Tiffany Willett, Bridgett Williams, and Austin Williams; sister Lazona Anderson; brother George Gardner; family friend Duffy McClain; and many other relatives and Internment was held at Woodlawn Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit Rice Funeral Service.

Thomas "Tinker' Ralph Ray

Thomas "Tinker" Ralph Ray, 84, passed away April, 17, 2017, at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas.

Tinker was born June 3, 1932, at the home place on Ray Ranch to Ralph Dillon and Edna Cleetes (Hankins) Ray.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Elma Lou Ray; brother O.P. Ray; and sister



bers and many dear friends. Interment was held at Ward's Chapel Cemetery. To read the full obituary please visit Brown's Funeral Service.

Betty Carolyn (Beal) Fitzgerald

Betty Carolyn (Beal) Fitzgerald, 71, passed away April 27, 2017, in Durant.

Betty was born Nov. 14, 1945, in Utica to Cecil Eulis and Amy Ruth (Mitchell) Beal.

She was preceded in dear her parents; sister Patsy Tyree;

and brother Eugene Beal. Carolyn is survived by children

Marissa Rincon, Robbie Burkett, and Renay Grubaugh and spouse Kyle; grandchildren Sara Zieseniss, Aiden Grubaugh, Sterling Burkett, Weston Burkett, Scott Burkett, Michael McCowen, and Christina McCowen; seven great-grandchildren; sister Linda Bennett and husband Fred; brothers Kent Beal and Delta and Tony Beal and spouse Becky; along with

numerous extended family and friends. Interment was held at Highland Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit **Brown's Funeral** Service in Durant.

Joseph Melvin Homer

Joseph Melvin Homer, 66, of Hartshorne passed away April 27, 2017, in Durant.

Joseph was born April 12, 1951, in Talihina to Joseph Lafayette and Julia Mae (Lawrence) Homer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Issac Homer and Amanual Homer; sister Annabelle Pike; and nephew Chris-



Joseph is survived by sisters Bernice Homer-Clark and spouse George, Laverne Talley and spouse Billy, Mariah Benson and spouse Bo and Joyce Fults; brother Virgil Homer; along with numerous nieces and nephews

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

Kenneth "Wolf" Glenn Cole

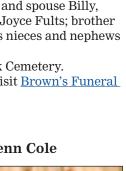
Kenneth "Wolf" Glenn Cole, 54, of Cottonwood passed away April 26, 2017, at his home.

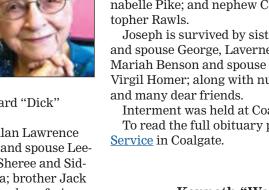
Kenneth was born June 2, 1962, in Talihina to James and Betty Lou (Hall) Cole.

Raymond, Preston, Larry, Henry, and Sylvester; and sisters Esther,

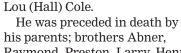
Kenneth is survived by sisters Marsha Burgess and Vonda Cole; nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews Myleigh, Maveryck, Parker James, Karma, Elizabeth, Haley, Ty, Zayden, and Isaac; aunt Maggie Anderson; along with numerous other nieces, nephews,

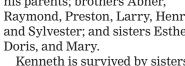
Interment was held at Lone Star Cemetery.

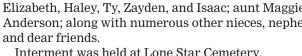


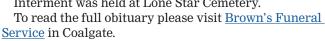














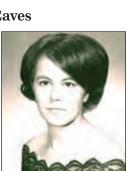








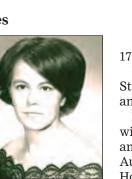


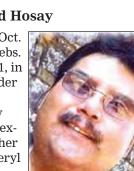




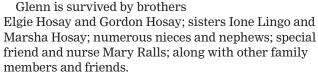


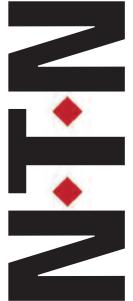












Tribal Council

Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, May 13, in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

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

- Approved disposal of surplus capital assets.
- Approved application for the Child Passenger Safety Seat program.
- Approved funds and budget for Medical Re-
- serve Corps Challenge Awards. Approved the NAHASDA 2018 Indian Hous-
- Approved the budget and recontracting of
- Choctaw Nation Early Head Start FY 2016-17. Approved a road and utility easement in favor of the City of Calera on Choctaw Tribal
- Fee Land in Bryan County. Approved oil and gas lease No. 420003473 on land held USA in Trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations with Silver Creek Oil &
- Gas, LLC. in Hughes County. Approved Sue and Be Sued Provisions for certain entities owned by Choctaw Global,
- LLC. Approved an investment in Choctaw Global, LLC. and the reorganization of certain entities owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Approved a request that the Secretary of the Election Board establish additional voting locations for the 2017 Tribal Election.
- An agenda item to approve a new official Seal of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was not
- Approved an investment in JTS Capitol Fund II, L.P.

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

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

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We will accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and above.

Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries.

We **do not** post wedding announcements.

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

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

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

or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Gary Batton Chief

Jack Austin Jr. Assistant Chief

The Official Monthly Publication of the

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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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



LETTERS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Tribal Council, for what you do for the Choctaw Nation. Even though I live in Omaha, Nebraska, and do not get to take advantage of many of the good programs provided for the Choctaw people, I can follow the progress in the *Biskinik*. I see many Indian programs that only help the few, not the tribe. It is refreshing to see the Choctaw leadership work for the people. Thanks again for the work you do to help the Choctaw people.

Bob Callahan Omaha, Neb.

We want to send a special thank you to the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, who did a 21 gun salute in honor of my dad at his funeral. Our family and friends will forever remember that special tribute. They did an excellent job and we appreciate it so much. We were so grateful for all the services my dad received before his death.

Anna Jean Craig Brown

I was adopted and am now looking for family members. My birth name was Stevie Ray LeFlore. I would like to get to know my birth family. I can be reached at rsriggs1989@gmail.com.

Robert Steven Riggs



Pictured above is my mom, Clarice June Weaver, with a beautiful Choctaw blanket sent to her for her 90th birthday. She wanted me to thank Chief Gary Batton and the Choctaw Nation for this present and the wonderful letter that accompanied it. She is very proud of the gift and recognition. I and the rest of my family also thank you and want to express how proud we are to be members of a nation who holds our elders in such reverence.

Sharon Sehon

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center June Health Fairs

Broken Bow Wednesday, June 7

Talihina

Wednesday, June 14

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

13th Annual Broke Shoulder Family Reunion Friday, June 9 - Saturday, June 10

Sac and Fox Nation Multipurpose Center 215 N. Harrison in Shawnee For more information call, Serena Underwood at (918) 820-2629, Wynona Lumpmouth at (623) 581-9864, or Renda Walters at (405) 693-2945

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

Sun

Guardianships and modifications

The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. At this time the legal department is not providing assistance with wills and probate. To make an appointment, or for any questions, contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

June Community Center Schedule

6-1 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3 6-6 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3

6-22 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3

6-29 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

July Community Center Schedule

Mon

7-6 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3 7-13 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3 7-27 Stigler: 10-1 & 1:30-3

July 2017

Tue

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Idabel by appointment Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Wed

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

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

21st Annual King Family Reunion

Saturday, June 10, at 10 a.m. **Senior Citizens Building** Railroad Street, Talihina

Descendants of Judy (King) Potts, Robert King, Ada (King) Spring, William Joseph King and Lillie Josephine (King) McGee are invited to attend the reunion. Bring a covered dish, family pictures, family

Janelle Kirkes (918) 522-4309 or John Bull (918) 522-4881

Reunion for the Families of

Folsom-Ward-Thompson-Kelly

June 10

Choctaw Community Center 1203 W. Liberty Atoka, OK

Starts at 10 a.m. Bring a dessert

Karen Kelly (580) 509-0254 or Jaynell Patton (405) 238-6564

Belvin Family Reunion

Robbers Cave State Park in Wilburton, Okla.

Saturday, June 10, at 5:30 p.m. there will be sandwiches at Shelter No. 5, which is located off of Deep Ford Road (the road to the left), just as you turn into the park area. Sunday, June 12, a potluck dinner will be held at Shelter No. 5beginning at 12:30 p.m.

> For more information contact Cindy at (580) 579-8293 Pam at (580) 279-9505 Stephanie at (580) 340-3209

Jefferson – Wade Reunion

Saturday, June 10, at 10 a.m. Robber's Cave State Park in Wilburton, Okla.

The reunion will be held at the usual area in the North Picnic area.

If additional information is needed, Contact Etta Baskin at (580) 579-2332

~~~~~~~

41st Annual Livingston Buck & Angeline Mitchell White Reunion **June 24** 

10 a.m.

Eat at noon.

Dale Cox Community Center in Poteau Bring a covered dish, dessert and/or soft drink, as well

as your genealogy and/or any old pictures. For more information contact

Kim White Robertson (918) 647-6153 Traci Cox (918) 677-2235

Second Annual Battiest/Watson Reunion Saturday, June 24 fron 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Broken Bow Park** 

Please bring a potluck dish, lawn chairs, and a case of pop. There will be games. Shirts will be available for \$10.

For questions contact Rachel Dixon ......(580) 236-2727

#### **Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association** and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

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

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

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

> McAlester Community Center June 16 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Thu

Sat



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

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

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

Choctaw College Clothing Allowance

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

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

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

\*Spring awarding begins June 1 - September 1, 2017

Apply online June 1, 2017

https://ccaapplication.choctawnation.com

\*Paper applications NO longer accepted

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

#### CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**Choctaw Nation** 

Faith Family Culture

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

July

#### <u>ANTLERS</u>

Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, & 31. Cooking with Carmen: July 10 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, & 31. Cooking with Carmen: July 6 & 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### DURANT

Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, & 31. Cooking with Carmen: July 5 & 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### MCALESTER

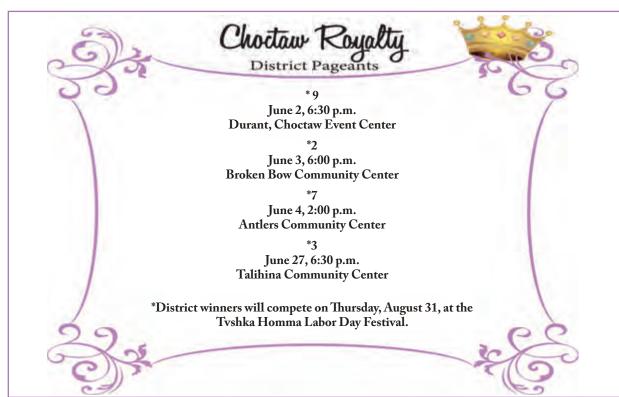
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, & 31. Cooking with Carmen: July 7 & 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### POTEAU

Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for: Closed: July 4, 28, & 31. Cooking with Carmen: July 13 & 18, 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. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages 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.



#### 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

Broken Bow Choctaw Boys and Girls Club

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hugo Choctaw Head Start Building

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Spiro Choctaw Community Building

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Talihina Hospital Cafeteria

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Talihina 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.

#### CHOCTAW NATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT



# Cyber Security Robotics & Biomedical

HUGO, OK - STEM Summer Youth Camp June 27, 28 and 29, 2017 8:30am - 4:30pm

POTEAU, OK - STEM Summer Youth Camp July 17, 18 and 19, 2017 8:30am - 4:30pm

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

#### PRE-HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION

ARE YOU CONFUSED ABOUT HOME LOANS?
FIRST TIME HOME BUYER?
IS THERE A FINANCE PACKAGE AVAILABLE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?
NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR CREDIT?

Come to our pre-homeownership class to learn the important steps in the home buying process.

No Fees. All materials furnished. Pre-registration is required. Classes are listed below please contact:

Sheila Ramirez at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 or sramirez@ChoctawHousing.com to register.

Shelbie Crow (580) 579-4068 Susan Shelton (580)372-3738

scrow@ChoctawHousing.com Hugo 6/08/2017 sshelton@ChoctawHousing.com Battiest 6/22/2017

Beckie Johnson

bjohnson@ChoctawHousing.com Poteau 6/03/2017

(580) 372-4154

#### POST PURCHASE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

YOU PURCHASED A HOME, BUT DO YOU KNOW THE NEXT STEPS?
ARE YOU COVERED WITH HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE?

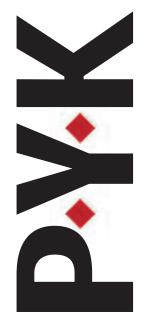
No Fees. All materials furnished. Pre-registration is required. Classes are listed below please contact:

Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 to pre-register.

Idabel Atoka Poteau June 13 July 11 August 8



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHOCTAW
NATION OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX G
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743



# **Choctaw Students Take Home Majority** of Top Medals at Language Fair

Photos by Tina Firquain

The Coalgate Choctaw Community Youth of the Choctaw Language Class placed first in the 9th-12th grade Large Group Traditional Song competition. They competed against the Anadarko Public Schools and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Language Program.

by TINA FIRQUAIN

On April 3 and April 4, Choctaw students competed in the 15th Annual Native American Youth Language Fair at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman.

Students from pre-K to 12th grade took part in events like singing traditional songs, speaking poetry, and a poster contest which featured the students' traditional native language.

Many of the students have been practicing and preparing for months.

Tvli Birdshead from the Coalgate Choctaw Community Youth class said, "It's a lot of practice with

the people in the Choctaw class and it's a whole lot of fun to be socializing with the people in there and just making friends with them."

This event is for more than just making friends, even though that is a big draw for some students.

Throughout the last 15 years, the event has gotten bigger because tribes are finding out how important it is to keep their language alive. They are using their children to help preserve

Warren Queton, Tribal Liaison for the University of Oklahoma and Language Fair Advisory

> member has a passion for language revitalization.

> Queton said, "Language revitalization is such an important part of our sovereignty and our identity as an Indian people, and we have a lot of wonderful language advocates that serve on the

Advisory Committee." Out of approximately 900 students who participated in the two-day event, over 130 Choctaws placed in the top three positions in their respective catego-

The School of Choctaw Language offers internet, community, college, high school, and GED classes,

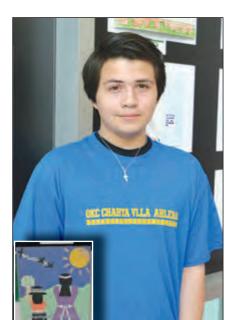
ries.

along with classes for those in Head Start.

Also available on their website are language lessons of the day and audio pronunciation of words.

If you would like to learn more about the Choctaw language or please go to ChoctawSchools.com.

Ryan Duncan a ninth-grader from Choctaw received Third Place in his age group for his poster.



Aeneas Freeman, an 11th-grader from Oklahoma City, received an Honorable Mention for his poster.

#### Three Choctaw Elders Turn 95

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Billie June Foster Farrar will be celebrating her 95th birthday on June 9, 2017. She is the daughter of original enrollee John Wesley Foster. Her children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren would all like to wish her a very happy birthday.

**TO YOU** Guy Neal will be 95 June 2, 2017. Guy has roots in Lawrence, Kansas, going back to the days when he attended Haskell Indian Nations. He is an Army veteran and fought in WWII with the 503 Regimental Combat Team overseas in Australia and the Philippines. He is married to Nora Lois Neal and they are celebrating his birthday in Lawrence.

AND TO YOU

Julia Dean Alexander is 95 years old. She celebrated her birthday April 17, 2017. She was raised in Atoka county on tribal land that her father received and she is very proud of her time serving the U.S. in the Pacific theater during WWII. Julia would like to say yakoke to every one who wished her a happy

# **Choctaw Veteran Connects** with Tuskegee Airman of WWII

Tommy Davis, Choctaw veteran, prewould like to take classes sented a fellow veteran with a Choctaw Nation lapel pin.

Davis served in the United States Marine Corps in 1969 during the Vietnam era. Now he connects with other veterans to talk about ther service and others who have served in the Armed Forces.

Davis met with Sergeant Edward Wadley who served as a Tuskegee Air-

man in WWII. Wadley is not a Choctaw tribal member, but he served in WWII just as two of Davis' uncles did.

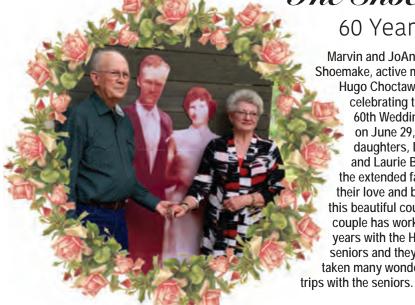
Wadley was the Operations Sergeant under the command of the then Commander Benjamin O. Davis, later to become General Davis. Wadley was responsible for accounting for all aircrafts on missions and for when the aircrafts returned to home base.

The two shared stories about the

Airmen and the Choctaw Code Talkers, both of WWII.

**Tommy Davis** and Sgt. Edward Wadley met at the Country **Buffet in Lake**wood, Washington. Both are Oklahoma born **United States Armed Forces** 

Veterans.



#### The Shoemakes 60 Years Strong

Marvin and JoAnn Wilson Shoemake, active members of the Hugo Choctaw Seniors, are celebrating their Diamond, 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 29, 2017. Their daughters, Dani Morales and Laurie Bass, along with the extended family, send their love and best wishes to this beautiful couple! The happy couple has worked for many years with the Hugo seniors and they have taken many wonderful



# District 9 Seniors Graduate from Dress Making Class

#### by KENDRA GERMANY

On March 22, Choctaw Cultural Services hosted the Choctaw Dress Making Style Show at the District 9 Community Center in Durant.

Graduates of the class showed off dresses they learned how to make during classes taught by Oneida Winship.

Graduates included Ann Baskin, Ann Kaniatobe, Deanna Creel, Diana LaRoque, Georgina Yeager, LaDona Dry, and Sharon Mullins.

According to Winship, she began teaching classes about a year ago.

"We had several requests come through the cultural office," said Winship. Winship now teaches classes in Durant, Idabel, Talihina, and Wilburton.

"I teach about three times a week. This coming year, it's probably going to be about

four," said Winship. According to Winship, she enjoys teaching the classes because she gets to share her

talents and culture with her students. Students made their own traditional Choctaw dress, adding their own personal

touches like color and style.

Winship likes to teach her classes with "old school" techniques.

"There are a lot that they've cut corners on that I'd really like to see come back as a part of the culture," said Winship. "I think when they learn how to lay the material, to actually stitch, hide their seams, you know they feel like they've actually accomplished something."

Cultural Resources and Services goal is to have more dress makers in the Choctaw Nation service area so families of the next generation will know about our dresses and families are able to afford the cost of dresses. Currently, dresses are ranging from \$250 to \$400," said Winship.

According to Winship, the graduates have learned a skill that they can pass on.

"I am hopeful that with more dressmakers like Ms. Creel, Ms, Kaniatobe, Ms. Larocque, and Ms. Yeager, that the cost of dress may be less than current prices. Four of the seven ladies plan to join the Choctaw Tribal Artistry for dress/textile design. The additional three ladies made their dresses to wear as they welcome visitors or participate in the senior citizen welcoming committee."

During the style show, many of the graduates also showed off feather fans they

learned how to make during a workshop taught by Carole Ayers.

"We offered an opportunity for everybody to make their fans after our senior meetings on Wednesday afternoons. We got the wooden handles and the feathers and let everybody pick what they wanted to do," said Ayers. "We have probably made 30 fans



Pictured are the graduates of the District 9 Seniors dress making class. Each graduate was presented with a certificate and a pin noting their completion of the course. (from left) Sharon Mullins, LaDona Dry, Georgia Yeager, Instructor Oneida Winship, Diana LaRoque, Deanna Creel and Ann Kaniatobe.

so far."

According to Ayers, these fans will be used in powwows.

"We've been given the opportunity to join in the grand entry at Red Earth. Those of us who have the regalia have made shawls already. So, we wanted fans to go with them. A lot of people are making their fans to coordinate with their outfit. They're all really individual," said Ayers.

Winship plans on teaching more classes in the future and foresees even larger student numbers.

For more information on dressmaking and other classes offered, visit http://www. ChoctawNationCulture.com.



# District 6 Seniors Clean House Colbert Commits



When the District 6 seniors traveled from Wilburton to Broken Bow for a game of chair volleyball, they found a tournament instead of the friendly game they were expecting. Seniors from Broken Bow, Bethel, Smithville, Poteau, and Wilburton participated in the Chair Volleyball Tournament. The Wilburton seniors cleaned house and walked away as tournament champions. Members of the championship team are (front, from left) Teresa Clayburn, Mary Jane Nichter and Claudia Hodge. (back, from left) are Ralph Adcock, Mary Adcock, Polly McCord, Desiree Baker, Sharon Aaron, Geraldine Isabell, Bydia "Bear" Carney, Bob Holt, Helga Boerner, and Merle Sam.

# to Sterling College

Weldon Colbert committed to play football at Sterling College in Kansas, where he plans to earn a Business Administration degree. Colbert attended Golden Valley High School in Bakersfield, California, where he played quarterback and was named player of the week numerous times. During his senior year, he was named Kern County athlete of the week. He recently graduated with a 3.32 GPA



and was a member of the Student Leadership group, competed in track and field and mentoring younger students. He is active in 4-H and has completed many hours of community service. He is the grandson of Atha "Sonny" and Sharon Colbert of Bakersfield.

# Turner Selected for All-



Cody Andrew Turner, a senior at Sayre High School, has been selected to play on the 2017 Oklahoma Native All-State Boys basketball team.

Several nominations from all parts of Oklahoma were received by the Oklahoma Native All-State As-

The Native American All-State games will begin on Friday, June 16, at Bacone College in Muskogee with a recognition/award banquet featuring a keynote

#### basketball, softball, and baseball. Turner, who graduated from Sayre High School on May 26, is the son of Crissy and Mark Layman and Misty Turner. Free Language Classes





The organization's selection committee selected Turner to play on the All-State boys basketball team.

speaker. The All-State games will start on Saturday, June 17. In addition to boys basketball, there will be girls



## Pounds Races to Second Place Finish in Grand Prix



Saxon Quinn Pounds, 10, Tulsa, won second place in the 2016 Oklahoma Grand Prix of Cyclocross series girls 9–10

Pounds rides with the Oklahoma Flyers and is a fourth grade student at Marquette Catholic School in Tulsa.

She is the daughter of Kristen and David Pounds of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Betsy Wright of Claremore, Kevin and Sherri Lefler and Mike and Jeanie Pounds, all of Owasso and David and Carren Milligan of

Her great-grandparents are Norma and Lanny Nellis of Norman, Dean Brannon of Owasso and Alice Farbro of

#### Jones Academy Robotics Team Gears Up for Another Competition



Coach Zack Duffy and Joy Tribbey, Project Director along with the Jones Academy Robotics Team at the Kiss Institute for Practical Robotics tournament in Norman.

by TINA FIRQUAIN

For the second year in a row, the Jones Academy Robotics Team competed in a double elimination tournament March 25.

The team participated in two rounds of preliminary judging before actually testing their skills and preparation against another team.

They made it three rounds before being eliminated. The second team they faced were actually ranked as number one throughout most of the tournament.

Zach Duffy, Coach of the Jones Academy Robotics Team said, "We're scoring reliably about 40 to 50 points and at practice before we got here we were scoring about 60 points so there are a few things that aren't working out quite right yet."

While at the tournament, the robots were becoming less efficient at scoring points, but Coach Duffy said that the day's events were to get the team ready for nation-

"As we progress towards nationals, we're going to take that 60 points and go for a lot more points," said Duffy. "We're hoping by nationals that we're scoring 200

Although the Jones Academy Team did not rank High

at the Regional Tournament in March, they will be attending the Global Conference on Educational Robotics

Coach Duffy believes that the team has what it takes to score high.

Duffy said that he hopes his students are learning from their experiences on the team. "It's really all about problem-solving and no single person can solve every prob-

lem. I try to instill in them that it takes all of us to have a real winning team.

As the team works on their robots at Jones Academy, they are training for the national conference.

To learn more about the Jones Academy Robotics Team visit Jones Academy. org, and if you would like to support the team, the Global Conference on Educational Robotics will be held in Norman From July 8 through July 12.



Halito! Chahta Anumpa Kil Ikhvna! (Let's learn the Choctaw language!) Registration is now open for Chahta Anumpa Internet classes. Go online to register for classes, find required materials, and use the student checklist. WEBSITE: www.choctawschool.com LANGUAGE DEPT.: (800) 522-6170 J.T.: ext - 5163 JUNIOR: ext - 4021 LILLIE: ext - 2101

**Hurry Now and Register!** 

# **Choctaw Nation March Mania Basketball Winners Announced**

by STACY HUTTO

While March Madness swept across the Nation, March Mania struck in the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Nation March Mania Employee Basketball Tournament was held on Saturday, March 25, in Talihina.

The tournament was open to all departments in the Choctaw Nation. Six junior varsity and 11 varsity teams participated. Due to the size of the tournament, both gyms were in use.

The varsity team Tribal Thunder continued their win streak from last year and won first place. Second place went to Flying Dutchmen and third place went to Wolf Pack.

Outreach Fakers took the top spot in junior varsity. Not Fast Just Furious claimed second place and Sooper Hoopers clinched third place.

The varsity bracket included Straight Outta Breath, The Champs Are Here, Magnificent 12, Thunder Up, Globo Gym, Red Warriors, Warriors, and Dream Team.

The junior varsity bracket included Choctaws, Tvshka Chahta, and Southern Choctaws.

Previously, the tournament was called the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority Employee Tournament and was only open to CNHSA employees due to facility limitations. The yearly tournament started through a grant with CNHSA to increase physical activity.







The Choctaw Nation Next Step Initiative is a supplemental food and necessity program that promotes self-sustainment through foundational training opportunities. The Next Step Initiative is income based. However, the program is designed to assist families slightly over income for many income based programs.

Eligibility requirements include: One Choctaw tribal member in the household. Reside in the Choctaw Nation service area. Must be a working household (Some exemptions apply). Income based. Training participation required.

Offices and Social Workers are located at the following food distribution centers: Antlers (580) 298-6443; Broken Bow (580) 584-2842; Durant (580) 924-7773; McAlester (918) 420-5716; and Poteau (918) 649-0431.



Local Choctaw Woman Makes History as Welder

Tribal member Jayna Johnson recently made history at Force Welding School in Valliant. Johnson is the first

at Force Welding School in Valliant. Johnson is the first woman to graduate from the institution in its 10-year history.

Being a female in a male-dominated field can be intimidating, but Johnson has taken the challenge in stride.

"At first, I thought people were going to be like, 'Oh, it's a girl. She couldn't do anything.' But, then I got out there and people actually respect you for being in a male-dominated field," said Johnson. "So, it's different but I just kind of have to mute everybody else out and do my own thing."

Before attending Force Welding School, Johnson worked as a personal trainer and in retail.

"I just thought to myself, 'You can do anything you want, what do you want to do," said Johnson.

Johnson decided that she should step outside of the box and try something new like welding.

She applied at Force Welding, owned and operated by Travis Sargent and his wife Becky.

"We set up a deal where you have to interview at first to make sure that this is actually going to fit your lifestyle," said Sargent. "She got asked a lot more questions than some of the guys get asked because I wanted to make sure this was the direction that she was going to go in life."

by KENDRA GERMANY

Though he had initial reservations about whether Johnson was cut out for the Welding business or not, Sargent soon realized how determined Johnson was.

"She caught on fairly quick. It was a little more challenging sometimes because, in the construction world, things can be harsh," said Sargent. "So I kind of teach with that approach. Sometimes I think Jayna's feelings got a little hurt, but she always knew I had her best interest at heart."

According to Johnson, school was challenging at times, but once she started actually welding everything changed.

"It didn't click until the first day of school when I actually welded. It was at the end of the day and I was actually pretty good. I didn't think I'd be good at it until I tried," said Johnson.

From that moment on, she was hooked.

Johnson excelled in her schooling and graduated in September.

"I was really skeptical about how the work world was going to accept her," said Sargent. "One of our missions here is not only going to school, but I also help get their first job. So, I knew I had my work cut out for me to get some of the construction companies to actually accept, hey this is a girl, she really can weld, and she is going to do you a good job."

Sargent contacted a friend in the industry, and Johnson soon started her first job at Valero in Ardmore.



Jayna and Chief Batton pose with some of Jayna's classmates during a ceremony held at Force Welding School on March 28.



Photos by Kendra Germany

Jayna Johnson is the first woman to graduate from Force Welding School in Valliant. Johnson excelled in the program, and has proven that she can be successful in a typically male dominated field.

"I was genuinely treated with the utmost respect and made lifelong friends," said Johnson. "Working 12 hours a day, seven days a week, you become a family and learn to rely on each other for support. I gained a wealth of knowledge that I will use to further my career. I now have a new found respect for sleeping in and home cooked meals."

Johnson looks forward to where this career will take her in the future.

"My goal is to just stay busy, save, and invest whatever I make and hopefully move up the scale at work. Maybe I'll be a foreman one day," said Johnson.

Force Welding School started with a little help from Penny James and Gena Fowler from Choctaw Nation Career Development.

James and Fowler approached Sargent about putting on a small welding class to help five Choctaw students.

"When we got our first five through, they passed their state certification, and I put them to work. It just kind of grew from there," said Sargent.

Since that first small class, Force Welding has been churning out successful welders into the workforce.

"To date, I think there have been around 115 students come through the program. We've got about 72 percent out of 155 that are currently working in the welding world or some related field," said Sargent.

For more information on Force Welding School, call (580) 579-7519, (580) 743-2123 or email forcewelding@valliant.net.

## Choctaw Nation 2017 Senior and WIC Farmers Market Season has Arrived

by PEGGY CARLTON

The WIC Farmers Market and Senior Farmers Market season has begun.

The farmers will begin visiting the Choctaw Nation Community Centers on Wednesdays in Durant, Atoka, Hugo, Broken Bow, Idabel, McAlester, and Antlers as soon as they start harvesting their produce.

Be sure to call your nearest community center to inquire about whether farmers are there to avoid long driving times.

Harvesting of fresh produce comes at different times and the farmer may not have enough produce to bring to the community centers every Wednesday.

ne community centers every wednesday.

They usually arrive 8–9 a.m. and are there until noon or their produce sells out.

The seniors who turned in applications for the Senior Farmers Market and qualified, were mailed checks the last

The WIC Farmers Market participants can start requesting their checks as they make their WIC appointments at

the Choctaw Nation WIC clinic sites.

You do not have to have an appointment, but to avoid long waiting times, be sure and call to ask about a conve-

nent time.
Farmers are asked to utilize the farmers list given to them when they received their checks.

The phone numbers of the farmers are on the list for their convenience. When visiting a farmer to purchase fresh produce, customers are asked to get there early. A better selection is available.

Customers do not have to be farmers market participants to purchase produce from authorized farmers.

Everyone who loves fresh fruits and vegetables is encouraged to come out and support local farmers.

If you are interested in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, please call Peggy Carlton at (580) 916-9140 ext. 83812. It is "first come, first served" until funding is depleted.

#### **Farmers Wanted!**

Local farmers needed for the Choctaw Nation Farmer's Market to set up at the Talihina Health Care Facility.

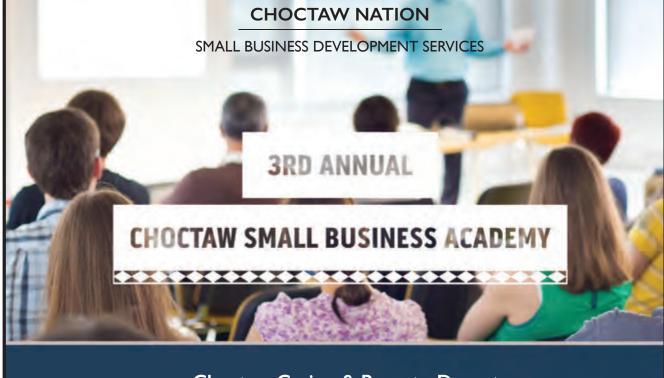
#### Guidelines are:

Growers must apply by application and have approval from the Farmer's Market Coordinator before selling products.

All produce sold shall be Oklahoma grown and 80 percent grown by the seller. Twenty percent may be purchased from other Oklahoma growers.

Farmers must live within the 10 1/2 counties and grow at least four fruits or vegetables.

For more details contact Peggy Carlton at (580) 916-9140 ext. 83812.



Choctaw Casino & Resort - Durant July 10th & 11th

Join us for this two day motivational training event for both start-up and expansion businesses

For more information or to register please visit: www.choctawsmallbusiness.com or call Gary Johnson at 580-924-8280 ext. 2998

#### Atoka Head Start Cuts Ribbon on State-of-the-Art Building

by STACY HUTTO

A group of Choctaw Nation Head Start students in Atoka held the ribbon for District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard during the ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 13.

The new facility is located at 1633 W. Liberty Rd. and is in the same complex as the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic, Community Center and Wellness Center.

The 7,681-square-foot building contains two classrooms, a parent resource room and a full commercial kitchen. The canopy drop-off area keeps students dry as they are dropped off and picked up.

Chief Gary Batton introduced the Head Start students and said, "that's why we do this. We want to make sure our kids have a true head start in life. This is part of their education process."

Batton also mentioned how thankful he was for the tribal council and how they believe in making sure services are provided to the Choctaw people.

According to Dillard, the new building has been long overdue. Choctaw Nation Head Start has been in Atoka for over 20

"They haven't had what you would call a real home," Dillard said. "They started out in our old community center on Gin Road. Then they got to move to a day care they made do as a Head Start for 15-16 years. They're finally getting a home of their own."

Dillard mentioned the classrooms were

interactive and even the paint scheme, the designs on the floors and walls, stimulate learning in the students. "Even the ceiling tiles have different figures, animals and teaching aids," he said.

> Head Start supervisor Anita

Zurline mentioned how the new building has more safety features than their previous building.

"In our old location when you entered the building you were in the classroom," Zurline said.

The new Head Start has many different safety features. Among them are a FEMA compliant safe room, a backup generator, fire sprinkler system, numerous fire alarms, fire resistant insulation made from recycled paper, audio and video security cameras.

Bullet-resistant walls and glass, in ad-

volved by bringing them pictures of the different stages of construction. dition to keyless entries, help keep each classroom safe.

Atoka Head Start students hold the ribbon for District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard to cut during the ribbon cutting

ceremony Thursday, April 13. The new Head Start has two interactive classrooms, a parent resource room, several safety

features and a large play area. The construction was completed in just over a year. The contractor kept the students in-

CHOCTAW NATION

HEAD START

Head Start teacher Rachel Pittman said the students are excited about the new building.

"The beginning of the year they did a study on buildings and Builder Jason, our contractor, talked to the kids about what they were doing," Pittman said.

The contractor also brought pictures of the different stages of construction. Basically, the children have been involved in every stage of construction.

According to Pittman, the students favorite thing about the new building was the sinks and toilets being kid sized.

She said where they are now they have to use stools since everything is standard sized.

The teachers, as well as the students, were hoping to be able to be in the new building this school year.

Students, new and returning, in August will be the first class to use the new building and 9,750-square-foot play area with artificial turf, shade awnings and new playground equipment.

Pittman said the children really enjoyed the feel of the artificial turf and were excited to play on it.

# Former Jones Academy Student Gave His Life During Attack on Pearl Harbor

Henry Ellis Nolatubby's sister, Wahnetah Nolatubby Louis, donated his stickball sticks to Jones Academy in memory of her brother's sacrifice over 75 years ago.

They are sacred relics, reminders of an age of innocence when a youthful Nolatubby was a student at the academy. It was another time and another world.

The sticks are in a glass display case in the fover of the elementary school.

There is a picture of Nolatubby, handsomely dressed in his U.S. Marine Corps blues. It is unspeakable beauty.

A plaque is nestled in the display with the inscription that states Henry Ellis Nolatubby was the "first American Indian killed in World War II while serving aboard the battleship U. S. S. Arizona."

Nolatubby was

19-years-old at the time of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

American losses at the time were numbered at over 2,400 dead, of which 1,177 of those killed were crewmen of the U.S.S. Arizona.

Nolatubby's body, along with over 1,000 of his shipmates, is entombed in ancient wreckage submerged in less than 40 feet of water.

The sunken vessel is the

crew's Ebenezer, proclaiming the price of freedom.

Our students at Jones Academy often rush past the glass display as they go about their pedestrian activities.

Occasionally one or more will pause to examine the artifacts.

Their teachers point ance; when a moment out to them, from time to later, he stood as a man to time, the sweet reminder protect those liberties. of a young boy who once walked and lived at Jones tell of his selflessness, Academy. of Henry Nolatubby's

ultimate sacrifice for his people and his nation. His is a story that evokes reverence and awe.

Johes Academy Corner Nolatubby's name is also included in a monument dedicated to 30 former

Jones

Acad-

emy

students who died during the Great Con-

flict. The memorial sits on the campus grounds.



Look for information on the 2017 Labor Day Festival in upcoming issues of the Biskinik, Choctaw Nation social media, and the Choctaw Nation website!

#### Pastor Olin Williams

The stickball sticks

to learn

and filled with

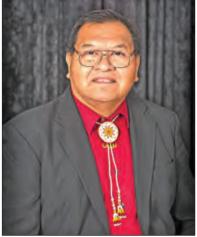
playful exuber-

He had been

just like

them,

# Going the Second Mile



**Pastor Olin Williams Employee Chaplain** 

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain (Matthew 5:41 KJV).

Jesus is teaching a new concept to his disciples and the multitude. They were astonished at this new doctrine, for he taught them as one having authority.

The Roman law had adopted a concept from the Persian system of royal message courier's authority to utilize any citizen in accomplishing their

At this time, Roman law was in force. Under this law, a Roman soldier or citizen could compel a subject from the conquered lands to carry his backpack or load for one mile.

The Roman road system had a stone marker at each mile. These stones were called "guide stones." These stones determined distances, direction, and guide to the city of Rome.

The law required the subject to carry the com-

pelled load from one guide stone to the next. This was the first mile. It is the hardest mile because it goes against the will and convenience of the subject. The Roman soldier or citizen often abused this law to have superior advantage and control. Yet Jesus is teaching one to go the first mile under force and continue the second mile

by self-will. He is teaching a new concept. The first mile is by law. The second mile is by This new doctrine taught by Jesus is still in effect. There are three institutions in our

society that can benefit from this.

Institution No. 1–Marriage

The first mile is the first few years of marriage. It is a time of adjustments of wills. Each spouse attempts to change the other to his or her expectations. It is a time of the law of conformity. It is said that it takes an average of seven years for the brain to adapt the concept of thinking for two instead of oneself. Then the second mile emerges when serving each other and merging into one becomes the dominate behavior.

Institution No. 2–Work

The first mile in the labor force is adjusting to the employer's expectations. The rules and regulations of the particular employment may not suit our personality and skills. It is at this time we do just what is required of us. We don't enjoy our work. It is mandatory labor. The second mile is when we begin to love our work and apply our whole self to the benefit of others. This is the point when we go above and beyond the call of duty and see promotions and profits.

Institution No. 3-Christian Life

In the first mile, the new convert attempts to adjust to the new spiritual laws. Walking in both physical and spiritual laws, he finds the new life frustrating and disappointing at times. Trying to fulfill the required laws already done and completed by Jesus, he stumbles in self-effort. After a few years of study and compliant to the Word, the second mile of maturity exposes him to a spirit filled walk of agape love in which he finally understands the doctrine of going the second mile.

