



NEWS

March 2017 Issue



It's Time to Vote

Voting to take place for Council Seats in Districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12

by KENDRA GERMANY

With the 2017 election just around the corner, it is important for Choctaw tribal members to understand the newest changes to voter registration.

The Voter Registration Department maintains an information database separate from other service programs and continually engages with the community to help tribal members update their information and understand the election process.

"It is important to update voter information. It allows us to maintain a current voting list that is distributed to candidates by the Election Board. It also reduces the amount of undeliverable mail," stated Candace Perkins, Director of Voter Registration.

The initiative of the Voter Registration Department is to increase voter participation and promote election process transparency. To align with

their goals, the department will maintain accurate voter records for all eligible members in preparation of the next Tribal Election scheduled for July 8, 2017.

In this upcoming election, tribal members, who live within or have chosen to affiliate with a specific district, may cast their votes for Tribal Council office in Districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12. An election will not be held in the event that a candidate for elected office does not draw an opponent or runs unopposed.



Among the numerous changes waiting for final approval from the BIA are establishing an appeal process in certain areas for due process . . . and ensuring fairness in the process.

— Brad Mallett

Associate General Counsel, Choctaw Nation

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters who have updated their information with the Voter Registration Department.

Unlike past years, the Voter Registration Department will not close before Election Day which allows eligible tribal members to continually update

their information.

They may also update their information at any open voting location, regardless of district affiliation, by participating in same day registration. It is highly encouraged that all eligible tribal members update their information with the Voter Registration Department as early as possible to avoid any delay at the voting location. Determination of voting locations will be communicated at a later date by the Election Board.

It is the mission of the Voter Registration Department to provide every opportunity for tribal members to vote and have a voice in the Choctaw Nation, and keeping your information current is an important step in having your voice heard.

Even if a tribal member has previously voted in tribal elections, they should complete the Voter Registration Form or contact the Voter Registration Department to check their information.

Changes to Voter Registration and the election process are the result of the newest version of The Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance. Tribal Council voted to approve the new Ordinance on Feb. 23, 2017, by enacting Council Bill, CB-060-17. Final approval from the Department of Interior is pending.

Voter Registration forms can be found at <https://www.ChoctawNation.com/vote>.

For more information contact the Voter Registration Department at (580) 924-8280 or (800) 522-6170 ext.2289, ext.5190, or ext. 2410. The Election Board Office and Voter Registration Department are located at 1205 West Main Street, Durant, Oklahoma 74701.

How to File for the July Tribal Council Election

Every two years there are six seats on the Choctaw Tribal Council up for election. The 2017 election will be held on Saturday, July 8.

The filing period for Districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 will begin on Monday, April 17. The three-day filing period will end at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.

A person may become a prospective candidate for Tribal Council by filing a notarized Declaration of Candidacy with the Choctaw Nation Election Board during the filing period and paying the \$500 filing fee. The filing fee must be paid in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Trust.

To be qualified to run for a Tribal Council seat, a prospective candidate must:

- Be a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal member
- Be 21 years of age or older when filing for candidacy
- Be no less than one quarter (1/4) degree of Choctaw Indian blood as certified by an official Tribal Membership card
- Never have been convicted of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction
- Have been a resident in their respective districts for one year immediately preceding the election and if elected must remain residents of the district from which they were elected during the tenure of office.

Until the Choctaw Nation Election Board is in session in April, Choctaw Nation Voter Registration can answer any questions regarding the tribal election, or filing for candidacy.

Tribal election information, including a Candidate Guide, can be found on the Choctaw Nation website at <https://www.ChoctawNation.com/government/tribal-elections>.



Faith, Family & Culture

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Oklahoma's average unemployment rate had dropped for the third consecutive month, sitting at five percent. I'm grateful to see any of our new facilities and businesses provide opportunities for more jobs and add to the economic stability of our counties and the state. It's good for everyone.

The opening of the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic last month in Durant brought approximately 225 additional jobs to the area. Choctaw Nation health facilities are trailblazers.

The hospital in Talihiina was the first in the country to be built entirely with tribal dollars. The regional medical clinic is the first tribal clinic in the country to offer

Choctaw Nation Continues to Grow



Expansions are evident in everything from jobs to programs to new facilities as the Choctaw Nation continues to grow.

As of December 2016,

an outpatient ambulatory surgery center. Choctaw Nation Health Services staff has been updating and creating new charts so they will be ready to provide quicker service for patients.

Steel beams are defining the outline of a new wellness center near the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Durant and just a short walking distance from the regional medical clinic, new headquarters and other facilities.

In 2016, the Durant Wellness Center had just over 85,000 member visits. They plan to accommodate up to 275,000 annual visits in the new facility. While retaining 16 current jobs, they expect to create 18 new jobs for a total of 34 associates and plan to grow from there.

The new Choctaw Travel Plazas/Casino Toos in Heavener and Hugo are almost finished and should open this spring. Construction is also under way on a Choctaw Travel Plaza in Stigler and an expansion to the Choctaw Casino in Grant.

These will provide close to 175 jobs.

Construction of Independent Elder Living homes will begin soon at locations in Coalgate and Antlers and the group of homes in Smithville is near completion.

Each site will have 10 homes and a common building for use by all of the elders living on the site.

Independent Elder Living communities are currently located in Idabel, Hugo, Durant, Talihiina, Calera, Harts-horne, Stigler and Poteau.

The Choctaw Nation Community Center in Talihiina is halfway to completion. The seniors there are happily

awaiting the larger building and all it will have to offer. They are even preparing a time capsule to commemorate the opening.

Two districts are getting Choctaw Nation Head Start facilities. New centers are slated to open this year in Atoka and Wright City.

The Head Starts are always welcome in the communities and we receive many comments about the excellent staff and curriculum. The teachers focus on the children's development, academics and knowledge of Choctaw culture.

The Choctaw Nation has more to offer than ever before. The increase in job opportunities provides incentive to live and work in our area so that our people are empowered to provide for themselves and their families.

As more people move in to use the local businesses and send their children to local schools, we have more opportunity to hire even more people.

This growth also helps provide more scholarships and career training to Choctaws throughout the United States that helps prepare them for better jobs.

The positive cycles we create are reducing the cycle of poverty not only in Oklahoma, but everywhere a Choctaw citizen lives.



by Joseph Jefferson

Progress is being made on the new Choctaw Nation headquarters in Durant. Work on the brick and Choctaw diamonds have begun on the outside of the building.

Choctaw Youth Stay Busy in February



Choctaw youth are provided several opportunities to learn and stay active. Two of my favorite events kicked off in February—the livestock shows and youth stickball games.

This is the 25th year for the annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show. The show began in 1992 and was held in Hugo. It started out as a swine show and was open to Native American youth living in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

The following year the show was held at the McAlester Expo. A few years later the show was moved to Wilburton and utilized Eastern Oklahoma State College Agricultural facilities.

It wasn't long before heifers and steers were added to the show. In 2007, goats and lambs were added so the show split to become a two-day show at both Wilburton and Durant.

It is open to any 4-H or FFA member in third through twelfth grade with a CDIB. The youth no longer need to live in the 10 1/2 counties. There are no boundaries.

Families travel hours to attend the shows and give their children an opportunity to not just win with their animal, but to gain experience.

This year was the biggest year for the livestock show so far. There were 468 animals exhibited at Wilburton and 487 in Durant.

Most of these animals will go on to their county shows. Some of these animals will advance to the Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City, which is called the World's Largest Livestock Show. Some of the females will be used to raise show animals.

I enjoy watching the families support the youth. The students learn so much about responsibility as they are raising their animals. I've watched younger siblings help groom the animals. Parents cheer the winners whether they are their children or not. All benefit from the experience.

The students develop a better understanding of life and important life skills. These youth are our future livestock producers.

The following weekend was the beginning of the fourth season of the Youth Stickball League. There are nearly 600 boys and girls signed up this year on the seven teams—Tvshka Waiya, Hiloha Osi, Bak Bak, Yvnnvsh Homma, Osi Heli, Nashoba Homma and Tvnnvp Issoba. My son played for the first time last year with Tvshka Waiya and is ready for this year!

As with the livestock show, it is a family affair. The lawn chairs are brought out. Mom, dad, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles eagerly watch the games when they have a chance. Each team practices every week and meets every two weeks for Saturday games at Tvshka Homma. (See schedule, Page 14)

Stickball is also an activity that teaches responsibility, teamwork, respect, setting goals, discipline and healthy habits.

I'm thankful for the exceptional teachers and coaches who spend time to help our kids. The ag teachers put in many more hours than they signed on for. The stickball coaches are often the parents of some of the kids, but they treat their entire team as family.

The culture of the Choctaw Nation is something that encompasses everything we do and I want to say yakoke for all they do to encourage our youth and keep our traditions alive.



by Lisa Reed

4-H member Nataley Edwards gets help at the Livestock Show as her twin cousins Caleb (blue hat) and Wyatt (red hat) Edwards help groom her goat while Meredith Edwards holds the lead rope.

CHOCTAW COUNTRY

Spring is in the air and it's time to venture out and enjoy some great events.

WWW.CHOCTAWCOUNTRY.COM/SPRINGBREAKOUT

Twitter Facebook Instagram

Southeastern Oklahoma Wildlife Expo
March 31
McAlester, OK

Dogwood Days Festival
April 1 - Idabel, OK

Mountain Gate Poker Run
April 8 - Talihiina, OK

BISKINIK

March
MAHLI HVSHI

2017

the wind month

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It's time to vote! Council seats in Districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12 are up for election on July 8. See what steps you have to take in order to make your vote count.

St. Patrick's Day is in March. And it's the time we recognize the special bond between the Choctaw and Irish people. See the story on YouTube, "Kindred Spirits-The Choctaw-Irish Bond Lives On."

Stay Connected.

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

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

Former Councilmember Passes On After Long Life

The Rev. Randy Jacob, 80, Ada, passed from this world to be with our Creator and Heavenly Father on Sunday, Jan. 29, just four days after his 80th birthday.

A beloved mafo (grandfather), father, brother, husband, uncle and kinsman, Randy cared for everyone privileged to cross his path.

He served his country as a United States Marine and was an inspiration.

Randy marched with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in support of civil rights. He served as a Choctaw Tribal Councilman from 1980–1983 and had been active in Choctaw governmental affairs since the late 1960s, when he took an active role in opposing the Indian Termination Act.

He was known for his efforts to keep the federal government from terminating the Choctaw Nation in 1970.

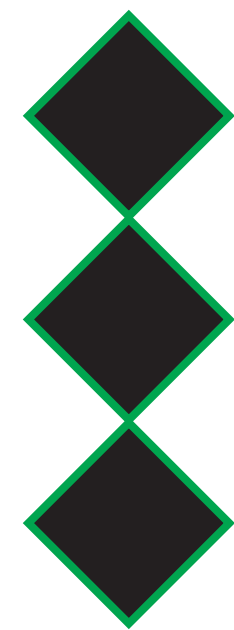
Rev. Jacob led his congregation at McGee Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church and served as a leader for the Choctaw Presbytery. He fought for what was right at a great personal and professional expense.

He overcame extremely difficult circumstances in his life—racism, prejudice, and trauma—to be a kind, generous, and loving father and mafo (grandfather), and in doing so blessed the lives of his children and grandchildren with joy, peace, and love.

Rev. Jacob was known for his deep concern for his fellow man and great knowledge about tribal history and culture, which he shared with younger generations.

He is survived by wife Betty; daughter Faith and husband Dennis; sons Christopher and wife Crystal, and Tvli and wife Valarie; grandchildren A'An, Emley, Nayimmi, Brooke, Nuseka, Jonathan, and Nicky; and many other family members and loved ones. Funeral Services for Rev. Randy Jacob were held Saturday, Feb. 4 at the First Assembly of God Church. Interment was held at McGee Chapel Cemetery in Broken Bow.





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by JOSH MABRAY

Halito. As a Mental Health Counselor at the Windhorse clinic in McAlester, I often hear about unaddressed issues that unfortunately spiral into thoughts of suicide.

As a clinician working with the Tomorrow's Hope grant focusing on those aged 10-24, due to statistics now showing that the suicide rate has surpassed the motor vehicle mortality rate within that age range (Reuters, 2016).

Within Tomorrow's Hope suicide prevention program, clinicians and outreach specialists have begun practices to delve into the reaches of our community that are often left silent, suffering, and hopelessly misunderstood.

they are soon aided in revealing their search for faith, family, and culture was with them all along. A success is hearing the words from a once broken soul saying and believing, "I am worthy. I am Loved."

If you or a loved one is suffering and in need of assistance from the Tomorrow's Hope program, please do not hesitate to call one of our many clinics to schedule an appointment with a clinician, or connect with our outreach specialist, who are working diligently to share information strategies for suicide prevention within your community, school, church, or organization.

To raise awareness and knowledge about suicide is to save our children. The Tomorrow's Hope grant in currently in the second year of five to continue the spread of healing through outreach and promotion of mental health.

Hope and Help is Just a Phone Call Away

"I don't feel like waking up" has been the response in the beginning of care, but soon after is a sense of hope, resilience, and understanding that empowers and positively changes the citizens of this wonderful community. When a tribal member once felt alone,

I'm proud to be a clinician within this program, but it is one portion of the greater good that flows within and around the Choctaw Nation. Proving it is true . . . They'll know we are Choctaw by our Faith, our Family, our Culture.

For more information about the Choctaw Nation Tomorrow's Hope Program, please call: Talihina Behavioral Health Clinic at (918) 567-3065.

Suicide is preventable! If you or someone you know is at risk, call the national lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). With help comes hope.



NURSERY NEWS

Joshua Jade Knight



Joshua Jade Knight was born April 13, 2016. He was born at Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina. His parents are Rickey and Stacey Knight. His siblings are Hannah, Cierra, Kierra, and Cameron. And his grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight. He weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and he was 19 1/2 inches long.

Joshua

FERRIS RIVER BYINGTON-STEELE



Ferris River Byington-Steele was born on Jan. 10, 2017, in Los Angeles, California, to the proud parents, Jessica Byington-Steele and Chris Steele. Ferris' grandparents are Sissel and David Byington.

Ferris

Samson Hiloha Jefferson



Samson Hiloha Jefferson was born January 6, 2017, at 12:36 a.m. at the Chickasaw Medical Center in Ada. He weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are Joseph and Christy Jefferson of Calera. He is the grandson of Teresa Jefferson of Tishomingo, Joe and Connie Jefferson of Broken Bow, and Robert and Carrie Higgins of Calera.

He is the great-grandson of the late Silas and Lorene Blaine of Durant, the late Leo and Claire Jefferson of Broken Bow, the late Bill and Margie Higgins of Oklahoma City, the late Paul and Karen Hutson of Tecumseh. Samson has numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Samson

Recipe of the Month

Vegetarian Shepherd's Pie



Recipe by EatingWell

These mini vegetarian shepherd's pies feature lentils, carrots, and corn, crowned with a velvety mashed potato topping. The recipe can also be made in a broiler-safe casserole dish. Serve with a spinach salad with oranges, walnuts, and red wine vinaigrette.

Ingredients

- 1 pound Yukon Gold or white potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 1/2 cup finely diced carrot
- 1 tablespoon water
- 3/4 cup frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 14-ounce can vegetable broth
- 1 1/2 cups cooked or canned (rinsed) lentils (see Tip below)

Preparation

Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with 2 inches of water. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium, partially cover and cook until tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and return the potatoes to the pot. Add buttermilk, butter, and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Mash with a potato masher until mostly smooth. While the potatoes are cooking, position rack in upper third of oven; preheat broiler. Coat four 10- to 12-ounce broiler-safe ramekins (or an 8-inch-square broiler-safe baking dish) with cooking spray. Place ramekins on a broiler-safe baking sheet. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrot, and water. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in corn, thyme, and the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper; cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes. Sprinkle with flour and stir to coat. Stir in broth. Bring to a simmer; cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir in lentils and cook, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes. Divide the hot lentil mixture among the prepared ramekins (or spread in the baking dish). Top with the mashed potatoes. Broil, rotating halfway through, until the potato is lightly browned in spots, 6 to 10 minutes.

Tip: To cook lentils, place in a saucepan, cover with at least 1 inch of water, bring to a simmer and cook until just tender, 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the type of lentil. Drain and rinse with cold water. 1 cup dry lentils = about 2 1/2 cups cooked. Or use canned lentils: 15-ounce can = 1 1/2 cups. Rinse canned lentils before cooking with them to reduce the sodium by about 35%.

Nutrition Facts
Serving size: Approx. 2 cups
Per serving: 322 calories; 7g fat(3g sat); 10g fiber; 54g carbohydrates; 12g protein; 182mcg folate; 9mg cholesterol; 8g sugars; 0g added sugars; 2,847 IU vitamin A; 15mg vitamin C; 77mg calcium; 3mg iron; 783mg sodium; 842mg potassium
Nutrition Bonus: Vitamin A (57% daily value), Folate (46% dv), Vitamin C (25% dv)
Carbohydrate Servings: 3 1/2
Exchanges: 3 starch, 1 vegetable, 1 lean meat, 1 fat
I hope you enjoy this festive and healthy dish. For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

Enrolling NOW for the 2017-18 school year at your local Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start!

CNO Head Start provides a fun, safe learning environment for children where they will feel love, acceptance and understanding. The goal is to prepare each child for kindergarten and to excite them about learning.

Head Start is the Best Start

We Offer

For Children:

- Social Interaction
- Health & Nutrition
- Quality Child Development Practices & Activities
- Vision & Dental Screening

For Families:

- Referrals to Community Resources
- Parenting Classes & Other Education

To enroll or for more information, stop by your local CNO Head Start or call: 800-522-6170 Extension 2219

Head Start focuses on the whole child intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially, with respect for the family as partners in education. Head Start provides language and literacy, school readiness and age appropriate activities. We also serve children with disabilities and/or special needs.

Address Changes

If you are not receiving your copy of the Biskinik, or need to change your address, please give us a call. We'll make sure your contact information is correct.

The Circulation Department can be reached at:
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2116, 2409 or 2310

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.

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

Durant
Tuesday • March 7 • 9am
Thursday • May 11 • 1pm
Friday • July 7 • 9am
Thursday • Nov. 9 • 9am
Location TBD

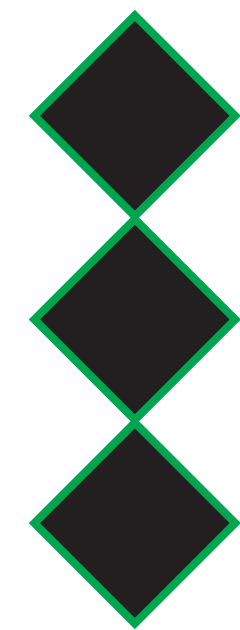
Idabel
Wednesday • May 3 • 9am
Wednesday • July 5 • 1pm
Wednesday • Sept. 6 • 9am
Wednesday • Nov. 1 • 1pm
Located at the Choctaw Nation Clinic (Education Room)

Poteau
Wednesday • March 8 • 1pm
Wednesday • May 10 • 9am
Wednesday • July 12 • 1pm
Wednesday • Sept. 13 • 9am
Wednesday • Nov. 8 • 1pm
Located at the Choctaw Nation Community Center (behind Rubin White Clinic)

Talihina
Wednesday • April 12 • 9am
Thursday • June 8 • 1pm
Tuesday • Aug. 15 • 9am
Wednesday • Oct. 18 • 1pm
Located at Kiamichi Vo-Tech

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

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



—YOUTH OF THE NATION—

Youth Serving the Community

by
Jagger Meshaya

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, or YAB, is a great way to give back to the community.

By helping out in the community, we serve and interact with people in a positive way.

Some of the work that “YABsters” have done for the community has been raising money for various chari-



Photo Provided

ties, taking a stand against drugs and alcohol, and participating in the Annual Glow Run.

YAB members have learned to support other positive organizations as well. Organizations like B.A.C.A., Bikers Against Child Abuse, have a wonderful cause that we, as Choctaw youth, can believe in.

So, by supporting others in their worthy causes, we are supporting ourselves, and therefore, supporting our community.

Some of the things I have taken from being a YABster, is leadership, and learning to step up to the plate for what is good.

Not just for myself, but also for others, and my community.

The people I have met, and the wonderful friends I have made, have sharpened my people skills, and my communication skills.

I know that the positive changes that have been made in me, has also been made in my fellow YABsters. YAB is a wonderful thing!

So, what is in store for the future of YAB?

Well, we are gathering our strengths and our goals. We are putting even more effort in our work. We are ready to serve our community and our people. We are ready to change the world.

Native American Graduates Honored at SOSU



by Ronni Pierce

On December 7, 2016, Southeastern University honored its Native American graduates and their scholastic achievements. The 12th Annual Native American graduation ceremony and reception was held in the Fine Arts Reception Hall on Durant’s main campus. Out of the 101 Native American students who graduated, 45 were Choctaw. Speakers included Southeastern President Sean Burrage and State Representative Lisa Johnson Billy.

Wilson Accepted Into Music Academy

Caleb Wilson of Norman was accepted into the Academy of Contemporary Music at University of Central Oklahoma. He will begin his college career in the Fall of 2017. His goals are to earn a Bachelor Degree in Contemporary Music Production and Business. After graduation he plans to open his own business as a music producer. Wilson has been playing the guitar since he was 9-years-old through the Instruction of McMichael’s Music. He has played many venues over the years, including gigs to support cancer patients and raise awareness. Wilson has used music to raise money for hospital bills and medical supplies. He has played with various bands at events such as the Norman Music Festival, the Mid-Summer Nights Arts Festival, Groove Fest, Rocking For Standing Rock, and many more. He is the son of Tejay and Tonya Wilson of Norman. He is the grandson of Barbara Wilson of Chickasha, of Norman. Wilson is the nephew of Shell Meador of Piedmont.



Culture Brings Young and Old Together

by LISA REED

The smell of soup and cornbread greeted anyone walking in the door of the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Idabel.

The sound of laughter added to the sense of welcome as the Busy Beaders enjoyed their weekly night to eat, create Choctaw jewelry, and share the latest news in McCurtain County.

Members of the Busy Beaders have been meeting for five years.

The activity provides the group with a way to keep their tribal traditions alive.

The evidence is displayed in a large case in the entryway and another inside the center’s activity room.

Earrings, medallions, collars, bracelets and necklaces are arrayed to show off the colors and shapes. The pieces are sold, the funds helping to purchase more supplies and to aid in their senior

trips.

Seven ladies are gathered, concentrating on their pieces and the conversations floating around them. Containers of beads are lined up near the trays they are working on.

Benet Johnson stopped working for a minute and pulled out a tablet to search for inspiration on a new design. Not a paper tablet—an Android tablet. Charlotte Davis leaned in for a closer look. Manda Brown flipped through a book showing a variety of designs.

Rounding out the innovative group of friends was Carolyn Mussett, Sharon Jernigan, Eveline Steele, and Lavona Haurey—all sharing ideas and offering assistance to the others when needed.

A relatively new addition to their Tuesday nights is a sewing class.

Oneida Winship, an



by Lisa Reed

Skylar Henry helps his little brother Hansen make a traditional Choctaw shirt at the Idabel Community Center.

instructor with Choctaw Nation Cultural Services, has been teaching how to make traditional Choctaw clothing at Idabel since May 2016.

Her students range in age—the youngest is only 8. One of her star pupils, 13-year-old Skylar Henry, has made his own traditional shirt and is now helping his younger brother, Hansen, who is 8.

Their sister, Hannah, 10, is putting together a beautiful pink Choctaw dress.

Hannah is the reason their mother, Lorrie, started bringing them to the class.

She wanted to make a Choctaw dress and Lorrie called to ask Oneida if there were any classes.

It was a surprise when Han-

nah’s brothers decided they wanted to be a part of it, too.

“Oneida has the patience of Job,” Lorrie said with a laugh.

“We began meeting every two weeks with five students and of that class Ruby Taylor, Lydia McClure and Hannah have continued,” said Oneida.

“They were joined by Skylar and Hansen.

“Meeting every two weeks for six months was a slow process, and if we missed one class it meant a month lapsed before we would try to continue and basically we had lost our momentum,” she said. “Now we are meeting on a weekly basis and enjoying the classes.

Skylar learned quickly. He showed skill and determination even with the meticulous production of the diamonds, one of the hardest pieces of the clothing to create. It took three months for him to make his shirt. Not bad for the first time and only working on it a few hours a week.”

Oneida said there are sewing classes also being held in Durant and Talihina. She just finished holding one in Wilburton.

“The seniors at Wilburton made the burgundy with white apron dress our Little Miss Isabella Muncy wears,” she said with pride. “It’s encouraging to see so many people wanting to learn their Choctaw traditions.”



Photos Provided

Two classes at the Durant Head Start have been doing a Box Study. They have been learning how boxes are made, talking about items they know come in boxes and what they can build with boxes. Ms. Miranda’s class (below) built a clubhouse in their classroom and Ms. Lacy’s class (above) built a train in their classroom.



by Lisa Reed

Members of Busy Beaders get together at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Idabel to create Choctaw jewelry while sharing and getting the latest news in McCurtain County. The group has been meeting for five years. Money from the sale of the ladies beadwork is used to help purchase more supplies and for their senior trips.

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the following locations. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she prepares you to take the GED test. 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. Classes meet three days each week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, for approximately nine weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE/GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Beginning date for all classes is March 6, 2017

Atoka County
Atoka
Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

McCurtain County
Bethel/Battiest
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Coal County
Coalgate
Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Smithville
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Wright City
Monday, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

2017 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

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

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

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

April - June

Monday, April 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon

Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.

Tuesday, April 4, 1 - 4 p.m.

Idabel, Southeastern Okla. State University, McCurtain Co. Campus

Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

July - September

Monday, July 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Poteau, Carl Albert St. College, Ollie Bldg.

Thursday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon
McAlester, Eastern Okla. State, Clark Bass Bldg.

Thursday, July 6, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Thursday, July 6, 5 - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.

Choctaw Asset Building 2017 Financial Education Class Schedule

Saturday, March 11

Choctaw Community Center,
2049 E. Washington, Idabel

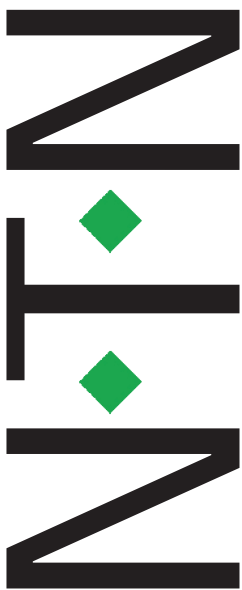
Saturday, April 8

Choctaw Career Development Lab
2807 Enterprise Blvd., Durant

Saturday, May 13

Oklahoma Choctaw Alliance Building
5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City

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



Notes to the Nation

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I am sending my heart-felt thank you to all the people of the Choctaw Nation for what you folks did when my son Jeff died this past July. I was devastated and didn't know how I would be able to take care of his services with the funeral home. You were so kind to take care of those things for me. I cannot thank you enough.

**Rosemary J. Bollig
(Turnbull)
Canon City, Colorado**

LETTERS

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education program for the support I received. The support made it possible in December 2016, for me to graduate from Black Hills State University in South Dakota. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and an Associate's degree in Tourism and Hospitality. Without the support of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program I would have been unable to complete this degree. Yakoke!



**Kathy Stewart-Martinson
Rapid City, South Dakota**

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center March Health Fairs

**Hugo
Wednesday, March 8**

**Wright City
Wednesday, March 22**

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

It's Time for Our Annual

Wild Onion Dinner

Saturday, March 18 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mary Lee Clark Memorial
United Methodist Church
1100 S. Howard Dr., Del City, OK

Wild onions with eggs, salt pork, fried chicken, banana, pinto beans, pashofa, grape dumplings, and more. A To-Go station will be set up. \$10 per plate

Our traditional wild onion dinner is our way of welcoming Spring and has been for more than 60 years. Join us!

405-670-4830

40th Annual Gospel Singing Hosted by the Horn Family

Saturday, March 25

818 E. 6th St.
Tishomingo, Okla.

The featured guest at the new Chickasaw Community Building will be the Goodin Family. All singers are welcome, free of charge. A concession stand will be available. Individuals or groups who would like to sing can contact **Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127**

Firefighter's Pack Test

Tuesday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m.
Talihina High School Track

Talihina, Okla.

The Choctaw Nation Forestry Fire Program will be giving a Pack Test to anyone interested in becoming a Wildland Firefighter. Must be at least 18 years old, in good physical condition and able to walk three miles carrying 45 lbs., have a physical taken before taking test. Physical Form can be picked up at the Forestry Office at 302 Church St. in Talihina.

For more information contact:

Raymond Ludlow at (918) 567-2321.

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:

**Poteau Field Office
March 24
9:30-11 a.m.**

Attention *Biskinik* Readers

As the official publication of the Choctaw Nation, the staff at the *Biskinik*, want to know what our readers' opinions are, what readers like and what can be improved. Keep an eye on your mail box beginning the second week of March, as that is when we will start mailing out a survey about the Biskinik. We ask readers to fill out the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope provided to be entered into a raffle drawing. Information about the raffle drawing, including the prize and deadline, will be included with the survey.

Yakoke!

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Offers New Service

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority now offers a new service for customers. The housing authority currently offers the convenience of credit card payments over the phone, or in person at the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority.

Accounts Receivable is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Choctaw Nation Housing Authority is located at 207 Jim Monroe Rd., in Hugo.

For any questions, or to make a payment call (800) 235-3087, ext. 6375 for Rita Colbert, or ext. 6377 for Angie Emert.

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

We do not post wedding announcements.

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

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

Send thank you notes and event notices to:

Biskinik, Attn: Notes to the Nation

P.O. Box 1210

Durant, OK 74702

or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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Fax (580) 924-4148
www.ChoctawNation.com
email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



LETTERS

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education program for the support I received. The support made it possible in December 2016, for me to graduate from Black Hills State University in South Dakota. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and an Associate's degree in Tourism and Hospitality. Without the support of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program I would have been unable to complete this degree. Yakoke!



**Kathy Stewart-Martinson
Rapid City, South Dakota**

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Feb. 11, in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following items:

- Presentation of Choctaw School of Language Teacher Certificates to Robert Baker, Bokchito; Dillon Moore, Atoka; Michael Cooper, Marlow; and Sarah Davis Padilla, Ada.
- Approved COPS Tribal Resources Hiring and Equipment/Training Grant.
- Approved application for Violence Victims Assistance Program Grant.
- Approved application for Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts Grant.
- Approved application for Tribal Youth Program Grant.
- Approved funds and budget for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program.
- Amended CB-38-13, adopting the Choctaw Nation Marriage Act.
- Amended CB-105-15, adopting the Choctaw Nation Juror Act.
- Amended CB-15-17, rewarding water tower and ground space lease to USCOC of Greater, Oklahoma, LLC. to include additional language.

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

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, March 11, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

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

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

March Community Center Schedule

3-2 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3

3-9 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3

3-14 McAlester: 10-1 & 1:30-3

3-23 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

3-30 Durant: 10-1 & 1:30-3

April Community Center Schedule

4-6 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3

4-13 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3

4-27 Wilburton: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

April 2017

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday

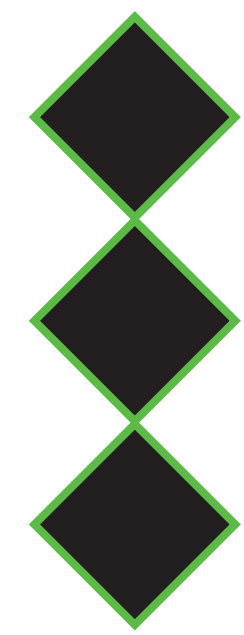
Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Idabel by appointment

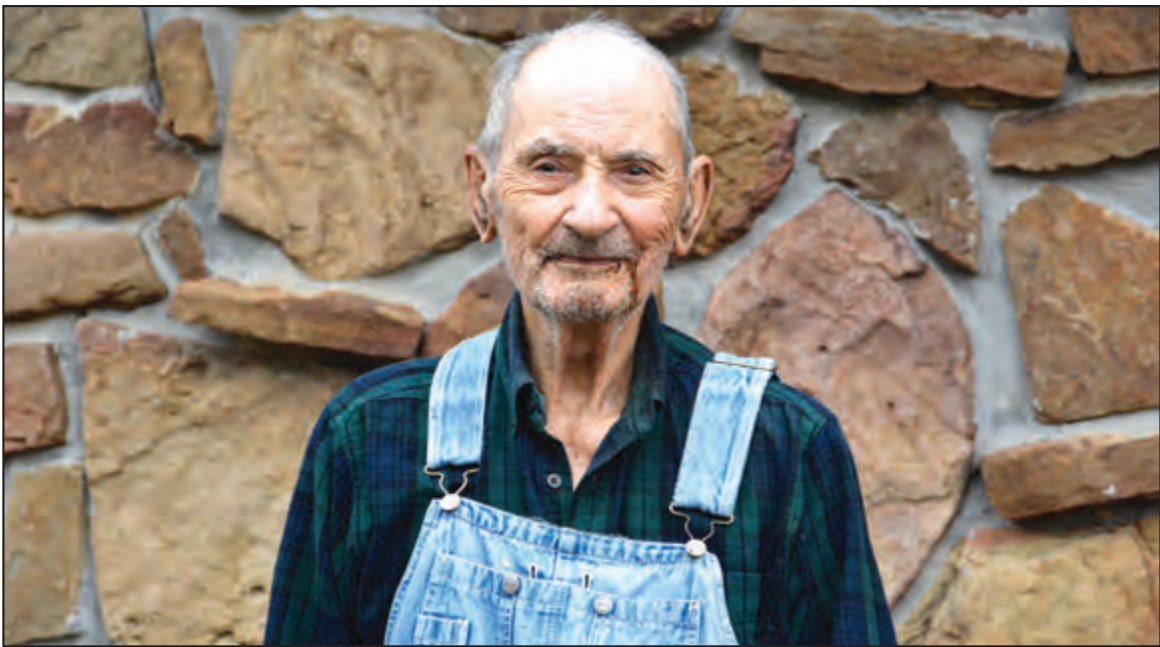
Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115

Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

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



6



by Tina Firquain

Dave has lived in the same house for over 70 years. He started out building a two room house and ended up with a beautiful place he calls home. He and his late wife took rocks from a hill across the way and gathered enough to rock the outside of their home which stands behind Dave.



David J. Heavener

by TINA FIRQUAIN

David J. Heavener is 100 years old and there are two things that stand out when you meet him: his proud eyes and his satisfied heart.

He is a simple man of no regrets and when you ask Dave what his secrets to life are, he politely responds, “take care of your own business and don’t go getting upset.”

Dave has spent most of his life in east-ern Oklahoma.

In fact, Dave lives right outside of Heavener and he’ll tell you that the town of Heavener got its name from his grandmother, who ran a trading post in the area.

Now Dave lives in the house that he built for him and his late wife, Floreen just miles from where they both grew up.

He said he didn’t have anything better to do so he started building a small house

and just kept building until he was happy with his home.

Before he was able to marry his child-hood sweetheart, he had to go to war just like many young men of his generation.

He served in World War II in the Navy as a gunner on merchant ships and he took his service as he took on everything else, he accepted his duties and took care of business.

Dave thought about his experiences from the war and said, “Well, I was just a youngster and it didn’t make much differ-ence to me. I can’t say I liked it and I can’t say I didn’t like it.”

During his time in the Navy, Dave took five round trips to Australia, traveled through the Panama Canal and to New York, but was based in California at Treas-ure Island.

The first time he was on a ship he real-ized he got seasick, but he had to quickly

get over that to be able to preform his duties.

Once his service was over, he returned home and married his sweetheart from his school days.

They raised chickens and cows and made a modest life for themselves. Dave and Floreen were married for 70 years before she passed away.

“She was the best wife a man could every have. We never fought and got along pretty well.”

Dave continued to talk about the life he’s lived and said, “We had a pretty good life together. I don’t regret anything.”

They had one son, John, and anytime Dave talked about his son or his wife, his eyes lit up with pride and he couldn’t say anything negative about either one.

John helps take care of his father and Dave said he is just taking it easy now.

He is still in good health and gets

around on his own most of the time.

He’ll drive around his six acres and visit John in his workshop some days, but he is perfectly happy sitting in his recliner watching the TV.

Dave kept talking about his son and said, “no one could ever have a better son than I do.”

They don’t fight and never have cross words for one another. “I don’t remember ever getting mad. If I saw something I didn’t like, I just got out of the way.”

To most, it would seem that Dave has lived a humble life, but to him he has had a rewarding life where he never made enemies.



Photo Provided

Dave poses for a picture in 1942 in his U.S. Navy uniform while he served in World War II.

He talked about how he always tried to treat people right and tried to not let things in life bother him.

Dave looked back on his life and said, “I’ve had a pretty calm life and never did anything crazy. Everything seems to just fall in place as I get older.”

Treat Our Elders with the Honor & Respect They Deserve

What is elder abuse?

Physical abuse
Emotional abuse or isolation
Sexual abuse
Neglect
Exploitation
Other: Phone scams, sales fraud and other ventures.

If you suspect elder abuse or neglect, call
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Victims Services
Elder Advocacy

1-580-326-8304 or 1-877-285-6893

Adult Protective Services Statewide Hotline
1-800-522-3511

Warning Signs:

Behavioral – Fear, anxiety, anger isolation, withdrawal, depression, confusion

Environmental – Inadequate shelter, drug paraphernalia, lack of food, offensive odors, vermin infestation

Financial – Missing credit cards, unpaid bills, missing valuable, unusual bank activity

Physical – Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, pain when touched, malnourished, forced isolation or babysitting

Seeking Native American Youth for a Study on Health & Fitness
You Will Be Compensated

Choctaw Nation and the University of Oklahoma Department of Pediatrics are studying the health and fitness of Native American youth and the role of exercise.

Who: Healthy, normal weight Native American youth, 11 to 21 years old. We need boys and girls of all fitness levels who are either active in exercise or not active.

What: Two visits for the following tests: physical exam, fasting blood draw, bicycle fitness test, and body composition test and one week of wearing a Fitbit activity monitor.

Participants will receive compensation for their time. For more information, contact Mary Ayn Tullier at (800) 349-7026 ext. 6593 or matullier@cnhsa.com.

Choctaw Artists Wanted

vendors • musicians • entertainers
Needed for Multi Cultural Expo in Heavener
Sept. 16, 2017

- Food Vendors Fee \$45
- Non-Food Vendors Fee \$35
- 10x10 booths available
- \$5 fee for electricity, if needed

For more information or to reserve a booth, contact the
Heavener Chamber of Commerce.
918-653-4303
heavenerchamber@yahoo.com

Reintegration

Our mission is to remove barriers for those who are transitioning back into their communities. We assist tribal members who have been convicted of felony crimes.

- Emergency Food
- Emergency Clothing
- Assistance with Transitional Housing
- Occupational Consultation
- Treatment Planning
- Case Management Services
- Mental Health Consultation
- Referral Assistance

Contact us by email or call:
reintegration@choctawnation.com
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2915 Fax: (580) 916-3864

Choctaw Nation Reintegration

Choctaw Nation

Hunting and Fishing License

Applications Now Available

Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member and Oklahoma Resident

Privileges for Members 16 and over:

- Annual hunting and fishing combination license
- Trapping license
- Bobcat, Raccoon, River Otter, Gray & Red Fox (i.e. furbearer license)
- State Waterfowl stamp
- Four (4) turkey licenses
- Six (6) deer licenses (exclusive of bonus license)
- Land access permit to Three Rivers and Honobia Creek Wildlife Management areas

Privileges for Members 15 and under:

- Annual hunting and fishing combination license
- One (1) turkey license
- One (1) deer license

Please allow 6-8 weeks processing time for receipt of license. Applicable fish and wildlife laws apply to Choctaw License Holders.

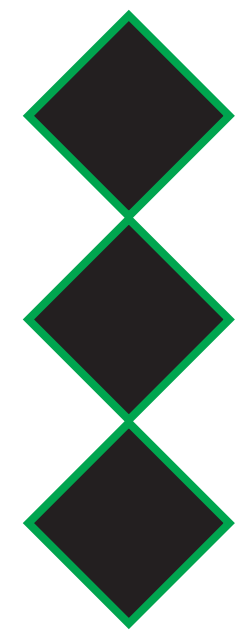
To begin application process, please visit:
HuntingandFishing.ChoctawNation.com

For more information, please email:
huntingandfishing@choctawnation.com
or contact:
800.522.6170, ext. 2503

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Three Months Ended December 31, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	41,769,785	274,858,103	316,627,888
Expenditures			
General Government	19,517,866	-	19,517,866
Health Expenditures	26,671,116	-	26,671,116
Education Expenditures	6,127,861	-	6,127,861
Human Expenditures	6,741,115	-	6,741,115
Community Expenditures	4,887,119	-	4,887,119
Cultural Expenditures	2,281,913	-	2,281,913
Judiciary Expenditures	266,404	-	266,404
Internal Service Expenses	16,500,575	-	16,500,575
Business Expenses	-	176,230,826	176,230,826
Total Expenditures	82,993,969	176,230,826	259,224,795
Transfers	81,094,354	(81,094,354)	-
Increase in Net Assets	39,870,170	17,532,923	57,403,093
Beginning Net Assets	1,990,561,893	861,214,615	2,851,776,508
Ending Net Assets	2,030,432,063	878,747,538	2,909,179,601

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of December 31, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,623,693,068	180,956,227	1,804,649,295
Receivables	196,268,429	40,205,226	236,473,655
Inventory	4,034,143	14,835,901	18,870,044
Prepaid Expenses	4,401,542	5,920,754	10,322,296
Other Assets	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	570,588,679	711,843,775	1,282,432,454
Less Payables	(368,553,798)	(75,014,345)	(443,568,143)
Net Assets	2,030,432,063	378,747,538	2,909,179,601



7

Iti Fabussa

Trial by Fiber: Mulberry Bark

Last June, we ran an article on a bison hair textile made by our ancestors in honor of the naming of the bison as the national mammal of the United States. Now, in preparation for the spring and the fiber harvest season to come, we invite you to work with us to rediscover another of our ancestors' fiber sources: mulberry bark. Writers in the 18th century observed that our ancestors collected mulberry in the spring: "to make mulberry-bark mantles they go into the woods in search of shoots or sprouts of mulberry which come from these trees after they have been cut down. The shoots are from 4 to 5 feet tall. They cut them before the sap is gone."

Our Choctaw ancestors knew how to masterfully extract and use the remarkable fibers available in our homelands for their clothing and everyday needs. Later, other materials like sheep's wool and cotton,



by Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department

An ashvnatvi fabvssa, or a spindle of wood or cane and a clay weight, was used to spin the mulberry fiber into a stronger, continuous thread to create textiles and cloth for clothing and trade.

Morus, and with its root dye it yellow." Morus is the scientific name for the plant group that includes all the mulberry tree species. The fiber of the 'bihi vpi,' or the mulberry tree, comes from the 'hakshup anukvka,' the inner bark. If you peel off the bark of a mulberry shoot, you will find that under the layer of brown and green bark lies a layer of long, fine white strands that extend the length of the shoot. These strong, smooth fibers are the part of the plant used for textile and clothing work. When Choctaw grandmothers worked with mulberry, they "put its inner bark in hot water along with a quantity of ashes and obtain filaments, with which they weave a kind of cloth not unlike a coarse hempen cloth." Other tribal communities prepared the mulberry plant in another way to make the fibers use-

able. One man described the Natchez taking off the bark, drying it in the sun, and pounding it till only the fibers remained. Finally, they left this in the dew to bleach it; their clothing of mulberry bark fiber was a fine white. In order to turn the fiber into a yarn, an artisan may use an ashvnatvi fabvssa, a spindle of wood or cane and a clay weight. With her spindle, she spins the mulberry fiber into a stronger, continuous thread to create the textile. Of most importance, the word vpi refers in this case to the warp or the yarn that makes up the length of a woven fabric. Vpi also refers to a stalk or stem. The two meanings of vpi may reveal an inherent connection between a plant stem like mulberry shoots and the collection of fibers that make a cloth. Finally, the weaver arranges the vpi, or strands of mulberry bark yarn needed for the project, on the atvna, or the loom. The atvna provides the frame from which she will finger weave her yarns down and together into cloth.

Our grandmothers also used mulberry bark fiber for feather work. Irish fur trader James Adair wrote of the Choctaws in the 1700s who made turkey feather blankets with the long feathers of the neck and breast of that large fowl—they twist the inner end of the feathers very fast into a strong double thread of hemp, or the inner bark of the mulberry tree, of the size and strength of coarse twine, as the fibers are sufficiently fine, and they work it in the manner of fine netting. As the feathers are long and glittering, this sort of blankets is not only very warm, but pleasing to the eye.

During the time period of these records, women and young girls generally wore more plant fiber clothing than men. As you can see in Figure 4, women wore an vlhkuna, a skirt often made of plant fibers, and a kasmó, a feather cape like the blankets described by Adair above. The cloth was reported to be so sturdy that some accounts suggest the Spanish used gifts of native shawls for sails while others "[recommended] it for floor and table-carpets." Choctaws and other southeastern tribes in this time period dyed and decorated bark clothing. It could be red, white, or yellow; painted with designs, adorned with tassels, feathers, and the like; or even woven with another type of fiber like bison hair.

While the writings of many early European travelers describe a fantastic cloth made of mulberry bark, we have virtually no other record of its use. Swanton, who gathered all the information he could about southeastern tribes, found so much written about this bark fiber that he claimed that "skirts and cloaks were woven out of the inner fiber of the mulberry practically everywhere." Yet no known mulberry bark clothing or textiles have been identified. Even so, the persistence of information recorded on mulberry bark cloth and other southeastern textiles over the 18th century suggests that this was an important artisanal product of Choctaw women.



by Choctaw Nation

Choctaw ancestors used fiber from the bark of the bihi vpi, or mulberry tree for textiles and woven cloth. Mulberry bark fiber was also used for feather work.

Regardless, the mulberry fiber is not the only source of bark fiber used by our ancestors. Bark fibers from the slippery elm or basswood were used by neighboring Southeastern tribes while the Choctaw word 'baluh-chi' refers to the hickory bark used in making ropes." Methods for making textile cordage and ropes from other tree barks may help fill in the missing information on mulberry bark fiber.

In experiments here in the Historic Preservation department, the author extracted a small amount of fine white fibers using mulberry stalks likely harvested too late in the season. However, the fibers were extremely short and as a result did not spin together well or produce a pliable yarn. From our department's attempts, mulberry bark has only been successfully processed into soft white yarn one time. An endless number of factors can affect the process of extracting fibers from plants. As such, textile work is often unpredictable, even for the most experienced of artisans. While less often the focus of our Choctaw art, textiles are among the most ingenious artisan works of our people throughout history. We can learn the incredible textile craft again when the community takes up the work of processing, preparing, and weaving these fibers together.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute knowledge or materials to the work on mulberry bark fiber and other textiles, please contact Jennifer Byram at jbyram@choctawnation.com or 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2512. We would love to hear about your experience with traditional textiles or this mysterious plant!

[See the online version of this article on ChoctawNation.com for references and citations used.](#)



Holmes, 1896, Plate 1

A woman is weaving on an atvna, or loom. Choctaws would use an atvna to finger weave yarn made from mulberry bark.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Clause Conjunction: Cha and Na

<i>Cha</i>	and/ and so/ and then	<i>Na</i>	and/and so/ and then
<i>Cha</i>	conjunction for clauses with the same subject		
Example:	Chahta hattak mvt impa tuk.	+	Chahta hattak mvt nusi tuk.
	That Choctaw man ate.		That Choctaw man slept.

Join the *two same subject* sentences together using *cha*.
That Choctaw man ate and then slept. Chahta hattak mvt impa cha nusi tuk.

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ohoyo yvt hoponi tuk. | + | Ohoyo yvt impa tuk. |
| The woman cooked. | | The woman ate. |
| The woman cooked and ate. | | Ohoyo yvt hoponi cha impa tuk. |
| 2. Aki yvt aiittvtoba ia chi. | + | Ofi im illimpa chompa chi. |
| My dad will go to the store. | + | He will buy dog food. |
| Aki yvt aiittvtoba ia cha ofi im illimpa chompa chi. | | |
| My dad will go to the store and buy dog food. | | |

<i>Na</i>	Conjunction for clauses with different subjects	
Example:	Chahta ohoyo yvt hoponi tuk.	+
	That Choctaw woman cooked.	Impa la chi.
		I will eat.

Join the *two different subjects* sentences together using *na*.
Chahta ohoyo yvt hoponi na impa la chi.
The Choctaw woman will cook and I will eat.

- Drop any mark of tense in the first sentence before using *na*.
- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Svshki vt a chukka vla tuk. | + | Anchi il ikbi tuk. |
| My mother came to my house. | | We made a quilt. |
| Svshki vt a chukka vla na anchi il ikbi tuk. | | |
| My mother came to my house and we made a quilt. | | |
| 2. Vlla tek vt kocha washohat ia tuk. | + | Ofi yvt na yukpa tuk. |
| The girl went outside to play. | | The puppy was happy. |
| Vlla tek vt kocha washohat ia na ofosik vt na yukpa tuk. | | |
| The girl went outside to play and the puppy was happy. | | |



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Yakoke to all of the Biskinik Readers for all of your Box Top contributions!

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DURANT LIVESTOCK SHOW

Berkshire

Class I: 1. Hunter. Hawkins, Rattan; 2. Sadie Snead, Broken Bow; 3. Lane House, Tishomingo
Class II: 1. Jaeley Avants, Tupelo; 2. Zane Braudrick, Caddo; 3. Braden Shaw, Moyers

Hunter. Hawkins, Rattan, Reserve Breed Champion
Jaeley Avants, Tupelo, Breed Champion

Chester

Class I: 1. Michael Rose, Rock Creek; 2. Colton Hager, Dibble; 3. Suzy Snead, Broken Bow
Class II: 1. Autumn Gamble, Broken Bow; 2. Kaitlynn Dufur, Durant; 3. Cade Russell, S&S

Autumn Gamble, Broken Bow, Reserve Breed Champion
Michael Rose, Rock Creek, Breed Champion, below



Duroc

Class I: 1. JB Bell, Madill; 2. Ketch Coates, Tushka; 3. Riley Luck, Tushka
Class II: 1. Anna Adair, Caddo; 2. Keona Mason, Tishomingo; 3. Callie Gray, Caddo
Class III: 1. Jaedyn Avants, Tupelo; 2. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek; 3. Autumn Gamble, Broken Bow
Class IV: 1. Maggie Hunt, Lane; 2. Braylee Foster, Turner; 3. Kaleb Bishop, Calera

Jaedyn Avants, Tupelo, Reserve Breed Champion
Maggie Hunt, Lane, Breed Champion

Hamp

Class I: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 2. Samantha Owens, Bennington; 3. Michael Rose, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Karley Ross, Caddo; 2. Laney Rogers, Tishomingo; 3. Tyler Boyett, Rattan
Class III: 1. Kirsten Gossett, Caney; 2. Raylee McGlocklin, Tishomingo; 3. Michelle Young, Soper
Class IV: 1. Colton Hager, Dibble; 2. Taylor Dodd, Stringtown; 3. Jadin Malakowsky, Caney
Class V: 1. Jo'Lene Ridgway, Vanoss; 2. Gideon Davis, Soper; 3. Bailey Bradley, Caddo
Class VI: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony; 2. Hank Bradley, Caddo; 3. Holly Hembree, Antlers
Class VII: 1. Brenna Gann, Vanoss; 2. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek; 3. T'Lee Burk, Caddo

Colton Hager, Dibble, Reserve Breed Champion
Caden Goodson, Harmony, Breed Champion

Poland

Class I: 1. Colton Hager, Dibble; 2. Devin Emert, Bennington; 3. Emily Anderson, Stonewell
Class II: 1. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek

Devin Emert, Bennington, Reserve Breed Champion
Colton Hager, Dibble, Breed Champion

Spot

Class I: 1. Sadie Snead, Broken Bow; 2. Linley Collins, Whitesboro; 3. Randee Dunlap, Coleman



Class II: 1. Blake Thompson, Stringtown; 2. Lance King, Wapanucka; 3. Maci McCage, Thackerville
Class III: 1. Keona Mason, Tishomingo; 2. Rylie Wood, Coalgate; 3. Shelby Nelson, OK County

Sadie Snead, Broken Bow, Reserve Breed Champion
Keona Mason, Tishomingo, Breed Champion

York

Class I: 1. Jackson Wood, Bennington; 2. Joshua Williams, Calera; 3. Callie Burns, Caddo
Class II: 1. Devin Emert, Bennington; 2. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 3. Hadley Bell, Madill
Class III: 1. Kohl Robertson, Rattan; 2. Shelby Nelson, OK County; 3. Conner Perry, Rattan
Class IV: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 2. Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers; 3. Braden Shaw, Moyers

Blaine Ake, Tupelo, Reserve Breed Champion, above
Kohl Robertson, Rattan, Breed Champion

Cross

Class I: 1. Jaedyn Avants, Tupelo; 2. Jaeley Avants, Tupelo; 3. Taylor Mobbs, Tushka
Class II: 1. Kylee Anderson, Caddo; 2. Jewell Henry, Kingston; 3. Jensen Peay, Allen
Class III: 1. Devin Emert, Bennington; 2. Hadley Bell, Marshall County; 3. Paige Ridgway, Vanoss
Class IV: 1. Lauren Gann, Vanoss; 2. T'Lee Burk, Caddo; 3. JB Bell, Madill
Class V: 1. Briar Davidson, Coalgate; 2. Bailey Bradley, Caddo; 3. Alex Robinson, Rock Creek
Class VI: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony; 2. Brock Daniels, Tishomingo; 3. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek
Class VII: 1. Alexia Clardy, Haworth; 2. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan; 3. Samantha Craig, Whitesboro
Class VIII: 1. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan; 2. Cash Clardy, Haworth; 3. Tayten Dodd, Stringtown

Swine Senior Showman, Clay Stoner, Rock Creek

Swine Junior Showman, T'Lee Burk, Caddo

Caden Goodson, Harmony, Reserve Breed Champion
Lauren Gann, Vanoss, Breed Champion

Kohl Robertson, Rattan, Bronze Champion
Caden Goodson, Harmony, Reserve Grand Champion
Lauren Gann, Vanoss, Grand Champion

Doe Goats

Div I, Class I: 1. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 2. Huck Hambrick, Bennington; 3. Kacey Ludlow, Whitesboro
Class II: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Karlee Trammell, Washington; 3. Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Class III: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Karsyn Flowers, Coalgate; 3. Johnathan Jones, Roff
Class IV: 1. Chace McCoy, OK County; 2. Jayse King, Soper; 3. Cutter McCoy, OK County

Hunter Mann, Sulphur, Reserve Division Champion/Division Champion

Div II, Class I: 1. Tucker McCoy, OK County; 2. Mason Nichols, Achille; 3. Jaydon King, Soper
Class II: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen; 2. Kate Trammell, Washington; 3. Karlee Trammell, Washington
Class III: 1. Kate Trammell, Washington; 2. Karlee Trammell, Washington; 3. Josie Fortner, Tupelo
Class IV: 1. Braden Allen, Silo; 2. Kate Trammell, Washington; 3. Alyssa Long, Haworth
Class V: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen; 2. Jackie Joe Coe, Caddo; 3. Chace McCoy, OK County



Kate Trammell, Washington, Reserve Division Champion, below
Jaycee Watkins, Allen, Division Champion

Kate Trammell, Washington, Bronze Champion
Hunter Mann, Sulphur, Reserve Grand Champion
Jaycee Watkins, Allen, Grand Champion

Wether Goats

Div I, Class I: 1. Riley Ross, Ryan; 2. Nataley Edwards, Hugo; 3. Jansan Storey, Valliant
Class II: 1. Blaklyn Barber, Silo; 2. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall; 3. Riley Ross, Ryan
Class III: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Josie Fortner, Tupelo; 3. James Jones, Roff

Blaklyn Barber, Silo, Reserve Division Champion
Hunter Mann, Sulphur, Division Champion

Div II, Class I: 1. Braden Allen, Silo; 2. Lucas Rezner, Silo; 3. Conner Williams, Coalgate
Class II: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka; 2. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 3. Maddie Bassett, Bluejacket
Class III: 1. Josie Fortner, Tupelo; 2. Ryleigh Springfield, Soper; 3. Haydn Bryant, Antlers

Taylor Chambers, Tushka, Reserve Division Champion, below

Braden Allen, Silo, Division Champion

Goat Senior Showmanship, Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Goat Junior Showmanship, Josie Fortner, Tupelo

Blaklyn Barber, Silo, Bronze Champion
Braden Allen, Silo, Reserve Breed Champion
Hunter Mann, Sulphur, Breed Champion

Lamb

Div I, Class I: 1. Jepetha Flowers, Tushka; 2. Eli Flowers, Lane
Class II: 1. Madison Labor, Pittsburg; 2. Marie House, Kiowa; 3. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina
Class III: 1. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina; 2. Cobin Dancer, Soper; 3. Megan Robinson, Rock Creek
Class IV: 1. Hannah Courtwright, Rattan; 2. Levi Odom, Whitesboro; 3. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina

Hannah Maxwell, Talihina, Reserve Division Champion
Hannah Courtwright, Rattan, Division Champion



Div II, Class I: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 2. Jay House, Kiowa; 3. Jackson Rezner, Silo
Class II: 1. Hannah Courtwright, Rattan; 2. Marie House, Kiowa; 3. Cadey Jones, Marlow
Class III: 1. Will Shelby, Madill; 2. Hannah Carter, Calera; 3. Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Class IV: 1. Cadey Jones, Marlow; 2. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 3. Bradyn Courtwright, Antlers

Cadey Jones, Marlow, Reserve Division Champion
Payne Reavis, Broken Bow, Division Champion

Div III, Class I: 1. Hannah Courtwright, Rattan; 2. Hannah Carter, Calera; 3. Julie Cullum, Silo
Class II: 1. Cadey Jones, Marlow; 2. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall; 3. Sydnee Brown, Calera
Class III: 1. Jackson Rezner, Silo; 2. NeKada Wainscott, Coalgate; 3. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall
Class IV: 1. Marie House, Kiowa; 2. Mackenzie Hanks, Stonewall; 3. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall

Hannah Courtwright, Rattan, Reserve Division Champion
Marie House, Kiowa, Division Champion



Lamb Senior Showmanship, Hannah Courtwright, Rattan
Lamb Junior Showmanship, Cadey Jones, Marlow

Hannah Courtwright, Rattan, Bronze Champion
Cadey Jones, Marlow, Reserve Grand Champion
Payne Reavis, Broken Bow, Grand Champion

Heifer- English Division

Class I: 1. Paizlee Swenasi, Madill; 2. Kage Collins, Tishomingo; 3. Kya Rhodes, Vanoss
Class II: 1. Piper Dudley, Dickson; 2. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 3. Kodi Hokett, Atoka
Class III: 1. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville; 2. Paizlee Swenasi, Madill; 3. Erin Key, Colbert
Class IV: 1. Kage Collins, Tishomingo; 2. Will Shelby, Madill; 3. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville

Will Shelby, Madill, Reserve Breed Champion
Kage Collins, Tishomingo, Breed Champion

Heifer-Continental Div

Class I: 1. Holden Lee, Latta; 2. Chance Sweeten, Dickson; 3. Zach Williams, Coalgate
Class II: 1. Will Shelby, Madill; 2. Ashlyn Kellam, Silo; 3. Ridge Stephens, Tushka
Class III: 1. Bailey Bradley, Caddo; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class IV: 1. Margarita Loving, Kingston; 2. Kellsey Bow, OK County

Will Shelby, Madill, Reserve Breed Champion
Margarita Loving, Kingston, Breed Champion

Heifer-Brahman Inf

Class I: 1. Jansan Storey, Valliant, Breed Champion
Class II: 1. Jansan Storey, Valliant; 2. JB Bell, Madill, Reserve Breed Champion

JB Bell, Madill, Reserve Breed Champion
Jansan Storey, Valliant, Breed Champion

Heifer-AOB

Class I: 1. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall; 2. Whisper Griggs, Rattan; 3. Rebecca Napier, Moyers
Class II: 1. Chance Sweeten, Dickson; 2. Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove; 3. Daniel Cullum, Silo
Class III: 1. Erik Hatton, Vanoss; 2. Caleb Hitchcock, Boswell; 3. Kara Stanglin, Colbert
Class IV: 1. Erik Hatton, Vanoss; 2. Scotlynn Hatton, Vanoss; 3. Hailey Morris, Ft. Towson

Erik Hatton, Vanoss, Reserve Breed Champion
Chance Sweeten, Dickson, Breed Champion

Margarita Loving, Kingston, Bronze Champion, above
Erik Hatton, Vanoss, Reserve Grand Champion
Chance Sweeten, Dickson, Grand Champion

Steers-English Div

Class I: 1. Julie Cullum, Silo; 2. Alex Robinson, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Lane House, Tishomingo; 2. Nick Northcutt, Tishomingo; 3. Ketch Coates, Tushka
Class III: 1. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville

Lane House, Tishomingo, Reserve Breed Champion
Julie Cullum, Silo, Breed Champion

Steers-Continental

Class I: 1. Kellsey Bow, OK County; 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Clancey Foran, Atoka, Breed Champion/Grand Champion; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville; 3. Nathan Northcutt, Tishomingo
Class III: 1. Nick Northcutt, Tishomingo, Reserve Breed Champion; 2. Nathan Northcutt, Tishomingo; 3. Braden Allen, Silo

Nick Northcutt, Tishomingo, Reserve Breed Champion
Clancey Foran, Atoka, Breed Champion

Steers-AOB

Class I: 1. Chance Sweeten, Dickson; 2. Kage Collins, Tishomingo
Class II: 1. James Kellam, Silo; 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek, Reserve Breed Champion; 3. Will Shelby, Madill

Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek, Reserve Breed Champion



James Kellam, Silo, Breed Champion

Cattle Senior Showmanship, Chance Sweeten, Dickson
Cattle Junior Showmanship, Jansan Storey, Valliant

Julie Cullum, Silo, Bronze Champion
James Kellam, Silo, Reserve Grand Champion
Clancey Foran, Atoka, Grand Champion, above

WILBURTON LIVESTOCK SHOW

Berkshire

Class I: 1. Tory Mason, Hartshorne; 2. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak; 3. Skye Gammon, Eagletown
Class II: 1. Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 2. Carson Johnico, Clayton; 3. Maggie Johnico, Clayton

Chloe Rogers, Spiro, Reserve Breed Champion
Tory Mason, Hartshorne, Breed Champion

Chester

Class I: 1. Tanner Hambright, Spiro; 2. Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy; 3. Keinan Hardaway, Smithville
Class II: 1. Cody Clark, Jones Academy; 2. Madison Walker, Red Oak; 3. Quade McGee, Whitesboro

Madison Walker, Red Oak, Reserve Breed Champion
Cody Clark, Jones Academy, Breed Champion

Duroc

Class I: 1. Cody Clark, Jones Academy; 2. Maria Mackey, Jones Academy; 3. Gabby Chatkehoodle, Jones Academy
Class II: 1. Adayna Sewell, Jones Academy; 2. Latassha Beall, Jones Academy; 3. Alex Stroble, Jones Academy
Class III: 1. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy; 2. Cody Clark, Jones Academy; 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola

Adayna, Sewell, Jones Academy, Reserve Breed Champion
Cody Clark, Jones Academy, Breed Champion



Hamp

Class I: 1. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy; 2. Emma Lawson, Wilburton; 3. Tanner McAlester, Wister
Class II: 1. Riley Garrison, Lone Grove; 2. Trystan Ingle, LeFlore; 3. Nicole Dobbs, LeFlore
Class III: 1. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy; 2. Bailey Cargill, Indianola; 3. Emma Wilkett, Wilburton,
Class IV: 1. Braylon Spears; 2. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy; 3. Kasen Krebs, Heavener
Class V: 1. Cody Huggle, Hartshorne; 2. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy; 3. Mayan Fox, Jones Academy
Class VI: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne; 2. Shailee Whinery, Crowder; 3. Ryan Holder, Porum
Class VII: 1. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak; 2. Noah Bryant, Talihina; 3. Jalen Spears, Wilburton
Class VIII: 1. Isaac Bryant, Talihina; 2. Chase Martin, Red Oak; 3. Taymen, Vocque, Heavener
Class IX: 1. Tamen Vocque, Heavener; 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Kadance Roop, Heavener

Makayla Campagna, Red Oak, Reserve Breed Champion
Braylon Spears, Hartshorne, Breed Champion

Poland

Class I: 1. Tory Mason, Hartshorne; 2. Parker Thomas, Red Oak; 3. Brock Cooley, Haileyville
Class II: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola

Tory Mason, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed Champion
Braylon Spears, Hartshorne, Breed Champion

Spot

Class I: 1. Samantha Hale, Red Oak; 2. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy; 3. Railey Spears, Hartshorne
Class II: 1. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak; 2. Lane Trevino, Eagletown; 3. Kyrach Rogers, Spiro

Samantha Hale, Red Oak, Reserve Breed Champion
Grace Montgomery, Red Oak, Breed Champion

York

Class I: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Noah Bryant, Talihina; 3. Jalen Spears, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak; 2. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Lexie Moody, Moss; 2. Tucker Morrow, Hartshorne;
3. Morgan Wilcox, Buffalo Valley

Noah Bryant, Talihina, Reserve Breed Champion
Braylon Spears, Hartshorne, Breed Champion, above

Cross

Class I: 1. Kinlee Free, Heavener; 2. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy; 3. Charity, Thomas, Red Oak
Class II: 1. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy; 2. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak; 3. Skyer Whitfield, Crowder
Class III: 1. Lindsey Hudlow, LeFlore; 2. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy; 3. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class IV: 1. Jason McVay, Crowder; 2. Lainey Hightower, Frink Chambers; 3. Mallory, Barrett, Porum
Class V: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Hazen Sparks, Buffalo Valley; 3. Sarah Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class VI: 1. Noah Bryant, Talihina, Breed Champion/Reserve Grand 2. Alex Stroble, Jones Academy; 3. Colten Roberts, Savanna
Class VII: 1. Shaylan Duncan, Heavener; 2. Tanner Hambright, Spiro; 3. Carson Johnico, Clayton
Class VIII: 1. Samantha Hale, Red Oak; 2. Maggie Johnico, Clayton; 3. Sarah Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class IX: 1. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak; 2. Isaac Bryant, Talihina; 3. Kristin Smith, Crowder



Class X: 1. Caden Sumpter, Red Oak; 2. Blake Dull, Holdenville; 3. Raylee Phillips, Hartshorne
Class XI: 1. Caden Sumpter, Red Oak; 2. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola; 3. Reed Allen, Red Oak

Jase Sparks, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed Champion
Noah Bryant, Talihina, Breed Champion

Swine Senior Showman, Grace Montgomery, Red Oak
Swine Junior Showman, Railey Spears, Hartshorne

Cody Clark, Jones Academy, Bronze Champion
Noah Bryant, Talihina, Reserve Grand Champion
Braylon Spears, Hartshorne, Grand Champion

Doe Goats

Div I, Class I: 1. Jace Milburn, Asher; 2. Brileigh, Thornton, Spiro; 3. Mia McGowan, Fanshawe
Class II: 1. Jace Milburn, Asher; 2. Makayla Crawford, Moss; 3. Clayton Lawson, Wilburton
Class III: 1. Lexie Moody, Moss; 2. Loren Ford-Rogers, Cameron; 3. Ceejay Robison, Checotah

Jace Milburn, Asher, Reserve Breed Champion
Lexie Moody, Moss, Breed Champion

Div II, Class I: 1. Marisa Lambert, Moss; 2. Kenzie Davis, Wister; 3. Marisa Lambert, Moss
Class II: 1. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne; 2. Ceejay Robison, Checotah, Reserve Breed Champion/Reserve Grand; 3. Dually Robison, Checotah
Class III: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau, Bronze; 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Dually Robison, Checotah
Class IV: 1. Makayla Crawford, Moss; 2. Ally Stanley, Wister; 3. Skye Gammon, Eagletown

Ceejay Robison, Checotah, Reserve Breed Champion
Charli Curliss, Hartshorne, Breed Champion, bottom left

Paisley Beshear, Poteau, Bronze Champion
Ceejay Robison, Checotah, Reserve Grand Champion
Charli Curliss, Hartshorne, Grand Champion

Wether Goats

Div I, Class I: 1. Clayton, Lawson, Wilburton; 2. Parker Fox, Tannehill; 3. Garrett Clark, Poteau
Class II: 1. Lexie Moody, Moss; 2. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Tucker Conrad, Spiro

Railey Spears, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed



Champion
Lexie Moody, Moss, Breed Champion, below

Div II, Class I: 1. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne; 2. Cache Conrad, Spiro; 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola
Class II: 1. Skye Gammon, Eagletown; 2. Laney Sparks, Buffalo Valley; 3. Brylee Scott, Newcastle
Class III: 1. Brylee Scott, Newcastle; 2. Kaya Crouch, Hartshorne; 3. Bethany Humphreys, Savanna

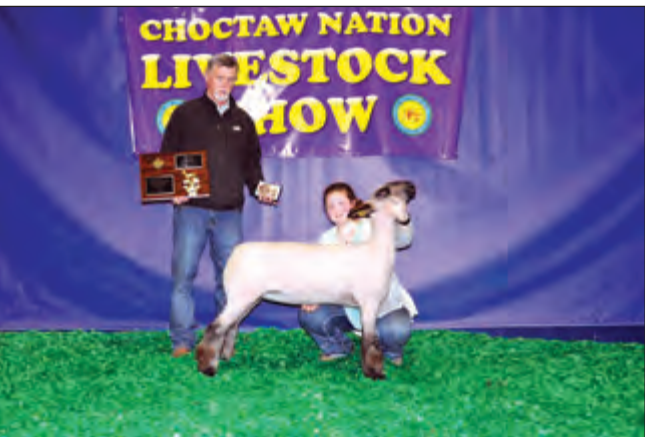
Skye Gammon, Eagletown, Reserve Breed Champion
Charli Curliss, Hartshorne, Breed Champion

Goat Senior Showmanship, Lexie Moody, Moss
Goat Junior Showmanship, Brooklyn Gist, Spiro

Charli Curliss, Hartshorne, Bronze Champion,
Railey Spears, Hartshorne, Reserve Grand Champion
Lexie Moody, Moss, Grand Champion

Lamb

Div I, Class I: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau; 2. Abby Rodriguez, Tupelo; 3. Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley
Class II: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Payton Rae, Quinton; 3. Shelby Heflin, Clayton
Class III: 1. Paisley, Beshear, Poteau; 2. Aliviah Daniels, Quinton; 3. Brooklyn Herriman, Warner



Jase Sparks, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed Champion
Paisley, Beshear, Poteau, Breed Champion

Div II, Class I: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Lane Howe, Fort Gibson; 3. Lauryn Rader, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola; 3. Lauryn Rader, Wilburton
Class III: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Madison Daniels, Quinton; 3. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola

Lamb Senior Showmanship, Brooklyn Herriman, Warner
Lamb Junior Showmanship, Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Taylor McGill, Tuttle, Reserve Breed Champion/ Breed Champion

Paisley, Beshear, Poteau, Bronze Champion
Taylor McGill, Tuttle, Reserve Breed Champion
Taylor McGill, Tuttle, Grand Champion, above

Heifer- English Division

Class I: 1. Meredith Behrens, Colbert; 2. Jaggar Smith, Broken Bow
Class II: 1. Brianna Gawf, Eufaula; 2. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah
Class III: 1. Brianna Gawf, Eufaula; 2. Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 3. Kaylee Vanmeter, Checotah
Class IV: 1. Kaylan Plemmons, Battiest; 2. Griffin Behrens, Colbert; 3. Merideth Behrens, Colbert

Class V: 1. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah; 2. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 3. Carley Tankersley, Eufaula
Class VI: 1. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah; 2. Jaggar Smith, Broken Bow

Meredith Behrens, Colbert, Reserve Breed Champion
Brianna Gawf, Eufaula, Breed Champion

Heifer-Continental Div

Class I: 1. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket; 2. Roni Jo Martin, Wister; 3. Isaiah Salee, Porum
Class II: 1. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne; 2. Cody Johnson, Checotah; 3. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket
Class III: 1. Logan Carver, Bokoshe; 2. Brynn Bibee, Stigler; 3. Landree Evans, Atoka
Class IV: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne, Breed Champ/ Reserve Grand; 2. Dalton Johnson, Checotah
Class V: 1. Samantha Pearce, Porum, Reserve Breed Champion; 2. Isaiah Sallee, Porum; 3. Cody Johnson, Checotah



Samantha Pearce, Porum, Reserve Breed Champion
Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne, Breed Champion

Heifer-Brahman Inf

Class I: 1. Jaxon Hill, Moss, Breed Champion; Class II: 1. Jaxon Hill, Moss, Reserve Breed Champion

Jaxon Hill, Moss, Reserve Breed Champion/Breed Champion

Heifer-AOB

Class I: 1. Waylon Dishman, Porum; 2. Trenton Mayhall, Antlers; 3. Karen Woodral, Howe
Class II: 1. Natalie Gibson, Afton; 2. Trisha Walden, Wister; 3. Payton Lyons, Panola
Class III: 1. Isaiah Sallee, Porum; 2. Kaylee Vanmeter, Checotah; 3. Kaylee Vanmeter, Checotah
Class IV: 1. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne; 2. Abby Cato, Savanna; 3. Briana Gawf, Eufaula
Class V: 1. Jenna Simpson, Quinton; 2. Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton; 3. Kaylee Mattioda, Hartshorne
Class VI: 1. Haley Cato, Webbers Falls; 2. Jayce McPeak, Warner; 3. Samantha Pearce, Porum

Isaiah Sallee, Porum, Reserve Breed Champion
Haley Cato, Webbers Falls, Breed Champion, above
Isaiah Sallee, Porum, Bronze Champion
Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne, Reserve Grand Champion
Haley Cato, Webbers Falls, Breed Champion/Grand



Steers-English Div

Class I: 1. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket; 2. Shyann Hill, Hartshorne
Class II: 1. Konner Upton, Wister, Breed Champion
2. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed Champion; 3. Colton Hulsey, Wilburton

Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne, Reserve Breed Champion
Konner Upton, Wister, Breed Champion

Steers-Continental

Class I: 1. Kolby Cato, Savanna; 2. Justin Herlan, Blue Jacket
Class II: 1. Elizabeth Gardner, Kinta; 2. Ray Mathis, Crowder
Class III: 1. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne, Breed Champion/Grand; 2. Christian Mathis, Crowder, Reserve Breed Champion

Steers-AOB

Class I: 1. Payton Lyons, Panola
Class II: 1. Brittany Baer, Webbers Falls, Breed Champion/Reserve Grand; 2. Merideth Behrens, Colbert, Reserve Breed Champion/Bronze; 3. Jenna Simpson, Quinton
Class III: 1. Clancey Hill, Hartshorne, 2. Brynn Bibee, Stigler; 3. Jenna Simpson, Quinton

Christian Mathis, Crowder, Reserve Breed Champion
Brittany Baer, Webbers Falls, Breed Champion

Cattle Senior Showmanship, Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne
Cattle Junior Showmanship, Ethan Shoemake, Porum

Merideth Behrens, Colbert, Bronze Champion
Brittany Baer, Webbers Falls, Reserve Grand Champion
Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne, Grand Champion, above

More pictures from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Shows in Durant and Wilburton can be found online at <https://choctawnation.smugmug.com>.

S F B O 10

Walter Norman Beaver



Walter Norman Beaver, 71, of Atoka, passed away Jan. 12, 2017.

Walter was born Sept. 10, 1945, in Wichita, Kansas, to Earnest and Ella (Cooper) Beaver.

He is preceded in death by his parents and an infant son.

Walter is survived by sisters Mary Thomas and Linda King; brother Michael Beaver and spouse Sally; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many dear and loved friends.

Interment was held at Macedonia Indian Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).

Sidney Burnett Burris

Sidney Burnett Burris, 84, of Shawnee, passed away Jan. 13, 2017.

Sidney was born March 8, 1932, in Blanchard, to Samuel Sidney Burris Jr. and Mable Agnes (Curry) Burris.

He is preceded in death by his parents; grandsons Michael and Gabriel Buck; sisters Joan Thomson, Loretta Wilson, and Wanda Witt; and brother Tony K. Burris.

Sidney is survived by his wife of 64 years Bonnie Burris; daughters Sidney Thrower and spouse Larry, Karen Wallace and spouse Alton, Carolyn Kinsey, and Linda Shafer and spouse Clint; son Ted Burris; ten grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; sisters Karen McConnell and spouse Jimmy, Jennifer Kniss, and Diana Judy Simms and spouse Charlie; brothers Terry Burris and spouse Diana, and Perry Burris; numerous nieces and nephews, and many other loved ones and friends.

Interment was held at Blanchard Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Eisenhour Funeral Home](#).

Rodney Downey Hammons

Rodney Downey Hammons, 64, passed away Sept. 14, 2016.

Rodney was born Nov. 4, 1951, in Talihina, to L.W. and Ada I. (Wade) Hammons.

He is preceded in death by his wife Naomi Hammons; grandparents; brothers Junior Hammons, Glen Hammons, and Jack Hammons.

Rodney is survived by his sons Chris Hammons and spouse Jennifer and Bret Hammons; daughters Leona Berryhill and spouse Robert and Downey Hammons; brothers Jerry Hammons, Bennie Hammons and spouse Debbie, and Lonnie Hammons and spouse Susie; sisters Mary Mitchell and spouse Mike, Linda Wallace and spouse Jim, and Jonnie Rosson and spouse Johnny; former wife and mother of two sons Joetta Collins Hammons; grandchildren, Michael, Erica, Jacob, JC, Justus, Jaden, and London.

Interment was held at Ft. Towson Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Funeral Home](#).

Jerry Thompson

Jerry Thompson, 78, of Durant, passed away Oct. 27, 2016.

Jerry was born May 1, 1938, in Leflore County, to Jefferson and Lillian (Ripley) Thompson.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Eugene Folsom; and sister Janice Thompson.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife Ruth; brothers James Quinn, Dallas Lewis, and Jack Bush. He was blessed with many blood relatives, relatives by marriage, and his church family.

Interment was held at Highland Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).

Richard V. Wilson.

Richard V. Wilson, 72, of Smithville, passed away Dec. 9, 2016.

Richard was born June 12, 1944, in Talihina, to Isaac and Julia Stella (Tims) Wilson.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son Richard Vern Wilson; the mother of his children Judy Elaine Wilson; brothers R.B. Wilson, Lester Ray Wilson, and Leroy Wilson; sister Dora Wilson; and half sisters Mary Jane Simas and Anna Mae Wilson.

Richard is survived by his son Michael Wilson and spouse Mary; brothers J.R. Wilson and Robert Wilson and spouse Paulette; sisters Opal Ludlow and spouse Eugene and Ruby Smith and spouse Dale; grandchildren Linda Elaine Wilson, Levi Allen Wilson and spouse Payten, and Angelina Marie Wilson; great-grandchild Londyn Wilson; many nieces and nephews; other relatives; special friend Lyndon “Buddha” Loman; and many other friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).

Ramona Kay Swilling

Ramona Kay Swilling, 55, of Hugo, passed away Jan. 13, 2017. Ramona was born Aug. 6, 1961, in Talihina, to Joseph Ben, and Pearlyne (Ludlow) Carnes.

She is preceded in death by her father; brothers J.B. Carnes, Eddie Homer, and Hubert “Sonny” Homer; and granddaughter Letty Howard.

Ramona is survived by her sons Charles Swilling and spouse Ashley and Joseph Swilling; daughter Sheri Howard and spouse Kenny; mother Pearl-ynne Carnes; sisters Linda Hornsby, Jennifer Carnes, and Sheila Carnes; brother Gerald Ludlow; grandchildren, Alexa Swilling, Cayden Swilling, Taylor Swilling, Easton Swilling, Dalton Howard, Leathamae Howard, Samantha Howard, Layla Gonzales, and Brayden Keaton; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

To read the full obituary please visit [Holmes Coffey Murray Funeral Home](#).

Cecil “Shorty” Tom

Cecil (Shorty) Tom, 68, of Wright City, passed away Nov. 11, 2016.

Cecil was born Oct. 2, 1948, to Genese Columbus Tom and Albert Tom Sr.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Cecil is survived by children Catherine Tom Getz, Adam Tom, and Michael Loman; grandchildren Sadie, Wyatt, and Audrey Getz of Buford, Georgia, and Aislinn Tom; sisters Mattie Ferguson, Ann Cusher, Susan Laughlin; brothers Albert (Sonny Boy) Tom Jr., Nicholas Tom, Skippy, Gary Tom of Holly Creek, Jimmy Tom and Glenn Tom; along with numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, and cousins.

Interment was held at Slater Memorial Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).

Jimmy Dale Doyle

Jimmy Dale Doyle, 59, passed away Dec. 11, 2016.

Jimmy was born Dec. 7, 1957, in Talihina, to Jimmie Lee Doyle and Mary McMahan.

He is preceded in death by his father.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Danna Doyle; mother; daughters Talisha Light and Sheanna Griffith; sons Sach Doyle and Jerrod Foyle; stepson Ray Cain; grandchildren Hailey, Austin, Tristan, Talon, Ayden, and Matthew; brothers Vic Doyle and Darin McMahan; sister Teresa Doyle; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Interment was held at Damon Valley Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Burkhart Funeral Services](#).

Florence “Flo” Spalding

Florence “Flo” Spalding, 96, of Haworth passed away Oct. 2, 2016.

Florence was born Feb. 28, 1920, in Haworth, to Alex and Sibbie Byington McClure.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and an infant brother Grayson McClure.

Florence is survived by her sisters Isabel Clampet, Pauline Lee Foye, Betty Hunkapillar, Geraldine Yearley, and Virginia Dodson and spouse Roy; a special niece Sandra Holt and her spouse Jim; and several additional nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Interment was held at Arlington National Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [White Family Funeral Home](#).

Patricia Anne Sinnett

Patricia Anne Sinnett, 71, of Tulsa, passed away Oct. 28, 2016.

Patricia was born July 23, 1945, in Hugo, to Tommie and Carrie Williams.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Cowell Dean Sinnett; siblings Wilson Belvin, Lula Berryhill, Tommy Williams Jr., and James Williams; and daughter Sherill Easley.

Patricia is survived by children Dana Brunson, Dean Sinnett Jr., Larry Sinnett, and Holly Torez; sisters, Lorene Arrow, Rosina Mann, Wilma Morrow, and Linda Draper; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Sinnett Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit the [Tulsa World](#).

Jan Kristin (Schulze) Bryan

Jan Kristin (Schulze) Bryan, 63, passed away Nov. 7, 2016.

Jan was born Dec. 1, 1952, in Muskogee, to Gordon B. Schulze and Selah Rose (Lewis) Schulze.

Jan is survived by her husband Stephen; son Jeffory Bryan and spouse Jane; daughters Angela Langley and spouse T.D., Victoria Middleton and spouse Larry, and Lindsay Bryan; grandchildren Sara Lynn, Sydney Langley, KatieAnn Middleton, and Gracie Langley; brothers Bruce and spouse Rhonda Schulze and Stephen Schulze; aunts Kay Dumesnil and Eileen Schulze; sisters-in-law Peggy Christian and Elizabeth Taylor.

Interment was held at Maxey Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Evans and Miller Funeral Home](#).



Brent Charles Henry

Brent Charles “Big Savage” Henry, 30, passed away Jan. 6, 2017. Brent was born May 27, 1986, in Ada, to Charles Henry and Barbara (Sampson) Henry.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather Grady Charles Henry; grandmother Irene Mose; brother Brandon Henry; special cousin Kara Sampson; niece Schloe Henry; and uncles Milton Ray Henry Sr., Franklin Henry, Hanson Henry, Eddie Sampson, Dennis Sampson, and Dale Sampson.

Brent is survived by his mother Barbara Shoemaker; father Charles Henry; grandmother Faye Taylor; daughter Aubree Shase Polk; brothers Chad Henry and spouse Renee, and Alex Henry; sister Charlene Henry and spouse Freddie Bellard; aunt Janet Frazier and uncle Bryant Henry, both of Philadelphia, Mississippi; nieces Kaprell, Brandica, Kambrea, Taleah, Nykia, and Kenya; and a host of family and friends.

Interment was held at Nelda Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Griffin Hillcrest](#).

Jackie Donald Bacon

Jackie D. Bacon, 84, of Daisy, passed away Oct. 11, 2016.

Jackie was born March 11, 1932, to Clyo and Alice Bacon.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son Gary Bacon; and brother Bill Bacon.

Jackie is survived by wife Imogene; sons Dennis Bacon, Bruce and wife Megan Bacon, Terry and wife Dena Bacon; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and sister Ruthie Anderson.

Interment was held at Mountain Home Cemetery in Daisy.

To read the full obituary please visit [Atoka Funeral Home](#).

Gladys Virginia Crittenden

Gladys Virginia Crittenden, 84, of Atoka, passed away March 5, 2016.

Gladys was born Oct. 11, 1931, in Bentley, to Thomas W. Anderson and Susan Lawrence.

She is preceded in death by husband Aaron Crittenden; son Steven Doyl Crittenden; daughter Gaytha Lynn Hicks; sister Delois York Powell; brother Thomas W. Anderson Jr.; mother Susan Fisher and father Thomas W. Anderson.

Gladys is survived by daughter Lois Ann Bethards and spouse Mike; grandchildren Jennifer Bethards, Lisa Bethards and spouse Alex, Melissa Servais and spouse John, and Kate Hicks; great-grandchildren Lane Bethards, Leo Bethards, Rainey Bethards; sister Loveda Holley; special niece Janice Jones; and several nieces, nephews, and a host of dear friends.

Interment was held at Bethany Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Atoka Funeral Home](#).

Dana Louise Tanner

Dana Louise Tanner, 68, of Malvern, Arkansas, passed away Dec. 27, 2016.

Dana was born Nov. 4, 1948, in Dallas, Texas, to Dan Tanner Jr. and Jo Evalyn Tanner.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother Randall Boyd Tanner.

Dana is survived by son Daniel Edward Ingram; daughter Shannon Dawn Rembert; son-in-law Warren D. Rembert; grandson Daniel Rembert; daughter-in-law Nicole Mecca; granddaughter Hilary Rembert and Marisa Rembert; grandson J.J. Rembert, sister-in-law Dianna Tanner; niece Lana Hall; great-niece Laura Hall; her Chihuahua Ohwie; and a host of family and friends.

Helen Doris Ingram Foster

Helen Doris Ingram Foster, 89, passed away Jan. 20, 2017.

Helen was born May 16, 1927, in Non, to Milburn Cisney and Velma Viola (Russell) Ingram.

She is preceded in death by her parents, sister Betty Wampler, brother Bud Ingram, and nephew Ken Wampler.

Helen is survived by her husband Ted Foster; children Greg Geymann, Kelley Falk and spouse Dr. Richard Falk, Gordon Romine and spouse Jamie, Denise Anderson and spouse Todd, Ted Lewis Foster Jr. and spouse Shelly and Terry Wayne Foster; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brothers Curtis Ingram and spouse Virginia and Dean Ingram and spouse Karlyn; and brother-in-law Judge Ralph L. Wampler.

Interment was held at Lookeba Cemetery.
To read the full obituary please visit [Hinton Turner Funeral](#).

Sarah Janette Amos

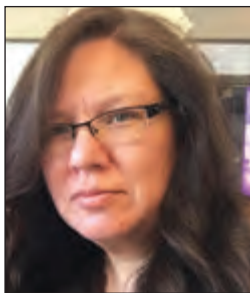
Sarah Janette Amos, 49, died on Feb. 5, 2017.

Sarah was born Aug. 15, 1967, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Sylvester and Nova Amos.

She is preceded in death by her father.

Sarah is survived by her mother; her brothers Stanley and spouse Jackie, David and spouse Debbie, Tony and spouse Annette, Nathan and spouse Sherry; nieces and nephews Stephanie, Zachary, Amy, Ashley, Krystal, and Aaron; and her many great-nieces and great-nephews.

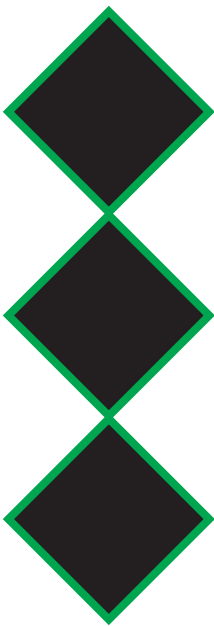
Interment was held at Orr Gish Funeral Home.
To read the full obituary please visit [Orr Gray Gish and Tipton Funeral Homes](#).



Obituary Policy

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

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



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Rayson “R.J.” Frazier

Rayson “R.J.” Frazier, 67, of Eagletown, passed away Feb. 3, 2017.

Rayson was born Oct. 15, 1949, in Oleta, to Mack and Lena Mae Samuels Frazier.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Jacqueline Frazier.

Rayson is survived by his wife Wanda Frazier of the home; son Jason Frazier and wife Annette; brothers Mike Frazier and wife Ruth and Don Frazier and wife Annie; sisters Vicky Folsom and husband Eugene and Michelle Dubose; grandchildren Justine Frazier, Alex Frazier, Jordyn Frazier, and Caliann Frazier; great-grandchildren Colton, Casi, and Isaiah Frazier; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.

Interment was held at Tuskahoma Choctaw Veterans Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).

Lula Mae (Berry) Wigginton Grayson Smith

Lula Mae (Berry) Wigginton Grayson Smith, 83, passed away Jan. 27, 2017.

Lula was born Feb. 17, 1933, in Ardmore, to Arthur Berry and Alvenia (Forbes) Berry.

She is preceded in death by her husband Luther “Ed” Smith; sons Sonny Wigginton, Eddie Wigginton, and David Grayson; grandson Mark Blankenship; parents Arthur and Alvenia Berry; and grandparents Jim and Narcissy Berry and Charlie and Emelia Yarby.

Lula is survived by her children Bobby Wigginton, Donnie Grayson and spouse Carol, Kathy Grayson, Debbie Blankenship, Sheila Grayson, David Elmore, Edward Smith, and Diane Salmon; 26 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and all the neighborhood kids she treated as her own throughout the years.

Interment was held at Providence Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Griffin Hillcrest](#).



Patricia Ann Greenwood

Patricia Ann Greenwood, 75, passed away Nov. 15, 2016.

Patricia was born July 12, 1941, in Province, to Luther Wilkins and Anna Mae (Sewell).

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister Maxine Stephens; and brothers Gary and Jimmy Wayne Wilkins.

Patricia is survived by her husband Jimmy Greenwood; children Billie McKinney and Michael Collins; Jimmy’s children Glenda, Lucy, and Jimmy Greenwood; grandchildren Brandon, Austin, Brooke, and Blair; six great-grandchildren; brother Roger Wilkins; sisters Maime Shockley and Joyce Bruce; and many other family and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Resthaven Funeral Home and Memory Gardens](#).



Jim Turnbull

Jim Turnbull, 77, of Sherman, Texas, passed away Jan. 23, 2017.

Jim was born Nov. 14, 1939, in Kemp to Donald “Blackie” and Lucy Turnbull.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Richard Turnbull.

Jim is survived by his daughter Jessi Turnbull; brother Sammy Turnbull and spouse June Cottin-game, sister Donnett Smith and spouse Billy C. Smith; brother Billy Turnbull and spouse Susan Turnbull; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Clyde Adell Martindale Jr.

Clyde Adell Martindale Jr., 69, passed away July 15, 2014.

Clyde was born Jan. 3, 1945, in Hartshorne, to parents Clyde A. Martindale Sr. and Minnie A. Oxford.

Clyde is survived by his beloved wife Patty; daughter Vanessa Crystal and spouse Brian and their children Karissa (BA), Andrew, Michael, and Brandon; son and namesake Clyde Adell III and his children Jeffrey Clyde, Seth, and Krystal; stepdaughter Jewell and her children Raquel and Kenny; great-granddaughters McKenna and Milla; his two newest namesakes great-granddaughter Madeline Adell and great-grandson Charles Clyde; sisters Wanda, Lavonda, and Sheila; and brothers Larry, Jerry, and Eddie.

Interment was held at Riverside National Cemetery.



Thomas A. Goldston

Thomas A. Goldston, 63, of Wichita, Kansas, passed away Dec. 24, 2016.

Thomas was born May 21, 1953, in Stafford, Kansas, to J.W. and Helen Goldston.

He is preceded in death by his father J.W. Goldston; sister Gloria Goldston; and brother James “Dub” Goldston.

Thomas is survived by his wife of 45 years Barbara Goldston; daughter Pamela Robinson Bret; sons Thomas Goldston and spouse Lisa, Timothy Goldston and spouse Kari; 10 grandchildren; mother Helen; brothers Jim, Mike, Randy, and Gaylen; and sisters Glenda, Gwen, and Lora.

Interment was held at Vinita Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Wulf-Ast Mortuary](#).



Patricia Ann Davis

Patricia Ann “Pat” Davis, 63, of Ft. Towson, passed away Jan. 18, 2017.

Patricia was born Oct. 2, 1953, in Broken Arrow, to Sam Albertson and Mary (Bates) Albertson.

Patricia is survived by her husband Earl Lynn Davis; son Kevin Davis; daughter Laura Lambert and spouse Monty; four sisters; two brothers; and one grandson along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Swink Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Miller & Miller Funeral Home](#).



Rubye Stotts

Rubye Stotts, 95, passed away Jan. 30, 2017.

Rubye was born Nov. 1, 1921, in Garvin to Rayson and Lucy Going.

She is preceded in death by her parents Rayson and Lucy Going; husband Etley Stotts; brothers Rayson Going Jr, Josiah Going, John Going, and baby Sonny Going; sisters Dollie Scott, Samantha Neill, Vernola Going, Frances Neal, and Virginia Williams

Rubye is survived by daughter Cindy Baker and spouse Arland; son Ray Stotts and spouse Lisa; sister Mabel McGuire; grandchildren Terri Roberts and spouse Mike, Dean Green and spouse Kim, Steve Green and Marsha Tislow, Charles Steiger and spouse Melissa, Candice Stotts-Felan and spouse Nick; grandchildren Justin Roberts and spouse Linsey, Logan Roberts, Blake Roberts, Taylor Green, Sidney Green, Devin Green and spouse Raelynn, Brooklyn Green, Dylan Steiger, Dakota Steiger, David Steiger, and Michaela Reams; great-great-grandchildren Caleb Pittman, Carleigh, and Cayleigh Roberts, Peyton and Easton Green; and many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Interment was held at Arlington Memory Gardens.

To read the full obituary please visit [Bill Eisenhour Funeral Home](#).



Isaac “Bob” Homer

Isaac “Bob” Homer, 63, passed away Feb. 1, 2017.

Bob was born Nov. 5, 1953, in Coal Creek to Joseph and Julia Homer.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son Omaha Zephier; sister Annabell; brother Manuel Homer; granddaughter Wakaninajinwin “Stands Like a Spirit”; and four grandchildren.

Bob is survived by his loving and devoted wife Sharon Homer; children Teresa Herrera, David Watson and spouse Joan, Tina Watson, Quanah Watson, Robert Homer, Butterfly Homer, Anne White Eastman and spouse James, and Tyrone Primeaux and spouse Lea; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren and extended family and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Brown’s Funeral Service](#).



Vina (Jacob) Allen

Vina (Jacob) Allen, 88, of Atoka, passed away Oct. 20, 2016.

Vina was born Oct. 8, 1928, in Caney, to Fulsom Sr. and Martha (Cole) Jacob.

She is preceded in death by both of her parents; husband Roy Allen; brothers Eastman Jacob and John Jacob; sisters Marie Wynne and Esther Jacob; and nephews John Wynne and Thomas Randall.

Vina is survived by sons Rayson Allen and spouse Marie, Steven Allen and spouse Anita, Jacob Allen and spouse Dayna; daughter Sharon Longwell and spouse Tim; brother Fulsom Jacob Jr. and spouse Dona; sisters-in-law Christine Campbell and Lois Jack and spouse Al; sister Patricia Johnson and spouse Richard; 20 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends.

To read the full obituary please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).



Arthur Courtiz Jennings

Arthur Courtiz (Corky) Jennings, 67, of Ulysses, Kansas passed away Feb. 1, 2017.

Arthur was born April 18, 1949, in Coleman to Arthur H. and Edna (Mays) Jennings.

He is preceded in death by his parents; stepmother Joan Jennings-Settlemire; brothers Roy and Leon Jennings; sister Mary Jo Turner; and his best friend Toby.

Arthur is survived by his wife Wilma Jennings; children Barbara Rodriguez and spouse Leroy, Patricia Walters and spouse Brad, Angie Heinrichs and spouse Adam, and Richard Jennings; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister Charlotte Boley; brothers Lonny Jennings and spouse Racheal, Rick Jennings and spouse Joan, and Donald Ridell and spouse Carrie.

To read the full obituary please visit [Garnand Funeral Home](#).



Helen Osteen

Helen “Nana” Osteen, 75, passed away Dec. 11, 2016.

Helen was born June 13, 1941, in Bakersfield, California, to Dick and Myrtle.

She is preceded in death by son Jeffrey Paul (in 1973).

Helen is survived by daughters Phyllis and Laura; sons Michael and Stacy; grandchildren Alicia, Christina, Spencer, Samantha, Madison, Breanna, Rachael, Declan; great-grandchildren Kaden, Alexiss, Derrick, Lukias, Lincoln, River; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Teddy Ward

Teddy Ward, 66, of Broken Bow, passed away Dec. 12, 2016.

Teddy was born June 20, 1951, in Talihina, to Nelson and Sarah (Noahubbi).

He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters Imogene James and Rena Noah; niece LaJean Thorne; nephews Arnold James, Marvin James, Richard Driskill, and Teddy Navarro; and brother-in-law Jim Driskill.

Teddy is survived by nieces Ladonna Ward and son Tyrin, Sarah Ward and son Tahj; nephews Kevin Ward and son Kendall, and Marcal “Ray Ray” Lewis; brothers Travis Ward and Alfred Ward; sister Mavis Driskill; nieces and nephews Janice and Bobby Morris, Darrell and Carol James, Rita James, Ronnie and Diane James, LeAnne Noah and Deborah Osage; cousins Betty Jacob, Juanita Henry, Walter T. Lloyd Wilson, Kay Ward, and Katrina Anderson; and several other family members and friends.

Interment was held at McGee Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).



Bonnie J. (Hendrix) Filler Giannone

Bonnie J. (Hendrix) Filler Giannone, 94, of Oklahoma City, passed away Jan. 11, 2017.

Bonnie was born June 17, 1922, in Rosedale, to Joseph and Emma Hendrix.

She was preceded in death by her husband James G. Giannone and all of her brothers and sisters.

Bonnie is survived by daughter Dickie Morris and spouse Bobby and Dr. Janice Filler; granddaughter Monica McMath; great-grandson Andrew McMath, and many nieces and nephews.

To read the full obituary please visit [Vondel Smith Mortuary](#).



Billy J. Page

Billy J. Page, 62, passed away Feb. 10, 2017, in Antlers.

Billy was born Nov. 25, 1954, in Woodland, California, to James and Anne (Latham) Page.

He is preceded in death by his father; sister Patricia Page; and brother Dee Page.

Billy is survived by wife Gwenda Page; children Mellonie Ellis and spouse Sean, Nickolas Page and spouse Kelsey, and Ryan Page and spouse Myrtle; mother Anne; sister Connie Wasson; grandchildren Xander, Arilyn, Chesney, Danielle, Jaimie, Shelby, Colton, Kristen, Gavin, Tony, Seth, and Daelyn.



Billie Maxine Montgomery

Billie Maxine (Sweet) Montgomery, 85, of McAlester, passed away Jan. 26, 2017.

Billie was born Aug. 15, 1931, in Hartshorne, to Cleveland and Fannie Leigh (James) Sweet.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughter Sharon Marie Montgomery; brothers Bobby Sweet, Eugene Sweet, and Harvey Sweet.

Billie is survived by her husband Rev. James “Jim” Montgomery; sons Jimmy Montgomery Jr. and spouse Patricia and Don Montgomery; daughter Joy Semtner and spouse Richard; grandchildren Shelly Davy and spouse Steve, Angela Clair, Heather Johnson and spouse Joseph, Jimmy Dale Montgomery and spouse Renee, Jessica Kay Miller and spouse Wes, and Jordan White; sisters Bernice Robinson and Myrtle Morgan; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, other family members, and friends.

Interment was held at Oak Hill Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Bishop Funeral Service](#).



Howard G. Council

Howard G. Council, 87, of Lawton, passed away Nov. 10, 2014.

Howard was born Nov. 28, 1926 in Durant, to Howard Joseph and Mallie Mae (Sanders) Council

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Bill; father-in-law J. A. Thomas; mother-in-law Velma Thomas; brothers-in-law Jess Thomas, Jim Thomas; and Randy Thomas; and sister-in-law Geraldine King.

Howard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Genevieve; daughter Carol Roundtree and spouse Joe; grandchildren Aubree Walton and spouse Justin; Marsee Rupp and spouse Evan, and Mark Roundtree; great-grandchildren Hunter, Tanner, Gracee, Dylan, and Ilyanna; sisters-in-law Marsha Thomas, Lawton, and Libby Thomas Wheat; brother-in-law Bob King; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Highland Cemetery

To read the full obituary please visit [Becker Funeral](#).



Maynard Williams

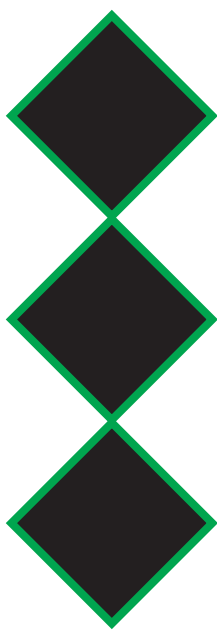
Maynard Williams, 72, of North Mankato, passed away Dec. 23, 2016.

Maynard was born Aug. 15, 1944, to Matthias and Harriet Williams.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Richard.

Maynard is survived by his wife of 46 years Shirley; son Brian Williams; daughter Janelle Rauchman; grandchildren Nathan Williams, Colleen Duffy, Kaylie Rauchman, and Cole Rauchman; great-grandchild Karliegh Duffy of St. Peter; brothers Merlin Williams, Ronald Williams, Brad Williams; sister Barbara Heller; and many nieces and nephews.





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Save the Date!
Saturday, May 27, 2017

150th Anniversary Celebration
of the Historic Choate Cabin

Choate Prairie and Indianola, Oklahoma
(Property visit currently by Appointment (773) 844-1804)

The 1867 Cabin listed on the National Register of Historic Places was built by G.W. Choate, a Choctaw, Civil War Soldier, Tobucksy County Sheriff and Judge, last President of the Choctaw Senate before Oklahoma Statehood.

Please follow us on Facebook: Indian Territory and Oklahoma Statehood Settlement.
For more information: (773) 844-1804

INDIAN TERRITORY
OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD
SETTLEMENT



Look!

Tribal Members in 10.5 Counties

The Choctaw Nation Next Step Initiative is a supplemental **food and necessities voucher** program that promotes self-sustainment through **foundational training** opportunities.

Contact a Next Step Social Worker to see if you are eligible.

Antlers (580) 298-6443	Broken Bow (580) 584-2842	Durant (580) 924-7773	McAlester (918) 420-5716	Poteau (918) 649-0431
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nextstep@choctawnation.com



CHOCTAW NATION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES ANNOUNCING.....

2017 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP

Requirements:

- Applicants must be a member of HSSS before applying.
- 2.5 GPA or higher.
- High School Seniors enrolling at a Vocational, 2 year, or 4 year program.

Scholarship application opens 1-15-17 and closes 3-31-17

Students can find more information at www.choctawfoundation.com or call the HSSS office at 800-522-6170 ext. 4103.



SCHOLARSHIPS


Competitive scholarships
for Choctaw students
range from
\$1,000 up to \$10,000

OPEN: JANUARY 15, 2017
DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2017

EMPOWERING CHOCTAW LIFE



CHOCTAW COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE



- ❖ The Choctaw clothing grant is a “one-time only” allowance.
- ❖ A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00 to 4.00.
- ❖ A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00 to 2.99.
- ❖ Fall awarding begins January 1, 2017 and ends April 1, 2017.
- ❖ Apply online January 1, 2017 at <https://ccaapplication.choctawnation.com>. Paper applications are no longer accepted.

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

PRE-HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION

ARE YOU CONFUSED ABOUT HOME LOANS?
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IS THERE A FINANCE PACKAGE AVAILABLE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?
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Come to our pre-homeownership class to learn the important steps in the home buying process.

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

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

Shelbie Crow (580) 579-4068 scrow@ChoctawHousing.com Hugo 3/25/2017 Antlers 4/13/2017 McAlester 5/18/2017 Hugo 6/08/2017	Susan Shelton (580) 372-3738 sshelton@ChoctawHousing.com Smithville 3/24/2017 Idabel 4/08/2017 Idabel 5/06/2017 Battiest 6/22/2017
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Beckie Johnson
(580) 372-4154
bjohnson@ChoctawHousing.com
Poteau 3/23/2017
Wilburton 4/06/2017
Stigler 5/09/2017
Poteau 6/03/2017



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

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Antlers: 400 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443
Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842
Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773
McAlester: 3244 Afullota Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

April

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 14, 27, & 28.
Cooking with Carmen: April 3 & 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 14, 27, & 28.
Cooking with Carmen: April 5 & 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 14, 27, & 28.
Cooking with Carmen: April 7 & 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCALISTER
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 14, 27, & 28.
Cooking with Carmen: April 10 & 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 14, 27, & 28.
Cooking with Carmen: April 12 & 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Youth Advisory Board

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Requirements:
(ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)

- Must have typed, double-spaced essay of 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member living in the 10½ county area **ONLY**
- Must attach copy of CDIB and Membership cards
- Must attach Letter of Admission from post secondary education facility
- All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2017
- Attach list of activities you have been involved in
- Provide- GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ ACT/SAT score: _____
- Winning applicants will be notified by May 1, 2017

1st Place-\$500 2nd Place-\$250 3rd Place-\$150

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Current High School: _____

Name of Post Secondary Education Facility you plan to attend: _____

Please mail your application and essay to:
Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment
P.O. Box 118
Howe, Oklahoma 74940

Sponsored by:
Choctaw Nation YAB



Two Successful Women Giving Back to Native Americans

Wesley Awarded Human Rights Award in Norman

by TINA FIRQUAIN

Summer Wesley has a passion for helping others. The Norman Human Rights Commission saw this passion and awarded her with the 2016 City of Norman Human Rights Award.

Wesley is a tribal attorney who is barred with the Pawnee and Muscogee (Creek) Nations, and also spends her spare time as an activist.

Wesley said, "I do a lot of community advocacy work. I work with non-profits and grassroots organizations on a spectrum of issues that affect Indian Country."

Since she was an undergrad, Wesley has been fighting against issues that plague Native Americans. One of her first projects as an advocate was about mascots that misrepresent Native Americans, and to this day

she is still working to resolve this issue.

Wesley was not expecting the award and wasn't even aware that she was nominated until after she was selected.

"For me to receive the Human Rights Award is just a realization that my work really does make a difference and that someone has found value in my work."

Wesley continued as she explained she doesn't always get to see the positive changes she has made in peoples' lives. "A lot of times, it's very rare to see the outcome. I'm there in crisis moments but the change happens later."

Since her selection, Wesley has become even more motivated to continue her work, and she said, "I hope that the recognition of this award brings more awareness of the problems in Indian Country."

Although she works in downtown Oklahoma City, she still calls the 10 ½ counties of Choctaw Nation home. Her goal is to help make life better for Choctaws and all Native Americans.

"I always want to make sure that I do as much as I can for our community."



Pictured: Summer Wesley

by Tina Firquain



Pictured: Angela Young

by Tina Firquain

Young Promoted to CEO of Non-Profit

by TINA FIRQUAIN

Angela Young was appointed CEO of the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas (UITCT) in December 2016.

A member of the Choctaw Nation, Young is now using her position and experience to provide even better care and services for all Native Americans in the DFW metroplex.

The UITCT is a non-profit organization open to all Native Americans and Alaskan Natives with a CDIB card that needs help in a variety of situations.

Young describes UITCT as "a one stop shop." She said, "You can come in and get your healthcare services, if you need a job, we'll help you with job assistance, and if you need help navigating the city, we'll provide that assistance as well."

In 2002, Young moved to the city and took the experience and knowledge that she had gained from working at the Choctaw Nation and applied it to help the UITCT.

"Working with the tribe before has been very beneficial for my position that I have today," Young said as she explained she started out in the clinic and then worked her way through many of the departments doing a variety of jobs like writing grants and assisting the previous CEO, Dr. Rodney Stapp.

Dr. Stapp passed away in January 2016 and almost immediately Young stepped up and served as interim CEO until the Board of Trustees officially appointed her.

Young saw Dr. Stapp as a mentor and friend who taught her everything that she knows about the UITCT.

"It was just a natural process for me to step into this role and take over. The board of trustees were very supportive of me and realized that I was the best fit for this position, as I've operated in every program we have here."

Young never envisioned that she would be the CEO, but she has always stepped up to leadership roles and has taken on challenges.

She shared that her father used to tell her that she was a "ladder climber" and that she defines herself as a servant leader.

Young has a desire to keep helping and improving the conditions of "urban Indians" and said, "I feel like, that being the CEO, I will be able to achieve a whole lot more and I'm looking forward to see what we can achieve."

Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas

Services Provided

Medical Clinic
Dental Clinic
Pharmacy
Diabetes Program
Health Education
Mental Health Counseling
Substance Abuse Counseling
Employment & Training Assistance
Education Services
WIC
Outreach Center

Contact UITCT
Phone: (214) 941-1050
Fax: (214) 941-6537
www.uitct.com
1283 Record Crossing Road
Dallas, Texas 75235

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU

Kodie L. Cast is turning 18 on March 6, 2017. She is a senior at Poteau High School and her parents Bob and Kimberlee Cast would like to wish her a very happy birthday.

Joe Roy Urice is now 93 years young after he celebrated his birthday on March 1, 2017. As a WWII Army Air Force veteran of the brave 100th Bomb Group, he is active in the group and loyal to the men that he served alongside. His children are proud of him and his daughter, Kathy Urice said, "Happy birthday dad!"

Kadence Ali Rae McDowell turned one Oct. 21, 2016.

Her family came out and celebrated with her. She is the daughter of Joslin Jo Mumford-McDowell. Kadence traces her roots back to Antlers through her late great-grandmother Cora Ellen (Joslin) Pando and she traces her Choctaw heritage back to her late great-grandfather Quinton Franklin Crippens of Antlers.

The Knights 50 Years Strong

Lee and Linda Knight celebrated 50 years of marriage Dec. 9, 2016. The couple were married at the Church of God in 1966. They have three children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A reception honoring their anniversary was held Dec. 10, 2016, at the New Hope Church of God.



16th Annual Family Day Held at Jones Academy

October 2016 was host to the 16th annual Family Day at the Jones Academy.

Over 100 family members and guests attended the celebration where the Jones Academy staff and students spent the day with their guests enjoying fun and fellowship.

Activities included an indoor carnival with games and prizes, inflatable bounce houses, horseback riding and family portraits.

Parents were able to conference with their children's teachers at the elementary school.

New to the event were the flu shots provided for the attendees by the Choctaw Nation Health Services. Nurses assisted students and their families with the flu vaccines and a registered nutritionist from CNHS was on hand to consult with visitors and to promote healthy lifestyles.

Pictured above are Jones Academy Elementary School 6th graders Destanie Logston, Abigale Logston and Aaliyah Porter hanging out outside enjoying the outdoor activities.

Pictured left is Jones Academy First Grader Ciera Porter.



Photo Provided

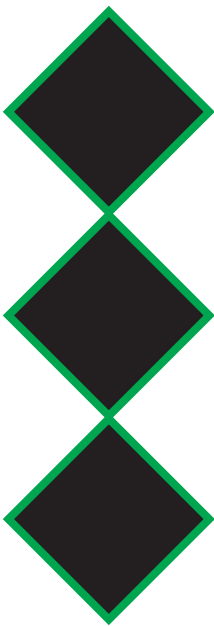
Choctaws Show Support for Standing Rock in Tahlequah



by Maranatha Hay

On Sept. 13, 2016, the City of Tahlequah and Cherokee County citizens joined the population of Native Americans across the proposed oil pipeline at Standing Rock. Pictured above are Walter R. Davis, Joanne Anderson Davis, Noah Anderson, enrolled members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Native American Military Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces arrive in subzero weather conditions to exercise their constitutional rights to civil disobedience at Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation.



14

Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball League Begins Season

by STACY HUTTO

The 2017 Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball League began its fourth year on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Tvshka Homma.

The Junior Division and Senior Division each have seven teams, who play twice on game day.

The teams in the 2017 Youth Stickball League are Bak Bak,

Hiloha Osi, Nashoba Homma, Osi Heli, Tvnnvp Issuba, Tvshka Waya and Yvnnvsh Homma.

The players in the Junior Division are 8-12 years-old. The teams in the Senior Division are fielded by players ages 13-17.

The areas the teams represent are Durant, McAlester, Talihina, Poteau, Broken Bow, Antlers and Chickasaw Nation.

The teams will meet twice a month in February and March before facing off in a single elimination tournament on Saturday, April 8.

For more information, contact Jared Tom at (580) 775-0725.

2017 YOUTH STICKBALL

SCHEDULE:

Regular Season Games

March 11 @ 10 a.m.

March 25 @ 10 a.m.

End of Season Tournament: April 8

All games are played at Tvshka Homma.



The first game of the season for the Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball League was held on Feb. 11 at Tvshka Homma. (left) Junior players from Bak Bak and Tvnnvp Issuba scrum for the ball. (above) Senior players from Hiloha Osi and Nashoba Homma fight for the ball. (right) Hiloha Osi and Nashoba Homma juniors scrum for the ball.

Stickball photos by Robert Gipson and Lisa Reed



Meador Signs Letter to Play for Southern Nazarene University



by STACY HUTTO

At the end of the National Signing Day, Southern Nazarene University walked away with Piedmont High School's Dylan Meador.

Meador signed his NCAA National Letter of Intent accepting a scholarship and linebacker position on the Crimson Storm football team on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

He also earned the Southern Nazarene University Presidential Academic Scholarship, which is a four year scholarship.

Meador was recruited by six colleges to play football, according to Shell Meador.

On Signing Day he was asked by reporters why he chose SNU. Meador said, "I feel that SNU is the best school for my long term future and educational goals."

SNU's academic support to student athletes, tutors and medical school acceptance rates were some of the academic reasons Meador cited for his choice.

His relationship with the Crimson Storm football coaching staff began late last spring with personal

invitations from Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach Dustin Hada.

"I feel like he has been coaching me and supporting me since then. He kept in great contact with me weekly during the season and was a great source of motivation and inspiration for me," Meador said.

During his high school career Meador was a three sport varsity athlete for Piedmont High School.

He was captain of the Piedmont Wildcats football team and played four starting positions; linebacker,

fullback, punter and kicker.

"He gave us his all, did everything we asked, he never left the field," Piedmont Head Football Coach Drew Gossen said.

Meador received Piedmont coaching staff's post-season honor for the 2016 season. He was awarded the "Wildcat Award" for being the player that most represented all of the programs four principals; CATS-Character, Achievement, Team, Self-Discipline. He was also named All-District Linebacker by the 5A District coaching staff.

During the current Wrestling season Meador is the Senior Team Captain. At the end of January he won first place at the Conference Championship Tournament. In February he competed at 195 pounds with his team at Dual State before competing at the Regional Tournament, then State at the end of the month.

March will mark Meador's sixth season playing baseball for Piedmont. He plays infield, first base, third base catcher, or anywhere he is needed.

Meador is working on earning a Diploma of Distinction from Piedmont High School with a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society and serves as a leader of PHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Proctor Helps Caddo Bruins Win First Place Team Plaque

by STACY HUTTO

Jaren Proctor, a junior at Caddo High School, participated in the Prague Powerlifting Meet on Friday, Jan. 20. He competed in the 220 pound weight class.

The Squat Event was the first event. Proctor took the lead early when he squatted 515 lbs.

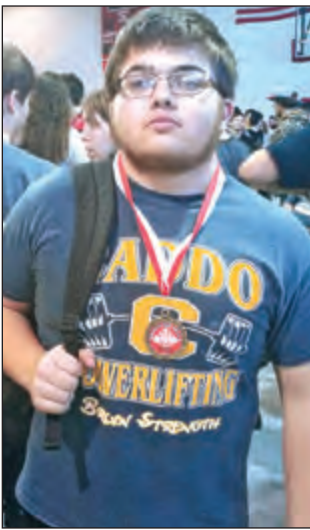
The second event of the meet was the Bench Press. Proctor defeated his opponents yet again with a press of 325 lbs., keeping his lead.

He ended his day of competition with a dead lift of 485 lbs. Proctor swept all three events with a total of 1,325 lbs.

Proctor and his Caddo teammates won the first place team plaque with several first place medals on the team. It was the first time for the Bruins to place first as a team during the powerlifting season.

During his sophomore year, Proctor placed fifth at the State Meet. This year he is hoping to take State and walk out State Champion.

He is the son of Jeff and Cindy Proctor of Caddo. Proctor is the grandson of Larry and Joy Phillips of Roberta and Bill and Gaylene Proctor of Durant.

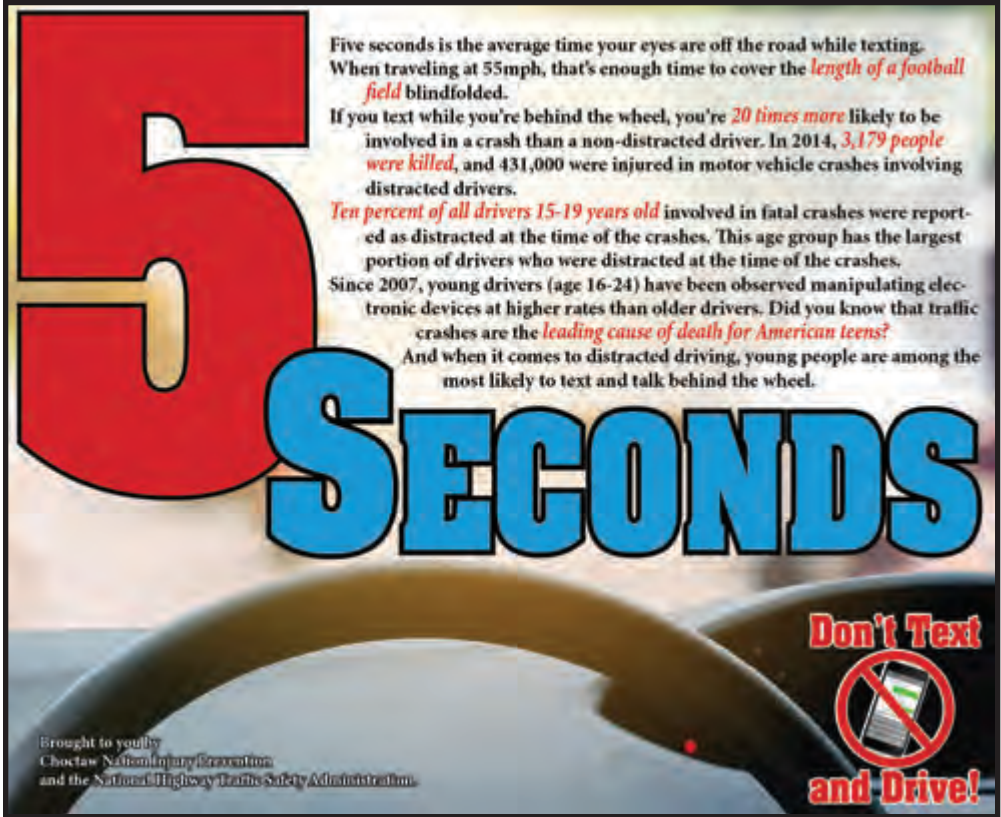


CHOCTAW SENIOR GAMING

Choctaw Seniors can receive \$20 Free Play and one complimentary buffet. Sunday - Thursday!

These offers will be valid at the following properties: Choctaw Casinos & Resorts - Durant, Grant or Pocola. This offer is valid once a month and at one property per month only. Buffet hours vary by location. Please check your local Choctaw Casino & Resort for hours of operation. To register, please bring your Choctaw Rewards Club card to your local community center.





5 SECONDS

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

If you text while you're behind the wheel, you're 20 times more likely to be involved in a crash than a non-distracted driver. In 2014, 3,179 people were killed, and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Ten percent of all drivers 15-19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. This age group has the largest portion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the crashes.

Since 2007, young drivers (age 16-24) have been observed manipulating electronic devices at higher rates than older drivers. Did you know that traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for American teens?

And when it comes to distracted driving, young people are among the most likely to text and talk behind the wheel.

Don't Text and Drive!

Brought to you by Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Easter Celebration

Chief Gary Batton

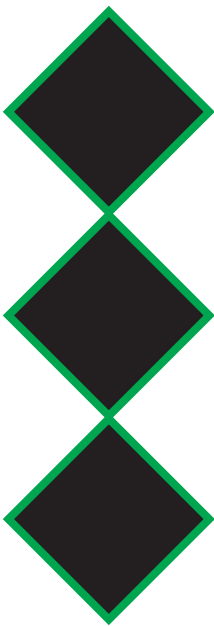
April 8, 2017
Tvshka Homma

Choctaw Nation
Faith • Family • Culture

Begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Council House

- Unveiling of Ten Commandments Statue at Council House
- End of the Season Youth League Stickball Tournament
 - Starting at 9:00 a.m. until dark
- Gospel Singing
- Lunch provided
- Bunny pictures
- Easter Egg Hunts
 - Ages 2-4
 - Ages 5-7
 - Ages 8-10
 - Elder egg hunt: Ages 55 and over

Submit your name in a drawing for door prizes available at the booth at the Council House. Door Prizes will be immediately after Chief's speech. Must be present to win.



Musician Sean Ward is a Little Bit Country and Rock’n’ Roll

by KENDRA GERMANY

Southern rocker Sean Ward is a Choctaw singer/song-writer from Tulsa. According to Ward, music has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. “I’ve always had a connection with music,” said Ward. “My parents used to tell me that when I was a baby I would sing myself to sleep. “I just always had music running through my head. Sometime to the point of almost annoyance,” laughed Ward. “But, it’s just a part of me. Growing up in rural Oklahoma, Ward was influenced by country music from a very early age. “I grew up in rural Tulsa County right next to a big gigan-tic booster station for a country radio station. Three gigantic towers,” said Ward. “It was so powerful that it would come over everything. If you were talking on the phone, it would come over the phone. You hear it. I heard music continu-ously.” Ward isn’t just influenced by country music. “I like all different kinds of music, because what I really like are good songs. The genre is irrelevant to me. I just like a good song,” said Ward.



Photos by Kendra Germany

Sean Ward and his band the Moonshine Saints performed at Gilley’s on Jan. 28 at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant. The Moonshine Saints preformed songs such as “Drive” and “Production,” which Sean also preformed on the January 2017 episode of BiskinikTV. BTV can be found on the ChoctawNationOK YouTube channel.



Sean Ward is a singer/songwriter from Tulsa. Sean has won numerous awards for his songwriting over the years. After years of working as a solo artist, Sean now records with the band Moonshine Saints.

This may be linked to Ward’s love and talent of song writing. Ward writes all of his own lyrics for his band the Moonshine Saints. “I write all of the music and lyrics that we do,” said Ward. Ward enjoys song writing for many reasons. “I like getting it out of my head really. When a thought or song occurs to me it just rattles around in there,” said Ward. “It’s also nice to have the ability to express it and connect with people. That’s the real chal-lenge there, writing a song that not just musically, but lyrically connects with people. When you do that, it just feels so special.” Ward has won a few awards for his song writing. His song “Drive” recently won the award for Best Country Song at the Los Angeles Music Awards Producers Choice Honors. “It was just really an honor. They took all of the songs that had been even nominated in the 25 years of the Los Angeles Music Awards, and narrowed it down to the best of the best. One of the songs that I had written, “Drive,” won the award for the best country song,” said Ward. “I was just so proud of that.” Ward’s band Moonshine Saints recently released their first album, Six Ways to Sun-day Vol. I, and the band is currently working on recording Six Ways to Sunday Vol. II. “I was a solo artist for quite awhile, and had most of my success with that. Most of the work that I’ve done has been on the West Coast. I’ve won some awards out there that I’m really kind of proud of,” said Ward. “I decided to move back into Oklahoma because it’s where I’m from and to be closer to my family.” Ward met his band mates upon his move back to Oklahoma and formed the Moon-shine Saints. Moonshine Saints performs for audiences large and small throughout the state. Their music can be purchased online on all major music purchasing sites such as iTunes and Google Play. For more information on Moonshine Saints visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/themoonshinesaints/>.

Filmmaker Kyle Harris Finds Success with Documentaries

by KENDRA GERMANY

Choctaw tribal member Kyle Kauwika Harris has been making a name for himself as an award-winning film-maker. Harris has written a current total of nine feature scripts, a television pilot, as well as a few award winning documentaries. A Navy veteran originally from Spiro, he currently lives in Blanchard with his family. Along with being a filmmaker, Harris works as a public relations director of the Delaware Nation. Harris got a late start in getting into filmmaking. “I didn’t get into filmmaking until about three years ago,” said Harris. “For many years I just sort of ignored my talent. I knew it was always there and I knew what I wanted to do, but I didn’t pursue it. That’s one thing I kick myself for now. I feel like I’m trying to make up for a lot of lost time.” According to Harris, his love for film can be traced back to his childhood. “I had a grandpa who was a historian in a way,” said Harris. “Most kids growing up that are 8-years-old are watching cartoons. I was watching movies like Last of the Mohicans and Shawshank Redemption. I grew up on mature-themed films.”



A water protector voices his concerns with police standing nearby in a scene from the trailer I Stand: The Guardians of the Water documentary by Kyle Harris.

Thanks to his grandfather Buddy Harris’ influence, Kyle began to develop an appreciation of outlaw movies and stories. “He would read a lot of books, so I would read a lot of books,” said Harris. “So, I guess that’s kind of the reason I write these types of films. That’s why I write these throw-backs to the outlaw culture films of the ’60s and ’70s.”

Filmmaking and storytell-ing go hand-in-hand. Harris had found a way to tell stories through his talents. “I do a lot of writing,” said Harris. “I tend to write a lot of crime dramas, cops and robbers, that kind of stuff.” According to Harris, he is in the process of producing many of his scripts. “I’ve now earned enough awards, won enough awards and made enough films, that the com-munity sort of sees that I’m not going away,” said Harris.

“I have made 11 short films in the last two years,” said Har-ris. “I won my very first award for Best Contest Short at Trail Dance Film Festival. The most recent being at FLY Film Festi-val, where I was nominated for Best Originality Award and won the Creativity Award.” According to Harris, his recent documentaries have been the starting point in making a name for himself within the industry. His first documentary, “The Water Gap: Return to the Homeland,” follows Delaware Nation youth during their journey to reconnect with their ancestral homeland in the Delaware Gap for the first time. Since finishing the documentary last year, the film has gained notoriety after being entered in numerous film festivals around the country. “We’ve been premiering it everywhere. We premiered it in Anadarko, Oklahoma, for the tribes. We premiered it in Los Angeles at the Red Nation Film Festival, and we premiered it in South Carolina at the 19th annual Native American Film Festival of the Southeast,” said Harris. According to Harris, “The Water Gap” won the Ma-netuwak Good Medicine Film Award during the Native American Film Festival of the Southeast. This past fall, Harris, like many of us, wanted to do something to help the #NODAPL cause. “I look for human stories,” said Harris. “I was sitting in



Photos Provided by Kyle Harris

(Left to Right) Doug Pemberton, Austin Warren, Delaware Nation Princess Sariah Pemberton, and Kyle Harris are pictured at the main camp Sacred Stone in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. Kyle and his crew filmed the docu-mentary I Stand: The Guardians of the Water this past fall, in efforts to tell the real story of Standing Rock.

my office watching all of these videos last year in prob-ably May. I was sitting there watching these videos at my desk and I was like ‘Why am I not there? Why am I not capturing this footage better?’” Harris got a crew together and headed to Cannon Ball, North Dakota to film his documentary, “I Stand: The Guardians of the Water.” According to Harris, his experience at Standing Rock was challenging, yet rewarding. “Standing Rock was interesting. I had a hard time there. We had some equipment get broken,” said Harris. “There’s a sense of stress in the camp.” Telling the stories of Native people is important to Har-ris. Kyle encourages others who have a talent to pursue their passions. “I knew what I should have been doing all those years, and I didn’t do it. The world kind of knocks on your door and there’s responsibilities,” said Harris. “You can do anything you really want. It’s about creating your own op-portunity. It’s just believing in yourself and doing it.” For more information and to view some of Harris’ work, visit <https://vimeo.com/warrenbros>.

HOT JOBS

Get HIRED!

March 2017

Every month the Biskinik will spotlight open job positions in the Choctaw Nation. For job objectives, primary tasks, as well as required education, skills and experience, visit www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com.

Position	Location
• User Interface Designer	• Durant
• Environmental Protection Specialist	• Durant
• Enterprise Data Architect	• Durant
• Network Administrator	• Durant
• Executive Director of Legal	• Durant

To apply for these positions or see other job postings in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, visi www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com

CHOCTAW

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

CSBDS will be traveling to all 12 districts at least once a month to provide one-on-one counseling to Choctaw entrepreneurs and business owners. The visits will coincide with scheduled small business trainings for continued education on how to start or grow your business. If you are interested in business counseling please call to schedule your appointment. Visit www.choctawsmallbusiness.com for business training opportunities.

Gary Johnson
Choctaw Small Business Development Services Specialist

580-924-8280 ext. 2998
gjohnson@choctawnation.com

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

FOR CHOCTAW TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

SAN·DIEGO

PHOENIX



Diana Lorne looks at jewelry made by Choctaw Artist George Willis.



Mary Clubb and Mary Lozania concentrate on beading necklaces during the cultural class at Scottsdale.



Sisters Avis Lee and Sharron Eckerman of Sun City, Arizona, remember their Dad telling them about being raised in Oklahoma. He could speak Choctaw and often mentioned Hugo and Durant.



Dancers bring in members of the audience for the Stealing Partners Dance.



Chief Gary Batton welcomes Harrison Frazier to the cultural meeting.



Mary Lomahaftewa and daughters surrounded by daughters Linda and Gloria; granddaughter Lisa Siquah, and Lillie Roberts.

Brody Scott learning how to use the drum by Bill Harrison.



Greyson Garrett learns about stickball.



Levi Campos beads with his family



Miss and Junior Miss Okla Chahta Princesses perform The Lord's Prayer for the San Diego cultural meeting.



Choctaw culture is kept alive through sharing stickball fundamentals.

Photos by Stacy Hutto, Deidre Elrod, Jason Hicks, & Lisa Reed.

More photos can be found at choctawnation.smugmug.com.

Pastor Olin Williams

Christianity and the Choctaw Nation



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

Jesus answered unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3, KJV)." Jesus is answering Nicodemus, who came inquiring of him how he does the miracles, except God be with him. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews and a man of the Pharisees. He was an educated man, a leader of people, and a very strict religious man. His secular achievements however, did not satisfy his soul's need of eternal directive.

True Christian conversion requires a change or born-again experience. The new birth is necessary for the believer to actually begin to develop into the same mind-set as the Christ who birthed his conversion. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16, KJV).

The natural mind begins to be cultivated into the mind of Christ. There are three qualities that

characterize this cultivation.

First, it seeks understanding. It begins to formulate ideas about the greater sovereign, whose will dictates.

Second, it is discriminating about life's journey. It finds the distinctive values of the positive and negative of life.

Thirdly, its main concern is mankind. It begins to realize the value of the individual soul. This cultivated mind initiates the traits of the new inheritance it received from the new birth.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance (Psalms 33: 12, KJV). The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma had its origin with this concept.

This same Christ came to the Choctaws in the early 1800s through the Word spoken by the missionaries. A stir occurred among the little group of Choctaws on that hot July day at a camp meeting in Mississippi. Conversion came and faith took roots in the hearts of a people who were enlightened by an experience of a rebirth.

The labor of love of this rebirth motivated them to work with the missionaries in the translation of the Bible and hymns written in their own language. Churches and schools were the thrust of the era.

The newfound faith was still young when a forced removal to a new land came upon them as a darkened cloud before a storm. Trudging through the Trail of Tears, they sang the hymns of hope. Upon arrival of their destination, they continued the building of the infrastructure of a nation, which has developed into a respected sovereign government.



If You're A Choctaw Veteran, We Want You.

Tell us your story for a video library.
Send your information to the Choctaw
Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Advocacy.
veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com

Contact Roger Hamill
Deputy Director
(800)522-6170 ext. 2160



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. cut the ribbon for the new Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic in Durant on Feb. 21st. Standing with Austin are representatives from Indian Health Services, Chief Gary Batton, Tribal Councilmembers, Choctaw Royalty, and numerous dignitaries, Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority employees, and tribal members.



The sculpture outside the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic drew many admirers. Choctaw Nation District 9 Little Miss Keira Bully (below) strikes an identical pose to the little girl sculpture.



Many of the Heath Care Services Authority employees were at the ribbon cutting to see the opening of the next chapter in the CNHSA history book. Employees worked up to the day before the ribbon cutting to prepare for the celebration.