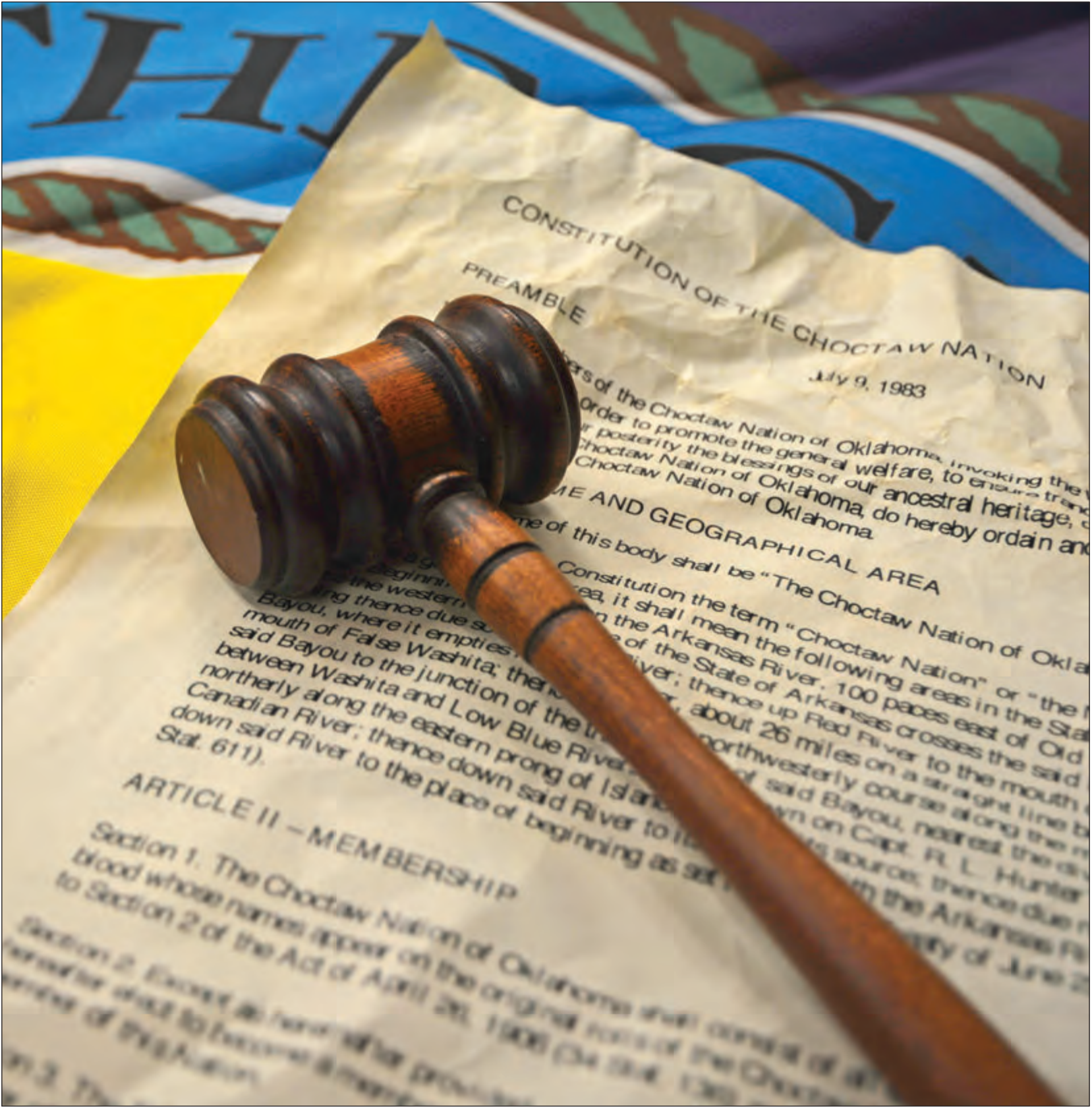




And Justice for All...



Ground Broken for new Judicial Center Judicial Branch Opens New Chapter of Historical Journey

March 2018 Issue



Durant Chief of Police David Houser takes a moment to chat with Choctaw elder Joy Culbreath before the groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 30. Choctaw Nation Tribal Police and Durant Police officers are cross deputized, meaning they work closely in order to keep our community safe. The Judicial Center will be located at 2250 Chukka Hina Drive in Durant, Oklahoma.

by APRYL MOCK

The resounding fall of a gavel will soon be heard from the new Choctaw Nation Judicial Center. Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., court officials and Tribal Council members gathered to break ground for the new building on Jan. 30. Though the morning was frigid, the excitement was palpable. Representatives of the Chickasaw and Mvskokee Creek Nations came to show their support, as well as city officials and members of the Choctaw Nation. The new building will be located at 2250 Chukka Hina Drive, very close to the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic and new Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Construction is projected to be completed by December 2018. At the groundbreaking ceremony Chief Gary Batton said, “It’s a great day in the history of the Choctaw Nation. We are making this dedication and commitment to our people to offer the judicial services that we have here.” According to Executive Officer of the Judicial System Pam Young, the location for the build-

ing was selected based on data that showed the highest case loads to be in Bryan and McCurtain counties. “We’ve outgrown Talihina. This additional court venue will provide a convenient service location to our citizens,” Young said. The Talihina facility will be maintained and used as an alternative courtroom for the Choctaw Nation. In the future Young hopes funds will allow additional district offices to be established. Young described the Judicial Center design as paying tribute to the red brick and sandstone of the original Council House, which was built in 1884 in Tvshka Homma. “It’s sentimental. Chief Justice Burrage and I are sentimental about Choctaw history. We wanted to preserve the look of the original building, but also give it a facelift,” Young said. The center will be brought in to this century with the latest technology and security. The outside will feature grand columns in front, further adding to its dignified appearance. The center will house three courtrooms, offices for justices, court officials and associates, as well as

“It’s a great day in the history of the Choctaw Nation. We are making this dedication and commitment to our people to offer the judicial services that we have here.”
– Chief Gary Batton

additional rooms for new and existing programs of the judicial branch. The Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch is dedicated to building and sustaining the integrity of the courts. District Court Judge Rick Branum is working to prevent elder abuse across the 10 ½ counties and Special District Judge Rebecca Cryer uses more than 30 years of experience to ensure minors are placed with proper guardianship. Since 2015, the Choctaw Nation has had the authority to prosecute felony offenses. The Nation has taken advantage of this authority by not only providing justice for victims, but also focusing on rehabilitation and sobriety for drug offenders. Non-violent offenders often receive probation or community service. Offenders are allowed to work off court costs by cleaning and maintaining the Tvshka Homma grounds, cleaning offices, detailing government vehicles and other various tasks that give back to the community. Members suffering from the disease of addiction are often sent to rehabilitation programs. Tribal Police are cross deputized with local police forces, meaning they work together to keep our communities safe. According to Young, this is just the beginning of the expansion and improvement of the judicial branch. Young said, “We are grateful to our Chief, Assistant Chief and Tribal Council for their support. We’ve been going 100 mph these last few years and we’re not slowing down any time soon. This is just the beginning of the improvements and growth of the judicial branch.”



(Left to right) District 2 Councilperson Tony Ward, Special Judge Rebecca Cryer, Appellate Judge Bob Rabon, Chief Justice David Burrage, District 1 Councilperson Thomas Williston, Chief Judge to Court of Appeals Pat Phelps, Executive Officer of Judicial Pam Young, Constitutional Tribal Judge Fredrick Bobb, Appellate Judge Warren Gotcher, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Chief Gary Batton, District 10 Councilperson Anthony Dillard, District 9 Councilperson James Dry, District 6 Councilperson Jennifer Woods, District 3 Councilperson and Council Speaker Kenny Bryant, District 8 Councilperson Perry Thompson, District 12 Councilperson James Frazier, District 5 Councilperson Ronald Perry and District 4 Councilperson Delton Cox break ground for the Choctaw Nation Judicial Center. Construction is projected to be completed by December 2018. The Choctaw Nation Judicial Center will be located at 2250 Chukka Hina Drive in Durant, Oklahoma.

Safeguarding Our Nation’s Tribal Sovereignty



Chief Gary Batton

The sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation is fundamentally one of the most important elements to the identity of the Nation. Without sovereignty, the freedom to govern our tribe would be gone. We operate businesses, develop programs, and continue to make decisions daily because we have the inherent right to do so. We need to protect our tribal assets, our people, and our environment from those who wish to diminish or encroach on our sovereignty.

Government-to-government relationships are important to uphold self-governance and sovereignty. The Choctaw Nation Government Relations department follows court cases that may impact the Nation and it stays abreast of state and federal activities, following developments pertaining to tribes very closely including the recent shutdown of the federal government and any possible ramifications. In 2016, the United Nations invited representatives from the Government Relations department to speak, marking a first for the Nation.

We broke ground in January for a facility to house the Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch in Durant, a move that will continue to provide justice for tribal members through several levels of court. The Court of General Jurisdiction consists of the Peacemaker Court, District Court, and Court of Appeals. The Choctaw Nation Constitutional Court is a three-member court with exclusive jurisdiction to hear disputes arising under any provision of the Choctaw Nation constitutions or any rule or regulation enacted by the Tribal Council.

March Madness Fun has Begun



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Are you ready for the excitement of March Madness? We all have our favorite collegiate teams to follow during the tournaments ahead of us this month. And to add to the fun, sports action began for the Choctaw Nation in February with the kick-off of the annual youth stickball league games.

There are six teams in the youth stickball league, each with junior and senior divisions: Osi Heli, Nashoba Homma, Tvshka Waya, Yvnnvsh Homma, Hiloha Ossi and Bak Bak. The league was developed in 2014 and has proven to be a major factor in revitalizing the game. They will practice on weekends and hold games March 10 and March 17 with the end-of-season tournament scheduled for April 24. All games are held at the Tvshka Homma Stickball Field where the players and their families gather for the day.

March 17 is March Mania Day for Choctaw Nation employees. The 13th Annual March Mania Basketball Tournament will be held at the old and new gyms at Talihina with games starting at 9 a.m.

The tournament is so popular that there are now two divisions–junior and senior.

The Choctaw Nation also participates in an annual tournament over spring break called Madness in March, organized by 4 Love of the Game. High school-age kids are selected from a showcase held in the fall every year by the Choctaw Nation Youth Events and Special Projects department and teams are entered in the tournament. The 15th Annual Madness in March will be held March 22-24 in Henryetta, Oklahoma.

The Amerind All West Native American 100 Basketball Classic is held annually in April in Colorado. The Choctaw Nation sends teams to the tournament, in its 33rd year, which has over 100 teams. It is comprised of native kids from all over the United States. A good feature of this tournament is that it has several college scouts watching the kids play.

Almost all of the Choctaw players involved in the all-star basketball programs are currently playing college ball. The exposure that we can help give these talented young people allows them the opportunity to play ball and get a good education.

The Youth Events and Special Projects department also hosts clinics throughout the year in baseball, softball and basketball for graduating seniors. Junior colleges and large universities are invited to come watch our kids at their best. This is another opportunity for the colleges to see our Indian students and how competitive they can be.

Summer camps are held every year to help enhance skills in stickball, basketball, football, softball, baseball and golf. The camps provide an atmosphere conducive for the youth to develop self-confidence while they build on their abilities.

I am looking forward to the variety of sports our Choctaw boys and girls will be involved in. Yakoke to all of the staff who are dedicated to providing these opportunities. Because of you, they have another chance to excel.



Photo Provided

OK Choctaws 1 were the girls runner up team in the 14th Annual Madness in March tournament. The 15th Annual Madness in March will be held March 22-24 in Henryetta, Oklahoma.

Another department in the Choctaw Nation’s Division of Legal and Compliance is Public Safety, a group comprised of police, security, probation/community service, and emergency management staff who maintain law and order in tribal facilities and on tribal land. Tribal police are cross-deputized with other local law enforcement agencies and are always looking for ways to improve their ability to protect and serve. The Security Division of Public Safety is located throughout the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation and are posted in casinos, travel plazas, clinics, Choctaw Nation headquarters and Talihina hospital. These officers strive to provide safety and security to the associates and guests that visit these facilities. The Emergency Management Division of Public Safety provides planning, response, recovery and mitigation services to both the Nation and its tribal members. Emergency Management ensures that resources and personnel are available to respond to major emergencies as well as coordinate incident management with a multitude of departments and external agencies. The Probation Department, working through the Judicial Court System, also works in partnership with the other Public Safety divisions to serve the members and the Choctaw Community.

The Public Safety Department has shown there are more ways of helping others than providing protection–the Public Safety team is known for stepping up to offer assistance in their communities. They recently raised approximately \$5,000 to be named the top fundraiser for Durant’s Polar Plunge event benefitting Special Olympics and also raised \$2,600 through a departmental fundraiser to help purchase Christmas gifts for 50 children.

More examples of safeguarding the Choctaw Nation, its land, and its members include a land and asset management department that keeps up with the protection of purchased assets. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the U.S. government took more than 90 million acres from tribes. Since 2014, the Choctaw Nation has purchased 47,843 acres of land bringing our land base to 72,000 acres with 12,763 acres of land held in trust. It is our goal to continue to purchase more land every year.

The Choctaw Nation GIS department helps create detailed maps of our boundaries, and the Risk Management department focuses on the health and safety of our employees, tribal members and customers.

All of these components are examples of effective sovereignty. The sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation is part of our culture. It is who we are, and it is our right as a Nation to maintain the wellbeing of our people.



Photo Provided

The Choctaw Nation broke ground for the new Choctaw Nation Judicial Center on Jan 30. The Judicial Center will be located at the Durant campus and construction is projected to be completed by December 2018. The new center will provide a convenient location for tribal members.

BISKINIK

March 2018

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wind month

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Photo illustration by Apryl Mock

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

Stay Connected. ChoctawNation.com features access to information about tribal history, culture, news, services, government, businesses, applications and contacts.The Choctaw Nation’s official publication, the BISKINIK, 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/ChoctawNationOK

Okla Chahta Clan of California, Inc.

presents

Twenty-Third Annual Choctaw Gathering

“Honoring Our Past”

May 5-6, 2018

Pyle's Boy Camp

13375 Lake Ming Road, Bakersfield, CA

- Saturday dinner provided
- Learn/play stickball
- Traditional dancing
- Traditional games

Choice Hotel:

Marriott Convention Center

801 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA

661-323-1900

Choctaw Rate: \$100 per night

- Learn traditional crafts
- Princess contest (apply now at oklachakta.org)
- And much more!

www.Facebook.com/OklaChahtaClan • 661-319-6308 • tharrison@oklachakta.org

Career Development

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

Prepare to land a great job at the upcoming Career Fest.

MARCH 6, 5:30PM

Location: Career Development Lab
2807 Enterprise Blvd. Durant-South bldg.

This session will cover:

- Developing an effective resumé
- Preparing for an interview
- Dressing for success
- Networking for your career

For details contact:
Jill Reyna at 580-920-2260

Senior Farmers Market Program Deadline Approaching



First Baby of the New Year Born at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center



Donna and Tracy Chandler welcomed their daughter Brylie LeeAnn Chandler into the world on Jan. 2, 2018, at 7:24 a.m. Brylie weighed 8 pounds, 3.5 ounces and was 20.3 inches long. Brylie has a big sister named Caylee. She is the granddaughter of Faye Warford of Broken Bow and Roy and Carolyn Chandler of Eagletown. Brylie was the first baby to be born this year at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina.

NURSERY NEWS

Amelia Katarina McCurtain



Amelia Katarina McCurtain was born Nov. 18, 2017, at Oneida Hospital in Oneida, New York. She weighed 6 pounds and was 20 inches long. Amelia is the daughter of Jay and Brenda McCurtain of Clinton, New York. She is the granddaughter of the late Jay Tee McCurtain and Angelita Diaz of Texas. Amela is the great-granddaughter of Jim McCurtain of Texas and the late Edna McCurtain. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Jackson Haskel McCurtain Sr. and the late Ernestine McCurtain.

Rodney Leon Lowder



Rodney Leon Lowder was born on Dec. 9, 2017, at 2:12 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long. Rodney is the son of Rob and Sarah Lowder from Porterville, California. He was welcomed with joy and happiness from his big brother Robert, 4, and big sister Audrey, 1. Rodney is the grandson of Kameron Amos and great-grandson of Sarah Amos. He received his middle name in honor of his late great-grandfather Vernon Leon Amos.

Phillip Ynnvsh Roberts



Phillip Ynnvsh Roberts was born in Oklahoma Dec. 28, 2017, at 3:07 p.m. He weighed in at 7 pounds and 14 ounces and was 19 inches. Phillip is the son of Sarah and Jason Roberts. He is the grandson of Brenda and Richard Roberts, the great-grandson of Gladys Roberts and Elmo Parkerson. Phillip is the great-great-grandson of Lesa and Jesse Roberts and the great-great-grandson of Lucie and Buckhorn Phillip.

Braxton Burke Porter



Braxton Burke Porter was born Jan. 23, 2018, at Del Webb Hospital in Sun City West, Arizona. He weighed 10.1 pounds and was 21.5 inches long. Braxton is the son of Brandon Burke Porter and Chy A.M. Porter of Surprise, Arizona. He is the brother to three sisters, Rylee, Reece and Kya. Braxton is the grandson of Casey Burke Porter and Holly Valdez of Phoenix, Arizona and William Howery II and Dr. Connie Howery of Honolulu, Hawaii. Aside from being Choctaw, he is also Creek and is a descendent of Creek Chief William McIntosh.

The Choctaw Nation Senior Farmers Market Program will be mailing out applications to the seniors who were served with checks from the previous year. Please fill out the application entirely and include the requested information. As in the previous years, there will be an addressed, stamped envelope to return the application in for your convenience. Eligible seniors will be mailed \$50 in checks to spend with authorized farmers starting May 1. If you did not receive checks from the previous year and are interested in the Choctaw Nation Senior Farmers Market, you may visit the Choctaw Community Center nearest you starting Feb. 1 or call (580) 916-9140 ext.

- 83812 and request an application be mailed to your home. Requirements are:
- Meet Income Qualifications (Provide current pay stubs [last 30 days] or current tax return, or current eligibility letter to Indian commodities or current eligibility letter to SNAP.)
 - Native American at least 55 years of age (Provide CDIB Card as ID)
 - Non-Native American at least 60 years of age residing in a Native American household (ID)
 - Disabled persons at least 55 years of age living in housing for the elderly with congregate nutrition services (Proof of SSI Disability)
 - Must reside in the 10 ½ county service area of Choctaw Nation

Participants interested in the Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers Market Program can start requesting applications in May as they make their WIC appointments. As long as you are in a current certification and receiving benefits (infants have to be at least 4 months old) from Choctaw Nation WIC, you will qualify for the WIC Farmers Market Program. Eligible participants will receive \$30 in checks to spend with authorized farmers in the area. You do not have to have a WIC appointment to receive farmers' market checks. To avoid long waiting times, be sure and call before you go the Choctaw WIC clinic and ask about a convenient time.

Recipe of the Month

Chicken Spaghetti



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Ingredients

- 1 bell pepper
- 1 onion
- 2 cans diced tomatoes
- 1 cup cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup shredded American cheese

- 2 chicken breasts
- 1 16 ounce box spaghetti noodles
- 1 Tablespoon oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt & pepper to taste

Preparation

1. Dice bell pepper, onion, chicken and add can diced tomatoes; cook in oil till tender.
2. Add cream of chicken soup and cheese; stir till combined.
3. Cook spaghetti noodles and add to chicken mixture.
4. Season to taste and enjoy.

Nutrition Facts:

Servings 6
Serving size 262 grams
(per serving)
Calories 358, Total Fat 8 grams, Trans Fat 0 grams, Cholesterol 26 milligrams, Sodium 745 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates 54 grams, Dietary Fiber 4 gram, Sugars 10 grams, Protein 17 grams, Vitamin A, 10 percent, Vitamin C, 29 percent, Calcium, 19 percent and Iron 19 percent.

For further information, you may contact Choctaw Nation Nutritionist Carmen Robertson (800) 522-6170 ext. 2733, email crobertson@choctawnation.com, or go to a Cooking with Carmen demonstration.

Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program

Deadline: April 1, 2018

<https://wioaapplication.choctawnation.com>

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD



We support our foster resource families every step of the way with:

- Comprehensive training and support
- One-on-One relationship with your Foster Care worker
- Extensive resources through the Choctaw Nation

INTERESTED?
CONTACT KAT DECAIRE AT KDECAIRE@CHOCTAWNATION.COM
OR (580) 924-8280 EXT. 2643

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

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 2018

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 27 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: April 15 & 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 27 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: April 12 & 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 27 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: April 6 & 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCALESTER


Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 27 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: April 2 & 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 27 & 30.
Cooking with Carmen: April 9 & 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Spiro Hoop House Food Demo: April 4, 11 & 25, 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.

		
Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Boswell 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Coalgate 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Durant 580-920-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
McAlester 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Poteau 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Smithville 580-244-3289	1st Thurs. Every Month	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Antlers Choctaw Head Start Learns From Box Study

The Antlers Choctaw Nation Head Start class enjoyed the class box study during December and January this school year.

Parents brought many boxes for weekly projects. Once the project was completed, the class had made a replica of the town of Antlers entirely out of boxes. Each child chose an occupation.

The class also studied the many uses for boxes, how they are made and moved. They also studied skills related to literacy, math and geometry. The students developed thinking skills as they observed, investigated, asked questions, solved problems loading boxes, made predictions, and tested their guesses.

The box town of Antler's was the end of a very exciting box study. All the students enjoyed playing in the box town with their telescopes and other job tools.



Left to Right: Power Company Line Girl Brooklyn Bates, Construction Worker Audree Cole, Heavy Machine Operator Case Fowler, School Teacher Ryker Rosenthal, Firewoman Brooklyn Onstott, Fireman Connor Merck, Aspen Bishop of Pruett's Bakery, Harper Witt of Harper's Bakery, Kylee Langley of Kylee's Bait and Tackle, Pet Keeper Kamdryn O'Neill, Horse Trainer Jaidance Vargus, Cat Vet Caylee Autry, Veterinarian Rhett Brown, Pet Doctor Trenton Merck, 911 Police Officer Armony Scrivner, and the Chief of Police of the Antlers Jail Ridge Rosenthal.

Richards Receives Full-Time Teaching Award

Marty Richards, an English faculty member at Madison Area Technical College in Madison, Wisconsin, recently received the Excellence in Full-Time Teaching award from her peers.

Richards has taught at the college for more than 14 years and is a faculty advisor for the Native American Student Association. After she attended public school and community college in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Richards received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English at the University of Arkansas then earned a master's in Slavic Languages, Literature, and Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Richards brings Native American issues into her classes through a discussion of "Crimes Against Humanity," a 1994 essay about the controversy surrounding native names of sports teams. For their final presentations, she sits with her students in a circle. Her purpose in teaching is to help students understand different points of view without judging.



Grigsby Named Third Grade Student of The Month at Newcastle Elementary

Evin Grigsby was recently named Third Grade Student of The Month at Newcastle Elementary School. He was one of 12 students honored. Evin was a straight-A student last year and is on his way to accomplishing that record once again.

Evin is the son of Eric Grigsby of Newcastle, Oklahoma.

He is proud of his Choctaw heritage. Evin's great-great-great-grandfather Lyman H. Perkins was a delegate to the First Choctaw Council.

Dalpoas Places First at Little River Speed Way

Debbie Dalpoas of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, was awarded the first place trophy in the Road Runner Division at the Little River Speedway in Nashoba, on Nov. 11, 2017. She would like to thank her sponsors Buckshot Racing, Richard and Lodi Herndon, and Calvin Ward of Ward Racing for all the support she received from them throughout the year.



Cox Wins Big at Muscogee Creek Nation All Indian Livestock Show

Hailey Cox, 15, of Checotah, Oklahoma attended the 5th Annual Muscogee Creek Nation All Indian Livestock Show on Jan. 27, 2018, at the Okfuskee County Fair Barn in Okemah, Oklahoma.

She won her swine class with her Duroc named Buttercup. She then went into the Duroc breed champion drive and won Duroc breed and received a buckle. Hailey is a freshman at Checotah High School and is an active member of her local FFA Chapter. She also shows swine, rabbits and chickens. She takes great pride in her show animals and takes care of them every day.



SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

 **Choctaw Nation** Career Development

2018 Career EXPO

866.933.2260 www.choctawcareers.com

Location: South East EXPO Center
4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74502

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

HSE classes will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. You may print an application packet online at www.choctawnation.com (click on the Tribal Services tab, then Postsecondary tab) before you go to the first class or you may enroll the first night of class with the instructor. For further questions, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant Adult Education office at 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Bryan County, Durant

Beginning date and time
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
South Bldg. 1st Floor
529 N. 16th, Durant

McCurtain County, Idabel

Beginning date and time
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Tuesday and Thursday
1:00PM – 4:00PM

Southeastern Oklahoma State
University

McCurtain County Campus
2805 NE Lincoln Rd, Idabel

Distance Learning HSE (High School Equivalency), classes are available at the locations below. Distance Learning Technology is implemented in these classes which allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. Students are able to interact with the instructor as she prepares students for the HSE exam. Classes meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have questions about these classes, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required. Enrollment for the new classes begins the first day of class and closes to new students on the fourth day of class.

Haskell County, Stigler

Beginning date and time
Monday, April 2, 2018

Monday and Wednesday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center
515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton

DISTANT LEARNING HSE

Atoka County, Coal and
Leflore Counties

Atoka
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
1:00pm – 4:00pm

Atoka Vocational Technology Center

Coalgate
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
1:00pm – 4:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Talihina
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
1:00pm – 4:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Latimer County, Wilburton

Beginning date and time
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center
515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton

McCurtain, Leflore and Pushmataha Counties

Antlers
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Old Choctaw Nation Community
Center

Bethel/Battiest
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Smithville
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Wright City
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm

Choctaw Nation Community Center

Do you need to change your address, or have not been receiving your Biskinik?

Please give the Direct Member Communications
Department a call.

We'll make sure your contact information is correct.
The Direct Member Communications Department can be

reached at:
(800) 522-6170

Ext. 2116, 2409, or 2310

Hosted by: Choctaw Asset Building (CAB)
& the Chahta Foundation
DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

Presented by:
Derek Hines

Cost (including books): \$100.
Free for Choctaw Tribal Members!

Join us for this **9 week workshop** series!
Beginning March 27th, 6:00-7:30pm on Mondays
Location: Chahta Foundation 3915 N. 1st - Durant, OK
REGISTER TODAY! 580-745-8133

A.I.L.Y.C.
American Indian Leaders Youth Council
of Broken Bow Public Schools

22nd Annual SPRING POWWOW
♦♦♦ April 7, 2018 ♦♦♦
McCurtain County Sports Complex
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

ALL STICKBALL PLAYERS WELCOME

Schedule of Events

10:00 am	Stickball Game TBA
2:00 pm	Gourd Dancing
5:30 pm	Choctaw Dancing
6:30 pm	Grand Entry

HEADSTAFF

Master of Ceremonies: **TIM TALLCHIEF**
Head Man Dancer: **JOE BOHANON**
Head Lady Dancer: **SHELBY MATA**
Head Gourd Dancer: **RANDY FRAZIER**
Arena Director: **BILL TAKES HORSE**
Host Southern Drum: **OTTER TRAIL**
Host Northern Drum: **NIC HAMILTON & THUNDER BOYS**

CONTEST

Men's: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass
Ladies: Buckskin/Cloth & Fancy/Jingle
Teen Boys: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass
Teen Girls: Buckskin/Cloth & Fancy/Jingle
Junior Boys: Traditional/Straight/Fancy/Grass Combined
Junior Girls: Buckskin/Cloth/Fancy/Jingle Combined
Tiny Tots: Open to all kids 5 years & under

Contest Sponsorships are Available!
Special Invitation to all Princesses, Drums and Indian Clubs

For more information, including Arts & Crafts Vendor Application, please contact:
Martha Battles @ 580-584-9603, x 4320, or E-mail: MOBattles@bbisd.org

No Drugs or Alcohol ** No Political Solicitation** No Videotaping** Security Provided

EVENTS

Tulsa Choctaw Language Class

March 5 at 7 p.m.

Tulsa Creek Community Indian Center
8611 S. Union Ave.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Classes will be every Monday after the starting date.
Course material will be provided.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
March Health Fairs

Hugo
Wednesday, March 7

Wright City
Wednesday, March 21

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the
Choctaw Nation Community Center unless
otherwise noted.

Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

Friday, March 23
6:30 p.m.

Crowder Choctaw Nation Community Center
707 Bond St.

Performers include The Revelators, ReDefined and many
other gospel groups. Masters of Ceremony are Rufus
Gould and Herbie Billy. Everyone is welcome and a
concession stand is available.

41st Annual Gospel Singing
presented by the Horn Family

Saturday, March 24 at 7 p.m.
Chickasaw Nation Community Center
818 E. Sixth St.
Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Quartets, Trios, Duets and Solos are welcome, along
with bands. Performers include The Crosby Family, The
Gastineaus, plus many more. Admission is free and a
concession stand will be available.

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

Judicial Branch Seeking Peacemakers

The Choctaw Nation Judicial Branch is currently seeking Peacemakers to
serve the Tribal District Court in an effort to resolve disputes in a fair,
informal manner in accordance with the traditions of the Choctaw people.
Applicants must be of good moral character, be familiar with the history
and traditions of the Choctaw people, and proficient in oral and written
communication.
Interested applicants should contact Donna Heflin by phone at 918-567-4134 or
email: dthefflin@choctawnation.com.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

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

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

The office does not provide 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

3-1 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-8 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-15 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3
3-29 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3

April Community
Center Schedule

4-5 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3
4-12 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30-3
4-26 Tahihina: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw
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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

Every time I read the “Biskinik” I am proud to be of
Choctaw heritage. It is a joy to see that the heart of our
leaders is for our people. Thank you for all you do for us.
I am also blessed by Pastor Olin Williams’ article each
time, for instance his recent article, “Cedars of Leba-
non.” Thank you Rev. Williams. Thank you to all who
write, edit and publish the paper each month. I read it
all and I am so proud.

Jim Huggins
Ardmore, Oklahoma

This comes to thank the numerous case workers, staff,
district tribal council and many others involved with
the concern for my 96-year-old dad, L.C. Gardner. The
care, consideration and compassion shown to me, as his
daughter, will be remembered forever. I could not have
made my way through the complexities of getting him
settled into a good place without the social workers of
the Choctaw Nation. Forever proud to be a member of
the very best! Thank you with all my heartfelt apprecia-
tion.

Diane Simpson
Alamogordo, New Mexico

I thoroughly enjoy reading my Biskinik each month
when it arrives at my door. One thing I enjoy seeing is
the great things happening throughout the Nation, and
most importantly the wonderful people doing them. I
would like to take just a moment to recognize some of
the wonderful people working at the Choctaw Nation.
Several years ago, I had what felt like a crazy idea. I had
been serving as Vice Mayor and Councilman in Midwest
City as well as working full time in OKC. The experienc-
es I was having pushed me towards going back to school
as a working adult and earning a degree in Law. On the
education front I found out quickly it is incredibly diffi-
cult to go to school, work, and try to be the best husband
and father I can. These objectives were helped along
the way and I am incredibly thankful for the support I
received each semester from the Higher Education
Department and the Career Services team of Tracy Gil-
bert, Ashley Benton, Tisha Giles, Kassie Whitaker, and
others. I was calling and asking them a million ques-
tions, all of which they were ready and willing to assist
me with and seemed genuinely happy to be there for
students. When my wife had our little girl and we moved
to our new home we ran into some problems as we were
completing the house. Although we were in a different
tribal jurisdiction, the Choctaw Office of Environmental
Health was there for us and gave us some advice on how
to navigate through our project to completion, and we
were incredibly grateful for their guidance. As I enter
my last year of school I have just concluded my writ-
ing requirement where I focused on exploring Tribal
and Municipal Government collaboration in restorative
justice models. Again, the Choctaw Nation was there for
me when I randomly reached out to two Tribal Coun-
cilmembers, James Dry and Thomas Williston, both of
which took the time to chat with me and point me in
the right direction. Recently, I was selected to represent
OCU Law in the National Native American Student’s As-
sociation Moot Court Competition in Arizona. As I have
been preparing for the contest and diving through pages
upon pages of Tribal Law, I couldn’t help but think of
my own tribe and how helpful the Choctaw Nation has
been for myself and my family throughout this last few
years. So, in closing, yakohe again to the Choctaw Team
for always going above and beyond to help others. Your
efforts really make a world of difference!

Daniel McClure

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association
and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Associa-
tion 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 Cer-
tificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a fed-
erally recognized tribe. Micro-loans are available for
emergency home improvements and small businesses.
The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid
within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be
Choctaw, possess a CDIB and reside within the 10 1/2
county area of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

Crowder Community Center
March 12
9 – 11 a.m.

Tribal
Council
Holds Regular
Session

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

During the regular session
committee reports were
presented.

The minutes of the regular
and special session held on
Saturday, Jan. 13, were ap-
proved.

New business included ap-
proval of the following items:

- To dispose of surplus
capital assets.
- Expansion of tribal service area to five counties in
Texas for the purpose of HUD 184 loans.
- Funding for construction of an Independent Living
Site at Wilburton.
- Approved the Trust Fund Appropriation Act.
- Approved the Pursuit of Sustainability Act.
- An underground electric line easement on Choctaw
tribal fee land in favor of Public Service Company of
Oklahoma in McCurtain Co., Oklahoma.
- Amend CB-47-17 to change the name of the lessee
from James Alexander to Jesse Chip Lott II and
David Cantrell on grazing lease #4200070201 on land
held by the United States of America in trust for the
Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg Co.,
Oklahoma.
- An amendment to CB-111-17 to include a provision
to the recreational lease on land held by the USA
in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in
Pittsburg Co., Oklahoma.
- Authorized Chief Gary Batton to place 21.43 acres in
Bryan Co. in Trust Status with the USA.
- Authorized Chief Batton to place 38.08 acres in Bryan
Co. in Trust Status with the USA.
- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity.
- Approved the application to the Bureau of Indian Af-
fairs for Federal funding to replace the Muddy Boggy
Creek Bridge in Choctaw Co., Oklahoma.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions
and Council bills, go to [www.choctawnation.com/govern-
ment/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills](http://www.choctawnation.com/govern-ment/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills).

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Satur-
day, March 10, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is now
accepting applications for the Lease Purchase
(LEAP) Program

The LEAP Program is a new homeownership program opportunity for
Choctaw Tribal members who meet program income and credit
guidelines. The goal of this program is to assist families with
credit issues to become mortgage ready and lender qualified over
time with credit counseling services available.

For additional program information or for an
application, please contact Donna Courtwright at
the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation at
1-800-235-3087

Biskinik Announcement
Policy

We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal mem-
bers. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn’t
possible to publish all letters our readers send. Let-
ters chosen for publication must be under 150 words.
We require full contact information. Only the writer’s
full name and city will be published.

All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month
of the event or the month prior to the event if the
event falls on the first of the month.

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

Send to:
Biskinik

Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

or email to:
biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

April 2018

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

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

Idabel by appointment

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

DURANT LIVESTOCK SHOW

Swine-Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Bronze Champion - Joshua Winnett, Rock Creek
Swine Senior Showmanship, Blaine Ake, Tupelo
Swine Junior Showmanship, Caden Goodson, Harmony

Berkshire

Breed Champion - Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Reserve Breed Champion - Samuel Johnson, Indianola

Class I: 1. Jazlyn Randall, Fort Towson; 2. Jazlyn Randall, Fort Towson; 3. Ashton Cagle, Wapanucka
Class II: 1. Zane Braudrick, Caddo; 2. Taylor Bridwell, Washington; 3. Laney Jo Brown, Coal Co.
Class III: 1. Samuel Johnson, Indianola; 2. Kaydence Koontz, Vanoss; 3. Kailyn Dufur, Durant
Class IV: 1. Cash Clardy Haworth; 2. Brance Gray, Caddo; 3. Caden Morris, Yukon
Class V: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2. Hazin Stoner, Rock Creek; 3. Garrett Latham, Coalgate

Chester

Breed Champion - Hudson Long, McClain Co.
Reserve Breed Champion - Kaitlyn Dufur, Durant

Class I: 1. Hudson Long, McClain Co.; 2. Kaitlyn Dufur, Durant
Class II: 1. Peyton Bridwell, Washington; 2. Jaden Smith, Murray Co.; 3. Saige Dumos, Velma

Duroc

Breed Champion - Brody Daniels, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Clancy Teague, Rattan

Class I: 1. Brody Daniels, Tishomingo; 2. Harli Wells, Yukon; 3. Jaedyn Avants, Tupelo
Class II: 1. Clancy Teague, Rattan; 2. Shaelynn Hokett, Rattan; 3. Ty Cokers, Bennington
Class III: 1. Meladee Allison, Lindsay; 2. Braylee Foster, Turner; 3. Mahli Rogers, Savanna
Class IV: 1. Saige Dumos, Velma; 2. Josie Magby, Stringtown; 3. Brooklyn O'Bryant, Moss
Class V: 1. Rahby Pryor, Moss; 2. Jaxton Fortner, Tupelo; 3. Keona Mason, Johnston Co.

Hampshire

Breed Champion - Holden McGahey, Marshall Co.
Reserve Breed Champion - Blaine Ake, Tupelo

Class I: 1. Jaylynn Pettyjohn, Rattan; 2. Kylee Anderson, Caddo; 3. Jaedyn Avants, Tupelo
Class II: 1. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola; 2. Hadley Jo Bell, Madill; 3. Madison Orico
Class III: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony; 2. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola; 3. Bailey Bradley, Caddo
Class IV: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 2. Kennedy Edwards, Maysville; 3. Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Class V: 1. Saige Dumos, Velma; 2. Cash Clardy, Haworth; 3. Devin Emert, Bennington
Class VI: 1. Huter Hawkins, Rattan; 2. Ryder Nichols, Smithville; 3. Baliey Bradley, Caddo
Class VII: 1. Holden McGahey, Marshall Co.; 2. Devin Emert, Bennington; 3. Ian Rose, Rock Creek
Class VIII: 1. Tyler Boyett, Rattan; 2. Savannah Herndon, Soper; 3. Jenna Traylor, Byng

Poland

Breed Champion - Jenna Fielder, Maysville
Reserve Breed Champion - Clay Stoner, Rock Creek

Class I: 1. Jenna Fielder, Maysville; 2. Emili Underwood, Bennington; 3. Meladee Allison, Lindsay
Class II: 1. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek; 2. Meladee Allison, Lindsay; 3. Kialia Clonts, Wapanucka

Spot

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

Class I: 1. Jenna Fielder, Maysville; 2. Joesy Moore, Dale; 3. Clayton Bell, Lone Grove
Class II: 1. Abby Smith, Hollis; 2. Audrey McCage, Thackerville; 3. Holden McGahey, Marshall Co.
Class III: 1. Blake Thompson, Stringtown; 2. Ian Rose, Rock Creek; 3. Hunter Davidson, Coalgate

York

Breed Champion - Caden Goodson, Harmony
Reserve Breed Champion - Blaine Ake, Tupelo

Class I: 1. Josey Moore, Dale; 2. Bailey Cargill, Indianola; 3. Jackson Wood, Bennington
Class II: 1. Conner Hammons, Antlers; 2. Hudson Long, McClain Co.; 3. Hadley Jo Bell, Marshall Co.
Class III: 1. Gabby Marsh, Antlers; 2. Kohl Robertson, Rattan; 3. Taylor Bridwell, Washington
Class IV: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony; 2. Braylee Foster, Turner; 3. Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers
Class V: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 2. Shilo Thompson, Velma; 3. Robby Pryor, Moss

Cross

Breed Champion - Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Reserve Breed Champion - Joshua Winnett, Rock Creek

Class I: 1. Ty Coker, Bennington; 2. Alexia Clardy, Haworth; 3. Blaine Ake, Tupelo
Class II: 1. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan; 2. Zeke Russell, Wapanucka; 3. Kenna Miller, Caddo
Class III: 1. Ace Wood, Byng; 2. Davis Morris, Yukon; 3. Brody Daniels, Tishomingo
Class IV: 1. Abby Smith, Hollis; 2. Gabby Marsh, Antlers; 3. Levi Russell, Bennington
Class V: 1. Hunter Davidson, Coalgate; 2. Devin Emert, Bennington; 3. Callie Burns, Caddo
Class VI: 1. Hazin Stoner, Rock Creek; 2. Briar Davidson, Coalgate; 3. Kennedy Edwards, Maysville
Class VII: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2. Joshua Winnett, Rock Creek; 3. Ian Rose, Rock Creek
Class VIII: 1. Coleby Howe, Coalgate; 2. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek; 3. Braylee Foster, Turner
Class IX: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony; 2. Kaleb Bishop, Calera; 3. Bailey Bradley, Caddo
Class X: 1. Hudson Long, McClain Co.; 2. Jenna Traylor, Byng; 3. Jaxton Fortner, Tupelo

Doe Goats



Reserve Grand Champion - Kate Trammell, Washington
Bronze Champion - Rainey Davidson, Coalgate

Div I, Class I: 1. Julie Cullum, Silo; 2. Jaycie Watkins, Allen; 3. Chace McCoy, Oklahoma Co.
Class II: 1. Rainey Davidson, Coalgate; 2. James Kellman, Silo; 3. Blaklyn Barber, Silo
Class III: 1. Lucas Rezner, Silo; 2. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 3. Jaxon Watkins, Allen
Class IV: 1. Nataley Edwards, Hugo; 2. Josie Fortner; 3. Ellie Martin, Indianola

Div I Champion - Rainey Davidson, Coalgate
Div I Reserve Champion - Lucas Rezner, Silo

Div II, Class I: 1. Karlee Trammell, Washington; 2. Hailey Pryor, Moss; 3. Julie Cullum, Silo
Class II: 1. Kate Trammell, Washington; 2. Jaxon Watkins, Allen; 3. Skye Gammon, Eagletown
Class III: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Karlee Trammell, Washington; 3. Hadleigh Workman, Caney
Class IV: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen; 2. Kate Trammell, Washington; 3. Makayla Crawford, Moss

Div II Champion - Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Div II Reserve Champion - Kate Trammell, Washington

Wether Goats



Reserve Grand Champion - Lucas Rezner, Silo
Bronze Champion - Berklee Gossen, Meeker
Goat Senior Showmanship, Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Goat Junior Showmanship, Skye Gammon, Eagletown

Div I, Class I: 1. 1. Berklee Gossen, Meeker; 2. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola; 3. Emma Peay, Allen
Class II: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Riley Ross, Ryan; 3. Kale Horton, Coal Co.
Class III: 1. Lucas Rezner, Silo; 2. Riley Pryor, Moss; 3. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola
Class IV: 1. Josie Fortner, Tupelo; 2. Skye Gammon, Eagletown; 3. Taylor Chambers, Tushka

Div II Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Div I Reserve Champion - Lucas Rezner, Silo

Div II, Class I: 1. Berklee Gossen, Meeker; 2. Chloe Flynn, Tushka; 3. Nataley Edwards, Hugo
Class II: 1. Berklee Gossen, Meeker; 2. Colton Price, Caddo; 3. Shade Sheffield, Atoka
Class III: 1. Josie Fortner, Tupelo; 2. Skye Gammon, Eagletown; 3. Taylor Chambers, Tushka

Div II Champion - Berklee Gossen, Meeker
Div II Reserve Champion - Josie Fortner, Tupelo

Lamb



Reserve Grand Champion - Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Bronze Champion - Julie Cullum, Silo
Lamb Senior Showmanship, Hannah Maxwell, Talihina
Lamb Junior Showmanship, Cadey Jones, Marlow

Div I, Class I: 1. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina; 2. Ashlynn Arnold, Madill; 3. Ashlynn Arnold, Madill
Class II: 1. Cadey Jones, Marlow; 2. Jace Alford, Tishomingo; 3. Christian Hammons, Antlers
Class III: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay; 2. Cadey Jones, Marlow; 3. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina

Div I Champion - Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Div I Reserve Champion - Cadey Jones, Marlow

Div II, Class I: 1. Hadley Jo Bell, Marshall Co.; 2. Bradyn Courtwright, Antlers; 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola
Class II: 1. Jewel Parker, Tupelo; 2. Jacy Wills, Kiowa; 3. Jera Brown, Smithville
Class III: 1. Julie Cullum, Silo; 2. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall; 3. Hannah Carter, Calera

Div II Champion - Julie Cullum, Silo
Div II Reserve Champion - Meghan Sliger, Stonewall

Div III, Class I: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay; 2. Bradyn Courtwright, Antlers; 3. Hadley Jo Bell, Marshall Co.
Class II: 1. Jace Alford, Tishomingo; 2. Jewel Parker, Tupelo; 3. Tenton Barnes, Byng
Class III: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay; 2. Leslie Daniel, Byng; 3. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall

Div III Champion - Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Div III Reserve Champion - Seth Tucker, Lindsay

Heifer-Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Tyler Harris, Kingston
Bronze Champion - Merideth Behrens, Colbert

Heifer- English Division

Breed Champion - Kage Collins, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Merideth Beherens, Colbert

Class I: 1. Kameron Curtis, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Kage Collins, Tishomingo; 2. Ansley Campbell, Bells; 3. Griffin Behrens, Colbert
Class III: 1. Kage Collins, Tishomingo; 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek; 3. Piper Dudley, Dickson
Class IV: 1. Garrett Latham, Coalgate; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class V: 1. Merideth Beherens, Colbert; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class VI: 1. Kage Collins, Tishomingo; 2. Merideth Beherens, Colbert

Heifer-Continental Division

Breed Champion - Merideth Beherens, Colbert
Reserve Breed Champion - Will Shelby, Madill

Class I: 1. Kylee Patterson, Tushka; 2. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill; 3. Jaxten Fortner, Tupelo
Class II: 1. Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove; 2. Garrett Latham, Coalgate; 3. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall
Class III: 1. Blayke Bolen, Stonewall; 2. Josie Fortner, Tupelo
Class IV: 1. Griffin Behrens, Colbert; 2. Harmony Lee, Durant; 3. Cutter Cheaney, Lindsay
Class V: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 2. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill; 3. Colton Richards, Milburn
Class VI: 1. Josie Fortner, Tupelo; 2. Landree Eaves, Atoka; 3. Piper Dudley, Dickson

Heifer-Any Other Breed

Breed Champion - Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Tyler Harris, Kingston

Class I: 1. Griffin Behrens, Colbert; 2. Chase Wood, Savanna; 3. Zach Williams, Coalgate
Class II: 1. Harmony Lee, Bryan Co.; 2. Clancey Foran, Atoka; 3. Kallen Henderson, Lone Grove
Class III: 1. Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo; 2. Tyler Harris, Kingston; 3. Dylan Shelton, Kingston
Class IV: 1. Daniel Cullum, Silo; 2. Blayke Bolen, Stonewall; 3. Emily Morris, Fort Towson
Class V: 1. Emily Richards, Milburn; 2. Caston Lackey, Vanoss; 3. Jracee Ayers, Soper
Class VI: 1. James Kellam, Silo; 2. Gabe Workman, Caney; 3. Whisper Griggs, Rattan

Steers-Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Kara Stanglin, Colbert
Bronze Champion - Kolby Cato, Savanna
Cattle Senior Showmanship, Lane House, Tishomingo
Cattle Junior Showmanship, Josie Fortner, Tupelo

Steers-English Division

Breed Champion - Garrett Latham, Coalgate
Reserve Breed Champion - Tyler Boyett, Rattan

Class I: 1. Piper Dudley, Dickson; 2. Julie Cullum, Silo; 3. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class II: 1. Garrett Latham, Coalgate; 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville; 3. Dinney Foran, Atoka
Class III: 1. Tyler Boyett, Rattan; 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek

Steers-Continental

Breed Champion - Kolby Cato, Savanna
Reserve Breed Champion - Hadleigh Workman, Caney

Class I: 1. Kolby Cato, Savanna; 2. Bracee Edison, Haworth
Class II: 1. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill; 2. Clancey Foran, Atoka; 3. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class III: 1. Hadleigh Workman, Caney; 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek
Class IV: 1. Lane House, Tishomingo; 2. Harmony Lee, Durant

Steers-Brahman

Breed Champion - Chase Wood, Savanna
Class I: 1. Chase Wood, Savanna

Steers-Any Other Breed

Reserve Breed Champion - Kara Stanglin, Colbert
Breed Champion - Kolby Cato, Savanna
Class I: 1. Kolby Cato, Savanna; 2. Kamber Stanglin, Colbert; 3. Olivia Napier, Moyers
Class II: 1. Kara Stanglin, Colbert; 2. Blayke Bolen, Stonewall; 3. Clancey Foran, Atoka
Class III: 1. Lane House, Tishomingo; 2. Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo; 3. Alexander Robinson, Rock Creek



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WILBURTON LIVESTOCK SHOW

Swine-Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Brevon Harper, Spiro
Bronze Champion - Josh Williams, Caddo
Swine Senior Showman, Railey Spears, Hartshorne
Swine Junior Showman, Landee Doshier, Woodland

Berkshire

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

Class I: 1. Tory Mason, Hartshorne; 2. Hazen Sparks, Buffalo Valley; 3. Samantha Craig, Whitesboro
Class II: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 3. Samuel Bryant, Talihina

Chester

Breed Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Reserve Breed Champion - Trenton Peel, Wetumka

Class I: 1. Trenton Peel, Wetumka; 2. Yancey Sparks, Antlers; 3. Jalen Spears, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Tanner Hambright, Spiro; 3. David Beall, Jones Academy

Duroc

Breed Champion - Josh Williams, Caddo
Reserve Breed Champion - Braylin Harper, Spiro

Class I: 1. Braylin Harper, Spiro; 2. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 3. Ethan Sparks, Antlers
Class II: 1. Josh Williams, Caddo; 2. Brenna Gann, Vanoss; 3. Tory Mason, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Rachel Beames, Howe; 2. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 3. Peiper Rogers, Spiro
Class IV: 1. Lainey Hightower, Frink Chambers; 2. Tayah Latimer, Jones Academy; 3. Quade McGee, Whitesboro

Hampshire

Breed Champion - Brevon Harper, Spiro
Reserve Breed Champion - Chase Martin, Red Oak

Class I: 1. Ben Thomas, Red Oak; 2. Spencer Maddux, Hartshorne; 3. Emma Lawson, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Torben Vocque, Heavener; 2. Tucker LeMay, Whitesboro; 3. Peiper Rogers, Spiro
Class III: 1. Brevon Harper, Spiro; 2. Tanner McAlester, Wister; 3. Hazen Sparks, Buffalo Valley
Class IV: 1. Noah Bryant, Talihina; 2. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Maverick Sullivan, Spiro
Class V: 1. Chase Martin, Red Oak; 2. Josie Doshier, Woodland; 3. Zabre Pound, Porum
Class VI: 1. Chase Killian, Spiro; 2. Samantha Hale, Red Oak; 3. Lauren Gann, Vanoss

Poland

Breed Champion - Lauren Gann, Vanoss
Reserve Breed Champion - Railey Spears, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Nate Doshier, Poteau; 2. Josie Doshier, Woodland; 3. Kristin Smith, Crowder
Class II: 1. Lauren Gann, Vanoss; 2. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Noah Wilson, Kiefer

Spot

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

Class I: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak; 3. Charity Thomas, Red Oak
Class II: 1. Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 2. Samantha Hale, Red Oak; 3. Drew Spradlin, Porum

York

Breed Champion - Brenna Gann, Vanoss
Reserve Breed Champion - Riley Crane, Wister

Class I: 1. Kensley Yandell, Heavener; 2. Kylee Free, Heavener; 3. Emily Yandell, Heavener
Class II: 1. Brenna Gann, Vanoss; 2. Riley Crane, Wister; 3. Cade Sumpter, Red Oak
Class III: 1. Trenton Peel, Wetumka; 2. Braylin Harper, Spiro; 3. Landee Doshier, Woodland

Cross

Breed Champion - Mikayla Campagna, Red Oak
Reserve Breed Champion - Josh Williams, Caddo

Class I: 1. Madison Walker, Red Oak; 2. Lea Medders, Red Oak; 3. Brock Cooley, Haileyville
Class II: 1. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak; 2. Tory Mason, Hartshorne; 3. McKinzie Duncan, Hodgen
Class III: 1. Chase Martin, Red Oak; 2. Riley Sumpter, Red Oak; 3. Lainey Hightower, Frink Chambers
Class IV: 1. Austin Palmer, Vanoss; 2. Kacey Ludlow, Whitesboro; 3. Kaylee Cannon, Red Oak
Class V: 1. Kensley Yandell, Heavener; 2. Luke Spradlin, Porum; 3. Destanie Logston, Jones Academy
Class VI: 1. Chase Martin, Red Oak; 2. Emma Lawson, Wilburton; 3. Lainey Hightower, Frink Chambers
Class VII: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Yancy Sparks, Antlers
Class VIII: 1. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak; 2. Josh Williams, Caddo; 3. Isaac Bryant, Talihina
Class IX: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Trenton Peel, Wetumka
Class X: 1. Breanna Gann, Vanoss; 2. Makayla Camoagna, Red Oak; 3. Ethan Sparks, Antlers
Class XI: 1. Taymen Vocque, Heavener; 2. Kennedy Woods, Hartshorne; 3. Kasen Krebsbs, Heavener
Class XII: 1. Lauren Gann, Vanoss; 2. Noah Bryant, Talihina; 3. Kennedy Woods, Hartshorne

Doe Goats



Reserve Grand Champion - CeeJay Robison, Checotah
Bronze Champion - Carson Wheeler, Luther

Div I, Class I: 1. CeeJay Robison, Checotah; 2. Kenzie Davis, Howe; 3. Mia McGowan, Fanshawe
Class II: 1. Karlee Glover, Checotah; 2. Carson Wheeler, Luther; 3. Hayven Hoffman, Panama
Class III: 1. CeeJay Robison, Checotah; 2. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 3. Kenzie Davis, Howe
Class IV: 1. Codi Robison, Checotah; 2. Carson Wheeler, Luther; 3. Karlee Glover, Checotah

Div I Breed Champion - Codi Robison, Checotah
Div I Reserve Breed Champion - Carson Wheeler, Luther

Div II, Class I: 1. Carson Wheeler, Luther; 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Josey Milburn, Asher
Class II: 1. Ceejay Robison, Checotah; 2. Bradley Strain, Kinta; 3. Jade McPeak, Checotah
Class III: 1. Karlee Glover, Checotah; 2. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 3. Macs Harkins, Wilburton
Div II Breed Champion - Carson Wheeler, Luther
Div II Reserve Breed Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne

Wether Goats



Reserve Grand Champion - Laney Sparks, Buffalo Valley
Bronze Champion - Charli Curliss, Hartshorne
Goat Senior Showmanship - Carson Wheeler, Luther
Goat Junior Showmanship - Kenzie Davis, Howe

Div I, Class I: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau; 2. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 3. Dalton O'Dell, Whitesboro
Class II: 1. Aubry Mauldin, Stuart; 2. Alex Stroble, Jones Academy; 3. Jansan Storey, Valliant
Class III: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Laney Sparks, Buffalo Valley; 3. Tucker Conrad, Spiro
Class IV: 1. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne; 2. Shaelyn Bell, Red Oak

Heifer-Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Bronze Champion - Kristopher Daugherty, Grove

Heifer- English Division

Breed Champion - Lauryn Rader, Wilburton
Reserve Breed Champion - Ethan Shoemake, Porum

Class I: 1. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 2. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 3. Colton Hulsey, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Ciara Johnson, Panama
Class III: 1. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah
Class IV: 1. Lauryn Rader, Wilburton; 2. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah

Heifer-Continental Division

Breed Champion - Kaytie Cash, Porum
Reserve Breed Champion - Kristopher Daugherty, Grove

Class I: 1. Kristopher Daugherty, Grove; 2. Mylie Campbell, Checotah; 3. Gabe Mathews, Muldrow
Class II: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne; 2. Jonathan Daugherty, Grove; 3. Brynn Bibee, Stigler
Class III: 1. Mylie Campbell, Checotah; 2. Adysen Dishman, Porum; 3. Abbi Willsi, Bokoshe
Class IV: 1. Gabe Mathews, Muldrow; 2. Justin Brown, Stigler
Class V: 1. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 2. Eli Mathews, Muldrow; 3. Roni Martin, Wister
Class VI: 1. Kaytie Cash, Porum; 2. Brynn Bibee, Stigler

Heifer-Brahman Influence

Breed Champion - Jansan Storey, Valliant
Reserve Breed Champion - Jansan Storey, Valliant

Class I: 1. Jansan Storey, Valliant;
Class II: 1. Jansan Storey, Valliant

Lamb



Reserve Grand Champion - Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Bronze Champion - Paisley Beshear, Poteau
Lamb Senior Showmanship - Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Lamb Junior Showmanship - Kirsten Walck, Sulphur

Div I, Class I: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau; 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Laney Sparks, Buffalo Valley
Class II: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Paisley Beshear, Poteau; 3. Marlie Leathers, Rattan
Class III: 1. Kirsten Walck, Sulphur; 2. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 3. Madison Daniels, Quinton
Class IV: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 3. Paisley Beshear, Poteau
Class V: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Kirsten Walck, Sulphur; 3. Rynda Wilson, Quinton

Heifer-Any Other Breed

Breed Champion - Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Reserve Breed Champion - Waylon Dishman, Porum

Class I: 1. Haley Cato, Webbers Falls; 2. Lucy Wann, Wann Academy; 3. Lizzie Wann, Wann Academy
Class II: 1. Waylon Dishman, Porum; 2. Samantha Pearce, Porum; 3. Jace Bibee, Stigler
Class III: 1. Ethan Shoemake, Porum; 2. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne; 3. Waylon Dishman, Porum
Class IV: 1. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 2. Tristen Martin, Fort Gibson; 3. Adysen Dishman, Porum
Class V: 1. Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton; 2. Trent Mayhall, Antlers; 3. Lindsey Lewis, Wilburton
Class VI: 1. RiLee Miller, Porum; 2. Jace Bibee, Stigler; 3. Trisha Walden, Wister

Steers - Overall



Reserve Grand Champion - Jade McPeak, Checotah
Bronze Champion - Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne
Cattle Senior Showmanship - Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton
Cattle Junior Showmanship RiLee Miller, Porum

Steers-English Division

Breed Champion - Colton Hulsey, Wilburton
Reserve Breed Champion - Justin Herlan, Bluejacket FFA

Class I: 1. Colton Hulsey, Wilburton; 2. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket FFA; 3. John Hulsey, Wilburton

Steers-Continental

Breed Champion - Jade McPeak, Checotah
Reserve Breed Champion - Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Asher Southern, Roland; 2. Jolie Goodman, Muldrow
Class II: 1. Roni Martin, Wister; 2. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket FFA; 3. Jansan Storey, Valliant
Class III: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne; 2. Kaden Corderman, Muldrow; 3. Jenna Simpson, Quinton
Class IV: 1. Jade McPeak, Checotah; 2. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket FFA; 3. Jolie Goodman, Muldrow

Steers-Any Other Breed

Breed Champion - Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne
Reserve Breed Champion - Kolby Martin, Fort Gibson

Class I: 1. Jace Bibee, Stigler; 2. Alyssa Powell, Wilburton
Class II: 1. Lauren Gann, Vanoss; 2. Clancy Hill, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne; 2. Kolby Martin, Fort Gibson

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OBITS

Vera Alene Perteet Welch

Vera Alene Perteet Welch, 86, of McAlester passed away Dec. 13, 2017.

She was born Oct. 8, 1931, to Clarence and Mary Willie Perteet.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, J.L. Welch; son, Jerry Lynn Welch; grandson, Michael Welch; three sisters; and two brothers.

She is survived by her children, Carolyn Thompson, Pat Roehling and spouse Butch; Jackie Welch and spouse Donna, David Welch, Joyce Morris and spouse Jerry; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Chaney-Harkins Funeral Home](#).

Diana Dillard

Diana Dillard, 69, passed away Nov. 11, 2017, in Celburne, Texas.

She was born June 21, 1948, to Rosa Lee (Smith) and Louis H. Coleman.

Diana was preceded in death by her parents; and sister, Pattie Sue.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years Curtis Dillard; son, Jason Dillard and spouse Valarie; daughters, Heather Dillard, Megan Bryant and spouse Jeff; grandchildren, Madison and Cameron Dillard, Avery and Paige Bryant; brother, Alan Coleman; and a host of relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Rosser Funeral Home](#).

Michael Wayne Stoliby

Michael Wayne “Milo” Stoliby, 58, passed away Jan. 4, 2018.

He was born in Los Angeles, California on April 26, 1959, to Billy Stoliby and Betty Lou Wallace Davis.

Milo was preceded in death by his parents; uncles, Freeman Wallace and Naith Wallace, Jr.; and grandson, Carmell Stoliby.

He is survived by his daughters, Mila Stoliby and Tedra White; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and special friend, Donna Kent Marris.

For the full obituary, please visit [Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home](#).

Berna Dean Agee

Berna “Dean” Agee, 86, passed away Oct. 3, 2017.

She was born June 30, 1931, to Lytle Brookey and Beulah Hunt Brookey.

Dean was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

Dean is survived by her husband of 67 years, George Agee; sons, George Michael Agee, and Mark Edward Agee; God-daughter, Kathy Seacrest; grandchildren, Ben Agee, Joel Agee, and Scott Agee; great-grandchildren, Lorna Agee and Clive Agee; brother-in-law, Phil Agee; sisters-in-law, Dixie Hutchinson and Edith Traylor; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Hargrove Marker Funeral & Cremation Services](#).

Jack Darrough

Jack Darrough, 72, passed away June 4, 2017.

He was born on Aug. 12, 1944, to Lolamae VanDeusen and Dave Darrough.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Dalton Irvin; sister, Linda Joann Murphy; and nephew, Michael David Murphy.

He is survived by his wife Karren; daughters, Cindy Darrough and fiancé Joel Stinson, and Sandi Darrough; grandchildren, Philly Ketchum and spouse Dustin, Tanner Donnell and Payton Donnell; great-grandson, Lew Ketchum; sisters, Kathy Davis and spouse Rev. Sam Davis, and LaDonna Wilkerson; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and special friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Leonard & Marker Funeral Home](#).

Melva Robertson

Melva Robertson, 64, passed away Dec. 28, 2017.

She was born to Aaron and Melinda (Gibson) Bully on May 27, 1953, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Onis Robertson; grandson, Glen Ray Espericueta; and granddaughter, Katonia Bombsurger.

She is survived by her children, Jeffery Robertson and spouse Cory, Anthony Bombsurger and spouse Glen, and Stephanie Espericueta; brother, Larry Bully; sisters, Anna Kenemer, Sharon Hamby and Pamela Robertson; 16 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

For the full obituary, please visit [Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home](#).

Elizabeth Ruth Alexander

Elizabeth R. Alexander, 96, passed away Dec. 15, 2017, in Duncan, Oklahoma.

She was born Oct. 8, 1921, to Samuel and Ada Mae (Freeman) Hickman.

Elizabeth was preceded death by her husband, Luther Alexander; and daughter, Cynthia Caron.

She is survived by her daughters, Nancy Ruth and spouse Gerald, and Linda Gail and spouse Tom; sons, Ruben Talmadge and spouse Marcy, and Thomas Edward Alexander and spouse Diana; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and son-in-law, Gene Caron.

For the full obituary, please visit [Carter-Smart Funeral Home](#).

Otis Ray Jackson

Otis Ray “O.R.” Jackson, 84, passed away Nov. 30, 2017.

He was born April 28, 1933, to Cal Jackson and Mary Ella (Owens) Jackson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, James “Jimmy” Jackson; brother, Tommy Jackson; and sisters, Emogene Smith, Lucille Brimage, Mozell Price and Katy Hunnicutt.

O.R. is survived by his wife of 65 years, Pat Jackson; sons, Danny Jackson and spouse Ginger of Wayne, Oklahoma, and Don Jackson and spouse Denise; daughters, Ellen Armstrong and spouse John, Tricia Staggs and spouse Jeff, and Karen Seiler and spouse Paul; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and two on the way; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Wilson-Little Funeral Home](#).

Lela Mae Cooper

Lela Mae Cooper, 88, passed away Jan. 4, 2018, in Marietta, Oklahoma.

She was born May 1, 1929, to Arch and Sallie (Farve) Marris.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Murrow Cooper; son, Ted Cooper; daughters, Anita Yelloweagle and Tracie Cooper; grandson, Raymond Kent; granddaughter, Janis Johnson; sister, Lula Parker; brothers, Christian, Leonard, Bennett and Ralph Marris.

Lela is survived by her daughter, Tessa Almond and spouse Rex of Lone Grove, Oklahoma; son, Lance Cooper and and spouse Michelle of Duluth, Minnesota; sister, Allie Johnson and spouse James of Ardmore, Oklahoma; granddaughters, Amie Cooper of Ardmore, Oklahoma; Emily Cooper Ramirez of Kingston, Oklahoma; Robin Kent of Lone Grove, Oklahoma.

For the full obituary, please visit [Craddock Funeral Home](#).

Patricia May Frohnappfel

Patricia May (Alexander) Frohnappfel, 93, passed away Dec. 30, 2017.

She was born June 9, 1924, to May Ledonia Maytubby and James Milton Alexander.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William J. Frohnappfel; son, William J. Frohnappfel, Jr.; and daughter, Susan Elizabeth Frohnappfel Bartlett.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandy Rodolf and Patty McMahon; son, Terry Frohnappfel; grandchildren, Dewey Bartlett III, Caroline Rodolf, Brendan Rodolf, Allie Day, Matthew McMahon, B.J. Frohnappfel, Sarah Frohnappfel; and great-grandchildren, Cogan, Griffin, Cooper, and Dewey.

For the full obituary, please visit [Fitzgerald Ivy Chapel](#).

Roberta Lou Tipton

Roberta Lou (Welch) Tipton, 81, passed away Dec. 25, 2017.

She was born Aug. 24, 1936, to Edward Emory and Elsie Louise (Walker) Welch.

Roberta was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Frank Tipton; parents, Edward and Elsie Welch; daughter, Gre-ta Tipton; brothers, Herbert Welch and Fred Welch; and sisters, Cora Caniff, Hazel Thomas, and Emma Allin.

She is survived by her son, Stanley Tipton of Rogers, Arkansas; daughter, Annette Tipton of Norman, Oklahoma; brother, Terry Wayne Welch, Sr., of Ada, Oklahoma; sister, Helen Louise Borges of Norman, Oklahoma; and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, great-great nieces, and great-great nephews.

For the full obituary, please visit [Tribute Memorial Care](#).

Obituary Policy

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

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
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Durant OK 74702
or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com



Marie G. Nelson

Marie G. Nelson, 96, passed away Jan. 7, 2018.

She was born and raised in Spencerville, Oklahoma.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband Virgil; and son Richard E. Green.

Marie is survived by her son Keith Nelson; grandchildren; Jason Nelson and spouse Crystal, Joyce Trevino and spouse Juan, Penny Green, Richard C. Green, Tina Green, Bailey Long and spouse Adam, Brooke Collier and spouse Tyler; great-grandchildren, Brianna, Mia, Holly, Jacob, Axton, Ayden and Hunter.

For the full obituary, please visit [Hillcrest Memorial Park and Mortuary](#).



Linda Christian

Linda Christian, 73, passed away Dec. 3, 2017.

She was born Dec. 13, 1944, to Jack and Lena (Beal) Robertson in Durant, Oklahoma.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Bill Robertson and Alvin Lynn Buchanan; sister, Dorothy Barnes; and grandson, Jon Christian.

Linda is survived by her husband, Johnny Christian; sons, Johnny Christian and spouse Teresa and Michael Christian and spouse Veda; daughter, Elizabeth McIver and spouse Roger; grandchildren, Joshua Christian, Jonell Ellis, Kimo Puana, Jacob Christian, and Michael Christian, Jr.; great-grandchildren, Jace and Jetson Christian; brothers, Don Robertson and Ricky Buchanan; sister, Louise Buchanan; and step-father, Alvin Buchanan.

For the full obituary, please visit [Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home](#).



Billy F. Salmon

Billy Salmon, 77, passed away Dec. 31, 2017.

He was born Oct. 22, 1940, to Kibbie and Marie Salmon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Royal Lee Salmon; siblings, Jean Hess, Roy Salmon, Herbert Salmon, Larry Salmon and J.R. Salmon.

Billy is survived by his wife of 48 years, Gail Salmon; children, Ricky Salmon, Robyn Ebert and spouse Richard, and William Salmon and spouse Michelle; grandchildren, Brianna Dennis, Royal Salmon, Jr., Trisha Salmon, Terry Salmon, Ciara Lovell, Jacob Salmon, Nicholas Salmon and Camryn Salmon; great-grandchildren, Bradley, Royal, Roland, Romeo, Molly, Jayden and Archer; siblings, Donald Salmon and spouse Denny and Betty Hawley and spouse Eugene.

For the full obituary, please visit [Hutchens Funeral Home](#).



Lois Fay Weatherly

Lois Fay Weatherly, 72, passed away Dec. 22, 2017.

She was born Oct. 10, 1945, to Rosco and Mary Jane York.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Jerry York.

She is survived by her sons, Ronnie Corn and Randall Corn; daughters, Ronda Rehl and Wanda Boothe; grandchildren, Tamara, Jennifer, Amanda, Christina, Ronnie II, Catrina, Paisley Fay, Isabelle and Rudy; and 14 great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Mercer-Adams Funeral Home](#).



Naomi Ruth Johnson

Naomi Ruth Johnson, 88, passed away Dec. 12, 2017.

She was born on May 23, 1929, to Sampson and Margaret (Crowder) Scott in Antlers, Oklahoma.

Naomi was preceded in death by her husband McDonald Douglas Johnson; parents; brothers Jasper and Jessie Scott; sister Lorena Scott-Cooper; sons Melvin and Ulysses Johnson; and grandchildren Marvin and Peaches.

She is survived by her sons Jarvis and spouse Sheila, Marvin and spouse Cheryl, Donald and spouse Alma, Samuel, and Richard Johnson Sr.; daughters Delvagene and spouse Ruben, and Wilma Watan and spouse Mitch; 23 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Bill Eisenhower Funeral Home](#).



Patricia Gayle Baker

Patricia Gayle Baker, 52, passed away Dec. 2017.

She was born on Oct. 24, 1965, to James Cook, Sr., and LaWanda Faye (Wilson) Cook.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Cook, Sr.; and granddaughter, Alexandra Olivia Michelle Edwards Conley.

Gayle is survived by her mother, LaWanda Faye Mason; husband, Ronnie Baker; daughters, Sandi Robb and spouse Danny, and Brandi Edwards; son, Jason Baker; grandchildren, Hailey Gayle Edwards, Dalton Alan Argo, Macie Faye Marie Argo, Shaylynn Edwards, and Dana Robb; brother, James A. Cook, Jr.; niece, Shyann Cook; and sister-in-law, Breda Trammel.

For the full obituary, please visit [Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home](#).



New Book Showcases the Life of Choctaw Medal of Honor Recipient Tony K. Burris



A new book, “Tony K. Burris: The Hero, The Person, The Letters,” was recently released. The book depicts the life of Choctaw Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Tony K. Burris.

The book was compiled and edited by Burris’ nephew Larry W. Wilson, editor; and co-editors, Lee Anne Hite and Teresa Ann Wilson.

Burris was born in 1929, in Blanchard, Oklahoma. Burris enlisted in the U.S. Army at the start of the Korean War. Burris could have enlisted in any division of the military, but he felt it was his duty to enlist in the infantry and fight on the front lines. After four months of basic training, Burris was shipped out to fight for his country.

Burris was killed in action at Heartbreak Ridge Oct. 9, 1951, during the Korean War. Over 3,700 American and French soldiers were killed during the battle.

Burris was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in battle. Burris’ military honors also include a purple heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Silver Star.

It has been over 66 years since young Burris died in action, but his presence is still felt by many today. A bronze statue of Burris was erected in downtown Blanchard, Oklahoma in 2007. The Tony K. Burris VFW Post 3608 also bears his name.

The new book gives readers a glimpse into the life of Burris. Burris sent home 70 letters, telling his story from basic training to Heart Break Ridge.



The detailed letters provide insight into the life of a truly decent, Tabasco-loving, homesick young Choctaw man doing his duty while trying to survive the harsh and unforgiving conditions of the Korean War.

The book, “Tony K. Burris: The Hero, The Person, The Letters” is published by Parke Press. The book can be purchased on Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/Tony-K-Burris-Person-Letters/dp/098839698X>.

K
Y
P
9



McDonald Smith Recognized for Philanthropy

Pebbles McDonald Smith was recently honored by two pageant systems for her accomplishments in fundraising and disability awareness. She was named Lifetime Swan of Philanthropy by the Pageant of Swans and Sparrows system and Ms. Diversity Oklahoma for the American Majestics pageant system.

Pebbles continues her work by coordinating the first Autoimmune walk-in Oklahoma City March 24. Proceeds will go to the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association.

Pebbles also does fundraising for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Cancer Society. She is passionate about raising funds and awareness for these organizations, as she has firsthand experience with Type 1 diabetes and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Pebbles is the daughter of the late Bob and Barbara McDonald and the spouse of Gregory Smith. She has five children and two grandchildren.

If you would like to participate in the Autoimmune Walk, please visit www.autoimmunewalk.org to sign up or donate to the cause.



Lance Corporal Wilka Graduates from Marine Corps Boot Camp

Lance Corporal Marc T Wilka, 18, of Owensville, Missouri graduated from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on Oct. 13, 2017 with India Company, Third Recruit Training Battalion. Lance Cpl. Wilka successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive boot camp at MCRD San Diego as one of 84 recruits in Training Platoon 3207.

While in recruit training Lance Cpl. Wilka achieved expert marksmanship and his platoon achieved honor platoon. Following 10 days home on leave he reported to Camp Pendleton for one month to complete Military Combat Training. He now attends the Naval School of Music in Virginia Beach, Virginia to study trumpet. Lance Cpl. Wilka will then be assigned to one of the 10 Marine Corps fleet bands.

Howard Releases Choctaw Album



In honor of his Choctaw heritage, Howard Wilson has released “Choctaw Country.”

The album contains 12 tracks with varying musical styles.

According to Wilson, “The album was written with Oklahoma Choctaws in mind... the title refers to a vast area of Southeast Oklahoma, not the genre of the 12 songs.”

The album was produced by Red River Sounds and can be purchased at www.chahta.net and is also available at the Choctaw Store.

Bintlee Thomas Deweese won first place in the Azle Independent School District Elementary Science Fair – First Grade Division. Bintlee’s Question was “How does salt affect ice and water?” The hypothesis was “The salt will cause the ice to melt.” Bintlee then went through four different experiments to test the hypothesis. Judges asked him specific questions about his project and he had to answer based on his experiments. After winning first place, Bintlee was then given the opportunity to compete in the entire Azle school district science fair. Bintlee won third place in the First Grade Division for the district.

Bintlee is the great-great-great grandson of William Isaac, who was an original enrollee in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His parents, Brandon and Andrea Deweese, little brother, Rilee and his grandmother, Paula Talley, are extremely proud of his accomplishments.



Deweese Wins First Place at Science Fair

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is now accepting applications for Mutual Help Homes in Atoka.

There are currently two vacant and recently remodeled Mutual Help Homes available in the Atoka, Oklahoma area. If you are interested in becoming a homeowner and would like additional information or for an application please contact:

Donna Courtwright
at the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
at (800) 235-3087 Ext. 6328.

Easter Celebration
March 10, 2018
Tusheka Homma

Begins at 11 a.m. at the Council House

- Lunch provided 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Welcome Chief Gary Batton at 12:30 p.m.
- Pictures with the Easter Bunny 10 a.m. in Membership Building
- Youth Stickball Game Starting at 10 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunts
 - Ages 2-4 (1:30 p.m. at Ball Fields)
 - Ages 5-7 (1:30 p.m. at Ball Fields)
 - Elder egg hunt (ages 55+) (2 p.m. on Museum Lawn)

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

SPRIT OF FAITH

Door prize tickets available by T-shirt booth. Door Prizes will be immediately after Chief's speech. Must be present to win. (Locations of activities may change due to inclement weather)

Living out the Chahta Spirit

CHOCTAW HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS
In Oklahoma
Must be a Choctaw tribal member and Oklahoma resident

3% Interest Rate

Up to 10 years

Maximum Loan Amount \$10,000

First Come, First Serve Basis and Availability of Funds

Call to request an application be mailed to you or call for additional information at (580) 326-7521, ext. 6361.

CHOCTAW HOME FINANCE
P.O. Box G, Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

TRAIL OF TEARS WALK
MAY 19, 2018

Choctaw Nation Division of Tribal Services

Cultural Services
Ext. 2517 and 2332

NOTICE:
Trail of Tears Walk T-Shirts & Caps Available at Event ONLY this Year...

Purchase Day of Event at the Trail of Tears Walk T-Shirt Booth

Shirts can be purchased AFTER the event at the Choctaw Store On-line....
(See June Advertisement for More Information)

1-800-522-6170 FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

Iti Fabussa

The Choctaw Methodist Mission

The Methodist faith has been around for centuries. Many Choctaw tribal members can trace their family’s faith back to early influential Choctaw Methodist ministers, both in Mississippi and in Indian Territory. This *Iti Fabussa* will conclude our exploration of missionaries that served the Choctaw Nation in its early formation by highlighting a brief history and Methodist

Choctaw missionaries of this faith.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws were first introduced to Methodist missionaries in 1827 by the Mississippi Conference. The MC is a regional body that governs much of the life of the “connectional church” including meetings, funding, and missionary efforts, and is still in existence today. The Rev. Alexander Talley was appointed superintendent of the MC, and through him a number of the leading men of the Choctaw Nation were converted. One of these men was the Choctaw chief, Greenwood Leflore, of the Okla Falaya District. The Methodist missionary work among the Choctaw lasted 10 years until it was interrupted by the removal of the Choctaw people from their homelands, beginning with that of the Choctaw in 1830.

In anticipation of the upcoming removal, in November and December of 1830, Methodist Reverend Alexander Talley traveled with 400 Choctaw people, a school teacher, and an interpreter, to Indian Territory to make preparations (Foreman 1989: 42, Wright 1928). They secured bushels of corn and set up a blacksmith shop, in order to provide for this early Choctaw community, anticipating the arrival of more Choctaw the following year (Foreman 1989: 42, Wright 1928). It seemed like they had to start completely over, but they knew they wanted to continue the mission work for Choctaw people. Fortunately, some strong Choctaw people had been added to the church before they were removed, and these Choctaw people would continue to lead the nearly 3,000 Choctaw and Chickasaw Methodist in their faith during and after removal.

Once settled, many Native ministers were sent out to particular communities across the Choctaw Nation. This lay ministry, powered by compassion and familiar faces, grew the membership of the Choctaws by the thousands. The Methodist Church created the Indian Mission Conference (IMC) in 1844. The inaugural annual meeting was held at Riley’s Chapel in Park Hill, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, near Tahlequah on October 22, 1844. Nearly one-fourth of the official attendees were Native. This growth continued into what would become the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference that Methodist members know today.

This success was in large part because of the two

basic positions Native ministers served in Indian Territory: local preachers and translators. Since most missionaries were unable to speak any native language, translators were vital to spreading Christianity. Methodist missionaries would appoint native ministers to serve local congregations as their official preachers. With Choctaw people still speaking their native language, these preachers were in high demand by native congregations. John Q. Tufts, the federal government’s Indian agent at Union Agency, stated in 1881 that native congregations “have no use for those in whom they have no confidence” (Smith 2012:70). Native preachers fostered trust among their congregations with services conducted in their native language and scheduled camp meetings to coincide with their community gatherings. Many congregations blossomed under this practice.

The Methodist Church sent missionaries to work alongside the native ministers to aid in their ministry and help shape them into fine minsters of the faith. Among these first Choctaw ministers was a man that went by the name of William Winans Oakchiah. Oakchiah was a full blood Choctaw who continued to preach the gospel, despite being threatened by his father that if he continued to preach, he would die by his hands. He stood up to his father, tall and proud, closed his eyes and said, “Shoot father, no forsake my Lord” (Babcock and Bryce 1935:47). This man was admired for his soft, gentle manners and thought to be warm and ardent in his piety (Goode 1864: 170-71). On one account from J.M. Steele, a missionary who traveled with Oakchiah, stated, “Never shall I forget the closing scene of our Sabbath evening service, when, after having in his own language preached in a most feeling and pathetic manner, he left the stand, and with eyes overflowed with tears, passed around, taking his congregation individually by the hand. Rarely have I seen in any human countenance so much of heaven” (Goode 1864:171). In 1831, he was admitted by trial into the Mississippi Conference, and became the first itinerant Choctaw preacher. Oakchiah served faithfully until his death in 1849.

Another Choctaw missionary who was able to capture his native audience was Willis Folsom, a mixed blood from Mississippi who came to Indian Territory in 1832. Being a part of his community, Mr. Folsom respected daily life of the Choctaw family and incorporated Christian principles into his sermons, rather than enforce new difficult-to-understand doctrine alien to the community. His emphasis on prayer eased the transition for individuals into Christian society. It also did not require




by Apryl Mock

The Whitesand Bennington United Methodist Church in Boswell is one of the oldest churches in the Southeast Region of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference circuit. The first location is just two miles south from the present site. The original location was used for worship until the new sanctuary was built by local members. The new sanctuary was dedicated by General Superintendent Dr. D.D. Etchieson on Sept. 25, 1966. According to the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference website, the church is still very active.

that Indian converts immediately throw off elements of their native culture once they became Christian. Native converts were less obsessed with church dogma and more concerned with Christian experience, which explains how Natives could incorporate Christianity into their own community without totally supplanting their own customs or beliefs. Mr. Folsom was able to reach many of his native people, and bring them to Christianity by just being himself and showing his love for the word.

Through the years, the Methodist faith continued to spread throughout Oklahoma. More native ministers created their own space with the larger Church communities, allowing them to grow and lead of their congregations. After heeding the calls from a collection of white and native ministers for change, the M.E. Church South created the Brewer Indian Mission in 1918. This gave native members more administrative control over the Church’s work. Camp meetings became, in the words of A. Frank Smith, the presiding bishop over the Indian Mission from 1930 to 1944, “a world within a world” (Babcock and Bryce 1935). For much of the twentieth century, Methodist Indian congregations found ways to protect, cultivate, and direct their own culture within a Christian context, which eventually culminated in the creation of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference in 1972.

Today the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference continues to thrive. The present membership is approximately 6,000 with 84 churches, several congregations being over 100 years old. The Conference has five fellowships and a Church & Community center. While OIMC is mostly comprised of Native American community members, the doors are always opened to anyone. This Iti Fabvssa, like others focusing on the early missionary efforts within the Choctaw Nation, hopes to highlight the dedication of early Choctaw people in shaping their communities to be strong, family and culture centered, and rich in faith. If you have family stories to share about early missionaries, please contact Joseph Wolf with the Historic Preservation Department at 580-924-8280 ext. 2259.




Homebuyers Education

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HOMEOWNER?

The Choctaw Nation Housing Authority offers FREE workshops for potential and new home owners. All materials are furnished.

For more information on dates and course locations, or to preregister, contact Amanda Russell at arussell@choctawhousing.com or 800.522.6170 Ext. 4127

- Are you thinking about buying a home?
- Are you unsure about becoming a homeowner?
- Where do you start?
- How do you apply for a mortgage? Where?
- Come get answers to your questions and concerns!
- Here's your key to home ownership
- Learn the steps to prepare for homeownership



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 of Oklahoma FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE



COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

- The Choctaw Clothing grant is a **one time only** allowance.
- A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00-4.00
- A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00-2.99

Fall awarding is January 1- April 1

For more information, please contact Jessica Huffman (800) 522-6170 ext. 2175 or Patricia Gibson ext. 2463

APPLY ONLINE
ccaapplication.choctawnation.com
 Paper applications NO longer accepted

Unclaimed Funds Notice

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals. If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact:

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
 P.O. Box 1210
 Durant, OK 74702
 Attn: Jessica Pickens, Payroll and Employee Services Accountant
 Or phone (580) 924-8280 ext. 2408
 Allie Marie James
 Kathryn Nicole Miller
 Donald Stevens
 Samantha Duncan
 Charlea Michaels

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Three Months Ended December 31, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	94,802,002	284,004,725	378,806,727
Expenditures			
General Government	40,546,788	-	40,546,788
Health	35,898,470	-	35,898,470
Education	6,241,464	-	6,241,464
Human	9,768,768	-	9,768,768
Community	4,409,092	-	4,409,092
Cultural	2,128,705	-	2,128,705
Judiciary	262,048	-	262,048
Internal Service	462,907	-	462,907
Choctaw Businesses		198,590,873	198,590,873
Total Expenditures	99,718,243	198,590,873	298,309,115
Transfers	85,858,149	(85,858,149)	-
Increase in Net Assets	80,941,909	(444,297)	80,497,612
Beginning Net Assets	2,308,743,907	879,048,429	3,187,792,335
Ending Net Assets	2,389,685,815	878,604,132	3,268,289,947

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of December 31, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,846,017,380	158,182,647	2,004,200,027
Receivables	337,774,076	30,811,433	368,585,509
Inventory	3,233,781	17,983,498	21,217,279
Prepaid Expenses	4,713,013	10,722,349	15,435,362
Other Assets	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	794,006,688	703,218,328	1,497,225,016
Less Payables	(635,567,666)	(2,805,581)	(638,373,247)
Net Assets	2,350,177,272	918,112,674	3,268,289,946

Need money for school clothing?

Student School and Activity Fund

- \$100 VISA gift card available nationwide for Choctaw Tribal Members who are attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade.
- Each student with a tribal membership can receive funding one time per school year.
- Apply online at ssaapplication.choctawnation.com

Applications for 2017-2018 School Year Available July 1, 2017- May 1, 2018

For more information contact Jessica Huffman or Patricia Gibson (800) 522-6170 ext. 2175 or 2463

Now Hiring

Chahtha Himmak Pila Pehlich
 “Choctaw Future Leaders”
Summer Leadership Internship

Applicants must fit in following guidelines:

- ⇒ Must possess a Choctaw Tribal Membership and/or CDIB
- ⇒ Be between 14-24 years of age
- ⇒ Be able to attend classes at Battiist, Rattan or Wright City
- ⇒ Classes will begin June 4th
- ⇒ Applicants are encouraged to be eager to learn, highly motivated, hardworking and willing to work as a team

For More Information:
 Hannah Wood
hwood@choctawnation.com
 580-326-8304 ext. 6073

Submit a Resume and Cover Letter to:
<http://careers.choctawnation.com>

Scholarships Available



Participants in the Tomorrow's Hope/T.E.A.M program learned valuable lessons and bonded with horses, during the two-month-long program.

Tomorrow's Hope Project Partners with Local Equine Therapy Program

by JOSH MABRAY

The Choctaw Nation Tomorrow's Hope Project successfully partnered with a local Equine Therapy program to offer eligible Choctaw Nation members a chance to work with horses as therapy. The program lasted from August through September of 2017 and created a partnership with the Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester.

The non-profit organization T.E.A.M (Therapeutic Equestrian Association of McAlester), lead by certified Equine Therapy trainer Mandy Carter, has been a staple within the McAlester community for over 10 years. Carter and her horses she refers to as her "co-workers", provide therapy for many that soon find animals such as horses to have positive effects on participants.

The Equine Therapy program was funded by the Tomorrow's Hope project for specifically chosen participants in the program within a certain age range.

One participant stated this opportunity to interact with the horses raised their awareness and respect for all animals.

"I enjoyed it. It was really relaxing and it motivated me to do more stuff with horses, and dogs and cats," the tribal member stated.

The equine program lasted for two months, meeting weekly, and allowed participants to realize "this isn't a pony show", Carter stated, but may take many weeks before participants ride the horses, but learn to interact, pay attention, read non-verbal cues through grooming and hand-walking the horses as well as cleaning stalls which provides a sense of responsibility and care for animals.

The Choctaw Nation, as many tribes, have a long, rich history with horses and have traditions that the program's participants were able to witness first-hand. Just as their ancestors, the bond these majestic creatures have with their handlers is spectacular to see.

"That I just touched a horse. How many people get to do that?" one participant stated. "I accomplished something that many don't get to do."

The sense of responsibility learned by participants, all within the ages of 10 and 24, was a common theme within the corral, and the value of working with these horses to build confidence and independence by working together in a group and helping take care of these animals were also lessons learned.

"I learned that I can accomplish more things if I tried," stated one participant. "I was even invited to help assist with other groups and other participants."

Remember healing can come in many different forms.

For more information on counseling services, please contact Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health at 918-567-3065 or McAlester Wind Horse at 918-302-0052.

"This newspaper article was developed, in part, under grant number 5H79SM062902-03 from SAMHSA. The views, opinions and content of this publication are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of CMHS, SAMHSA, or HHS, and should not be construed as such."

New Choctaw Hymns App Now Available

A new application for mobile devices will help preserve a tradition Chickasaw and Choctaw churchgoers have enjoyed for almost two centuries.

Developed by the Chickasaw Nation through the Chickasaw Press with cooperation from Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton, the app will allow songs to be opened on a smartphone in the event a church does not have enough hymnals to accommodate all singers.

"These beautiful and powerful Choctaw hymns have been a cherished part of church services for Chickasaws and Choctaws for generations," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. "This new app will help ensure this vital aspect of our culture and religion will continue to enhance the worship experience for generations to come."

Songs expressing different aspects of spirituality had been part of Chickasaw and Choctaw culture long before contact with Europeans.

When protestant missionaries arrived in Choctaw lands in 1819, they brought Christian hymns with them. As these missionaries began to learn the Choctaw language, they began preaching in Choctaw and also composing songs for the services.

Choctaws who converted to Christianity also began to preach, and some of those Choctaws also composed hymns in their language expressing concepts vital to Christianity.

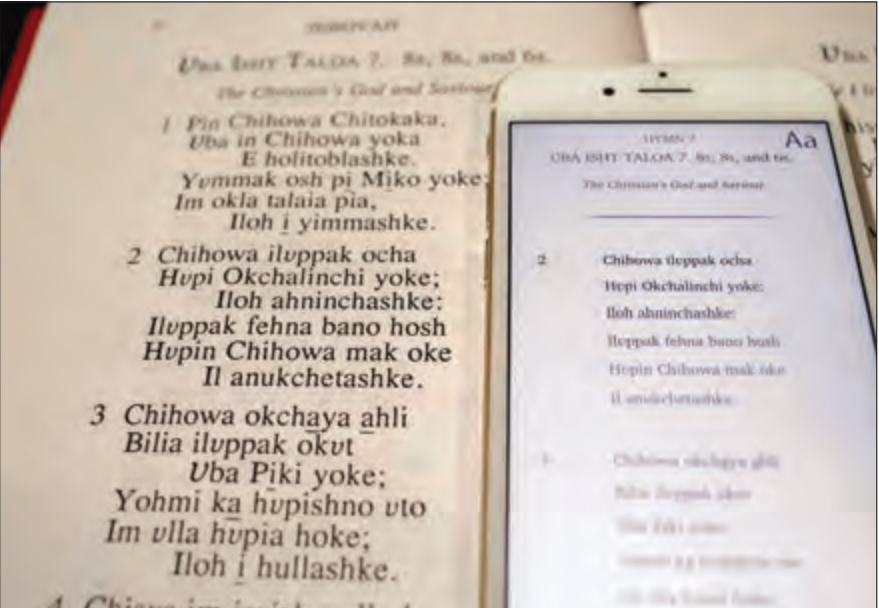


Photo Provided

Thanks to the new Choctaw Hymns app, individuals can conveniently access a Choctaw Hymnal instantly in the palm of their hand. The Choctaw Hymns app is now available for both Apple and Android devices through the Apple Store, Google Store and Amazon.

"Choctaw hymns have been passed down for generations, many of them sung on the Trail of Tears by our ancestors," Choctaw Chief Gary Batton said. "They provided comfort then and continue to be a source of strength for the Choctaw people. The app is a great way to always have them close. Yakohe to everyone who worked to make them available."

A Choctaw hymnal was first published in 1829 including 55 hymns. While some hymns popular today were not in that original hymnal, they were added to later editions, with the last major group of hymns added in 1850.

Parishioners will now have the ability to download 18 of those most beloved Choctaw hymns on an app developed through an agreement between the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations.

Approximately 20 new hymns will be added every three months until the complete Choctaw Hym-

nal is available.

The Choctaw Hymns app is available for both Apple and Android devices through the Apple Store, Google Store and Amazon, tribal officials announced.

Once downloaded, the hymnal will be available to the user even if internet or phone service are unavailable, which is particularly useful in rural areas. The songs are stored in the users' smartphone to be accessed at will.

A Table of Contents offers additional convenience for users. Worshipers will also have the ability to increase the font sizes from 18-28 point for ease of reading.

The app will be faithful to the integrity of the Choctaw Hymnal and will be a mirror image of the actual book hymnal, tribal officials said. It will give parishioners the ability to sing Choctaw Hymns without carrying the printed hymnal to worship services.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Competitive scholarships for Choctaw students

range from \$1,000 up to \$40,000

OPEN: JANUARY 15

DEADLINE: MARCH 31

CHAHTAFUNDATION.COM 580-924-8280 x2668

CAREER-FEST

Job Fair & Career Exploration Event

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

1:00PM - 4:00PM

Southeastern OSU

Bloomer Sullivan Arena

in Durant, OK

▪Network with representatives on hiring firms in the Bryan County Area.

▪Positions available in a variety of industries.

▪Bring 10-20 resumés.

▪Professional dress highly recommended.

For details contact:

Beth Parker 580-745-5397

or Jill Reyna 580-920-2260

Choctaw Nation Career Development is partnering with Kiamichi Technology Centers, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Works, Southern Workforce Board, and Durant Chamber of Commerce



Calling all textile, fiber, and traditional arts enthusiasts!

The Historic Preservation Department is organizing a series of textile workshops. We plan on experimenting with:

- ◊ Natural fibers
- ◊ Natural dyes
- ◊ Spinning
- ◊ Weaving

For more information and to join us, please contact:

Jennifer Byram
Historic Preservation
jbyram@choctawnation.com
1-800-522-6170 ext. 2512

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Noun and Verb Forms

Nouns: Door – okhisa store – aiittvtoba
Verb forms of open: tiwa – to become open
tiwa – to already be 'in the state of being' open
tiwwi – to open

- Katimmikma aiittvtoba mvt tiwa chi? *When (in the future) will that store open?*
- Okhisa yvt tiwa chi. *The door is going to open.*
- Okhissushi yvt tiwa. *The window is open.*
- Himonasi ya aiittvtoba mvt tiwa. *The store is open right now.*
- Chitakha ish tiwwi nna! *Do not open your mouth!*
- Okhis pa tiwwi nna! *Open this door!*


Verb forms of close or shut: akvmmi – to close; to shut
vlhkvmma – closed; shut

- Okhisa ma ish akvmmi tuk o? *Did you close that door?*
- Aiittvfama ya anumpa ilbvsha isht akvmmi tuk. *The meeting was closed with prayer.*
- Walmart vt oppiakma/obbiakma/okkiakma vlhkvmma chi.* *Walmart will close this evening.*
- Okhisa yvt chitoli hosh vlhkvmma tuk. *The door slammed shut.*

* Dialect differences

www.choctawschool.com

SHOW YOUR CHOCTAW PRIDE



STORE

choctawstore.com | f

CHOCTAW HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

Must be a Choctaw tribal member and Oklahoma resident

2017 licenses will be automatically renewed for 2018 and mailed to the address on your previous application.

If you applied in 2017 and did not receive your license, contact us by phone or email below.

New applications are currently being taken for 2018:

- Request an application be mailed to you or apply by phone 580-924-8280, ext. 2503
- Email huntingandfishing@choctawnation.com
- Online huntingandfishing.choctawnation.com

DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF OUTDOORS

800-522-6170, EXT. 2503 WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

FORT WORTH



Justin McDaniel, Tribal Events staff member, assists guests with registration at the Fort Worth Community Meeting.



Tribal member checkout the merchandise at the Choctaw Store booth at the Fort Worth Community Meeting.



Jared Tom shares with guests at the Fort Worth meeting the history of the game of stickball and the tribe's efforts to bring back this significant part of Chahta culture.



Eldest in attendance at the San Antonio meeting is Adeline Calhoun. Her maiden name was Bacon and she is originally from the Boswell, Oklahoma area.



Patricia McCurtian, 87, is the eldest in attendance at the Fort Worth Choctaw Community Meeting. Patricia was raised in the Sand Springs, Oklahoma area.



Patricia McCurtain, 87, is the eldest in attendance at the Fort Worth Choctaw Community Meeting. Patricia was raised in the Sand Springs, Oklahoma area.

Photos by Vonna Loper and Lisa Reed



Malinda Steve performs the Lord's Prayer in sign language during the San Antonio Community meeting. She works within the Cultural Services Department, which conducts instructional booths for Choctaw crafts during the meetings.

SAN ANTONIO



Choctaw Hymn No. 53 is sung for guests during the San Antonio cultural community meeting by Sharon Dodson, Lillie Roberts, Chief Batton, Brad Joe, Oneida Winship, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Rosa Gilmore.



Sisters Marsha Burge Hoffman of Shiner, Texas, and Margaret Burge Carlisle of Bay City, Texas, arrive at the Community Cultural Meeting in San Antonio. They both originally lived in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.



These young guests at the San Antonio meeting find a comfortable spot to listen and learn about the Choctaw language from Choctaw instructor Lillie Roberts.



SPiRiT OF EDUCATION



"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."

- DR. SEUSS

800-522-6170 ext. 2238
www.ChoctawNation.com

Living out the Chahta Spirit

Pastor Olin Williams

Why Christians Have Troubles



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

If a person has been a believer for a length of time, there comes a question in his mind of why problems and tribulations persist in his or her life.

We do our best to walk the Christian walk and yet the results are not to our expectations. Let's look at three reasons why this occurs.

The first reason could be for our chastisement. Hebrews 12:5-6 (KJV) says, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

If we are actually converted and being a child of God, continue in willful and habitual sin, we must be corrected by the loving heavenly Father.

Secondly, the troubles we have could be for our spiritual conditioning. In 2 Corinthians 1:4 (KJV) we read, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

There is a story of two young mothers. The first one lost her baby. After several years, the second mother lost hers. The second mother sent for the first mother to come and comfort her.

She said to her, "You lost your baby, and you know what I am experiencing and how my heart feels." Having similar experiences gives one a comforting spirit.

Thirdly, the reason could be for our conformant. Romans 8:29 (KJV) says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Troubles are designed to develop, perfect, and complete the conformity to the image of our Lord. In Psalms 17:15 (KJV) we read, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

In the seclusion of our troubles and pain, we find ourselves realizing the intimacy we are securing with our Lord. Philippians 2:10 (KJV), "That I may know him, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." After a time, the Spirit conveys to our full understanding that we are not our own. I Corinthians 6:19, 20, (KJV), "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."





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