



Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session May 14 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

Committee reports were presented on Summer Youth Work, Career Development, Video Production, Broken Bow Health Clinic, Youth Advisement Board, McAlester Health Clinic, and Atoka Casino Too. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Presentation of School of Language Teacher Certification
- Budget and re-contracting for Choctaw Nation Early Head Start Program FY2016/2017
- Replace RS-02-06, as amended by RS-08-12 (new designation authority to sign documents)
- Amend CB-104-15 (Amend property description of need for acquisition and usage of land in Bryan County)
- Approve an underground right of way easement to Public Service Company of Oklahoma on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land in Choctaw County, Oklahoma
- Approve Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to enter in business transactions and/or Indebtedness with First United Bank and Trust Company and a limited waiver of sovereign immunity

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

Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Record Breaking Tornado Hits Boswell

By STACY HUTTO
Choctaw Nation

Tornado season kicked off in high gear on Monday, May 9, when multiple tornados touched down in southeastern Oklahoma. Four tornados tied with the April 2, 1982 outbreak for the most single day total of EF-3 or greater tornados to touch down. The total number of tornados during the outbreak was 12. Three were EF-3, including the tornado in Boswell, which possibly set a Texoma record for the widest tornado.

In Boswell, the tornado started near the home belonging to DeeAnn Ply and traveled down 2080 Road. Ply's home was a total loss. During the storm she took refuge in her son's home. Ply said they took cover under a mattress as they "heard it moving over us." The storm was so strong



Photo by Stacy Hutto

David Jones packs up what is left of his kitchen after his home on 2080 Road in Boswell was destroyed by an EF-3 tornado on Monday, May 9.

they could feel it lifting them off the floor. Ply's home was one of approximately 40 homes that were impacted by the tornado. Close to half of the homes belonged to Choctaw citizens. There were two people injured, one critically.

About 20 minutes after the Boswell tornado broke up an EF-1 tornado with wind speeds of 95 to 101 mph had Hugo in its sights. While the EF-1 was weaker than the record setting tornado that devastated Boswell, it caused a lot of roof, tree and power line

damage as it traveled down Jackson Street. Many of the businesses in Hugo suffered damage due to the tornado.

The morning after the tornado several employees from the Choctaw Nation arrived in Boswell to help with the cleanup efforts, cleared debris from homes and roads and prepared food for residents and aid workers. Mental health counselors from McAlester made up of Choctaw Nation health representatives set up at the pavilion next to the Choctaw Nation Nutrition Center for anyone who needed their assistance.

A strike team of nurses went out into the field on four wheelers to adminis-

was grateful for the help as several people cut up fallen trees in her yard.

"It's Choctaw employees helping fellow employees," Harvey said.

David and Sue Jones live uphill from DeeAnn Ply. David said when he saw the storm coming in he could feel it was going to be a bad one, so he and his wife went to their daughter-in-law's residence and got in the cellar.

After the storm passed, they drove as close to their home as they could, but still had to walk a mile under and over trees that had fallen in the road.

David said the closer they got to their house the more

A Gift that Keeps on Giving for Choctaw Nation Drug Canine

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

Now, catching criminals is safer for one Tribal K9 Officer.

Early May, Choctaw Nation's tribal K9 Gitano received a bullet and stab proof vest from Vested Interest in K9s Inc.

Gitano is a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois. He has been a partner with Zach McIntyre, a Tribal Police Officer for over three and a half years and McIntyre couldn't be happier that his partner now has protection.

"Having the vest makes me feel good, I don't have to worry about him as much. I know if something were to happen that he has that extra protection which is the main key at the end of the day, to be safe and go home," said McIntyre.

The two started working for the Nation in October 2014. McIntyre is Choctaw and said Gitano is as much Choctaw as him.

After McIntyre completed the application for the vest, he had to wait several weeks for it to arrive as each vest is custom made for each K9 and is made in America.

According to vik9s.org, "Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of Law Enforcement and related agencies throughout the country."

Gitano traveled from overseas then trained as a puppy at Little Rock K9 Academy in Arkansas.

Gitano has been working on the streets for about four years and McIntyre said, "all he knows is work, to be a work dog. He lives it and he loves it." Anywhere McIntyre goes, Gitano goes. Gitano is his partner and backup officer.

As a K9, Gitano is required to train regularly, "We train with the Durant Police Department twice a month. The state requires a minimum of 16 hours of training a month to keep the dog reliable."

Now, Gitano has to do extra training so he can work comfortably and effectively with the vest on. The vest weighs approximately 40 pounds and is valued between \$2,500 and \$3,000. It also comes with a five-year warranty according to vik9s.org.

Gitano has not taken down any criminals on the streets yet, but his regular training keeps him prepared so if the situation should arise, he is ready.

Although he has no street take downs, Gitano has helped in many busts, McIntyre said, "We have seized lots of vehicles, thousands of dollars of drug related money, drugs." McIntyre and Gitano have assisted the Calera Police Department. Gitano was able to sniff out over 100 grams of methamphetamine in the vehicle, with a street value of approximately, \$11,000 to \$12,000.

According to McIntyre, having a dog is an advantage in the workforce because they won't think twice about responding, they just do it. Humans have natural reaction and

instincts. Dogs won't think about their selves, they just help and do what they know. This can be very



Photo by Tina Firquain

Gitano shows off his new vest while he gives his partner, Zach McIntyre a hug.

helpful, but very dangerous at the same time.

Gitano is a big intimidation factor. When McIntyre says he has a K9 in the car, or a suspect hears Gitano bark, they don't try to run or misbehave and that plays a big role in both the officers safety.

Even though Gitano can be intimidating, he is still at risk to be injured. McIntyre said, "This is extra safety for Gitano because anything can happen on a traffic stop, or when you are helping people. Some people could just come and start shooting at me or Gitano and this is just extra protection for him."

Now that Gitano has a bullet and stab proof vest, he can better protect his partner and the Choctaw Nation. Gitano and Zach are staying busy but most importantly, they are staying safe.



Photo by Charles Clark

Chief Batton signs an Emergency Declaration in his office on Thursday, May 12, after tornados tore through Boswell and Hugo.

ter tetanus shots to people sifting through the destruction, those who were unable to get to the pavilion and responders. The American Red Cross was set up in the Nutrition Center to assist storm victims.

Choctaw Nation Facilities employees were out in force clearing debris from people's yards. Marsha Harvey said just about all the adults in her home work in restaurants at the Choctaw Casino in Durant. She said the tornado went all around her home, tore the roof off and tore up trees in her yard. She said she

upset his wife got. When they were finally able to see their house all that was standing was the kitchen and bathrooms.

According to David, the tornado tore up a lot of his pipe fence. It also picked up a creep feeder and dropped it on the other side of a 20 acre field.

A four wheeler that had been sitting in the carport was wedged between a gate, fence and telephone pole.

After the damage was assessed, Chief Gary Batton signed an Emergency Declaration in his office on Thursday, May 12.

The Choctaw Nation Storm Shelter Program

is administered through the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation, Choctaw tribal members who live in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas and own their own home can apply for a one-time grant to have a storm shelter installed.

The age limit has been lowered to include all tribal members age 18 and older who own their own home. Choctaw homeowners between the ages of 18 and 44 who meet the requirements will be eligible for a grant in the amount of \$1,250. The age limit to receive the full grant amount of \$2,500 has been lowered from 55 years old to 45 years old.

Homeowners with a documented ambulatory disability who meet the remaining requirements qualify for a \$4,200 grant.

The Storm Shelter Program began the summer of 2013 and the first voucher was issued in August 2013. Before the age limit dropped the program served 3,322 households.

Tribal members can have the storm shelter installed in a new, or existing home. In addition to being installed at the applicant's primary residence, the property must be owned by the applicant as well.

To download an application for the Storm Shelter Program go to www.ChoctawHousing.com, click on the "Services" link and select "Choctaw Nation Storm Shelter Service." New applicants can contact the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation by calling 1-800-235-3085, P.O. Box G, Hugo, Oklahoma, 74743, or going by their office at 207 Jim Monroe Rd. in Hugo. Applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



ful day to honor our ancestors and their perseverance to sustain our culture. We are blessed to have their blood running through our veins.

The Color Guard carried the U.S. and Choctaw Nation flags high as we respectfully fell into step behind them. There were children walking with their parents and grandparents. Everyone helped each other, as it would have been during the original long journey. There were families with several generations who had made the walk every year we’ve held it and there were elders walking it for the first time.

I heard people talking as we walked, sharing the stories that had been handed down about their grandmother or grandfather that was on the Trail of Tears.

There were many people lost on the journeys from Mississippi. We lost family and we lost a lot of our culture. It’s a blessing to have so many today wanting to learn more about our people. This is the way we will continue to be such a strong Nation. The language, culture and history are being preserved through the foresight of families who share their knowledge and through classes held by the School of Choctaw Language, Choctaw Nation Cultural Services and Historic Preservation programs.

Language instructor Nicholas Charleston gave a special presentation on the day of the commemorative walk. The young man spoke as Chief George Harkins during the Trail of Tears, reciting a letter to the American people. The letter is considered one of the most important Native documents of its time.

The words from “our Chief” resonated in my mind and my heart. Our ancestors chose to suffer to be free. Chief Harkins hoped that another generation of Choctaws wouldn’t feel the oppression they felt. I believe we have fulfilled his vision of hope and prosperity, and with God’s blessing we will continue to succeed.



Nicholas Charleston from the Choctaw Nation Language department reenacted a moment in Choctaw history at the 2016 Trail of Tears Walk. Speaking as Chief George Harkins, Nicholas read from a letter he wrote to the American people.

Photo by Lisa Reed



The Future is Growth

The faith, family and culture of the Choctaw Nation are evident in gatherings of Choctaw people everywhere. We had a great time at the Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield and at the commemorative Trail of Tears Walk at Tvshka Homma.

It’s an honor to see the respect shown to our veterans at these events.

During the Walk, I thought of the sacrifices of our ancestors and I thought of the sacrifices of our veterans. The military men and women are the reason we have the freedom to travel, hold events, and exhibit our faith.

Each district in the Nation is hosting a special luncheon for the Choctaw veterans in their area to show their gratitude and respect. The lunches, the veterans ceremony in

November, care packages, and jackets are a few of the ways we say thank you. The Veterans Advocacy program is overseeing a project to install new signs for veterans parking at Choctaw Nation facilities. The department is also available to assist Choctaw veterans and their families as they apply for benefits from the Veterans Administration. Contact information and helpful links can be found on our website ChoctawNation.com.

The Choctaw Nation has many reasons to be thankful. The current growth is phenomenal and we wouldn’t have the resources without the selflessness of the veterans.

Construction is complete on the new Community Center and new Head Start in the Bethel/Battiest area with grand openings scheduled this month. The new, larger facilities will replace the existing Bethel centers and be more centrally located between Bethel and Battiest in northern McCurtain County. The school will have newer technology and a safe room and the community center will give seniors more room for meals and activities.

The construction on the new Hugo Community Center is well under way and we are breaking ground on a new travel plaza nearby. Three travel plazas are getting facelifts—those in Atoka, Garvin and Wilburton. A groundbreaking ceremony is also being held this month on wellness centers in Antlers and Stigler.

Providing more jobs, places to come together, or a facility in which to exercise for better health strengthens our communities. It’s a great day to be Choctaw!



Photo by Ronni Pierce

Families and friends came out to honor those who walked the Trail of Tears from Mississippi to Indian Territory during the annual commemorative Walk on Saturday, May 21.



Photo Provided

Four generations of Edmon Perkins’ family (left to right) his aunt Evelyn Perkins Womble, his father Edmon Lee Perkins Sr., grandfather Robert Lee Perkins, great-great-grandfather John T. Gibson, and great-grandmother Pauline Gibson.

Our Legacy

Choctaw potter **Edmon Lee Perkins Jr.** has both Choctaw and Creek heritage. He still farms his family’s Choctaw allotted land on the South Canadian River near Atwood, Oklahoma.

Native Americans passed family stories down from generation to generation and Perkins shares one he remembers hearing when he was a kid.

“It’s one way their history is moved from the past into the present,” Perkins said. “My family has our share of these stories. One of these was passed on to me from my Papa—to him from his Granny Stanfield (Pauline Gibson).”

Perkins’ family story is about a ship that sank on the Mississippi River in 1837 with 700 Native Americans on board on their way to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. Many Native American people did not survive this tragedy; around 300 on the ship died. “My papa never said it was the Monmouth, or told the names of my relatives on board. My great-great-grandma Polly Leecher was on the ‘restitution list’ for the Monmouth. She received \$ 154 for her losses. The following is in my papa’s words that he told me in the 1950s and 60s when I was a kid.”

“In my Papa’s words, when my great-great-grandpa Gibson and his wife were on their way to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears, they got on a boat to cross the Mississippi River. Grandpa was a white man, so he could hang around with the ship crew. The Indians were kept separate.

“While they were gambling, they told him that the boat was going to be scuttled that night. Grandpa went back to his wife and told her to pass the word around to all the other Indians that the crew was going to scuttle the boat, and that when it started, everyone should swim to the west bank and build signal fires. Grandpa was worried about his wife because she was 9 months pregnant.

“When the boat started sinking in the night, in all the chaos, Grandpa got separated from his wife. He swam to shore and started looking for her. Grandpa had come out at the third signal fire. He started going down river from fire to fire trying to find her. He went to the fourth fire and she wasn’t there...to the fifth fire and she wasn’t there...he went all the way to the eighth signal fire which was the last one, and she still wasn’t to be found. This really worried Grandpa because of her being pregnant. At this point he was beginning to think that she probably didn’t make it. But he went ahead and started going back up river re-checking the fires all the way back up to the third signal fire where he had come out.

“With little hope, he went to the second fire...and she wasn’t there. Then he went all the way up to the first fire and found her. She had swum nearly straight across from the boat to the shore.”

Perkins and his wife, Lorene, have a daughter that is 9 months pregnant. Ed feels his daughter has inherited the strength and determination exhibited by her female foremothers.

“The story shows part of how we got from the Trail of Tears to present day...the struggles, but also the survival,” Perkins said. “Not just my family, but all Native Americans!”

Informational Session presented by CMC associates for tribal members

Join us to hear the

WHO • WHAT • WHEN • WHERE

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

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

For more information, contact Jill Reyna
866.933.2260

Gospel Singing Photos Wanted

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

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

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

Choctaw Nation ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 24&25

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

2016-2017
Festival of Choctaw Arts, Music & Culture

WILL YOU BE AN INCOMING FRESHMEN FALL 2016 AT ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS?

Sign up for **CAMP CHAHTA**, a pre-orientation camp for incoming Choctaw freshmen students. **CAMP CHAHTA** features early move-in, orientation credit, the opportunity to adjust to your new college campus, discover college resources and on-campus Choctaw services.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2016

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma • College & Career Resources
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Photo by Ronni Pierce

Led by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, participants file past the entry to Tvshka Homma during the 2016 Trail of Tears Walk. The commemorative Walk is held every year in May to honor Choctaw ancestors removed from their homeland and forced to walk to Indian Territory.

Over 1,500 Attend Annual Trail of Tears Walk at Tvshka Homma

By CHARLES CLARK & RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

Under sunny skies on Saturday, May 21, more than 1,500 Choctaw families, friends, and employees gathered for the 2016 Trail of Tears Walk at Tvshka Homma to commemorate the removal of the Choctaw people from their homeland to Indian Territory 185 years ago.

“It is a great day to be Choctaw,” exclaimed Chief Gary Batton as he addressed the crowd immediately following the event. Chief Batton said he overheard many walkers recounting stories of their ancestors who were on the Trail and thought, “It’s that blood, that Choctaw blood that makes us the strong people we are today.”

The annual Trail of Tears Walk is held to honor the Choctaws who were forced to leave their ancient homelands in the Southeast to Indian Territory. With the first wave in 1831, Choctaws were the first tribe to cover the Trail of Tears, so named because of the suffering and loss of life on the march.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, a crowd gathered in the Village on the Choctaw Capitol Grounds. They came from across Oklahoma and from surrounding states. After an address by Chief Batton and a prayer by Rev. Olin Williams, more than 1,500 walkers passed through the Village gate to begin the three-mile walk.

Banners could be read at several locations along the walk with quotes by George Harkins, chief of the Choctaws at the time of removal.

After the walk, a ceremony was held on an outdoor stage. The presentation included an address by Chief Batton, who related a moving story told to him by Edmon Lee Perkins Jr., a Choctaw potter from Atwood, about his great-great-grandpa Gibson, who walked the original Trail of Tears. Gibson’s wife, nine months pregnant, became separated from her husband when their ferry sank while crossing the Mississippi River. Her husband searched for her at several signal fires along the banks before they finally were reunited.

Asst. Chief Jack Austin Jr. made various introduc-

tions, followed by Council Speaker Thomas Williston who introduced all of the Council members present.

Brad Joe sang the Lord’s Prayer in Choctaw as tribal royalty, Miss Choctaw Nation Neiatra Hardy and Jr. Miss Loren Crosby, performed in sign language.

A presentation was given by Nicholas Charleston, of the Choctaw Nation Language Department, who reenacted as George Harkins, chief of the Choctaws in 1831. Charleston, dressed in period clothing, performed “A Letter to the American People” in both English and Choctaw.

Councilman Joe Coley closed out the ceremony, and Choctaw musician Jerry Tims performed gospel songs as lunch was served in the cafeteria.

There were 13 vendors and cultural booths with original basket weaving, corn husk dolls, beading and more. Stickball was represented under the tent. Also, the Choctaw Museum, located in the historic Council House, was open to the public. Tribal social dances were performed by traditionally dressed Choctaw dancers.

Emergency Management Group Award

By STACY HUTTO
Choctaw Nation

Barbara Graff, Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Commissioner and Emergency Management Director for the City of Seattle, presented Chief Gary Batton with an accreditation plaque from EMAP in front of the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant on Tuesday, May 24. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is the first tribal group to receive the national accreditation. Pictured, from left are Daron Sharp, Executive Director of Risk Management; Raymond Kennedy, Emergency Management Coordinator, CNHSA; Barb Graff, EMAP Commissioner, Director of The City of Seattle Emergency Management; Chief Gary Batton; Jeff Hansen, Director, Office of Emergency Management; Rachel Nutter-Klepper, Emergency Management Planner; and Debbie Dalpoas, Chief Emergency Management Officer, CNHSA.

See complete story on [ChoctawNation.com](#).



Photo by Stacy Hutto

Next Step

To assist Tribal Members reach the next step of self-sustainment through supplemental assistance and financial fitness.

Eligibility:

- One Choctaw Tribal Member in Household
- Reside in Choctaw Nation Service Area
- Must be a Working Household (some exceptions apply)
- Income-Based
- No Household Members Receiving SNAP

Please call to schedule an in-person appointment.

PotEAU (918) 649-0431

McAlester (918) 420-5716

Durant (580) 924-7773

Broken Bow (580) 584-2842

Antlers (580) 298-6443

Across

1. meeting the stipulated requirements
6. a public service
10. interest rate you are charged for a loan or credit
11. the transaction of money matters
13. without deductions : total
15. money that is paid for work or services
16. a meeting set for a specific time or place
19. a number that helps lenders
20. medium of exchange
21. subtraction
23. a family
25. person or agency that sells

Next Step Initiative
Complete the crossword puzzle

Down

1. the result toward which effort is directed ; end
3. one's personal, responsible decision
4. intended for use during a transitional period
5. a room where business is conducted
7. nourishing substance that is eaten
8. an estimate of expenses and expected income
9. person who takes part
12. a large North American Indian tribe formerly living in Mississippi
14. added to furnish what is lacking
16. monetary payment received for services
17. county seat of LeFlore County, OK
22. form authorizing cash or credit against a purchase
24. preserving one's money

Initiative food wages office gross savings voucher APRR grain utilities finance
vendor money income deduction supplemental budget PotEAU household
participant Choctaw eligible appointment training credit score

OKLAHOMA INDIAN SERVICES, INC. (OILS)
WILL PREPERATION CLINIC
Attorneys will provide free Will preparation services for eligible tribal members who own interest in Indian Trust/Restricted Land

July 7, 2016- Thursday
Choctaw Nation Community Center
2750 Big Lots Parkway
Durant, Oklahoma 74701
August 11, 2016- Thursday
Choctaw Nation Community Center
400 1/2 West O Street
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523

August 18, 2016- Thursday
Choctaw Nation Community Center
3274 Afullota Hina
McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

TO REGISTER FOR THE CLINIC CALL 1-800-658-1497

Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
You must have and appointment to talk to and attorney
Registration is Limited so call as soon as possible.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. is a nonprofit law firm funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. 1-800-658-1497

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Please Call the Choctaw Nation Service Coordinator today for more information

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Bonnie Johnson, Service Coordinator Districts 4, 5 & 6 800-373-4034 bjohnson@choctawhousing.com	Cerrie Buchanan, Service Coordinator Districts 9, 10 & 11 800-373-1360 cbuchanan@choctawhousing.com
Tracy Archer, Service Coordinator Districts 800-373-4031 tracyar@choctawhousing.com	

(BY THE WAY: AUTHORITY OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA)
P.O. Box G
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743
580-238-7522

Choctaw Nation Health Services
Presents

BOOM In The Valley
11th Annual

July 1, 2016
Talihina, OK

Fireworks, Entertainment & 5K Rocket Run

4:00pm - 5:45pm
5K Rocket Run Registration

5:00pm
Concessions & Inflatables Open
Live Music by Terri and The Executives

6:30pm
'Luksi' (Turtle) Races

6:30pm
5k Rocket Run Begins
Fireworks begin at Dark

Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on hospital grounds.
Parking permitted in designated areas only. Shuttles are available for designated off-site parking areas. For more information, please call (800) 349-7026 ext. 7131.

Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna
◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

CHAHTA NAN ANNOA
Nvni Chompa

Hopaki fehna kiyo kash, ohoyot aiittatoba ia tuk. Ohoyo i hohchifot Meli attok. I hattak hohchifo ato Chan attok. Meli i chukka ma, illimpat ikimiksho ihatuko, aiittatoba illimpa chompat ia tuk.

Nvni i champoli tuk. Nvni alhkachi tuklo chompa tuk. I chukka onah ma, nvni alhkachi tiwi tuk. Nvni ma, akakoshi holbi, na waya homma, na waya okchamali, hatofalaha, salad dressing yohmi ka, momit ittibanit tahlh tuk. Sandwiches ikbi tuk.

Chan ät sandwich i champoli chiyyohmi tuk. Sandwich lawa äpa tuk. Meli ato sandwich tuklo vpa tuk. Meli micha Chan ittattuklo kvf na yukpa tuk.

Nittak ont ia kanohmih ma, Meli vt aiittattatoba falamat ia tuk. Illimpa pisa hosh aya tuk. Anonti nvni chompa bunna tuk. Nvni alhkachi ma, achukmat pisa tuk. Nvni alhkachi ma i holisso hochefo tuk. YAKAH ! ! ! Nvni alhkachi kiyo tuk ! ! !

Katos im illimpa ituk achini !
Meli vt abeka cha, i chukka falamat ia tuk.

Translation: A Choctaw Story
Buying Fish

Not very long ago, a woman went to the store. The woman’s name was Mary. Her husband’s name was John. There was no food at Mary’s house, so she went to the store to buy groceries.

She liked fish. She bought two cans of fish. When she got home, she opened the canned fish. She mixed together with the fish, boiled eggs, tomatoes, pickles, onions and salad dressing. She made sandwiches.

John really liked the sandwich. He ate a lot of sandwiches. Mary ate two sandwiches. Both Mary and John were happy.

Several days later, Mary went back to the store. She walked along looking at the food. She wanted to buy fish again. She looked closely at the canned fish.

She read the label on the canned fish. OH MY!!! It was not canned fish!!! It was cat food!!!

Mary got sick and returned home.

www.choctawschool.com

Free Language Classes

Join us for the next exciting year of Online Classes

Registration for Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 will be available June 1 to August 19. Go online to register for classes, find required materials, and use the student checklist.

WEBSITE: [www.choctawschool.com](#) LANGUAGE DEPT.: (800) 522-6170
J.T.: ext - 5163 JUNIOR: ext - 4021 LILLIE: ext - 2101

Hurry Now and Register!

HEALTH

Head to the Great Outdoors this Month

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito,

The wonderful month of June—close your eyes, take in a deep breath, and imagine you are in the beautiful surroundings of the great outdoors. Now that is living!

The National Wildlife Federation celebrates the month of June as the Great Outdoors Month®, stating everyone should get outside at least once this summer and connect with nature and wildlife. The benefits from outdoor play for the body, mind, and spirit are well-documented and numerous. Outdoor play also creates a lasting connection to nature and wildlife that will help to have a happier, healthier family. The National Wildlife Federation has several events spotlighted this month with a few listed below:

- National Trails Day
- National Fishing & Boating Week
- National GO (Get Outdoors) Day
- National Marina Day
- Great American Campout

The Great Outdoors Month is also about amazing places. The National Wildlife Federation’s web site www.nwf.org has information about state and local parks and some people live near enough that they can enjoy national parks, refuges, forests, and more. The National Wildlife Federation has a terrific and helpful website called Nature-Find that will let you plug in your zip code to display a rich set of outdoor opportunities (and events too) that are near you. There are dozens of opportunities close to nearly everyone in the U.S.

However, you do not have to leave your area to enjoy the great outdoors, you can just step outside and camp in the back yard. The Great American Campout is a summer-long celebration of camping as a way to connect with nature and wildlife. Take the pledge to camp—in your backyard, your neighborhood, your local parks, state

Patrick Sharp Takes Part in OSU Summer Rural Externship at Durant Health Clinic

By KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw Nation

Patrick Sharp has been accepted into the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine’s D.O. program. Sharp is currently completing his summer rural externship with the Choctaw Nation Indian Health Clinic in Durant. Doctor Eric Lee, leading physician at the Durant Clinic is serving as preceptor for this externship.

OSU focuses on producing primary care physicians to go into rural areas and provide healthcare to those communities. OSU also focuses on reaching out to underserved populations, such as Native Americans. There is a shortage of physicians in rural areas, and this shortage is expected to increase. This externship is designed to give students in the program a feel for what it is like to be a primary care doctor in a rural location.

“Choctaw Nation has played an important part in helping me while applying and preparing for medical school,” said Sharp.

Sharp is currently finishing his under graduate studies at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, before attending OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. The Choctaw Nation and OSU are working together to increase awareness of opportunities to provide healthcare to rural Oklahoma.



Photo by Kendra Germany

Dr. Eric Lee, leading physician at the Durant Health Clinic (left) and Patick Sharp (right).

parks, and national parks, cabins, RVs, treehouses, you name it! And be a part of the nationwide event. National Wildlife Federation’s Great American Campout is also part of Great Outdoors Month in June, a month designated to highlight the many kinds of outdoor activities that strengthen our bonds with nature. The National Wildlife Federation celebrates everyone who’s getting outdoors and camping on Great American Campout day on June 25, and we encourage you to re-live the camping experience all summer long.

Below is a campfire recipe that is sure to be a hit around everybody’s campfire this year.



Campfire Tex Mex White Bean Chicken Packets

Author: Karlynn Johnston

Recipe by The Kitchen Magpie at http://www.thekitchenmagpie.com/campfire-tex-mex-white-bean-chicken-foil-packets/

Recipe of the Month

Healthy and delicious Tex Mex flavored chicken and white bean foil packets! Who knew that eating healthy while camping could be this easy?

Ingredients

- 1 (15oz) can of navy beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (10oz) can of diced tomatoes or rotel, drained
- 1 can of corn, no salt added
- 1 tbsp Mexican Spice Blend (or more to taste!) see recipe below
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ½ cup shredded cheese, Mexican blend
- chopped green onion to top
- 4 tin-foil squares, about 18” x 12”

Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients, excepting the cheese and green onion, in a large bowl.
2. Place ¼ of the mixture on each foil square, then fold up the tinfoil so that the mixture won’t leak while turning the packet over the fire.
3. Place on a BBQ grill or the grate over a campfire and cook for 20-25 minutes, turning the packets occasionally so that everything is cooked evenly.
4. When the chicken has been cooked thoroughly, remove from the fire and cool slightly.
5. Turn out the foil packets onto a plate, top with cheese and green onion.
6. Enjoy!

Nutrition Facts Serves 6
Amount Per Serving:
Calories 392 Calories from Fat 78
Total Fat 8.6g Cholesterol 60mg
Sodium 114mg Potassium 1070mg
Total Carbohydrates 47.6g Dietary Fiber 15.8g
Sugars 5.3g Protein 33.3g Vitamin A 11%
Vitamin C 19% Calcium 17% Iron 31%

Zippy Zonya Mexi Mix

By Heart-Healthy Living

Ingredients:

- 5 teaspoons chili powder
- 4 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon cumin seed (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon dried minced onion
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)

Directions:

In a small bowl combine all ingredients. Store for up to 1 month in a self-sealing plastic bag or covered container.

I hope you enjoy this little camp fire treat!

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

NURSERY NEWS

Braxton Hayes Pearce

Jay and Christy are proud to announce the birth of Braxton Hayes Pearce. Our beautiful rainbow baby was born Feb. 2, 2016, at 11:16 a.m. weighing in at 8 pounds 3.2 ounces and 19 inches long. Braxton was welcomed by big brothers Brennan, Bricen, and Braylin, Meamaw Connie and Grandpa Bruce, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is the grandson of the late Eddie and Dajuana Pearce and Robert Caddell Jr.



Meridian Monroe Jackson

Meridian Monroe Jackson was born March 12, 2016, to Matt and Kalee Jackson of Maypearl, Texas, at 4:26 a.m., weighing 5 pounds 9 ounces and 18.5 inches long. He was welcomed by his grandparents, Rick and Lisa Jackson of Maypearl, Belinda Gibbons of Waxahachie, Texas, and Greg Gibbons of Sumrall, Mississippi. Great grandparents are Eva Ann Pogue, Bobby Harkins, and Jerolene Weaver. He has seven cousins: Ryder, Hannah, Hadley, Grant, Emory, Callie, and Kolby who have anxiously awaited his arrival. Meridian’s aunts and uncles include Natalie and Chris Kovacik, Ashley and Scott Neal, and Britt and Kelly Zajicek.



Ryleigh Lou Pool

Ryleigh Lou Pool was born on March 20, 2016, at Paris Regional Medical Center, Paris, Texas. Her parents are Aaron And Shawna Simpson Pool. Grandparents are Jillian Usry Ingram of Marlin, Texas, Paul Shane Simpson of Howland, Texas, and Gary and Linda Miller Pool of Emberson, Texas. Great-grandparents are Lloyd and Debra Cornett Usry, the late James Miller of Emberson, the late Mary Go-lightly Miller Clark of Paris, and Mikel and Virginia Pool of Paris. Great-great-grandparents were the late Charles and Ruth Bryan Usry, and the late Leighton and Ruth Moore Cornett of Paris. Ryleigh’s Great-great-great-great- grandmother Ida Bell Watts Lloyd was an original Choctaw enrollee.



Choctaw Elders age 80 & up . . .

You have stories to tell, let us preserve them.

Contact: Deidre Elrod, 800-522-6170 or delrod@ChoctawNation.com.

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



Choctaw Nation WIC supports breastfeeding moms. We welcome breastfeeding questions, and offer classes in five locations.

McAlester July 13 - Sept. 14 - Nov. 9 1-3 p.m. Choctaw Nation Health Clinic Downstairs Conference Room	Talihina July 6 - Sept. 7 - Nov. 2 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation DWC	Durant June 1 - Aug. 3 - Oct. 5 1-3 p.m. Choctaw Nation WIC Office
Poteau July 20 - Sept. 21 - Oct. 12 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center	Idabel June 8 - Aug. 10 - Oct. 12 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation Clinic Education Room	

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

- * latch
- * frequency of feedings
- * positioning
- * growth spurts
- * breastfeeding resources

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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

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.

NOTES TO THE NATION

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

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

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

June Community Center Schedule

June 2 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
June 9 Bethel: 10:30-1 & 1:30- 3
June 14 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30- 3
June 23 Smithville: 10:30-1 & 1:30- 3
June 30 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30- 3

July Community Center Schedule

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

Wright City Community Center Events

6/8 **Voters Registration 11:30am**
6/10 **Food Handlers Class 10am-Noon**
6/20 **Loan Department 9:30- 11am, 1-2pm**
6/22 **Ve te runs Dinner 11:45am**
6/30 **Legal Assistance 10am-1pm, 1:30-3pm**

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

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

or email to: biskinik@choctawnation.com

LETTERS

Yakoke (Thank You)!

I want to say “YAKOKE” for allowing Virginia and I the opportunity to reach out to our tribal family for John Michael’s fundraiser at the Choctaw Headquarters. We are truly blessed and humbled by the outpouring of love, prayers and support during this challenging journey. Our creator has a vision for John that has yet to be revealed.

Faith, Family and Culture,
Debbie Vietta



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Choctaw Nation for the storm shelter provided to our family. It was a safe place for us on the night of April 26, 2016 when our neighborhood was hit by a tornado. We are very thankful that we did not have to ride out the storm inside our home. While there was significant damage to our area, there was no life lost. May God bless the Choctaw Nation for the many services they provide.

Lynn and Janet Krebs

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer
Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Ronni Pierce, News Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
Kendra Germany, Reporter/Photographer
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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



Thank you for sending me last month’s issue to my new address. It’s been a while since I’ve received the paper and was pleased to find the language lessons in the last page. Out of the 26 questions I knew only 10. Our language is not as common out here as it is in Oklahoma, but we did have language lessons taught by an elder that has long since made his journey. Yakoke!

Robert Henderson
Avenal, CA

Halito,

Our family recently had a storm shelter installed at our home in Skiatook as a part of the Storm Shelter Program offered by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. It has brought comfort and security to our family that we have not felt before. For the first time during a recent tornado warning we retreated to our new shelter with our dogs. We felt very safe!

I want to thank Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Tribal Council and mostly a thank you to the people of the Choctaw Nation, whose wisdom is responsible for the leadership we enjoy. I could not be more proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Yakoke!

John Kelley Beard
Skiatook, OK

Dear Chief Batton,

I am writing to say thank you for the beautiful blanket that you sent me for my 90th birthday on March 3 of this year. It was very kind of you to recognize my many years of life. I was inspired by the word “WISDOM” on the blanket as I reflected back on my years of raising four children and believing that they felt my love and my wisdom when it was offered. To be respected in our world today is a gift of God, which I am grateful to have. I want to display your gift in our home so that others can be reminded of the inspiration you have provided.

Rosetta Anderson Staley

We want to thank family and friends for love and kindness shown during our loss. The Assembly of God in McCurtain, Pastor Garry Guthrie, Milford and Alvin Blaylock, the ladies who prepared lunch for us, those who sent flowers, Sandy Pemberton and Leah for making beautiful flowers, Paul and Donna Orr, Sequoyah Manor Nursing Home, Ron Perry and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, pallbearers and Mallory Martin Funeral Home. Sincere thanks.

Chester and Sue Mayhall
Donnie and Kim

Help Needed to ID People in Photo



The photo belonged to Helen Naomi Hickman Carnes, who was the daughter of Sandy Alexander Hickman, an original Dawes enrollee and Inez Benton. After they divorced, he married Rosie Hickman, whose maiden name is unknown. Sandy was the son of Rosie and Tom Hickman. We believe Sandy is the man on the left in the photo and his first wife Inez is in the middle. The other people in the photo are possibly Jackson, Sockey and Johnico relatives. The photo was probably taken in the early 1900’s. If anyone has any information on this photo and Sandy Hickman and his second wife Rosie please contact me at merrycarnes@hotmail.com.

Mary Carnes

I was glad to see that the Nation had an article in the Biskinik requesting that readers “Save The Box Tops” for our schools in the Nation. Myself, I have two grown sons, 27 and 28 year olds. I collected box tops for their schools from preschool through eighth grade junior high school. Since then I’ve continued to collect them out of habit. I continued sending them to my niece and nephew’s schools, as I have no grandchildren yet. As of last summer, though, they are all finishing high school now, so I had just started saving and sending them to the elementary school nearest me. I am much happier to send them for our Choctaw children!!! Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to help. I am very proud to do this. Yakoke!

Rachel R. Cole
Lancaster, CA

Searching For Delaney Sisters

Helen Cooke is desperately trying to find Rena Delaney and her sister, whose name is spelled either Conche or Concke. According to Cooke, while Rena’s name was printed, her sister’s name was written in cursive. The Delaney sisters attended Pleasant View Elementary School in Golden, Colorado, while her husband, Robert Cooke, was principal. Cooke would like Rena and her sister, or anyone who knows how to contact the Delaney sisters to call her at 303-432-3536.

Looking For Jefferson Thompson Gravesite

Halito,

Does anyone know where Jefferson Thompson’s grave is located? Jeff died in or about March 1939 at the age of 29. It is believed he may be buried in Summerfield Cemetery. Jeff left one brother, Jess Thompson, now deceased, and his wife Lillie Thompson, my mother, who is also deceased. Any help in locating Jeff Thompson’s grave is appreciated. Thank you.

Jerry Thompson
344 Jodi Drive
Durant, OK 74701

Woman Searching For Cousin

Carmelita Riesgo of Broken Bow is looking for Billy Joe Joel, a cousin she lost track of 15-20 years. Joel would know her by her childhood name, Lita Johnson. She was able to trace his whereabouts at one point to Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Joel, or anyone who knows where he might be can contact Johnson-Riesgo at 707-694-0870.

EVENTS

Jefferson/Wade/Prock Reunion

Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m.
Robber’s Cave State Park
Wilburton, Okla.

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

If additional information is needed,
Contact Erta Baskin at 580-579-2332

Belvin Family Reunion

June 11 & 12
Robbers Cave State Park
Wilburton, Okla.

Saturday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a hamburger/hot dog supper 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. 5 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

For more information contact
Cindy at 580-579-8293
Pam at 580-279-9505

First Annual Battiest/Watson Reunion

Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19
Camp Folsom
Battiest, Okla.

Family members of Marcus Battiest and Rachel Watson are invited to the first annual family reunion. Marcus is the son of Willie and Sallie Battiest and Rachel is the daughter of Robert and Ella Watson. Family members attending the reunion are asked to bring a covered dish, lawn chairs and drinks.

For questions contact

Rachel Dixon 580-236-2727

18th Annual Father’s Day Gospel Singing

Sunday, June 19

Black Jack Church, one mile west of Sobol

Supper begins at 5 p.m. followed by singing.
Truman Jefferson will be the MC.

For more information call,
(580) 372-5114, or (580) 372-5112

40th Annual Livingston Buck & Angeline Mitchell White Reunion

June 25
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Eat at noon.

Summerfield Community Center

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 918-647-3598
Traci Cox 918-677-2235

54th Annual Gospel Singing

Saturday, July 2

Rock Creek Church, Honobia, Okla.

Singing begins at 7 p.m., bring lawn chairs

Bob Ludlow will be the MC.

Concession stand available.

Everyone is welcome.

Hudson Family Gathering & Horseshoe Tournament

In remembrance of Lita Baxter & Chop Hudson
Saturday, July 2 from 1-4 p.m.

The Hudson House (a.k.a. Chop’s House)
851 Joe Ford Rd.
Smithville, Okla.

Horseshoe Tournaments will be 1-4 p.m.
Prizes for Singles and Doubles winners
Free hot dogs, chips and drinks
Covered Dishes are welcome

For more info, call R.E. Hudson at 479-226-9720

Baker Family Reunion

Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m.

Choctaw Community Center, Antlers

Descendants of Noel S. and Roxie Loman Baker, their friends and all relatives are invited to a potluck meal. Please bring old pictures, especially of Grandpa and Grandma Baker, albums, records, etc.

Any questions, or for more information contact Darren at 903-647-3504, or Mary at 580-982-8100.

McCurtain Family Reunion

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

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

For more information email,
babysquaw@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

—YOUTH of the NATION—

Youth Advisory Board A Positive Influence

By
Jake Lovell

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has dramatically influenced both myself and my family in many positive ways. My two older sisters are YAB alumni, and my mother now works for Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment. I joined the YAB program when I was in the 8th grade, and have been a part of many activities ever since. After my sister, Kristen Lovell, died in a car accident, my mother and I started doing a presentation for Distracted Driving, my mom and I are actually two of the three



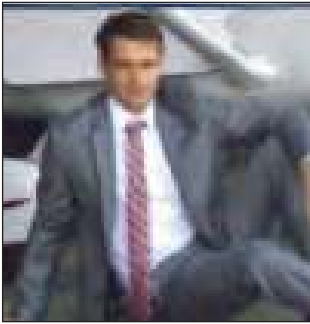
founders of Distracted Driving for YAB. This past summer I joined the U.S. Army reserves and completed my B.C.T. (Basic Combat Training) where I not only learned survival skills but also learned about military leadership. While still in high school, I'm what's called a spilt op, where I go to basic training between my junior and senior year, and then go to A.L.T. (Advance Individual Training) after I graduate.

The person that influenced me the most throughout out my five years in YAB would have to be my older sister, Kristen Lovell. Sadly, almost five years ago she was taken from my family and I way too soon. She was involved in a car accident at the highway 83/59 junction. She was stopped at the stop sign and had looked at her phone to answer a text. She looked right and saw a semi about to turn, but the driver had waved her on so she could go ahead. Without looking left, she pulled out and a truck hit her car, pushing her into the semi killing her on impact. Now my mother and I go to Driver's Ed classes all over our county and talk to the kids about the effects distracted driving can really have on a family.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has taught me how to be a leader, and how to listen to other people's idea on a certain project, or anything that I'm doing with a group. Usually when I'm in a group I end up with a leadership role, and basic training was no different. At one point I was a squad leader, which led to me being the platoon guide. A squad lead usually has 8-12 people in his squad, but the platoon guide is in charge of all four squads. At one point, I had to lead 57 people through the last part of basic training, the blue phase. However, if I was never in YAB, I don't think I would've had the confidence to be the platoon guide, squad leader, or even join the military. Now I know most people who are in YAB join the military but so far I have been in leadership roles because I had the confidence that I gained. A few of the other activities that I have been involved with over that last five years include SWAT, tutoring fourth graders at Howe Elementary, in charge of running the clock at junior high basketball games and softball games, concession duties at baseball and basketball games; volunteering for Christmas parties at the Cox Community center, Fun to Run 5k's, delivering J.O.M. supplies, handing out candy at Wister Lake for Halloween, and our monthly recycling program.

This being my last year in YAB is a bittersweet ending. Sweet because I know this experience over the past five years will only better me, bitter by it being my last year. I look forward to my years ahead of being an alumni for the Y.A.B. to continue having an impact on people's lives. I'm going to take what the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has taught me and use it both in life and my military career.

Editor's note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship first place essay. The writer, Jake Lovell, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tushka Homma on Wednesday, April 20. We will be printing the second and third place essays in the following months.



Ellis Graduates from Texas Tech

Jesse Allen Ellis graduated from Texas Tech University on Saturday, May 21 at the United Spirit Arena. Ellis graduated with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering.



Webb Graduates With Bachelor of Fine Arts

George C. "Dusty" Webb graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe N.M. on Saturday, May 14 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts and Technology.

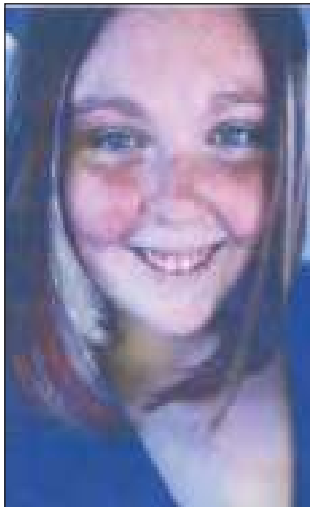


Serrano Places Second At Curriculum Contest

Jose Serrano, 11, Broken Bow recently won second place in fifth grade math at the McCurtain County Curriculum Contest in Idabel. Serrano participates in the Choctaw STAR program and is an honor roll student. He is the son of Jose and Andrea Serrano and is the grandson of Greg and Rebecca Cheshire and Ramon and Francisca Serrano.

Cooper Graduates Cum Laude

Emily Francis Cooper graduated Cum Laude from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development with a concentration in Teacher Preparation. While at San Diego State, Cooper was named a Dean's Scholar. Cooper plans to study for her Master's degree and acquiring her teaching credentials in the fall.



Beardsley Graduates With Bachelor of Fine Arts

Amanda Delora Beardsley graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. on Saturday, May 14 with a Bachelor in Studio Arts.

Broken Bow Head Start Does Balloon Release for Child Abuse Awareness



The Choctaw Nation Head Start in Broken Bow held a balloon release for Child Abuse Awareness in April. Representatives from the Department of Human Services and the Sheriff's Office were present as part of a community engagement. The children released balloons to represent the nearly 3 million reported cases of child abuse annually. After the release the children sang "The More We Get Together" in Choctaw and English for visitors.



Bohanon Graduates With Honors

Damian "Tinkerman" Bohanon, 20, recently completed an 18-month course at Universal Technical Institute in Avondale, Ariz. where he earned an Associates of Occupational Studies degree in Automotive and Diesel Technology II.

Bohanon is a graduate of Fairview High School in Boulder, Colo. During his academic career Bohanon has been awarded Excellent Attendance, Student of the Course, been named to the Director's Honor List four times and was nominated for Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society. Upon graduation he received \$1,000 in Snap-On tools. Upon earning his degree, Bohanon was offered a position at GM, Ford and other companies. He selected a position at Porche Corporation in Canton, Pa., where he will work and continue his training. Bohanon will have the option to work at different Porche locations as openings occur. Bohanon is 3/8 Choctaw and 1/4 Kiowa. He is the son of Sky Bohanon and Claudine Two-Hatchet Bohanon of Firestone, Colo. His paternal grandparents are Randel and Ruthie Colbert Bohanon of Smithville. His maternal grandmother is the late Patricia Two-Hatchet of Anadarko.



Bethel Chahta Preschool Goes To Beaver's Bend

Bethel Chahta Preschool students began their end-of-the year celebration with a trip to Beaver's Bend Depot and Forest Heritage Center in McCurtain County. They had a "YAHOO" time learning about the local history. Chahta Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2016-2017 school year. They hope you come join their school family.



Bell Reads Over 400 Books

Chanelle Bell, a second grade student at Jones Academy, recently reached a new reading goal. Bell has read and passed over 400 AR books, while keeping an A average. Kathy Patton, the second grade teacher, said they are very proud of all their readers and encourages the students to meet and beat their reading goals.

Pineda First in His Family to Graduate College

Christian Pineda, a recipient of a Choctaw Nation Higher Education grant, graduated from St. John's University in Queens, N.Y. with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing on Sunday, May 22. He graduated from Bonita Vista High School in Chula Vista, Calif. in 2012. Pineda is the first member of his family to graduate college. He is the son of Tom Pineda and his uncle is Michael Edward Pineda. His grandparents are Betty and Edward Pineda. He is the great grandson of Izora Alice Lewis, an original Dawes enrollee. Pineda has a brother, Matthew Nathaniel Pineda.




Kiowan Jones Receives Gates Millennium Scholarship

Kiowan Jones, a graduate from Broken Bow, was 1 of 1,000 out of 53,000 high school students across the United States to receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship. The

scholarship will fund Jones' entire college education and graduate school, so he can go for his Master's degree.

Jones will be attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall and will be a part of the Price Business College. He is the son of Wenona Jones and the grandson of Larry Jones and Gwendolyn Maytubbi.


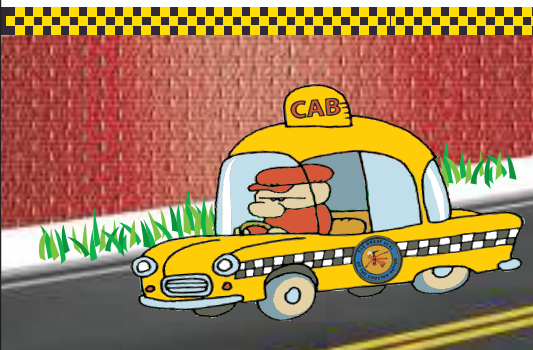


Need more cash for the cost of college?

Choctaw Asset Building now serves tribal members outside of Oklahoma!

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

Earn Money for Saving Money!



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2016 EDUCATION CLASSES	
Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE) Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID). The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.	
July - September	October - December
Tuesday, July 5, 5 - 8 p.m. Durant, Headquarters South Building	Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, July 5, 1 - 4 p.m. Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m. Broken Bow, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, July 5, 9 a.m. - noon McAlester, Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester Campus	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Durant, Headquarters South Building
Monday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon Poteau, Carl Albert State College	Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

EDUCATION



Congratulations! 2016 Jones Academy Seniors



Naomi Charlie Lynn Christmas, 18, is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and is the daughter of Michelle Brown of Anchorage, Alaska, and George Christmas of Mekoryuk, Alaska. Her grandparents are Louise Brown, Kotzebue, Alaska; Charlie Web, Albuquerque, N.M.; and James and Judy Whitman, Mekoryuk, Alaska. She was on the Hartshorne High School honor roll, a member of the STAR program and the Hartshorne High School band. She was active on the color guard team and was the 2016 Band Queen. She plans on attending the University of Alaska in Anchorage and becoming a civil engineer.



Eighteen-year-old **Kirklan Gregory Loman** is the son of Mary and Thomas Gray of Haworth. He is the grandson of the late Esther Gray. Kirklan is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He has been active in 4-H at Jones Academy for seven years, winning numerous awards, including placing fourth overall at the 2016 Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City. He also played varsity football at Hartshorne High School for four years. Kirklan plans to attend classes at the Kiamichi Technology Center campus in Idabel in the fall. He wants to become a certified welder.



Daniell Denis Murillo is the 17-year-old daughter of Rachel Hummingbird and Chebon Harjo of Seminole. She is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma. For several years she has successfully competed in the Jones Academy 4-H hog show program. Daniell has also been active in community service projects in the Learn and Serve program at Jones Academy and was on the Hartshorne High School varsity softball team. She will attend classes in the fall at Seminole State College in Seminole. Daniell wants to pursue a career in nursing.



DeShaun Emanuel Suetopka-Garcia, 18, is the son of Shawn Suetopka and Buster Garcia of Oklahoma City. DeShaun is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He has attended Jones Academy for seven years. DeShaun ran 5K and 10K races with the PACE running club at Jones Academy. He ran track for two years on the Hartshorne High School varsity team. DeShaun plans to attend Oklahoma City Community College in the fall.



Ava Lee Trujillo is the 18-year-old daughter of Marvin and Lisa Old Person Trujillo from Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico. She is a member of the Pueblo of San Juan tribe. Ava has been a resident of Jones Academy since August 2009. She was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester. Ava is registered to attend classes at Northern New Mexico College in the fall and plans to major in nursing.



Seventeen-year-old **Tatum Hope Wood** is the daughter of C. Todd and Cydney Wood of Moore. She is a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Tatum is currently enrolled at the Norman Moore Technology Center in Norman where she is completing her CNA certificate.



Trace Burcham Named Gates Millennium Scholar

Tanner Trace Burcham, a senior at Broken Bow High School, was recently named a Gates Millennium Scholar. After a rigorous selection process that required many nominations and recommendations, as well as eight essays, Burcham was one of the students selected for the honor. He is the son of Jeremy and Michelle Burcham of Broken Bow; grandson of William and Rhonda Young of Eagletown and the late James and Paige Burcham of Eagletown. He has been a member of the Top Ten Percent of his class since elementary school and has continued the streak by achieving a 3.918 GPA during his senior year. Burcham was named "Best Personality for the Senior Class of 2016" and was a Kiwanis Club Senior of the Month for November. Burcham is President of the History Club; a three year member of the Broken Bow High School Student Council and currently on the officer team; involved in Showtime Show Choir; Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Business Professionals of America (BPA); and is a member of the National Honors Society. Burcham had been a member of the Southeastern Oklahoma Choral Directors' Association All District Choir for four years and has made Superior Ratings at both the District and State levels at Solo and Ensemble for vocal music. He is an alumnus of the National Young Leaders' Forum, Envision Leadership: Technology and Engineering and had been invited to be a part

Austin Graduates With Honors

Haylee Marie Austin graduated from Carlsbad High School in Carlsbad, N.M. on Friday, May 20. She is the daughter of Lee and Shawna Austin. Her two brothers are Joshua and Shawn. While in high school, Austin had been a team member and leader in CHS Band and Colorguard for five years and Business Professionals of America for two years. She also won numerous awards for character counts, perfect attendance and honor roll. Austin was accepted to Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, N.M., where she will be majoring in Communicative Disorders with a minor in Health Services and Social Work. She has received the Kelsey Davis Memorial Scholarship and a scholarship from Burger King.



Cordell Zalenski Inducted Into Honor Society

Cordell Zalenski, 19, Lane was inducted into the Harding University circle of Omicron Delta Kappa on Sunday, April 17. Omicron Delta Kappa is a National leadership honor society with 293 circles across the country with almost 300,000 scholars. Harding University's Honor Society membership candidates must rank in the upper 35 percent in scholarship and must show leadership in at least one of five areas: scholarship, athletics, campus or community service, social, religious activities and campus government, journalism, speech and the mass media and creative performing arts. Zalenski, an accounting major, was among the one percent of the student body invited to join this spring. He is the son of Connie Zalenski.



Pictured, from left, Beth Hudson Marshall, Melissa O'Malley, Sean O'Malley, Breanna Griego, Cassidy Griego, Nita O'Malley and Liam O'Malley

Breanna Griego graduated with cum laude honors from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. on Saturday, April 30. She received two Bachelor of Arts degrees, one in psychology and one in religion. Griego will continue her education in the fall at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. She will be working towards her Master of Arts degree in Theology and a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. Previously, Griego has participated in STAR program, HEP, as well as the clothing and technology allowances offered by the Choctaw Nation.



Roldan To Participate In Native Youth In Ag Leadership Summit

Logan Roldan was accepted to take part in the University of Arkansas Third Annual Native Youth in Agriculture Summer Leadership Summit taking place in July.



combined SAT score of 2,230. Michelle has been the first place recipient of the 20th Annual Vince Kaspar Prizes for Excellence in the Arts for her Poetry and the National Council of Teachers of English's 2015 Achievement Award for Superior Writing. Michelle is considering a Major in Chemistry and a Minor in Music. She is the daughter of Stuart Ott and the granddaughter of Billie Ott, both tribal members.



Ott Accepted To College Of William And Mary

Michelle Ott, a Springfield, Va. tribal member, has been accepted by the College of William and Mary and will be enrolling in classes for the 2016 semester. Michelle is an honor student at West Springfield High School with a GPA of 4.33 and a



Wade Earns Associate's Degree

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

Prentice Graduates Cum Laude

Austin Cook Prentice graduated Cum Laude from Ozark High School in Ozark, Mo. on Friday, May 13. Prentice maintained his GPA while having an advanced course schedule and extracurricular activities. Some of his stop motion animation projects for his core classes have been selected for use as teaching aids in other district classrooms. Prior to living in Ozark, Austin attended the Hilldale and Fort Gibson school districts in Oklahoma from kindergarten to eighth grade. He credits the Johnson O'Malley and Choctaw STAR programs for encouraging him to achieve academically. Prentice appreciates both of these programs and other assistance from the Choctaw Nation. He was awarded an academic scholarship at Oklahoma Baptist University and will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Arts in the fall. He is the son of Dek and Dana Prentice of Ozark, Mo., the grandson of Ron and Gale Prentice of Nixa, Mo, the great-grandson of Vonnice and Edith Cook Prentice and great-great grandson of Myrtle Garland Cook, an original Dawes enrollee.

Washington Earns Associate's Degree

McKale Washington recently graduated from Labette College in Parsons, Kansas with an Associate's Degree in Communication. In the future he plans to complete his Bachelor's Degree at ECU in Ada. While attending school, Washington was the recipient of grants and scholarships from the Choctaw Nation.



Are you interested in actively supporting and encouraging our Choctaw college students

Do you live near Durant, Wilburton, Poteau, Norman or Stillwater?
Choctaw Nation's College & Career Resources in looking for Choctaw community members to get involved with our college students.

If you're interested, please contact Lindsey Lanter, Program specialist College & Career Resources @llanter@choctawnation.com or (580) 924-8280 ext. 2292

OBITUARIES

James (Jimmy) Edward Jones

James (Jimmy) Edward Jones, 66, passed away on March 3, 2016, after a 4-year battle with cancer. He was born on Oct. 28, 1949, to Edward F. and Laverne Brown Jones in McAlester.

Even through his illness, Jim remained a model of positivity and inspiration.

Jimmy graduated from Panola High School in 1968 where he was known for his athletic ability. He completed college at Eastern Oklahoma State College, before graduating with his teaching degree from Northeastern State University.

Jimmy and Judy Collins became sweethearts at age 18 and 16. They married in 1973 upon college graduation. Eight days later they began their teaching careers in the Beggs Public School District. Jimmy then worked towards his Master's degree in Health Administration at the University of Oklahoma.

His teaching and coaching career spanned through several Oklahoma schools, along with a long tenure as a summer Little League Baseball coach. In 2002, he coached his team in one of the first K-8 state basketball tournaments.

Jimmy had the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Choctaw Nation Health programs under three chiefs, Harry J. W. Belvin, David Gardner and Hollis Roberts. He was instrumental in the development of the Community Health Representative Program for the 10 1/2 counties. He celebrated his cultural heritage, and never missed the chance to tell others about the Choctaw people.

He was preceded in death by both parents; sister, Linda Jones Condor and grandparents, Jimmie and Betty Jones and Milton and Julia Dunham Brown; and in-laws, Al and Doris Collins.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years Judy Collins Jones; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Troy Walker; granddaughters, Madison Kay Walker and Macy Kay Walker; sisters and brothers-in-law, Bob and Sue Collins Pattison of Red Oak; John and Susan Collins of Marshall, Texas; sister, Judith Jones Smith of Durant; uncle, Wayne Jones of Alderson; special nephew and family, Chase, Erin and McKenzie Condor of Durant; several other nieces, nephews, cousins; as well as the entire Bethel family.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Waldrop Funeral Home in Wilburton. Interment was at the Baldwin Cemetery in Wilburton.

Nathan Gile Meashintubby

Nathan Gile Meashintubby, 48, passed away on March 10, 1967, at Sparks Hospital in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born on Aug. 24, 1967, to Norman Meashintubby Jr. and Mary Lou Meashintubby in Talihina.

Nathan was a resident of Talihina. He went to school in Talihina where he played football. He loved to go fishing and ball games. Nathan, an avid fan of the Oklahoma Sooners and the Talihina Tigers, he enjoyed being around family and friends. He enjoyed doing the communion at St. Paul Methodist Church on the first Sunday of each month, and taking head count on Sundays. He also enjoyed helping and cleaning the church.

He was preceded in death by his father, Norman Meashintubby Jr.; grandmothers, Lena and Reba Meashintubby; brother, Norris Meashintubby; and nephew, Marky Meashintubby.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Lou Meashintubby of Talihina; special companion, Donna Melton; brothers, Norval and Deleesa Meashintubby of Eugene, Oregon, Neville and Alicia Meashintubby of Talihina, Archie Meashintubby Jr. of Talihina; sisters, Sherry and Isidro Balders of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Shirley Trejo of Talihina; daughters, Deadra Baker, Davida Camillo and Dalida Ball all of Eugene; son, Nakoma Meashintubby of Heavener; grandchildren, Joshua Baker and Ethan Ball of Eugene; nephews, Brandon Meashintubby of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Kyle Meashintubby of Poteau, Neville Jr. and Nehemiah Meashintubby of McAlester, Norris Meashintubby jr. of Talihina; nieces, Anissa Meashintubby of Eugene, Melanie Meashintubby of Little Rock, Arkansas, Jalonda Balderas of Fort Smith; great-nephews; Isiah Meashintubby of Eugene, Kamron and Kai Meashintubby of Poteau, Nathan Anderson of Talihina; great-niece; Neela Meashintubby of Poteau; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, family and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service of Talihina. Interment was at Rock Creek Cemetery in Honobia.

Clinton Wayne Arneach

Clinton Wayne Arneach, 46, passed away on March 2, 2016, at Sparks Medical in Van Buren, Arkansas. He was born June 3, 1969, to Cora Johnson in Talihina.

Clinton graduated from Cla-remore High School. He was a resident of Van Buren. He worked nine years for Choctaw Nation and won many awards for his dedication. Clinton never wanted to miss a workday. He was kind-hearted and funny, and enjoyed making people laugh. He liked drawing, singing karaoke, and spoiling his nieces and nephews. Clinton was saved in 1991 while attending Indian Baptist in Smithville, and was baptized in March of that year.

Clinton is survived by his mother, Cora Johnson of Van Buren; son, Samuel Billy; brothers, Russell Wilson of Van Buren, James Johnson of Van Buren, and Kevin Johnson and wife Melissa of Ketchikan, Alaska; nieces, Krellynn and Bree Johnson of Ketchikan; nephews, Isaac Johnson of Ketchikan and Jesse James Johnson of Van Buren; five aunts; three uncles; and a host of cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Beasley Wood Funeral Home of Mena, Arkansas. Interment was at the Smithville Cemetery.



Wanda Gail Willowby Cotton

Wanda Gail Willowby Cotton, 74, passed away on March 17, 2016 in Ellensburg, Washington after a battle with cancer. She was born on Dec 16, 1941, to Otis and Pair-lee Treat in Phoenix, Arizona.

Wanda was raised in Grandview, Washington and graduated from Grandview High School in 1960. In Grandview, she enjoyed swimming, water ballet, riding her horses, singing and sewing.

Wanda loved children and animals. She was a stay-at-home mother of two children. She was also an in-home childcare provider for numerous children including foster children. Wanda raised and cared for many animals, but most cherished her horses and dogs. Wanda's last profession was a registered nurse.

Wanda was married in 1966 to David Cotton whom she met at a dance hall in Ellensburg. She was married for 12 years, but she spent most of her years as a strong-minded independent woman. Wanda had many friends that admired her determination and strong willed nature. She had the ability to make friends instantly with her uninhibited spirit and readiness to talk with anyone.

Wanda is notably remembered for her strong operatic voice. She sang in many choirs and performed for many weddings and events. She was a promoter and advocate for preserving the traditional hymns and gospel music.

Wanda is survived by her mother Pairlee Householder and stepfather Delvin Householder of Sunnyside; son, Michael Cotton of San Diego; daughter, Julie Allen of Bothell; seven grandchildren, Michael Cotton, Alexandria Cotton, Brandon Cotton, Gabriel Cotton, Pablo Benavidez, Ivan Plevancic and Raina Allen; as well as numerous other relatives and friends.



Larry Allan Mills

Larry Alan Mills, 63, of Joplin, Missouri, passed away on March 19, 2016, at Freeman Hospital West, following a sudden illness. He was born on June 5, 1952, to the late Jack Walton Mills and Jan (Bufe) Mills in Meza, Arizona.

Larry grew up in Rolla, Missouri. He graduated from Rolla High School in 1970. He then moved to the Joplin area. Larry married Laura Lea Petty on Nov. 23, 1990, in Joplin. Larry served his country in the Army Reserves during Vietnam. He received his bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Pittsburg State University. He was a registered nurse for over 25 years, retiring in 2014 after working for both Freeman Health System and Mercy Hospital. He was a member of Wildwood Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

Larry was known for his humor and selflessness. He had a passion for the Kansas City Chiefs. He loved the music of Elvis and was proud of the fact that he saw him in concert three different times. He enjoyed all of the oldies. He also enjoyed showing off his classic 1958 Corvette. He was a member of the Route 66 Corvette Cruisers. Most of all Larry loved the Lord and his family.

His maternal grandmother, Delora M. (Beck) Mills, was an enrolled Choctaw, the daughter of Elijah Oliver Beck and Joanna (Woods) Beck. Joanna was also an enrolled Choctaw, the daughter of Stephen Woods and Eliza Dukes. Joanna's mother Eliza was the daughter of Joseph Dukes and Nancy (Collins) Dukes. Joseph was the son of William Dukes and Nancy Wade, a Choctaw. Nancy was the daughter of Charles Collins and Mary Bell, also a Choctaw. Joanna's father Stephen was the son of Horace Woods, who married Sarah, a Choctaw also known as "Nowahoke" or "Nowatima."

Larry is survived by his wife, Laura; two sons, Blake Mills and Hunter Mills, both of Joplin; brother, Gary Mills and wife Jerre of Rolla; sister, Jackie Mohring and husband Allan, St. Paul, Minnesota; brother and sister in-laws; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Billy Jack Cooper

Billy Jack Cooper, 87, of Albuquerque, passed away on Feb. 22, 2015, at his home. He was born on Dec. 24, 1928, to Dillard Cooper and Lois (McAlvain) Cooper Pugh in Hodgson.

Billy was the grandson of original enrollee, Thomas Jay McAlvain. He was also a devoted grandson of Edna (Turner) McAlvain Freeman.

Billy enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1947 at the age of 18. He served 24 years, serving in the Korean Conflict and two tours in Vietnam, earning many achievements including the Bronze Star. After retiring from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major, he served 28 years for the USDA as a meat inspector retiring in 1999. During his military and civil service careers he lived around the world, making many lifelong friends along the way.

He was a devoted friend to many, and enjoyed staying in contact with childhood friends and Army buddies. Billy was an active political blogger and guest editorial commentator for his hometown newspaper. Billy had a love for both new and classic cars. He was a devoted member of Celebrate Wesleyan Church. Billy performed extensive volunteer work with many organizations including the VA, Meals on Wheels, and Lighthouse Mission, and numerous others.

He was preceded in death by son, John Cooper; and granddaughter, Star Rainey.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy; children, Donna Bullington, Caroline Popescu, Catherine Hoisington, Joseph Cooper, Jacquelyn Eichhorn, Nicole Jackson; grandchildren, Sunshine, Brandon, Justin, Josh, Ashley, Eric, Abigail, Jordan, Olivia, Gayleen, Danny, Stephanie, Rachel, Eric, and Andrew; 14 great-grandchildren; sisters, Betty Over, Dilla Jean Janisich; and brother, Curtis Pugh; and many other extended family members.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Daniels Family Funeral Services in Albuquerque.



Kenneth Joe Ferguson

Kenneth Joe Ferguson, 84, of Poteau, passed away on March 2, 2016 He was born on Sept. 18, 1931, to Joe Edgar and Leot-tie Meda (Wilkes) Ferguson, in Tipton.

Kenneth was the first president of the Choctaw Nation Historical Society. He received grant from the federal government to have the Choctaw council house restored, museum introduced, gift shop and RV park built. Kenneth was instrumental in finding the current location of the Choctaw clinic. He helped to get the old mines and strip pits filled in. He was instrumental in having the Cavanal bypass built and had flood control structures built to keep Wister from flooding. Kenneth was instrumental in building LeFlore County transfer stations. He was a drill sergeant in the military. He was also Scout for the 245th tank battalion, 45th infantry, Korea, and offered to go to officer training school. He also offered to be sent to Harvard University to become a state conservationist.

Kenneth was an avid hunter, fisherman, outdoorsman, and beekeeper. He ran a pecan cracking business, and combining business.

Kenneth attended First Baptist for many years, then the Nazarene church later in life. Ken was a father and educator. He loved to travel. He visited all fifty states, and many European and Asian countries. He was a graduate of Oklahoma A&M in 1956. Kenneth was retired from the LeFlore County District Soil and Water Conservation office where he worked for 26 years, and then went into the Forestry Service for another 10 years.

He was preceded in death by his first and second wives, Margie Ann (Hayes) Ferguson, and Wanda (Galland) Ferguson.

Kenneth is survived by his daughter, Barbara Thompson and husband Marshall of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; son, Stanley and wife Susan of Norman; stepson, Ron Bizzell and wife, Grace of Poteau; brothers, Alvin and wife Julia of Junction City, Kansas, Eddie and wife Diana of Terrell, Texas; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Evans & Miller Funeral Home in Poteau. Interment was at Oakland Cemetery in Poteau.



Lavada Ora Baker

Lavada Ora Baker, 79, of Wright City, passed away on March 4, 2016, at her home. She was born Feb. 20, 1937, to Mike Davis and Sabbitt (Tonihka) Crosby in Broken Bow.

Lavada was born and raised in McCurtain County. She was a member of the Chihowa-i-Chuka Church in Wright City. She and Madison Baker were married on Dec. 21, 1957, in Broken Bow. Lavada enjoyed cooking, sewing, taking care of her grandchildren, singing, being a Sunday School teacher, directing Christmas programs, reading her Bible, playing chicken feet, as well as praying and witnessing to people.

Lavada is survived by her sons, Madison "Bo" Baker, Jr., of Moore, Michael Baker, Wayne Baker, Rayburn Baker, all of Wright City, Reggie Baker, of Broken Bow, Jason Baker, of Granite; daughters, Marquitta (Jan) Seeley, of Beaumont, MS, Avis Tugwell, of West Monroe, Louisiana, Edwanna Briley, of Wright City, Myrna Taylor, of Jay; brother, Alpheus "Fish" Crosby, of Idabel; sisters, Vinita Shomo, of Idabel, Lorenza Brandy, of Valliant, Ester Crosby, of Idabel, Twilla Jarvis, of Idabel, Cheryl Hudson, of Idabel, Esta Bitsouie, of Tulsa; 31 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; cousins and other relatives; many friends and her Church family; and sister-in-law, Bernetta Baker, of Elton, Louisiana.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Madison; daughter, Lenora Williams; stepmother, Ida Crosby; and brothers, LeRoy Crosby and Arthur Crosby, Sr.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow. Interment was at Slater Memorial Cemetery in Wright City.



Imogene Gay Garland Lobaugh

Imogene Gay Garland Lobaugh, 90, passed away on March 15, 2016. She was born on Oct. 5, 1925, to Bertha Gay and Benjamin Temple Garland born in Pauls Valley.

Imogene's family ran the Pauls Valley wagon yard. After graduation from Pauls Valley High School in 1943, she worked in Oklahoma City as a bookkeeper at Crescent Market. She also worked as a dance instructor at Arthur Murray Studio and Kotche's School of Dancing. She returned to Pauls Valley where she met and married Ephraim Leon Lobaugh Sr. in 1950. Eph and Imogene enjoyed baseball and dancing together. They had four children. After Eph's passing, Imogene worked in Lawton as a payroll programmer for the U.S. Army.

Imogene loved dance, cats, quilting, opera and musicals. She was a fan of rock 'n' roll and Gordon Lightfoot's ballads. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Imogene also loved her "Wisdom" blanket she received from the tribe last Christmas.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Eph; sister, Virginia; and brother, Raymond.

She is survived by her sons, Ephraim Lobaugh and Matthew Lobaugh of Pauls Valley; daughters, Zora Sampson of Pauls Valley and Loretta Lobaugh of Madison, Wisconsin; son-in-laws, Ken Sampson of Chickasha and Donald Donald Schillmiller of Madison; and grandchildren, Aaron Sampson of La Jolla, California and Sarah Sampson of Rochester, New York.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Pauls Valley.

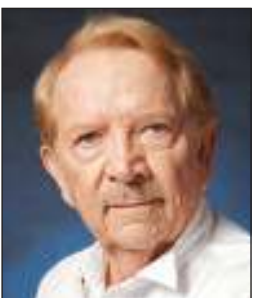


OBITUARIES

Charles Wayne Gardner

Charles Wayne Gardner, 85, of Hanford, California passed away on March 11, 2016. He was born on April 21, 1930, to Minnie and Martin Luther Gardner in Turkey, Texas.

Charles was the youngest of seven children, and the only one born in Texas. Due to the Great Depression, his family moved back to Oklahoma, living in the Durant area. When Charles was 10, his family again moved, this time to Lubbock, Texas.



Shortly after graduating from Lubbock High School, Charles joined the U.S. Navy in 1948. In his time of service he was stationed in French Morocco, Trinidad and stateside.

After his honorable discharge, Charles made his home in Hanford.

Charles worked for Kings County in the newly formed Planning Department, and retired as planning director for Kings County in 1995. Following his retirement Charles enjoyed traveling, living in China, excursions to Mexico, and spending time with friends and family at home.

His father was born in 1896 in Indian Territory and was an original enrollee.

He was preceded in death by both parents; brothers, Gene and Luther; sisters, Altha Allard, Frances Moore, and Moina Dean Spears; and nephews, Simms Spears Jr. and Loren Langston.

Charles is survived by his loving daughters, Rebecca and husband Frank Pimentel of Hanford, Susan and husband David Stone of Hanford; son, Stephen and wife Esther Gardner of Fresno, California; spouse, Betty Gardner of Fresno; brother-in-law, Cordell and wife Jean Tribble of Hanford; sister, Edith Elisk of Albuquerque, New Mexico; grandchildren, Brian and wife Wende Pimentel of Verdi, Nevada, Amy Pimentel of Hanford and Angela Delgado of Fresno; five great-grandchildren with a sixth on the way; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of People's Funeral Chapel in Hanford.

Cecil Talmadge Pebworth

Cecil Talmadge Pebworth, 93, passed away on Oct. 13, 2015. He was born on Feb. 9, 1922, to James Lee Pebworth and Mary McKinney in Asher.

At the age of seven, Cecil and his family moved from Asher, to Eastern New Mexico to a large farm. Even though the work was hard, Cecil enjoyed farm life. He lived there until he enlisted in the service or Sept. 8, 1942. Cecil served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Asian Pacific. He served as a Boatsman Mate, Second Class.

After the service, Cecil moved to California and became a butcher.

Cecil married Fern Jenkins, and together they had two sons.

Cecil owned a cabin in Paynes Creek, California, where he loved to hunt, fish and enjoy life.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Fern; sons, Donald Ray and Edward Pebworth; and second wife, Marge.

Cecil is survived by his grandson, James; great-granddaughter Trinity; and sister, Wana Paulsen.



Reggie Brian Thomas

Reggie Brian Thomas, 50, passed away on Feb. 22, 2016, in Ardmore. He was born on July 30, 1965, to William Thomas and Eliza Jane (Roberts) Thomas in Ardmore.

Reggie attended Dickson High School. He worked for Ponders Restaurant for many years as a cook, until it closed. Reggie was an avid University of Oklahoma fan.

He was preceded in death by his father, William; brothers, Roger, Wesley, Jimmy and Aaron Thomas; and sisters, Nina Sue Alvarez and Margie Beth Thomas.

Reggie is survived by his mother, Eliza, of the home; son, Dustin Lawrence Brown, of Ardmore; daughters, Stephanie Thomas, of Polson, Missouri, Alisha Thomas Adams, and husband James, of Kalispell, Missouri, and Jessie Black, of Healdton; nine grandchildren; brothers, Danny Thomas, and Richard Williams, both of Ardmore; sister, Patricia Mouse, of Tahlequah; uncles, Bobby Thomas of Ardmore; and Joe Roberts of Newcastle; aunts; Mary Lois Bond of Ardmore and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Kent Steven Reynolds

Kent Steven Reynolds, 55, passed away on March 17, 2016, in Wapanucka. He was born on Jan. 20, 1961, to Doyle and Ann (Hooten) Reynolds in Bakersfield, California.

Kent was raised in Bakersfield and Lamont, California. Kent graduated from Arvin High School in 1978. He moved to Oklahoma in 1979. Kent was charismatic and loved to make people laugh.

He was preceded in death by brother-in-law, Randy Boley.

Kent is survived by his fiancé, Kathy White, of Wapanucka; parents, Doyle and Ann Reynolds of Ardmore; sons, Cody Reynolds, of Wapanucka, and Shawn Bustamante of Bodfish, California; daughter, Cara (Reynolds) Alsafi and husband Mike of Roswell, New Mexico; grandsons, Ramzy and Raja Alsafi of Roswell; brother, Kip Reynolds and wife Terri of Ardmore; sister, Kim (Reynolds) Boley of Dover, Arkansas; four nieces; seven great-nieces; three great-nephews; along with numerous other family members and loved ones.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home of Ardmore. Interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore.



Jackie Pate Walden

Jackie Walden, 87, of Broken Bow, passed away on March 7, 2016, surrounded by family and friends. She was born on August 14, 1928, to Clara Ruby and T.R. Pate in Alikchi.

Jackie was raised with her four brothers in "company towns" throughout Southeastern Oklahoma. She met her husband, Calvin, while attending Battiest High School. The two married on March 1, 1948, after Calvin returned from serving in the Navy during World War II. Following their marriage, Jackie and Calvin moved to Broken Bow, where they raised four boys. Jackie retired after 24 years of service at the McCurtain County Highway Department District #1.

The Waldens were faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Broken Bow, where Jackie was a member of the Joy Sunday School Class for 59 years. She particularly enjoyed sitting in the back pew with her friends during Sunday services. Jackie was a member of the Broken Bow Chapter of the Eastern Star.



Jackie was a life long student of the Bible and committed her life to the Lord. Along with her unwavering faith, she will be most remembered for her deep love of and devotion to her family and friends. She also enjoyed spending time with her close friends, keeping up with her sons, and always winning games of dominoes with her grandchildren. She was known for her dry wit and sense of humor.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband of 54 years, Calvin; son, Larry Walden; brothers Kenneth "Sonny" Pate and Jerry Donald Pate; and beloved aunt Joy Clay.

Jackie is survived by sons, Terry and daughter-in-law Sally of McKinney, Texas, Lynn and daughter-in-law Tawni of Broken Bow, and Steve and daughter-in-law Kelly of Mansfield, Texas; daughter-in-law Nancy Walden of Jackson, Tennessee; brothers James "Buddy" and Verna Faye Pate of Winslow, Arizona, and Terry Ronald and Nancy Pate of Coffeerville, Kansas; grandchildren, Laney and Peter Valian, Matthew Walden, Samantha and Matthew Champion, Casey and Jessica Walden, Claire and Camryn Walden; great-grandchildren, Luna and Wylie Valian; and a host of extended family and friends.

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

Harold Dean Perry

Harold Dean Perry, 80, of Spiro passed away on March 19, 2016. He was born on May 2, 1935, to Campbell Phillip and Mary Opal (King) Perry in Keota.

Harold was a Navy Veteran and retired from the 188th Air National Guard. He was a member of the Choctaw Veterans Association post 4501 Skullyville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters, Betty Brooks, Edna Perry, Davey Brown, and Eva Perry, and one brother, Samuel Perry.

Harold is survived by his wife Betty of the home; son, Anthony Perry of Spiro; daughter, Elizabeth Burnett and husband Ross of Fort Smith, Arkansas; grandchildren, David, Melissa, Mary, and Kevin Perry, Brock and Brielle Burnett; step grandchild, Josh Perry; foster grandchild Shawn Flannary; great-grandchildren, Paige, Kristian, Ryan, Isabella, Kolby, Vera, JJ, Eliza, Alexis, Emily, Mathew, and Luke; brothers, Paul Dewayne Perry and wife Diana of Spiro, and David Joe Perry and wife Pam of Spiro.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Mallory-Martin Funeral Home and Crematory in Spiro. Interment was at the New Hope Cemetery in Spiro.



John Duane Norris

John D. "JD" Norris, 68, of Bushnell, Florida passed away on March 15, 2016. He was born on August 5, 1947, to John H. Norris and Ruby E. Williams in Talihina. He was the grandson of original enrollee Frank Annkweatobi Williams.

JD was a decorated Vietnam veteran. He earned an accounting degree from the University of New Mexico. He worked as a special agent for the IRS, and as an auditor and tax practitioner in the private sector.

JD lived many years in the Phoenix and San Diego areas. He was a member of Penasquitos Lutheran Church. He loved traveling in his RV, sports, sailing, fishing, music and movies. He was a man of faith with a great sense of humor.

He was preceded in death by both parents; daughter, Leslie; and brothers, Michael and Clyde Mandelin.

JD is survived by his wife, Adrienne Lee Norris of Bushnell; daughter, Pamela Chalk of San Diego; brother, Greg Norris of Bushnell, sister, Nyla Norris of Peoria, Arizona; siblings, Nikki, Melanie, David and Teresa Mandelin; along with many beloved stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Crevasses Simple Cremation in Gainesville, Florida. Interment was at Bushnell Florida National Cemetery.



Obituary Policy

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

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

Lorene Blaine

Lorene Blaine, 77, passed away on March 26, 2016. She was born on June 13, 1938, to Daniel and Mary (Fobb) Sanders in Bennington.

In 1957, Lorene met and married, her friend and partner for life, Silas Blaine, Jr. in Durant.

Lorene will be remembered as a dedicated church member who committed much of her life in service to our Lord and Savior. Lorene trusted and relied on God's word and she loved to study the Bible. Lorene was a proud full-blood tribal member. She enjoyed cooking traditional foods, singing Choctaw hymns and was a registered Choctaw artist. Her legacy will be remembered by sharing the art of traditional beading, sewing and cooking traditional Choctaw food. Lorene held the title of Outstanding Female Elder for the Choctaw Nation in 2008, and represented the Choctaw Nation as the AARP Indian Elder Honoree in 2014. Lorene loved meeting and visiting with everyone. Through her love and kindness made a lasting friendship with everyone she met. She was a devoted homemaker and above all cherished her family. Lorene was employed with the Durant Public School, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the Department of Justice.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Silas Blaine, Jr.; grandson, Cody Blaine; three sisters; and one brother.

Lorene is survived by her son, Junior Blaine of Durant; daughters, Teresa Jefferson of Tishomingo, and Monica Blaine Monjay and husband Justin of Durant; grandchildren, Joseph Jefferson and wife Christy of Durant, and Kayleigh Powell of Durant; sister-in-law, Vernita Sanders of Bennington; and step-granddaughter, Taryn Monjay of Roff.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home in Durant. Interment was at the Sulphur Springs Cemetery in Bennington.

Louie Edward Caswell Byrns

Louie Edward Caswell Byrns, 92, passed away on Feb. 29, 2016. He was born on Jan. 5, 1924, to Ledger and Julia (Spring) Byrns in Hugo.

His mother, Julia was an original enrollee.

Louie served in the U.S. Army as a First Sergeant for 3 1/2 years. He served in Europe and the Philippines. He worked for many years as a service advisor and retired from Fred Jones Lincoln Mercury in Norman. Louie was a long time member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McLoud. He was a huge fan of the Sooners and the Thunder. Everyone loved Louie and he never met a stranger. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by both parents; first wife, Judy Byrns; second wife, Betty Barnhart; son, Teddy Byrns; great-grandchildren, Jordan and Joseph Byrns; and brother, Hallie Collins.

Louie is survived by his son, Bart Byrns and wife Carla; daughter-in-law, Diane Barnell; daughters, Vicki Andrews and husband Steve, Kathy Whitehead and husband Dean; grandchildren, Traci Davis and husband Craig, Terri Byrns-Donahoo and husband David, Jared Byrns and wife Charla, Chelsea Campbell and husband Chad, Billy Little and wife Diane, Jeff Little and wife Kim, Brent Andrews and wife Jennifer, and Lindsay Espinosa and husband Eric; great-grandchildren, Ashlea Davis and Fiancé Kyle McGuire, Zachary Davis, Brik Donahoo, Benjamin Byrns, Madeleine Byrns, Camden Andrews, Carson Little, Ryleigh Andrews, Saydee Espinosa, Valerie Andrews, Avery Little, Brooklynn Little; great-great-grandchild, Blayklea McGuire; along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Arrangements were made under the direction of John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel in Moore.



Calvin Thomas Beams Jr.

Calvin Thomas Beams Jr., 78, passed away on Dec. 5, 2015, in Henderson, Nevada after a battle of Obstructive Pulmonary disease. He was born on May 10, 1937, to Calvin T. Beams and Hazel Anderson Beams in Yuma, Arizona.

He graduated from Claypool High School in Oklahoma. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and spent four years in the service.

He was preceded in death by both parents; and grandparents, Calvin S. and Lucy Beams, and Curley and Kate Anderson.

Calvin is survived by his wife of 54 years, Phyllis; son, Kevin Beams; daughter Tracy; stepson, Mike; sisters, Mary Sue Hudson of Ardmore, Jerry Davis and Husband Ed of Ringling, Jimmye Browder and husband Bill of Durant; brothers, Sammy Beams of Ringling, and Richard Beams and wife Karen of Osborne, Kansas; along with numerous other family members and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Desert Memorial Cremation and Burial of Las Vegas.

Earlene Belfiore

Earlene Belfiore, 80, passed away on Dec. 6, 2014, at home with her husband by her side. She was born on Jan. 3, 1935 in Oklahoma.

Earlene and her family moved to Cloverdale with her family in 1954.

Earlene worked at Asti Winery, where she met Chuck. They married in 1979, celebrating 35 years of marriage. Together they owned the Corner Deli for six years, and the Eagles Nest Deli for three years.

Earlene enjoyed spending time with her family, and going to the Casino.

She was preceded in death by both parents; a brother; daughter, Penny; and son John.

Earlene is survived by her husband Chuck; brother, Don Green and wife Dee; sister, Genie Mills; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a loving and extended family.



BUSINESS

Small Business Academy Coming to Choctaw Casino

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation Small Business Development Services will be hosting the Second Annual Small Business Academy June 14 and 15 at the Choctaw Nation Casino.

Billy Hamilton, Manager of Small Business Development Services, said the academy.

“This year we won’t have any procedural workshops, that is what we cover in counseling,” Hamilton said. “I want everyone to be motivated when they leave.”

To make the two-day event as valuable as possible, there are two Key Note Speakers, Lena Kopp and John Fannell along with other presenters.

Lena Kopp is the owner and CEO of 4C Welding in Hugo and Kopps on the Run. She has many years of experience in construction and welding. Kopp is a member of the Choctaw Nation Small Business



Photos Provided

Lena Kopp of 4C Welding and Kopps on the Run.

program and has had much success with her businesses.

John Fannell is a motivational speaker and comedian. He will be the final speaker at the academy and according to his bio, “his take on work, family, love and life in general are guaranteed to leave you laughing.”

The Small Business Academy was started to create a network of Choctaw Business that wants to grown in south-eastern Okla. according to Hamilton.

“My goal it to create a network between Choctaw Businesses and also Choctaw Nation to Choctaw Businesses,” said Hamilton.

The curriculum includes:

- Business and Strategic Planning
- Survivor – The Business Edition: From data security breaches and financial crisis to daily life in Tornado Alley, emergency preparedness is critical to the survival of every business. Learn how to survive disasters affecting your business, community, customers, and supply chain.
- Social Media Marketing
- Search Engine Optimization: reach new heights in Google rankings
- Import and Export Strategies for Small Business
- Business Analytics: using market research and segmentation to attract the right customers
- Using Business Financials to Grow Your Business

The event is now open to the public. Register through the Choctaw Nation website and go to the Small Business Development Services page. The web address is as follows, www.choctawnation.com/business/division-commerce/small-business-development-services.

Registration is \$24.50 for tribal members and \$49 for non-tribal members. Spaces are very limited. For questions contact Billy Hamilton at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2901 or bhamilton@choctawnation.com.



John Fannell, final Key Note speaker.

Bo Newsom Production Company Can Do It All

By TINA FIRQUAIN
Choctaw Nation



Photos Provided by Bo Newsom

Bo Newsom working outdoors on a video shoot.

Bo Newsom Productions is a video production company helmed by Choctaw member John (Bo) Newsom and his wife Twolla Newsom.

They started their business in the summer of 2008 and now have a successful company based in Oklahoma City.

Bo Newsom has been in the video business since he was a teen working for his father behind the camera. His father was Paul Newsom, host of popular outdoor TV show, Paul Newsom’s Great Outdoors.

“One day my dad just threw a camera at me and said ‘learn it’ and I said ‘shoot, let’s do it,’”

said Newsom. Since then he loved working with his father and he grew to love working in video. He added that looking back now he thanks God his father was critical when he taught him because it made Bo better.

After college, Newsom worked for many companies over the years, some being the best in their industry.

Newsom worked with Cabela’s Outdoor Outfitter as the senior TV producer and won several awards for cinematography and editing.

After working for many companies and being so successful, Bo figured he could do the same thing for his own company. “I felt like I could do more and I could do it myself, so I did,” said Bo.

Bo Newsom Productions has a small crew of Bo and Twolla and a few animators and editors.

“We focus on quality of work and integrity,” said Newsom. “We try to make all of our clients happy.”

Currently, the company is working with Choctaw Nation producing three commercials and a documentary on the Choctaw Journey.

Newsom is proud to be Choctaw and to be working with the Nation. “I’m excited to tell the story of the Choctaw way of life,” he added.

Bo Newsom Productions works with small businesses and large corporations in any line of work.

Newsom said, “Our clients come in all shapes and sizes, from doctors to car commercials to national ad campaigns.”

For more information, go to bonewsomproductions.com, call (405) 312-3353 or (405) 312-3354 or email bonewsom@gmail.com or twollanewsom@gmail.com.



Bo Newsom Productions filming on the set of an ad for Choctaw Nation.



2016 HEALTH FAIRS AT COMMUNITY CENTERS

CENTER (COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES)	COUNCILMEMBER	DATE	START	LUNCH
Broken Bow	Tony Ward	6-01	10:00	12:00
Talihina	Kenny Bryant	7-13	10:00	11:30
Poteau	Delton Cox	7-20	10:00	12:00
Wilburton	Joe Coley	8-10	10:00	11:30
McAlester	Bob Pate	9-07	10:00	11:30
Bethel	Tony Ward	9-21	10:00	11:30
Crowder	James Frazier	10-12	10:00	11:00

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 you must 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:

Wright City Field Office • June 20 • 9:30–11 a.m. & 1 p.m.–2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
PRESENTS

2ND ANNUAL
CHOCTAW
SMALL BUSINESS ACADEMY
FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
2016

JUNE 14TH & 15TH

A CONFERENCE FOR CHOCTAW SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS & ENTREPRENEURS

Join us at the Choctaw Casino & Resort - Durant for a two day intensive training for both start-up and expansion businesses that will be focused on providing the tools and resources to be successful!

\$49 Registration Fee / \$24.50 For Choctaw CDIB Card Holders

SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

For more info contact bhamilton@choctawnation.com or 580-924-8280 ext.2901

CHOCTAW NATION
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

The CSBDS provides business assistance to Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs that want to start or expand their business.

Choctaw Tribal members that utilize the services will receive specialized technical assistance through one-on-one business counseling, training workshops, an extensive network of business assistance programs and educational networking opportunities. Assistance offered includes, but is not limited to:

- Business Planning
- Business Counseling
- Business Registration
- Access to Financing
- 8(a) Certification Assistance
- Minority Business Registration
- Marketing
- Business Taxes
- Bid Assistance

June - July Events Calendar:
(Please contact CSBDS for more details and to register)

June 23 Durant: Tax Commission Workshop 9:00-12:00

July 7 Poteau: Business Planning 9:00-12:00

July 13 Idabel: Small Business Community Day 9:00-12:00

July 21 Durant: Tax Commission Workshop 9:00-12:00

July 28 McAlester: Small Business Community Day 9:00-12:00

Contact Small Business Development Services today!

bhamilton@choctawnation.com or 580-924-8280 ext.2901

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Young California Choctaw Named 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leader



Photos by Tina Firquain

Sarah De Herrera of the Okla Chahta Clan of California was named a “25 Under 25 Native Youth Leader” for the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY). “UNITY is a national network organization promoting personal development, citizenship, and leadership among Native American youth,” according to unity-

inc.org. “The UNITY Mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement.” In order to be part of this group, De Herrera had to submit an application. De Herrera said, “I remember I was celebrating my birthday at the time and so when I did my application, it was last minute.” She knew about the group and what the opportunity meant to be a part of the “25 Under 25” group, but she was not sure she would be named. “I’m going to try, just shoot it out, and see if someone catches it,” De Herrera thought at the time. “They did and I was just in shock.” Elder Bill Harrison nominated De Herrera, which was an essential part of the application. Another essential part of the ap-

plication was the project portion. De Herrera said, “Since I do live in California, I don’t know 100 percent what goes on in the Choctaw Nation and what issues they face.” However, one problem that stood out to her, and she had been interested in, was the language of the Choctaw people. For her project, De Herrera is going to create a book series of stories like Disney Princesses, but it would be about the Beloved Women of the Choctaw Nation. For this, she would focus on the role women play in the Choctaw culture. De Herrera expressed, “I aspire to become a Beloved Woman in the community,” which is her goal for her life. As of now the project has not been started, but De Herrera has initiated research and found an artist and publisher. She plans to start working on part of the books during the summer while

she has some time off. The idea for the project came to De Herrera when she read “Choctaw Women in the Chaotic World” by Michelene Pesantubbee. That is when she learned about Beloved Women. She believed she could mix American culture with Choctaw. De Herrera constantly tries to stay connected to her heritage, but “I thought I was too distant from my culture and community,” she said. She wants to represent her community as much as she can and bring people into the culture of the Choctaw Nation. “I want to inspire something through the Choctaw culture.” De Herrera added, “Filling out that application let me know what I really

do and the application gave me focus again.” According to a press release from UNITY, “The official recognition will take place in front of peer youth leaders at the National UNITY Conference happening July 22-26 in Oklahoma City.” De Herrera will be in attendance at the conference and said, “I’m going to see what UNITY will bring for me, like opening new doors.”



(from left to right) Ryan, Chris, Brenda and Sarah De Herrera all wearing traditional dress at the Bakersfield May 7.

Davis Gives Tribute of Choctaw Veterans to Samuels

On March 23, Thomas Davis presented a golden lapel pin with the tribal seal of the Choctaw Nation to Arnold Samuels. Samuels is not Choctaw, but served in the military during WWII just as two of Davis’ uncles did. Samuels was involved in a top-secret mission that contributed to ending the war six months later. Samuels was given the pin in tribute to Choctaw veterans who served in WWII. Davis said, “That man helped get my uncles back home alive by helping end the war.” Davis also took the opportunity to provide edification as to the Original Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I, of whom he is most respectful and grateful. Davis of the Bacon clan had two uncles that served in the military during WWII, Tech Sergeant Everett Bacon and Theodore Bacon. In addition, two other brothers also



served the country during the Korean War in the Army, Wilburn Bacon and Leonard Bacon. “Choctaw family members such as the Bacon clan have always stepped up to the plate in time of need to defend this great nation under God in time of war,” said Daivis.

Hardy is Successful in Science

Choctaw Tribal Member Elena Hardy attends seventh grade at Red Mesa Jr. High. Elena took first place at her school science fair. She then went on to win first place at the Navajo Nation Science Fair and is also competing at the Arizona State Science Fair. Elena is an Honor Roll student and athlete. She was a competitor at the Arizona State Cross Country for the 2015 season. Elena is the daughter of Cynthia Hardy and granddaughter of Robert Hardy of Talihina.



Bennington Head Start on Heritage Day



The Bennington Choctaw Nation Head Start celebrated Heritage Day on April 4, by dying material. Tracy Baker, a teacher’s assistant at Bennington, set up the activities to mirror what people might have done during earlier time periods. Baker said, “We do this so that we can make our children aware of how people had to do things in

the past. It is a hands-on connection with the past.” The children watch videos and read articles about the activity and everything is age appropriate. Also, the children can always go back and do the activities again. Kaylr Ingram, who is 5-years-old, showed off the material she dyed and told everyone to try it for Heritage Day.



Barnard Siblings Success

Kelsey Barnard, left, received the top citizenship award at the Huntsville Intermediate School. She received a certificate and ate lunch with the Mayor. Kelsey is in fourth grade. Spencer Barnard, right, plays the trombone for the Huntsville Middle school beginning band in Huntsville Arkansas. Spencer competed in the solo ensemble on April 22, in West Fork Arkansas. He received an Overall Two for his performance of Erie Canal. Spencer and Kelsey are the children of Lindsey and Josh Wallace; and Thomas and Amy Barnard. They are the grandchildren of Lloyd and Kathy Holt, Dedra and the late Jim Wallace, the late James Barnard and the late Susie Eberhart.



Burdex Wins First Place with Poetry

Paris Jade Burdex is in second grade in Anadarko, Okla. She recently attended the Native Language Fair at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Paris placed first in Spoken Poetry and first in Written Poetry with her poem titled “Sia.” She has learned Choctaw from her maternal grandmother, Viola Zumwalt, who has been an English teacher at Riverside Indian School for the past 35 years.



Keobele Scores High in Geographic Bee

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



Photo by Tina Firquain

Pictured from left to right: Michael Noah, Crystal Bully, Katherine Schoggins, Preston Wells, Brianne Wilson, Lauren Rowland, Matt Maxwell, Gabrielle White, Kaylindra Rains, President Sean Burrage, Vallerie James and Tim Boatmun.

Choctaw Students Recognized at Southeastern OSU

Southeastern Oklahoma State University students were recognized for their work and completion of the Choctaw Nation College and Career Resources program. All students attended cultural, wellness and educational events, as well as participated in community service and job shadowing. Preston Wells of College Resources worked closely with more than 20 students during the 2015–16 school year at Southeastern. During the year, three students stood out for their leadership, service and culture. Matt Maxwell received the “Emerging Leader” award, Vallerie James received the “Heart of Service” award, and Kelly Anderson received the “Fire Keeper” award.

Choctaw College Connect
A link to your future

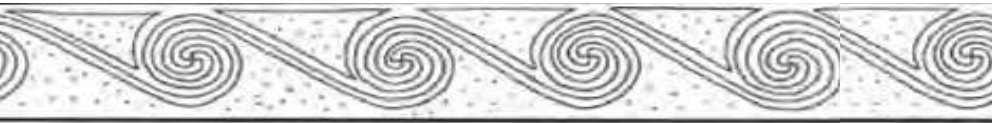
SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 5, 2016

Choctaw Nation
A CHOCTAW NATION INITIATIVE

A CHOCTAW NATION INITIATIVE

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation						
July 2016						
Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115		Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com		Idabel by appointment		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Antlers by appt.	7	8 Wright City by appt.	9
10	11 Durant 8:00-4:30	12 Talihina 10:00-2:00	13 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	14	15 Crowder by appt.	16
17	18 Durant 8:00-4:30	19 Poteau 11:30-1:00	20	21	22 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	23
24	25 Durant 8:00-4:30	26 Wilburton by appt.	27 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	28	29 Broken Bow & Idabel by appt.	30
31						



Iti Fabussa

By JENNIFER BYRAM
Choctaw Nation

Have you heard about the National Bison Legacy Act? In April the House and Senate of the US Congress passed the act, making the bison the national mammal. In honor of this great news, this month we are featuring an indigenous textile made of bison hair. On display in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England is a large bison wool bag, which probably dates back to the 1700s, and just might have been made by a Choctaw person. As a master’s student of the University of Oxford, the writer of this article was able to visit with the bag on two separate occasions in order to tell its story. The piece is fragile but full of traditional knowledge and artistry. The writer is a Choctaw tribal member and a textile maker. Seeing the bag on these occasions was a humbling



Fig. 1: 1884.69.15, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, U.K., Writer’s own photograph

experience. Even 300 years later, the weaver’s ingenuity and dedication to her work shines through her textile. In studying the bag, the writer was able to witness the hours the weaver spent laboring over the piece and see how her imagination came to life in the bag. The weaver gained her knowledge and skill watching and learning from the tribe’s mothers and spending countless hours perfecting her own craft.

During its 300 year life-

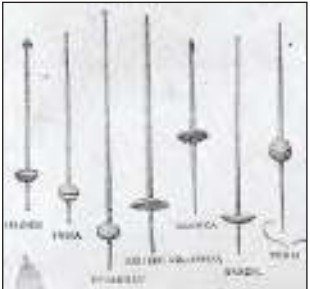


Fig. 2: Image from “Smithsonian Report,” Luther Hooper, 1914

time, her bag has traveled far and no doubt seen many remarkable places and people. Somehow the bag changed hands from the weaver and tribe, its home, to a European living, traveling or working in North America. Eventually it landed in the collection of an English man, General Pitt Rivers, who then donated his works to the Pitt Rivers Museum of the University of Oxford. What a journey this bag made! Today it lies among other textiles and creations from around the world and is marveled at by many British people and visitors from every corner of the earth.



Among scholars and museum workers, the piece has become quite well known as a rare and outstanding work. The bag has some holes and decay yet its excellent quality and tight weave have kept it in remarkable condition for its age. The bag contains much from which we can learn.

The bag was made using bison hair, another wooly fiber, and white trade beads. It is a flat, large woven bag, measuring 18 in. wide by 9 ¼ in. tall plus 5 in. long fringe on average. Unfortunately, little is known of the specific traditional preparation of bison hair. Deerskin trader James Adair of Ireland wrote in 1775 that “In the winter season, the women gather buffalo’s hair, a sort of coarse brown curled wool; and having spun it as fine as they can, and properly doubled it, they put small beads of different colours upon the yarn, as they work it: the figures they work in those small webs, are generally uniform, but sometimes they diversify them on both sides. The Choktah weave shot-pouches, which have raised work inside and outside.”

Bison hair must be collected as the bison sheds and these pieces are often knotted and unusable. The bison have five varieties of hair ranging from the short, soft undercoat to the long, coarse guard hairs. Once clumps of hair are collected, these five varieties of bison hair must be laboriously prepared and sorted. Today usually only the undercoat is used to spin luxurious, soft yarns. However, the fiber used to weave the bag was likely the bison’s longer, guard hair which causes the fabric and fringe to appear coarse and rope-like.

In order to create the yarn, the fiber is spun using a tool called a spindle. James Adair also described how “the old women spin [fiber] off the distaffs, with wooden machines, having some clay on the middle of them, to hasten the motion” (1775). Choctaws would have used spindles similar in form to those pictured in Figure 2. Using a spindle, the woman making the bag spun the bison hair into fine, two ply yarn. The resulting fabric woven from the yarn is dense yet thin. The bag was woven with a technique called oblique weaving or oblique interlacing (it sometimes falls under the sprang textile category). The weave of this bag is called oblique to refer to its diagonal warp (Figure 3). It requires no tools except two suspended sticks or tautly pulled strings from which the warp hangs.

The bag’s beaded designs seem to tell us of a dance or of a meeting while the more abstract lines could be interpreted a number of ways. Although other similarly woven, beaded bags exist, this bag has an exceptional and

rare design. A bison hair bag would surely have been a large part of the everyday life of the weaver as she made it. The fact that it was constructed after the maker had access to traded European goods suggests it may be a very special creation for which she chose to set aside extraordinary time and effort.

In order to better under-

stand the thought process of this woman, the writer attempted to learn finger weaving and oblique weaving as well. The more the writer wove, the more she came to understand the knowledge and artistry of the weaver. This woman planned the design out by stringing beads on the warp in the right order. At the beginning of the piece, the weaver grouped the warp threads into bundles which she braided.

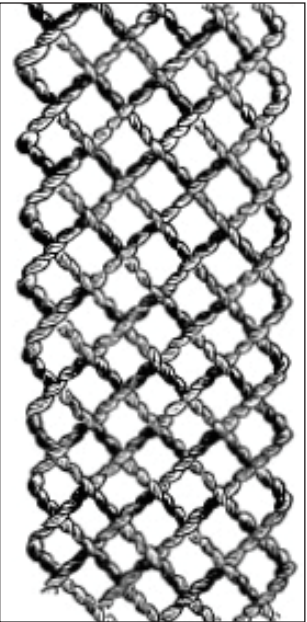


Fig. 3: Image from Pre-historic Plies: a Structural and Comparative Analysis of Cordage, Netting, Basketry, and Fabric from Ozark Bluff Shelters, Sandra C. Scholtz, 1975

In an unusual fashion these braids were neatly combined to form the top edge of the fabric. She guided her beaded warp threads to create the designs on the bag. She used every trade bead she had, even the ones with imperfections. Her lines and stripes gave way to images of people built bead by bead. She had to concentrate carefully in weaving the neck, shoulders, waist, legs, and feet as these all ran contrary to the angled direction of the warp. Having masterfully completed her beaded people and designs, the weaver would have had to finish the other panels and assemble the parts of the bag. Her sewing is incredibly neat and regular so much so that the writer was first tricked into thinking the bag had actually been woven as a tube. Rather, the weaver artfully seamed the bag together, even beading one seam as she sewed. Finally, with the ends of the parts of the bag still loose, she bundled and braided the warps of the panels together for about an inch and left the rest as fringe. While the weaver’s experience likely made the process quicker than the writer’s inexperienced attempts at oblique weave, it would have still demanded a considerable amount of the weaver’s time.

Early native pieces like the bison hair bag that use both native and non-native materials (beads and commercial wool) demonstrate high levels of innovation and adaptability. Unfortunately very few pieces made of bison hair still exist today. These fine yet fragile pieces usually did not survive long in the humid environment of the North American southeast. However, finger weaving can be learned and, in turn, Choctaw textiles can be a living tradition again with the interest of its people and new generations of weavers. The writer found that learning oblique weaving provided a meaningful connection to her ancestry and forged a stronger link between her current and future textile work and the textile work of her ancestors. The bison hair bag carries traditional knowledge and artistry waiting for us as the Choctaw people to weave these elements together yet again.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Construction crews work on both the exterior and interior of the new Choctaw Country Market in Clayton. The expected opening date is August 2016.

Choctaw Country Market to Open before Labor Day

By RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

The Clayton area is getting one step closer to having a full service grocery store. The 11,000-square-foot Choctaw Country Market is scheduled to open in August 2016. The store will have a butcher, a deli, and a counter service restaurant with dine-in seating. It will sell typical grocery store staples as well as fresh produce and will feature a wide range of fresh food options.

According to Jody Standifer, Executive Director of Retail and Food and Beverage in the Choctaw Nation Commerce Division, “The store promises to deliver friendly service with a clean, comfortable shopping experience.”

The store will also have fueling stations for automobiles and trucks with 10 pumps, including diesel fuel.

A job fair will be held June 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. According to Standifer, the store is expected to hire 24 employees. For more information, please check online at Careers.ChoctawNation.com.

This will be the Choctaw Nation’s first venture into full service grocery stores for the general public.

“This will have a great economic impact for the people of Clayton and all the people in this area of southeastern Oklahoma. The new store will bring much needed jobs in addition to goods and services for the people of the Clayton area,” says Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton.

Choctaw Nation

2016

Farmer's Market

Fresh | Local | Organic

The Choctaw Nation Farmer's Market is open and runs until Oct. 31. The Choctaw Community Centers in Durant, Atoka, Antlers, Hugo, McAlester, Broken Bow, Idabel, and Stigler all hold farmer's markets every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. or when the produce sells out.

Assistance Available

The Choctaw Nation WIC clinics will begin issuing WIC Farmer's Market checks on May 2. You do not have to have a WIC appointment to receive your FMNP check. Just go to your nearest WIC clinic and ask for your farmer's market check.

Senior applications are available at all community centers and will be a first-come, first-serve basis as funding is limited. You may also call 1-800-522-6170 Ext. 2303 to request an application to be mailed to your home.

Contact: 1 (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280 Ext: 2303

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 2016 Choctaw Indian Arts Show held Labor Day weekend at Tvshka Homma, OK. 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: _____

Mail to: Shelley Garner - CNO Cultural Services
PO Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

SPORTS

Oklahoma Native on NCAA Championship Hockey Team



Say the word “hockey” and most people think of places where snow is measured in feet instead of inches, not an area know as Tornado Alley in the middle of the country. Most people do not think of Oklahoma City and NCAA National Hockey Championship in the same sentence, but Maci Ann Hoskins, an 18-year-old

freshman at Plattsburgh State University in New York and Oklahoma native, helped the Lady Cardinals win the 2016 NCAA Hockey Championship. In addition, Hoskins has made the USA National Select Festival four years in a row. She is the daughter of Mike and Patricia Ann Hoskins of Oklahoma City. Maci and Patricia Hoskins are members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Mike Hoskins is the Oklahoma Amateur Hockey president. When Maci was 4-years-old she was taken to an Oklahoma City Blazers hockey game and fell in love with the sport. She started begging her parents to let her play hockey and against her mother’s wishes, Maci began taking skating lessons from three time Stanley Cup Champion Mike McEwen of the New York Islanders. At the time, McEwen was running the hockey program

at the Iceland skating rink in Bethany, Okla. When Maci was 5 years old she began playing hockey on an all boys Oklahoma City Junior Blazers team coached by McEwen and Tom Frye. She would go on to lead the team to win the North Texas Hockey League Championship. She continued to play on all boy hockey teams and held several leadership roles as Captain and Assistant Captain over the years. Maci was 13-years-old when she made the USA Hockey-Rocky Mountain District Player Development Camp. From there she was selected among the top players in the Nation to attend the USA National Select Festival, where she met and played for former 2002 Olympian Andrea Kilbourne-Hill. Maci represented Oklahoma four consecutive years at the development camp and festival. At the age of 14, Maci made the Alliance Bulldogs girls hockey 16-U team in Dallas, Texas, where she played for Coach David Horn. She began getting invites from various New England and East Coast Prep schools. A year later at age 15, Maci was accepted into the Northwood Prep School in Lake Placid, N.Y., where she played for Kilbourne-Hill for three years and was the Assistant Captain of the team for her senior year. In addition to playing hockey, Maci is also a level II USA Hockey referee. She is currently finishing her freshman year at Plattsburgh State University, where she is majoring in criminal justice, and is looking forward to defending the 2016 NCAA National Championship.

Stout Awarded All District

As a freshman at Southwest High School in San Antonio, Texas, Madison Stout quickly moved from the junior varsity soccer team to the varsity soccer team, where she found her position as goalie. Stout recorded two shutouts and made eight saves as they moved toward the Lady Dragons first District Championship. She was awarded the game ball from the San Antonio Express News as well as an award for First Team All District. Stout also earned a Letter in Varsity soccer. Stout had been an athlete since the age of three when she began cheerleading as a flyer. Stout excelled in soccer, volley ball and track. Her ethics, drive and work with children at the nearby elementary school did not go unnoticed. Stout was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in eighth grade.



ment Camp. From there she was selected among the top players in the Nation to attend the USA National Select Festival, where she met and played for former 2002 Olympian Andrea Kilbourne-Hill. Maci represented Oklahoma four consecutive years at the development camp and festival. At the age of 14, Maci made the Alliance Bulldogs girls hockey 16-U team in Dallas, Texas, where she played for Coach David Horn. She began getting invites from various New England and East Coast Prep schools. A year later at age 15, Maci was accepted into the Northwood Prep School in Lake Placid, N.Y., where she played for Kilbourne-Hill for three years and was the Assistant Captain of the team for her senior year. In addition to playing hockey, Maci is also a level II USA Hockey referee. She is currently finishing her freshman year at Plattsburgh State University, where she is majoring in criminal justice, and is looking forward to defending the 2016 NCAA National Championship.

Spencer Named Player of the Match



Grace Spencer was selected as Player of the Match in her team’s 2-1 victory over Cambridge City in the Cambridge-shire S-Tech League Cup.

Choctaw Nation Represented In All Indian Basketball Tournament

The Special Projects Department took the OK Choctaws girls and boys basketball teams to Winnebago, Neb. to participate in the first annual “We B.A.A.D” All-Indian basketball tournament in April. The tournament was held on the Winnebago Tribe Reservation. Director of Special Projects, Javen Henson, noted that “the trip was a great experience for the athletes and they represented the Choctaw Nation well.”



The Choctaw Nation girls team won third place in the tournament.

The girls’ team placed third in the highly competitive tournament, with two of the athletes receiving personal awards. DeAnn Taylor, Rattan and Peyton Hoyer, Talihina were selected to the All-Tournament Team. The girls’ roster consisted of Kyra Hornbuckle, Poteau; Dakota McElhaney, Savanna; Kendra St. Clair; Calera; Kenzy Edmondson, Haworth; DeAnn Taylor, Rattan; Emma Epperly, Latta; Peyton Hoyer, Talihina; and Mariah Crank, Talihina. They were coached by Javen Henson and Kevin Gwin. The boys’ roster consisted of Alex Steve, Durant; Adonis Fox, Kingston; Mac Ortiz, DeSoto, Texas; Toche Taylor, Rattan; Darian James, Rock Creek; Jagger Sokolosky, Wilburton; Trey Harper, Durant; and Keegan Bohanan, Rattan. They were coached by Chris Valliere and Curtis Steve.

Smith Goes From Golden Tigers To Norsemen



Eric H. Smith recently graduated from Talihina High School. During his entire high school career Smith was a running back and linebacker for the Golden Tigers. During his senior year, Smith was the featured running back for the Talihina Tigers. He had 24 touchdowns, with 1,793 yards rushing and a total of 13 two-point conversions.

Smith was named 2016 State All-Star Running Back and 2016 All Around District Player of the Year. In other sports, Smith was a 2016 State Qualifier in weightlifting and brought home the Golden Tigers first weightlifting medal. In 2015, he was a State Qualifier and medalist in track and was the recipient

Burris Selected To All Star Teams For Two Different Sports


Panama Razorbacks quarterback Andy Burris, a senior, was selected to the Oklahoma Coaches Association Class 2 A, All Star East Team. In baseball, Burris was selected to play for the North Squad in the Kiamichi All-Star Classic at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

of the 2015 Talihina Tigers “Tiger Award.” Smith will be continuing his education at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla. and begins summer practice with the NEO Norsemen football team in June. He is the son of Linda and Jimmy Smith of Clayton.



Russell Named Basketball Newcomer of the Year

Martin Russell, a sophomore at Ysleta High School in El Paso, Texas, was named Newcomer of the Year in District 2-5. Last season, as a freshman, Russell led the ninth grade boys to a 20-3 record and the district championship. He plays for the El Paso Sonics AAU team and Athletes First Southwest in Las Cruces, N.M. He is the son of Karlin and Armida Russell and the grandson of Joe and Joy Russell of Norman. His grandfather was the late Perry Russell of Davis.



The 98 years old Dave Heavener still works in his garden.

Dave Heavener is the June elder in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.

Jentry Brown Selected To Multiple All State Teams

Jentry Brown is the 2015-16 Valedictorian for Howe Public School. She is the daughter of Brett and Jennifer Casey and Patrick and Sarah Brown. She was also elected to the OCA All-State Basketball, as well as the OGBCA All-State Basketball Teams. Brown is the 2A State Champion in the 100 meter and 200 meter runs, which means she is also All-State in track. She has also been selected All-State in slow-pitch softball this year. Brown plans on finishing her Allied Health Associates Degree at Carl Albert and transferring to NSU or OU to complete her degree in Speech Pathology.



Bodine Wins Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine

James Bodine won Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine at the 2016 Leon County Youth Livestock Show. He is the son of James and Donna Bodine and the grandson of Joyce Bodine and the late James E. Bodine Sr.



2016 YOUTH DEER HUNT

CHOCTAW NATION TI VALLEY RANCH

OKLAHOMA DEER GUN SEASON

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

REGISTRATION ENTRY FORM

PLEASE RETURN TO PO BOX 837 DURANT OK 74702

NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

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



The Choctaw Nation Arts & Music Festival will be June 24 and 25 at Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

The festival will showcase experts on pottery, beadwork, stickball, weaponry, and agriculture. Featured artists will share their work and make-and-take sessions will be held for visitors to create an item to keep. Entertainment will include social dancing, singing, concerts, and storytelling. The event will be live-streamed, so everyone in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will have the opportunity to experience this fun-filled event.

Those attending can use the hashtag #CNArtsMusic to share photos and videos of the event. The Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day. Admission is free.

More information can be found at ChoctawNation.com and nmai.si.edu/visit/washington.



Lainey Edwards (June 25)

Country Music Singer-Songwriter

Powerhouse, booming, smoky, velvet voice – just a few words to describe country music artist Lainey Edwards. Carrie, Blake, Reba, Garth, Vince, and Toby are country icons who all have something great in common with Lainey. They are all Oklahomans. Lainey is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This appreciation for family heritage and tribal roots can be felt in the music she writes. With the summer release of her EP “Barnstormin,” Lainey says she finally feels she’s found her voice.

With her entire family in tow and their undeniable support, they made the move to Nashville. The move to Nashville has resulted in active working relationships with some of the industry’s most accomplished producers, songwriters, music publishers and record executives. Lainey recorded her first album with one of Nashville’s most respected, Grammy-nominated producers, Brett Beavers.

In 2014, Lainey added radio personality to her list of endeavors. She hosts “Latest with Lainey” every Saturday on lakeoftheozark-radio.com and Sundays at 10 p.m. on 100.1 KYKC radio out of Ada. The “behind the scenes” show delivers music and interviews with Nashville’s best independent artists, touring musicians, hit songwriters and today’s best country music artists. The show is currently reaching nearly 50,000 country music fans every week.

For more information, visit laineyedwards.com.

Samantha Crain (June 24)

Folk and Americana Singer-Songwriter

Folk and Americana singer-songwriter Samantha Crain was born and raised in Shawnee. Samantha is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma native and resident of Norman is a self-described storyteller. Crain started playing and writing music the summer after graduating from high school. She taught herself how to play and recorded her first EP, “The Confiscation” in 2008. She takes inspiration from musicians such as Neil Young, Jason Molina, The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, and Billie Holiday. You can hear these influences in Samantha’s own music.

Samantha has released a total of five albums since 2008. Her latest, “Under Branch & Thorn & Tree,” was named one of the top 10 albums of 2015 by NPR’s “Folk Alley.” Linda Fahey of NPR described Samantha’s songs as being, “Real stories about real people, often told from the perspective of the underdog.”

For more information, visit samanthacrain.com



Presley Byington

Choctaw Musician & Artist

Presley Byington was born and resides in Idabel. Presley grew up immersed in the Choctaw culture. At the age of 12, in the mid-70s, he developed a passion for the culture. A fellow classmate, Buddy Monahan, invited him to learn the Choctaw Social Dances. Presley became a member of the Okla Humma Chahta Hitha Dance group under the direction of Rev. Gene Wilson.

Later in life, Presley began learning the Plains style of dancing while working for the Woodland Firefighters under a Bureau of Indian Affairs program, with the Choctaw Nation Forestry. He and some of his fellow firefighters took the opportunity to learn Stomp Dancing with fellow Cherokee firefighters. Presley was dancing in Cherokee, North Carolina, with Gene Wilson’s group when a Native American Courting Flute caught his eye.

He then learned how to play and make the flutes from Rev. Floyd Peters. Presley’s flutes are made from river cane or bamboo. Each material causes the flutes to have different tones. To this day, Presley is known as a Choctaw traditionalist who enjoys teaching and sharing his culture. He continues to practice both Choctaw and Plains dancing along with the flute making. Presley has a great passion and interest for the Choctaw people.

Jerry and Shirley Lowman

Traditional Choctaw Artists

Jerry and Shirley Lowman have dedicated much of their lives to Choctaw traditional music, dancing and artistry. Both grew up in the hills of Northern McCurtain County, where isolation allowed their cultural traditions to stay intact. Both Jerry and Shirley spoke only Choctaw until they entered grade school. The couple met in high school, and soon after got married.

As young adults, the Lowmans noticed that the traditions of the Choctaws were fading. Wanting to help preserve Choctaw culture, they joined a group of determined Choctaws in keeping tribal music and dancing alive.

The Lowman’s contributions to Choctaw chanting and dancing go back more than 40 years including making trips to learn from the Mississippi Choctaws.

Like the language, there are subtle differences between Oklahoma Choctaw dancing and the Mississippi style. But both are flourishing in recent years thanks to a new generation of Choctaws on both sides of the river following in the footsteps of honored elders such as Jerry and Shirley Lowman. The Lowmans have lead tribal dances at numerous events including Labor Day at Tvshka Homma.





Evangeline “Vangie” Robinson

Choctaw Artist/Pottery

Evangeline “Vangie” Robinson is a Choctaw Artist from Coalgate. She currently lives in Boswell. In 2009 traditional pottery classes were offered by the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department in Durant. Vangie attended a class and was hooked. She enjoyed it because she loved working with her hands and mind. Vangie enjoys all the processes of traditional pottery making. From collecting the clay out of the ground, gathering mussel shells from the lake, to firing the pottery traditionally in a wood pit fire. Using materials at hand is a custom passed down from Choctaw ancestors. Vangie believes teaching pottery is important, as it assures that our culture is passed on to future generations of Choctaw people. Vangie also uses traditional art forms such as beadwork.

Kathy Sturch

Choctaw Artist/ Watercolor



Choctaw Artist Kathy Sturch is a watercolorist with long time experience in painting, teaching, and in business. She resides in Durant. The National Resources Conservation Services selected Kathy’s artwork as the National Native American Poster for 2008 and 2012 with distribution throughout the United States. She was included in the Choctaw Cultural Awakening book and her painting “A Father’s Influence” was included in the official 2014 Choctaw calendar. Kathy has won numerous awards for her art, and her work hangs in both private and public collections. Currently, she exhibits in the Choctaw Store in Colbert and The Country Framer in Durant. Kathy is a member of the Texoma Arts Association in Durant and is registered with the Choctaw Nation Artist Registry.



Linda Faye Roebuck Bryant

Choctaw Artist/Painting/Pottery/Gourds

Linda Faye Roebuck Bryant of Aurora, Colorado, is a Choctaw Artist. Linda is originally from Oklahoma and draws inspiration for her artwork from her Oklahoma roots. Her artwork consists of graphite drawings, oil, and watercolor paintings, as well as pottery. Linda also creates cultural artwork including gourds, talking sticks, and medicine bags. Her Native culture is often an influence in her final work. Linda’s artwork has been displayed at the Community College of Aurora, as well as at Choctaw festivals and events. She has presented Choctaw Cultural presentations to several schools, including an international school in Taiwan. Linda believes in the importance of teaching and sharing the history and culture of Native Americans.

Norma Howard

Choctaw Artist/Painter



Norma Howard is a Choctaw Artist from Stigler. Norma paints genre scenes inspired by family stories and Choctaw life. A self-taught artist, Norma has developed a unique style of watercolor painting that uses small brush strokes, cross-hatching, and layers to produce depth. Her use of earth tones helps to convey a sense of nostalgia in the scenes of her paintings. Norma enjoys featuring the “heart and soul of the Choctaw people” in her artwork, from children playing, Choctaw dancing, the Trail of Tears, and other traditional Choctaw events and traditions. Her work is popular with both collectors and critics alike. Norma has won many awards and her artwork is displayed in numerous venues. She is one of five artists whose artwork is exhibited in the Choctaw Casino Hotel & Resort.



Tim Tingle

Choctaw Storyteller/Author

Tim Tingle is an award-winning Choctaw author and storyteller. In 1993, Tingle retraced the Trail of Tears to Choctaw homelands in Mississippi and began recording stories of tribal elders. Tingle was a featured author and speaker at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., based on critical acclaim for “How I Became a Ghost,” which won the 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Award. The second book in the series, “When A Ghost Talks, Listen,” was released in the spring of 2016. His first children’s book, “Crossing Bok Chitto,” garnered over 20 state and national awards, and was an Editor’s Choice winner in the New York Times Book Review. In June of 2011, Tingle spoke at the Library of Congress and presented his first performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He received his Masters Degree in English Literature from the University of Oklahoma in 2003, with a focus on American Indian studies. While teaching writing courses and completing his thesis, “Choctaw Oral Literature,” Tingle wrote his first book, “Walking the Choctaw Road.” It was selected as Book of the Year in both Oklahoma and Alaska. In February of 2016, his novel “House Of Purple Cedar” won the American Indian Youth Literature Award. As a visiting author and performer, Tingle reaches audiences numbering over 200,000 annually. He has completed eight speaking tours for the U.S. Department of Defense, performing stories for children of military personnel stationed in Germany.



Friday, June 24

- 10:00 a.m. Booths Open**
2016 Featured Artists & Cultural Booths
Jerry and Shirley Lowman, Norma Howard, Kathy Sturch, Linda Bryant, Presley Byington, Vangie Robinson, Les Williston, Tim Tingle, Ian and Amy Thompson, Jared Tom, Jordan Eagle Road
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Program Begins in Potomac**
Emcee Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.
Opening Prayer
Lord’s Prayer – Brad Joe and Choctaw Royalty
Welcome by Chief Gary Batton
Council Introduced
Choctaw Social Dancing
Choctaw Song – Keosha Ludlow
Storytelling – Tim Tingle
- 11:30 a.m. Make & Take – Cultural Services Staff**
- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Program Begins in Potomac**
Emcee Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.
Welcome by Chief Gary Batton
Council Introduced
Choctaw Social Dancing
Choctaw Song – Presley Byington (flute)
Storytelling – Tim Tingle
- 2:00 p.m. Make & Take – Cultural Services Staff**
- 3:00 p.m. Concert**
Samantha Crain
- 5:30 p.m. Museum Closes**

Saturday, June 25

- 10:00 a.m. Booths Open**
2016 Featured Artists & Cultural Booths
Jerry and Shirley Lowman, Norma Howard, Kathy Sturch, Linda Bryant, Presley Byington, Vangie Robinson, Les Williston, Tim Tingle, Ian and Amy Thompson, Jared Tom, Jordan Eagle Road
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Program Begins in Potomac**
Emcee Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.
Opening Prayer
Lord’s Prayer – Brad Joe and Choctaw Royalty
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Emcee Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.
Welcome by Chief Gary Batton
Council Introduced
Choctaw Social Dancing
Choctaw Song – Presley Byington (flute)
Storytelling – Tim Tingle
- 2:00 p.m. Make & Take – Cultural Services Staff**
- 3:00 p.m. Concert**
Lainey Edwards
- 5:30 p.m. Museum Closes**

(All events subject to change.)

Community Meetings

Bakersfield, California



Alleigh, Rilyn and Austen Hanner, Leann Duckett and Addyson Hanner. Leann took her grandchildren to get their membership cards at the Bakersfield meeting on May 7.



The children at the meeting in Bakersfield made Mother's Day cards with past Okla Chahta princesses on May 7. The event was during Mother's Day weekend and this was to show appreciation towards all mothers.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Chief Batton playing horseshoes at the Okla Chahta meeting on Saturday, May 7.



At the end of the first day, May 7, the meeting was closed with social dancing where adults and children participated in the cultural experience.



Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. with the Okla Chahta Royalty for 2016-17. Miss Okla Chahta Princess, Haley Scott (red), Little Miss Okla Chahta Princess, Natalie Carmack (blue), and Jr. Miss Okla Chahta, Kaili Harrison (yellow).



Masen Knapp is helped by Greg Jones in making a Rabbit Hunting Stick. Masen comes every year with his family to the Bakersfield meeting. Greg Jones is a Mississippi Choctaw and came to Bakersfield to teach carving techniques.

Photos by Judy Allen, Tina Firquain & Ronni Pierce



Children played stickball in different age groups and with one stick to make the game easier. The games were played boys against girls.

2016 Trail of Tears Walk



Lindsey Bowen (right), who works for Choctaw Nation Guest Services, with her son Tim and husband Ethan (back) enjoy the Walk with Lindsey's grandmother Patti Ann Atwood.



Led by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, participants climb the final hill during the 2016 Trail of Tears Walk. The commemorative Walk is held every year in May to honor Choctaw ancestors removed from their homeland and forced to walk to Indian Territory.



Alan Dukes (front), a veteran, and Terry Battiest (back, right) take a moment with Chief Batton. The day of the Walk was also Armed Forces Day.



(left) Chief Batton addresses the crowd prior to the start of the Walk as Choctaw Nation royalty look on.



The Moore family from Ft. Worth, Texas, check out the waterfall in the Choctaw Village prior to the Walk.

ALL Children Are Eligible to Apply!

Choctaw Nation

Head Start is

RECRUITING NOW!!!

The Choctaw Nation Head Start is currently accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. All children are eligible to APPLY. Children show additional gains in social-emotional development as a result of participating in Head Start at both 3 and 4 years old (Aiken et al., 2013). Families of children with special needs are also strongly encouraged to apply. For more information and to obtain an application, please contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Administration office @1-800-522-6170, ext. 2219

Choctaw Nation

ARTS & MUSIC

FESTIVAL June 24&25

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Seventhousand Nations of Oklahoma

Presley Byington

Choctaw Traditional Flute Artist