



NEWS



WHERE DOES YOUR TRASH GO?

March 2019 Issue

Recycling Center Reaches 20 Million Pound Milestone

by APRYL MOCK

Every piece of waste has an impact on our planet. The Choctaw Nation Going Green Team, which operates under the Natural Resources Division, is doing their part to preserve earth.

As of Jan. 31, the Durant and Poteau Recycling Centers have processed a staggering 20,548,832 pounds of recycling.

Reducing waste has always been a part of Chahta culture.

In the book, "Chahta! Remembering Our Roots," Juanita Jefferson recounts what our ancestors did with animals following a hunt.

"The kill not only provided food but clothing sewn with strings from sinews. Needles and tools were made from bone and horns. Glue, arrow tips and flint making tools

came from antlers, and rattlers were made from hoofs. Deerskin made breechcloths and shirts for the man and cloaks for the women."

Our ancestors understood that each resource was a gift.

In today's world, it is easy to become complacent when it comes to honoring what we've been given.

Fast food restaurants churn out plastic straws, paper bags, cups and cardboard boxes by the millions and when you're a busy person, it's easy to just throw those things in the trash.

The Going Green Team is attempting to combat this problem by providing 133 recycling bins across the 10 ½ counties. To find a bin near you, contact Jason Lilley, Recycling Manager of the Choctaw Nation at (580) 920-0488

Lilley stresses the im-

portance of recycling. He said, "It's the right thing to do. It helps preserve our Mother Earth and protect the resources used."

According to Lilley, the recycling centers have increased their monthly output thanks to a new sort line and auto tie baler. "That has really helped the efficiency of the recycling department," Lilley said.

One of the biggest problems affecting the recycling facilities is receiving items that cannot be handled at our facility and contaminated items.

While plastic and metal can be rinsed out and processed, paper products soiled by food waste cannot and neither can your food.

If you would like to assist the Choctaw Nation's recycling endeavors, there are many small things you can do to help. While at work in the headquarters,

use the recycling bins instead of the trash when applicable. Please do not throw your food waste in them.

When janitorial staff come by, don't have them empty your waste basket until it is full, or instead of requesting a new trash can liner, simply pour the trash over into their bin.

You can reduce your waste by purchasing a water filter, drinking from a reusable bottle or purchasing a reusable straw.

It may not feel like much, but every little bit helps keep garbage out of the ecosystem and out of our wildlife. Making small changes can make a big difference.

For any questions, comments or concerns regarding recycling with the Choctaw Nation, you may contact the Durant Recycling Center at (580) 920-0488 or the Poteau Center at (918) 649-0343.

The Last Straw

Lately there has been a lot of controversy surrounding plastic straws.

While straws may seem like a very minor thing, they are wreaking havoc on wildlife.

If you haven't seen the [YouTube video](#) of a sea turtle having a straw removed from his nostril, it might just make you swear off straws altogether. (The video is graphic, viewer discretion is advised.)

According to National Geographic, 500 million straws are used every

single day and it is estimated as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws pollute the world's oceans.

Because of their size, they often slip through the cracks at recycling sorting facilities. Not to mention they are made of Polypropylene, which requires an incredible amount of energy to extract and refine.

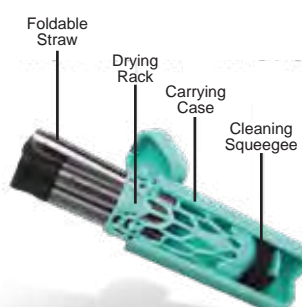
If you would like to cut down on plastic waste and help out some sea turtles, [www.thefinalstraw.com](#) offers a nifty reusable metal straw.



The Choctaw Nation recycling center accepts three types of plastic recyclables. Types 1, 2 and 5 are welcome, but types 3, 4, 6 and 7 cannot be recycled at our facility. To make sure you're recycling the proper plastic, check your waste for the symbol above. One common item which is unrecyclable at our facilities is chip bags. Visit [www.terminateplastic.com](#) to recycle your chip bags for free.



Plastic straws are just the right size to get lodged in the nose of a sea turtle or the throats of other marine life. Save a sea turtle by checking out [www.thefinalstraw.com](#) and getting your very own reusable straw. It arrives in a handy case that fits on a key ring and comes with a drying rack and cleaning squeegee.



The Life Cycle of a Water Bottle



A
Bottle "A" goes to a landfill where rain water leeches harmful compounds out of the bottle and into the groundwater. It will not degrade for 1,000 years.

B
Bottle "B" ends up in the ocean. Currents pull it into the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" (a section of the ocean filled with non-biodegradable garbage.) Animals mistake the colorful plastic for food. This makes them feel full when they aren't and they starve to death.

C
Bottle "C" will be made in to clothing, carpet, sleeping bags and much more. Bottle caps are made in to rakes, yarn, ropes, etc. The sky is the limit when you recycle!

CELE

Chahta Ohoyo Celebrated During Women's History Month



Chief Gary Batton

March is National Women's History Month in America. The Choctaw Nation has a rich history, filled with powerful Chahta ohoyos, who have helped shape the Choctaw Nation into what it is today.

Throughout our history, the Choctaw people have held women in high regard. They were recognized as givers and supporters of life. One of the most sacred places for early Choctaws is named *nvni h waiya*, the Mother Mound. The site plays a central role

in the origin story of the Choctaw tribe and is referred to as the heart of the Choctaw people.

For many of us, our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers played an integral part in keeping our families together and traditions alive. We look back fondly on time we spent with them, and are thankful for the lessons and love they bestowed upon us. I lost my mother in May of last year and she had a huge impact on my life and who I have become. I want to say *yako* to all of the mothers who sacrificed so much to give us love, life and shelter.

Historically, Choctaw women have held positions of great respect and power. Traditional Choctaw society was a matriarchal one. Women owned property, assisted in harvest and produced the majority of the food for their families. They accompanied men on diplomatic missions and served as motivators for their communities. Today, Choctaw women are still serving as leaders and motivators for our tribe. The Choctaw Nation currently employs 5,761 women, 176 of those serving in leadership positions. These women are leading the way for younger generations of Choctaw women to be the future leaders of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

In this month's issue of the *Biskinik*, you will be introduced to several young women who are doing great things and accomplishing so much in their lives. Nine-year-old Madison Bradshaw of Anadarko won a silver medal in the 50-meter freestyle swim during the Winter Special Olympics. Shay Hill of Talihina



Photo By Deidre Elrod

Melissa Bohannon has been the pillar of her family for generations. In Chahta culture, women are held in high regard and are recognized as the givers and supporters of life. March is National Women's history month. We honor our Chahta ohoyo past and present, who are representing the Nation proudly and keeping our traditions alive.

was recently awarded the Dennis Hemphill Hustle Award and Scholarship for her hard work on the basketball court and in the classroom. Chahta Sisters Harley and Charlotte Hopper and their Walden Grove High School dance team recently went viral for their Harry Potter dance. They've made appearances on Good Morning America and Season 13 of America's Got Talent. And finally, Anna Hoag was recognized as Engineer of the Year for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation. These young women are among the countless Choctaw women who are out there representing the Choctaw Nation in amazing ways. I want to encourage these young ladies to dream big and aim high. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to if you work hard and push yourself. Use the stories of the powerful Chahta ohoyos who came before you as guidance and inspiration. Remember their strength and resilience.

Choctaw Nation Continues to Foster Strong International Relationships



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Many groups designate specific months of the year to commemorate ideas, themes or programs. March has been named to remember at least 14. The best known of those is probably Irish-American Heritage Month. I find myself thinking about that one for several reasons in particular.

In 2017, the "Kindred Spirits" statue was unveiled in County Cork, Ireland. "Kindred Spirits" commemorates the 1847 donation of financial aid by the Choctaw people to the destitute Irish, who were suffering from the Potato Famine. The Choctaws donated \$170, which would be approximately \$4,700 in 2019 dollars. \$170 was a lot of money for our ancestors to share so soon after experiencing suffering of their own. Chief Batton and I had the honor and privilege of attending its dedication in 2017. In 2018, Ireland's prime minister visited the Choctaw Nation's headquarters. It was a special day.

The Choctaw people are strong and gracious, and I'm pleased to tell you we've been able to show others a similar kindness. Feb. 20 marked the 76th year since fatal airplane crashes north of Moyers took the lives

of four fliers in training from Britain's Royal Air Force. Three planes went down in bad weather on that day in 1943, crashing into separate mountains, and another managed to put down safely on the floor of Impson Valley, near Antlers.

In 1999 and 2000, a group of school students from Rattan Elementary School investigated the crashes, made contact with surviving family members of all four deceased pilots, and also with the two pilots who survived their emergency landing in the valley. The students, many of whom are Choctaw, erected a beautiful marker known as the AT6 Monument which lists the names of the deceased pilots and bears the Royal Air Force seal. It stands on Big Mountain at one of the two crash sites, adjacent to a small boulder which is known as the "Natural Tombstone." The stone was turned upright by the force of the crashing plane.

The AT6 Monument was dedicated in February 2000, before a very large crowd, including all the survivors, who came over from England and New Zealand for the occasion.

Smaller commemorations have been held each February since that year, each of them featuring the Choctaw Nation's Color Guard. Last year, on the 75th anniversary, Chief Batton and I hosted the commemoration and welcomed Britain's Consul General to the United States as well as a group of Royal Air Force officers and their families.

This February the Royal Air Force officers returned, again with their families, to join local residents in their yearly commemoration at the monument. RAF Squadron Leader Maj. Craig O'Donnell thanked the Choctaw Nation for its generosity and thoughtfulness. I'm pleased to tell you he singled out our Color Guard, noting that they have been present every year since 2000, faithfully helping honor Britain's fallen service members. It meant something to him personally, as well as professionally. Maj. O'Donnell pointed out that our Color Guard are always "impeccably turned out" and are excellent at what they do.

Our Color Guard's faithful attention to another country's fallen made a world of difference to our British friends. They make me proud to be Choctaw. Our people have consistently played a larger role in world affairs than you'd think possible, given our relatively small size. Events at the "Kindred Spirits" sculpture in Ireland, and on Big Mountain north of Moyers, remind me of why.



Photo By Bradley Gernard

Flight Sgt. Paul Szulc, Squadron Leader Maj. Craig O'Donnell and Squadron Leader Steve Tavener lay wreaths at the foot of the AT6 Monument in memory of the 76th anniversary of the four British Royal Air Force fliers who lost their lives in a training accident on Feb. 20, 1943.

Pastor Olin Williams

Weights and Balances



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

The first verse of Proverbs 11 states plainly, "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight." The two words "weight" and "balance" refer to a scale to measure weight of some kind. Scales are used universally. Weighing scales have become high-tech devices in modern times. From bathroom scales to ultra-precise devices used in research or industry, the modern scale is an essential part of life. The scale was developed out of necessity. As trading developed, merchants were confronted with a need to assess the value of goods that could not be simply counted by pieces. Since the "balance" or "beam" scale is the oldest weighing device known to man, no doubt Solomon is referring to this type of scale in this verse. In the "balance" or "beam" scale, a beam was hung at its center by a cord attached to a fixed support. Scale pans were hung at each end. The object to be weighed was placed on one scale pan, and known weights were

placed in the other scale pan until the two pans hung in absolute balance.

There is a story that illustrates the meaning of this passage. A sixteen-year-old boy got tired of going to school. He decided to leave home and find a good paying job. He found a job in an apple orchard. His job was to pack crates with apples. The manager gave instructions to put the larger apples in the bottom of the crates to reserve the top for the smaller apples. The boy marveled at the honesty of the manager, but not for long. After the boy packed the apples according to instructions, the manager returned and instructed the boy to put lids on the crates, turn them over, and place the labels on top. There are many "tricks of the trade" in this life. Mankind has devised many tricks to weigh his own justice. But the ways of man will be weighed on the scales of God's Word. When our dishonesty, pride, hypocrisy and other perverse thoughts are weighed, we will come out unbalanced. The Lord himself is the "just weight" which will give us the balance we need. God loves people so much that he is willing to give his "just weight" to whoever will ask of him.

2019 District Princess Pageants

All pageants will take place at 6 p.m. at the corresponding Choctaw Community Center.

April 18 - Broken Bow

April 18 - McAlester

April 25 - Poteau

April 25 - Stigler

April 25 - Wilburton

May 16 - Antlers

May 16 - Atoka

May 16 - Hugo

May 23 - Coalgate

May 23 - Idabel

May 23 - Talihina

June 1 - Durant

www.choctawnation.com/2019-2020-district-princess-pageant-information

Choctaw Nation Fully Recognized for Diabetes Program

By CHRIS JENNINGS

The Choctaw Nation received Full Recognition Status from the Centers for Disease Control for the Lifestyle Change Diabetes Prevention Program.

The CDC said in a letter that, "The sustained

success of your lifestyle change program makes an invaluable contribution to the prevention of Type 2 diabetes, both in your community and nationally." The status puts the CNO among only 10 organizations statewide with Full Recognition.

Eleven trained Lifestyle Coaches across the 10 ½ counties follow a CDC-approved curriculum. During the 12-month program, participants learn how to make positive lifestyle changes and track their diet and physical activity.

Participants meet in groups with a trained lifestyle coach for 16 weekly sessions and six-monthly follow-up sessions. They learn ways to incorporate healthier eating and moderate physical activity into busy lives. They also work on adding problem-solving, stress-reduction, and coping skills into their daily lives.

The simplest way to prevent diabetes is by making healthy lifestyle changes. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness community coordinator, Lee Ann Sherrill, RN, CDE says, "This program empowers patients with prediabetes and those at risk for Type 2 diabetes to take charge of their health and well-being. If diagnosed with prediabetes and you start working on lifestyle changes you can prevent, or delay diabetes for years."

Prediabetes is when your blood sugar is higher than it should be, but not in the diabetes range yet. According to the CDC, over 84 million American adults have prediabetes; this puts them at risk for Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Sherrill says, "A structured lifestyle change intervention showed that weight loss of 5 to 7 percent, achieved by reducing calories and increasing physical activity, reduced the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by 58 percent.

The seriousness of Type 2 dia-

betes prompted the CNO to start the Choctaw Nation Diabetes Prevention-CDC Lifestyle Change Program in 2013. "What we've seen across the board, is people want to be healthy. They've dropped their A1C (A common blood test used to diagnose Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.) back to normal and in some cases, been able to stop taking medications. Another great benefit is the fact that the family members and people in the lives of the participant also learn healthy lifestyle habits," said Sherrill.

The CNO has chosen to invest in its members with the diabetes prevention program. Chief Gary Batton says that this investment is important "We want to prolong and improve the quality of our tribal members' lives."

Sherrill says "Diabetes is the seventh most common cause of death in the United States." Compounding that fact, Native Americans are more than twice as likely to develop type 2 diabetes according to the CDC."

Along with more stress and a potentially reduced life expectancy, ignoring the diabetes warning signs can lead to increased medical costs. The CDC says average medical expenses among people with diabetes are twice as high for people without diabetes.

The health implications of having Type 2 diabetes can have a serious impact on quality of life for people with diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is a disease characterized by high blood sugar, usually resulting from unhealthy lifestyle habits and obesity. Type 2 diabetes can also cause heart, eye, kidney and nerve disease. Early control of Type 2 diabetes can stop complications from progressing.

An A1C lab test of 6.5 percent or above, can help to determine if you have diabetes. Common warning signs of diabetes include thirst, frequent urination, blurred vision and wounds that heal slowly.

Sherrill adds, "Anybody who thinks they might have diabetes or have a family history of diabetes

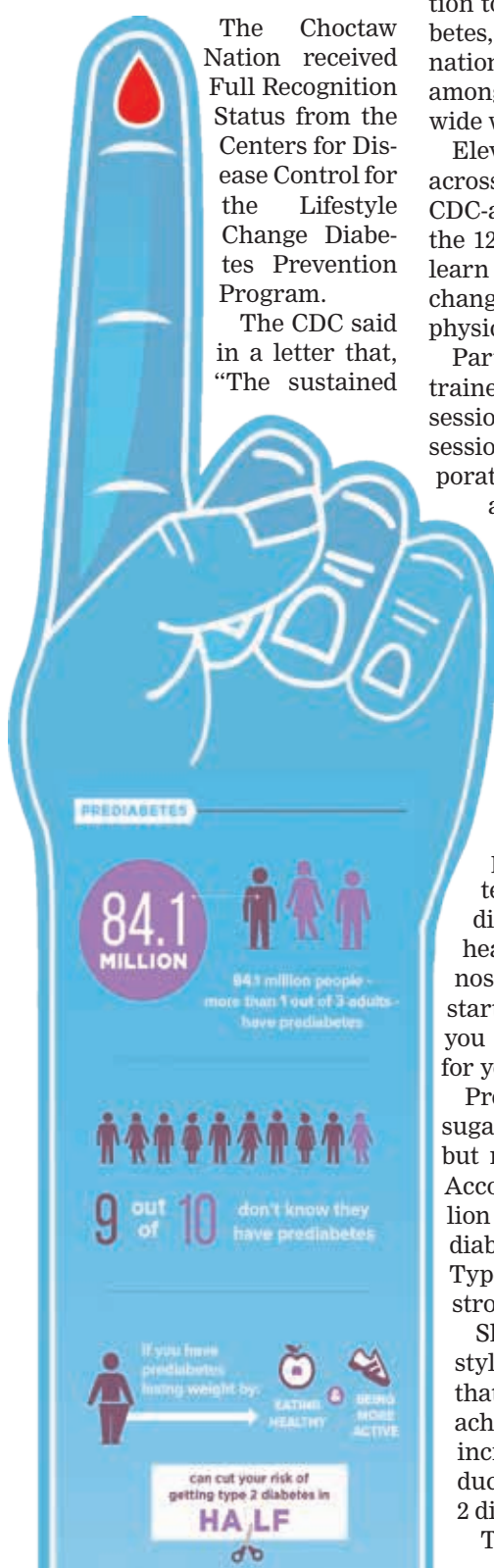
should have an annual physical with their provider and discuss risk factors."

The Full Recognition demonstrates the Nations commitment to the health and well-being of its tribal members and employees of CNO. Chief Batton says, "It speaks volumes because we are about family. It is our commitment that our family members stay healthy and with us as long as possible."

If a tribal member or employee of CNO is interested in learning more about the diabetes prevention program, please contact the diabetes educator in a clinic near them, or contact Lee Ann Sherrill, RN, CDE at lasherrill@cnhsa.com 918-423-8440, Ext. 31069.



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Take The Test — Know Your Score

YES	NO	
1	0	Are you a woman who has had a baby weighing more than 9 pounds at birth?
1	0	Do you have a sister or brother with diabetes?
1	0	Do you have a parent with diabetes?
5	0	Do you weigh as much as or more than the weight listed for your height at right?
5	0	Are you younger than 65 years of age and get little or no exercise in a typical day?
5	0	Are you between 45 and 64 years of age?
9	0	Are you 65 years of age or older?

Height	Weight (lbs)	Height	Weight (lbs)
4'10"	129	5'7"	172
4'11"	133	5'8"	177
5'0"	138	5'9"	177
5'1"	143	5'10"	188
5'2"	147	5'11"	193
5'3"	152	6'0"	199
5'4"	157	6'1"	204
5'5"	162	6'2"	210
5'6"	167	6'3"	216
		6'4"	221

IF YOUR SCORE IS 3 TO 8 POINTS — This means your risk is probably low for having prediabetes now. If you're overweight, lose weight. If you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure, talk to your health care provider about your risk for type 2 diabetes. IF YOUR SCORE IS 9 OR MORE POINTS — This means your risk is high for having prediabetes now. Please make an appointment with your health care provider soon.

Nutrition Month

It's National Nutrition Month! The theme this year is "Bite Into a Healthy Lifestyle."

Feeling inspired but not sure where to start? Here are a few great ways to build a healthy lifestyle.

Make Smart Choices. Do you know what's really in your food? How many calories? How many nutrients? The more you know, the wiser your decisions can be.

If you're shopping in the grocery store, look at the Nutrition Facts labels of foods before you put them in your cart. If you're dining out, look up the menu online.

Eat and Drink Fewer Calories. Keep empty calories to a minimum and focus on foods like fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, lean protein sources, low-fat dairy products and whole grains.

These are all keys to a healthful and balanced diet that's rich in nutrients.

NURSERY NEWS

Greyson James Sims



Greyson James Sims was born Jan. 15, 2019, at 6:32 p.m. in Oklahoma City. He weighed 2 pounds, 13.5 ounces and was 14 inches long. Greyson is the son of Lane Sims and the grandson of Andy and Barbara Sims.

Spanish Omelet

Ingredients

- 5 small potatoes, peeled and sliced
- Vegetable cooking spray
- 1/2 medium onion, minced
- 1 small zucchini, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups green/red peppers, sliced thin
- 5 medium mushrooms, sliced
- 3 whole eggs, beaten
- 5 egg whites, beaten
- Pepper and garlic salt with herbs, to taste
- 3 ounces shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1 Tbsp. low-fat parmesan cheese

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375 °F.
2. Cook potatoes in boiling water until tender.
3. In a nonstick pan, add vegetable spray and warm at medium heat.
4. Add onion and sauté until brown. Add vegetables and sauté until tender but not brown.
5. In a medium mixing bowl, slightly beat eggs and egg whites, pepper, garlic salt, and low-fat mozzarella cheese. Stir egg-cheese mixture into the cooked vegetables.
6. In a 10-inch pie pan or ovenproof skillet, add vegetable spray and transfer potatoes and egg mixture to pan. Sprinkle with low-fat parmesan cheese and bake until firm and brown on top, about 20–30 minutes.
7. Remove omelet from oven, cool for 10 minutes, and cut into five pieces.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Nutrition Facts:

Servings: 5, Serving size: 1 slice. Calories: 260, Trans Fat: 0 grams, Cholesterol: 135 milligrams, Sodium: 240 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates: 30 grams, Dietary Fiber: 3 grams, Sugars: 3 grams, Protein: 16 grams

Recipe by the Centers for Disease Control

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. of 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. of 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.

Building Healthy Families Through Good Nutrition

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 2019

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 19, 29 & 30.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 19, 29 & 30.

DURANT
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 19, 29 & 30.

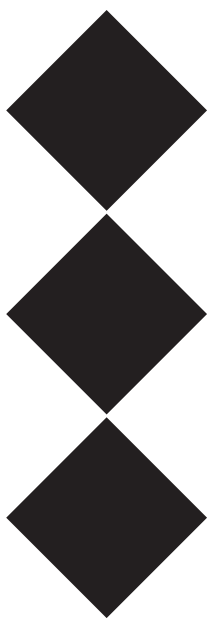
MCALESTER
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 19, 29 & 30.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for:
Closed: April 19, 29 & 30

Cooking With Carmen: Cooking With Carmen is cancelled until further notice.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, 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, 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.



4

Chahta Sisters Part of Viral PAC Dance Team

Harley and Charlotte Hopper are proud members of the viral PAC dance team.

The PAC dance team is responsible for the [Harry Potter dance video](#) that went viral last year. The team performed the dance as part of a homecoming rally and gained over 7 million views and 1.3 million shares.

They've also made appearances on Good Morning America as well as America's Got Talent, season 13, where they made it to the quarterfinals.

The team originates from Walden Grove High School in Sahuarita, Arizona, where Harley and Charlotte are both high school juniors.

The student council creates the concepts for their Hip Hop dances and the PAC dance team creates the performance.

The team competed in the Arizona State Cheerleading Championship on Feb. 15, and returned with a perfect score and their 5th straight state championship in Hip Hop dancing.



Fore Earns College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award



Dr. Christopher Fore (left) poses for a photo with and his mentor, John Chaney. Fore was honored with the College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. Fore is the founder of Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence and a 1997 graduate of Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Christopher Fore was awarded the 2018 College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award.

Fore is a 1997 graduate of Oklahoma State University's Clinical Psychology doctoral program.

The American Indians Into Psychology program and the Psychology Department also awarded him at a reception with the Distinguished American Indian Psychologist Award.

Fore founded and directs the Indian Health Service Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence. The organization focuses on improving access to care and developing models of care for

Native American tribes and communities across the U. S.

During Fore's visit, he mentioned the obstacles, opportunities and effectiveness of Telebehavioral Health in isolated American Indian communities.

Many communities have little or no access to behavioral health services.

He also described his work in developing the IHS Indian Children's Program, which provides education and consultation on behavioral health issues affecting American Indian children.

His talk emphasized the crucial role of culturally relevant practice as well as the need

for behavioral health services to consider the generational trauma faced by Native communities.

"Given the diversity of Native cultures, it is important for us to increase our understanding of cultural safety in the health care setting. We have to leave the doors open, and be able to honor and attempt to understand a person's perspective," said Fore.

Fore also met with Clinical Psychology graduate students and provided information about internships. Fore discussed his own career path with students, and concluded his visit with helpful tips on how to navigate the business of psychology.

Allread Pursues Doctorate

William "Tanner" Allread recently graduated from Yale University with honors. He was active in the Native American Association and studied the Choctaw language.

After graduation, Tanner spent two years with Teach for America. In the summer of 2018, Tanner attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute, which prepares Native American students for law school.

He attended with 27 students from across the U.S. and met with leaders in the field of Federal Indian Law.

The PLSI program named him "Best Overall Student." Tanner is currently attending Stanford Law School pursuing a Juris Doctorate, which is the highest law degree in the U.S. Tanner is from Union City, Oklahoma, and is the son of Bill and Ginger Allread, grandson of Harvey and Mary Ellen (Fout) Allread and great-grandson of Nelson Fout.



Bradshaw Earns Silver Medal at Special Olympics

Madison Bradshaw of Anadarko, Oklahoma, collected a silver medal in the 50-meter freestyle swim at the Winter Special Olympics.

She also took fifth place in the 25-meter freestyle swim.

This is Madison's second year to earn a medal at the Special Olympics.

Madison is the 9-year-old daughter of Gus and Jennifer Bradshaw and the granddaughter of Gene and Kaye Jones.



Church Graduates from OSUIT



Garrett Church of Kiowa, Oklahoma, graduated from Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Aug. 24, 2018.

He received an associate degree in Applied Science as a Pro-Tech automotive service technician. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and also received his ASE Master Automobile Technician Certificate by passing all eight areas of certification.

Garrett would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Tim Hold for the financial support and guidance they provided to help him achieve his goals.

Garrett is the son of Brad and April Church and the grandson of Cecil and Joyce Church, Letha Everett and Charles and April Everett.



Hill Receives Hustle Award

Shay Hill a Senior at Talihina High School, was awarded the Dennis Hemphill Hustle Award and Scholarship during the 87th annual Leflore County Basketball Tournament. Shay is the daughter of Jay and Karen Hill and the granddaughter of Judy and Alan Cline, Kevin Fearn and the late Sue Sheffield Fearn. She is the sister of Tristan, Madison and Levi Shay has a 4.12 GPA, was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll four years in a row, is a Varsity member of the Basketball team and has played for the Native American Basketball team for three years.

Jones Siblings Accepted to Harvard, MIT

Siblings Peyton and Connor Jones have been accepted into two of the most prestigious universities in the country.

Peyton Jones is currently a freshman at Harvard majoring in Cellular Biology and Connor Jones is a sophomore at MIT majoring in Chemical Engineering.

They are the children of Ron and Royce Jones of Richardson, Texas, and the grandchildren of Frank Jones of Bennington, Oklahoma.



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EVENTS

Health Fairs

March 13
10 a.m.
Wright City Choctaw Community Center

April 3
10 a.m.
Antlers Choctaw Community Center

April 17
10 a.m.
Spiro Choctaw Community Center

The Horns 42nd Annual Gospel Singing

March 23
7 p.m.

Bryan County Community Center
1901 S. 9th Street
Durant, Oklahoma

Special performances by The Crosby Family, The Stevens Family and many others.

Admission is free and concessions will be available.

For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-740-9519.

Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

March 22
6:30 p.m.

Crowder Choctaw Community Center
707 Bond Street
Crowder, Oklahoma

Special guests The Crosby Family

Sound provided by Redefined MC Rufus Gould and Herb Billy.

District 6 Events

March 1 - Council Member Jennifer Woods Community Prayer Meeting at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast. Indian Taco/Bake Sale/Indoor Yard Sale 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 5 - House Meeting 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grant Casino Day Trip. Bus leaves at 8:30 a.m.
March 6 - Monthly Senior Meeting - After Lunch Food Distribution pickup in McAlester after lunch.
March 10 - Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 21 - Food Distribu-

tion pickup in McAlester
March 26 - Senior Night Potluck and Bingo 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays
Senior Fitness Program 55 + at 9 a.m.

Wellness Center Chair Volleyball at 9:30 a.m.

Language Class at 6 p.m.

Wednesdays
Lunch and Guest Speaker at 11 a.m.

Cake on the first Wednesday of the month for that month's birthdays.

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)
- Guardianship 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. Guinn will be available every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the tribal headquarters building, located at 1802 Chukka Hina in Durant. Members with appointments for legal services should come to the front desk and ask for Kristi Phillips.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association & Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. The Choctaw Revolving Loan Program offers micro-loans, available for emergency home improvements and small businesses.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2161, ext. 2158 or toll-free (800) 522-6170.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association Loan To Be Eligible to Apply:

- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe

Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund To Be Eligible to Apply:

- Must live within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation
- Must possess a CDIB card from the Choctaw Nation



If you are interesting in applying for a loan a representative will be available at the:

Smithville Community Center
March 15
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Unclaimed Funds

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: Angie Ansel,

Payroll and Employee Services Accountant

Or Phone 580-924-8280 ext. 2467

LEANN SCALLY

JENA JOHNSON

EDGARDO FIGUEROA

KOBI COLEMAN

TYLER LEE FITZGERALD

Biskinik

Announcement Policy

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

Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries. We do not post wedding announcements.

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

We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters 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 necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Mail to: Choctaw Nation

Attn: Biskinik

P.O. Box 1210

Durant, OK 74702

or email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Feb. 9, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session, committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, were approved.

New business included approval of the following items:

a) Administer Oath of Office to Election Board Member Jane Parent

Council bills approved:

b) Approve Funds and Budget for the Year Four of Five Continuation for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Community-Directed Grant Program (SDPI)

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

c) Approve Application for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area #1 - COPS Tribal Resources Hiring and Equipment/Training Grant

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed; Combined with D and E

d) Approve Application for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area #3 - Tribal Justice Systems Grant

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed; Combined with C and E

e) Approve Application for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations Purpose Area #7 - Tribal Victim Services Program

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed; Combined with C and D

f) Rescind CB-148-18 and Approve the New Budget for Year One of the 2018 Choctaw Nation Public Health Strategic Planning Talking Circles Cooperative Agreement

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

g) Authorize Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Participation in Nationwide Title VI Elder Needs Assessment

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

h) Approve Application to Request a Carryover of Funds from FY 2015 through 2018 to FY 2019/2020 for the Choctaw Nation Early Head Start Program

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

i) Approve to Dispose of Surplus Capital Assets

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

j) Approve Leasing of Real and Personal Property

Vote Counts:

YEAs-6 (Tony Ward, Jennifer Woods, Jack Austin, James Dry, Anthony Dillard, and James Frazier)

NAYs: 3 (Kenny Bryant, Delton Cox, and Perry Thompson)

Abstain: 2 (Ron Perry and Bob Pate)

Vote Result: Bill Rejected

k) Approve a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

Vote Counts: YEAs-Unanimous; Vote Result: Bill Passed

l) Proposed Amendment to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Constitution to be Considered for Adoption by a Vote of Qualified Tribal Members

Vote Counts:

YEAs-5 (Tony Ward, Jennifer Woods, James Dry, Anthony Dillard, and James Frazier)

NAYs: 3 (Kenny Bryant, Jack Austin, and Perry Thompson)

Abstain: 3 (Delton Cox, Ron Perry, and Bob Pate)

Vote Result: Bill Rejected

Old Business

Adjournment

Closing prayer

Council Members Present: Jack Austin
Tony Ward Perry Thompson

Kenny Bryant James Dry
Delton Cox Anthony Dillard
Jennifer Woods Bob Pate

Ronald Perry James Frazier

Next regular scheduled council meeting will be 10:00 am, March 9, 2019, at Tvshka Homma.

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

Denim Day

Wheelock Academy Historic Site will host its fourth annual Denim Day April 24, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Denim Day was started in 1999 to bring awareness to sexual assault.

Some of the Choctaw Nation programs and departments that will participate in the event this year are, Project Empower, Choctaw Nation SART, Project STRONG, Children and Family Services/Family Violence Prevention, Historic Preservation/Cultural Services and Native Alliance Against Violence.

This year's event has added more partners to make it bigger and bring more awareness to sexual assault and its misconceptions. There will also be a special focus on missing and murdered indigenous women. Booths, cultural activities, guest speakers and a red shoe walk will also be part of the day's activities.

For more information contact Karen Lyons at 918-429-6137, klyons@choctawnation.com or Sandy Hall at 918-302-0052, smhall@cnhsa.com.

April 2019 Schedule

Durant: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Idabel and Broken Bow by appointment

April 3 • Talihina • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April 10 • Poteau • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

April 17 • McAlester • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April By Appointment

April 2 • Antlers

April 23 • Idabel

April 9 • Wright City

April 24 • Wilburton

April 12 • Crowder

April 26 • Atoka & Coalgate

April 17 • Stigler

April 30 • Broken Bow

Phone: (580) 326-8304

Fax: (580) 326-0115

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NOTES

5

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The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for 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. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK or your address needs to be changed, our Direct Member Communications would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

- Evaluations and Assessments
- Counseling and Guidance
- Referral Services
- On-the-Job-Training
- Physical and Mental Restoration

DURANT LIVESTOCK SHOW

Swine-Overall

Grand Champion - Jaycee Cox, Spiro



Reserve Grand Champion - Clay Stoner, Rock Creek
Bronze Champion - Clancy Davis, Rock Creek
Swine Senior Showmanship - Hunter Hawkins, Rattan
Swine Junior Showmanship - Caden Goodson, Harmony

Berkshire

Champion - Keona Mason, Tishomingo
Reserve - Kaitlyn Dufur, Durant Intermediate

Class I: 1. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola 2. Garrett Latham, Coalgate 3. Destiny Brewer, Savanna
Class II: 1. Riley Garrison, Lone Grove 2. Reece Jordan, Latta 3. Mel Allison, Lindsay
Class III: 1. Keona Mason, Tishomingo 2. Kaitlyn Dufur, Durant Intermediate 3. Devin Emert, Bennington

Chester

Breed Champion - Clancy Davis, Rock Creek
Reserve Breed Champion - Caden Goodson, Harmony

Class I: 1. Clancy Davis, Rock Creek 2. Caden Goodson, Harmony 3. Madison Dufur, Northwest Heights
Class II: 1. Elijah Minor, Tushka 2. Riley Garrison, Lone Grove 3. Hudson Long, Dibble

Duroc

Breed Champion - Shaelynn Hokett, Rattan
Reserve Breed Champion - Christian Hammons, Antlers

Class I: 1. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan 2. Brandee Stover, Wapanucka 3. Jasmine Latham, Cottonwood
Class II: 1. Christian Hammons, Antlers 2. Daylen Russell, Wapanucka 3. Jenna Traylor, Byng
Class III: 1. Madison Sam, Coalgate 2. Taylor Mobbs, Tushka 3. Josie Magby, Stringtown
Class IV: 1. Shaelynn Hokett, Rattan 2. Lathan Ballard, Latta 3. Jaxton Fortner, Tupelo

Hampshire

Breed Champion - Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Reserve Breed Champion - Caden Goodson, Harmony

Class I: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo 2. Cash Clardy, Haworth 3. Easton Bussell, Fort Towson
Class II: 1. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek 2. Holden McGahey, Madill 3. Katelyn Taylor, Elgin
Class III: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony 2. Blaine Ake, Tupelo 3. Hadley Jo Bell, Madill
Class IV: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro 2. Noah Wilson, Kiefer 3. Madison Sam, Coalgate
Class V: 1. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan 2. Josh Winnett, Rock Creek 3. Ace Wood, Byng

Poland

Breed Champion - Noah Wilson, Kiefer
Reserve Breed Champion - Hudson Long, Dibble

Class I: 1. Noah Wilson, Kiefer 2. Hudson Long, Dibble 3. Kimbri Huett, Whitesboro

Spot

Breed Champion - Gabby Marsh, Antlers
Reserve Breed Champion - Josey Moore, Dale

Class I: 1. Alexia Clardy, Haworth 2. Addilynn Wood, Yukon 3. Zeke Russell, Wapanucka
Class II: 1. Jaelie Winters, Tupelo 2. Josey Moore, Dale 3. Rylie Wood, Coalgate
Class III: 1. Gabby Marsh, Antlers 2. Josey Moore, Dale 3. Peyton Bridwell, Washington

York

Breed Champion - Clay Stoner, Rock Creek
Reserve Breed Champion - Blaine Ake, Tupelo

Class I: 1. Peyton Bridwell, Washington 2. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan 3. Devin Emert, Bennington
Class II: 1. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek 2. Austin Harris, Lone Grove 3. Hadley Jo Bell, Madill
Class III: 1. Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers 2. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek 3. Carly Russell, Bennington

Cross

Breed Champion - Ky Miller, Caddo
Reserve Breed Champion - Kaylee Andrews, Colbert

Class I: 1. Konnor Daniels, Van Alstyne 2. Ty Coker, Bennington 3. Noah Wilson, Kiefer
Class II: 1. Katelyn Taylor, Elgin 2. Mel Allison, Lindsay 3. Tegan Davidson, Wapanucka
Class III: 1. Bailey Bradley, Caddo 2. Hank Bradley, Caddo 3. Jensen Peay, Allen
Class IV: 1. Riley Garrison, Lone Grove 2. Taylor Bridwell, Washington 3. Ty Coker, Bennington
Class V: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo 2. Devin Emert, Bennington 3. Zeke Russell, Wapanucka
Class VI: 1. Ky Miller, Caddo 2. Sawyer Kennedy, Whitesboro 3. Josey Moore, Dale
Class VII: 1. Tyler Boyett, Rattan 2. Hudson Long, Dibble 3. Addilynn Wood, Yukon
Class VIII: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro 2. Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers 3. Caden Goodson, Harmony
Class IX: 1. Holli Hembree, Antlers 2. Lawton Hammer, Davis 3. Montgomery Harrison, Kiowa
Class X: 1. Kaylee Andrews, Colbert 2. Mel Allison, Lindsay 3. Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Class XI: 1. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek 2. Savannah Herndon, Soper 3. Rowdy Wood, Coalgate

Durant Livestock Show Photos by Kendra Germany, Karen Jacob, Chris Jennings and Apryl Mock

More photographs from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show in Durant are available online at choctawnation.smugmug.com

Doe Goats

Grand Champion - Jaycee Watkins, Allen



Reserve Grand Champion - Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Bronze Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur

Div I, Class I: 1. Dually Robison, Checotah 2. Lucas Reznor, Silo 3. Madison Dufur, Durant
Class II: 1. Berklee Gossen, Meeker 2. Chace McCoy, Edmond 4H 3. James Jones, Roff
Class III: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur 2. Kylie Alford, Stonewall 3. Lillie Fincher, Talihina
Class IV: 1. Josie Fortner, Tupelo 2. Colton Price, Caddo 3. Kayden Alford, Stonewall
Class V: 1. Colton Price, Caddo 2. James Kellam, Silo 3. Hazin Stoner, Rock Creek

Div I Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Div I Reserve Champion - Berklee Gossen, Meeker

Div II, Class I: 1. Chace McCoy, Edmond 4H 2. Lucas Reznor, Silo 3. Kayden Alford, Stonewall
Class II: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen 2. Laney Alford, Tishomingo 3. Hadleigh Workman, Caney
Class III: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen 2. Rainey Davidson, Coalgate 3. Berklee Gossen, Meeker
Class IV: 1. Kayden Alford, Stonewall 2. Drake McMillan, Meeker 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola
Class V: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen 2. Rainey Davidson, Coalgate 3. Karlee Glover, Checotah

Div II Champion - Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Div II Reserve Champion - Jaycee Watkins, Allen

Wether Goats

Grand Champion - Lucas Reznor, Silo



Reserve Grand Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Bronze Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Goat Senior Showmanship - Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Goat Junior Showmanship - Rainey Davidson, Coalgate

Div I, Class I: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur 2. Chace McCoy, Edmond 4H 3. Johnathan Jones, Mill Creek
Class II: 1. Rainey Davidson, Coalgate 2. Raili Beal, Soper 3. Cole Selvy, Madill
Class III: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka 2. Mya Cryer, Kingston 3. Raeanna Morrison, Harrah

Div I Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Div I Reserve Champion - Rainey Davidson, Coalgate

Div II, Class I: 1. Lucas Reznor, Silo 2. Hunter Mann, Sulphur 3. Berklee Gossen, Meeker
Class II: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka 2. Chace McCoy, Edmond 4H 3. Drake McMillan, Meeker
Class III: 1. Berklee Gossen, Meeker 2. Laney Alford, Tishomingo 3. Nataley Edwards, Hugo

Div II Champion - Lucas Reznor, Silo
Div II Reserve Champion - Hunter Mann, Sulphur

Lamb

Grand Champion - Kristen Walck, Sulphur



Reserve Grand Champion - Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Bronze Champion - Kirsten Walck, Sulphur
Lamb Senior Showmanship - Ashlynn Arrol, Madill
Lamb Junior Showmanship - Gracey Bray, Lindsay

Div I, Class I: 1. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina 2. Charlee Couch, Tushka 3. Jewel Parker, Tupelo
Class II: 1. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina 2. Emily Morris, Fort Towson 3. Kendall Cogburn, Rattan
Class III: 1. Jace Alford, Tishomingo 2. Jewel Parker, Tupelo 3. Ashlynn Arrol, Madill
Class IV: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka 2. Taylor Litterell, Tuttle 3. Jaden Vantrees, Hugo

Div I Champion - Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Div I Reserve Champion - Jace Alford, Tishomingo

Div II, Class I: 1. Kirsten Walck, Sulphur 2. Abby Rodriguez, Tupelo 3. Jace Alford, Tishomingo
Class II: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka 2. Cadey Jones, Marlow 3. Barrett Sitton, Binger-Oney
Class III: 1. Kirsten Walck, Sulphur 2. Marie House, Kiowa 3. Ashlynn Arrol, Madill

Div II Champion - Kirsten Walck, Sulphur
Div II Reserve Champion - Kirsten Walck, Sulphur

Div III, Class I: 1. Kirsten Walck, Sulphur 2. Cadey Jones, Marlow 3. Marie House, Kiowa
Class II: 1. Cadey Jones, Marlow 2. Jace Alford, Tishomingo 3. Emily Arroid, Madill
Class III: 1. Gracey Bray, Lindsay 2. Bracie Gray, Caddo 3. Taija Parrott, Silo

Div III Champion - Kirsten Walck, Sulphur
Div III Reserve Champion - Cadey Jones, Marlow

Heifer-Overall

Grand Champion - Merideth Behrens, Colbert



Reserve Grand Champion - Blayke Bolen, Stonewall
Bronze Champion - Kodi Hokett, Soper

Heifer- English Division

Breed Champion - Margarita Loving, Kingston
Reserve Breed Champion - Merideth Behrens, Colbert

Class I: 1. Margarita Loving, Kingston 2. Merideth Behrens, Colbert 3. Emily Morris, Fort Towson
Class II: 1. James Stoneking, Valliant
Class III: 1. Piper Dudley, Dickson 2. Kylee Patterson, Tushka

Heifer-Continental Division

Breed Champion - Kye Lennon, Avery
Reserve Breed Champion - Kodi Hokett, Soper

Class I: 1. Stormy Campbell, Kingston 2. Rose Lamar, Snyder
Class II: 1. Tabitha Boyd, Tushka 2. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill 3. Hailey Morris, Fort Towson
Class III: 1. Kodi Hokett, Soper 2. Kenlea Vernon, Mill Creek 3. Blayke Bolen, Stonewall
Class IV: 1. Caston Lackey, Vanoss 2. Jaxton Fortner, Tupelo 3. Colton Ince, Lindsay
Class V: 1. Blayke Bolen, Stonewall 2. Josie Fortner, Tupelo

Heifer-Brahman Division

Breed Champion - Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Jansan Storey, Valliant

Class I: 1. Jansan Storey, Valliant 2. Colton Ince, Lindsay
Class II: 1. Kye Lennon, Avery

Heifer-Any Other Breed

Breed Champion - Merideth Behrens, Colbert
Reserve Breed Champion - Harmony Lee, Durant

Class I: 1. Colton Richards, Milburn 2. Tabitha Boyd, Tushka 3. Maggie Hunt, Lane
Class II: 1. Hadleigh Workman, Caney 2. Griffin Behrens, Colbert 3. Kitana Campbell, Kingston
Class III: 1. Griffin Behrens, Colbert 2. Stormy Campbell, Kingston 3. Jasmine Latham, Coalgate
Class IV: 1. Tiffany Lamar, Snyder 2. Tiffany Lamar, Snyder 3. Kayden Payne, Hugo
Class V: 1. Clancey Foran, Tushka 2. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill 3. Kara Stanglin, Colbert
Class VI: 1. Harmony Lee, Durant 2. Jillian Sutton, Tushka 3. Jaxton Fortner, Tupelo
Class VII: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert 2. Clancey Foran, Tushka 3. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill

Steers-Overall

Grand Champion - Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo



Reserve Grand Champion - Lane House, Tishomingo
Bronze Champion - Lane House, Tishomingo
Cattle Senior Showmanship - Tabitha Boyd, Tushka
Cattle Junior Showmanship - Josie Fortner, Tupelo

Steers-English Division

Breed Champion - Lane House, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Garrett Latham, Coalgate

Class I: 1. Faith Hill, Soper 2. Kimberly Vaughan, Stonewall
Class II: 1. Lane House, Tishomingo 2. Garrett Latham, Coalgate 3. Alex Robinson, Rock Creek

Steers-Continental

Breed Champion - Lane House, Tishomingo
Reserve Breed Champion - Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola

Class I: 1. Emilie Richards, Milburn 2. Colton Richards, Milburn 3. Jansan Storey, Valliant

Class II: 1. Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo 2. James Kellum, Silo 3. Chase Wood, Savanna
Class III: 1. Lane House, Tishomingo 2. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola 3. Ashley Kinzi, Sulphur
Class IV: 1. Nick Northcutt, Tishomingo 2. Piper Dudley, Dickson 3. Kale Horton, Coalgate

Steers-Any Other Breed

Breed Champion - Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek
Reserve Breed Champion - Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo

Class I: 1. Kara Stanglin, Colbert 2. Kamber Stanglin, Colbert 3. Colton Richards, Milburn
Class II: 1. Zoie Lovett, Tishomingo 2. Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek



Youth involved in livestock shows, learn responsibility and sportsmanship along with many other life lessons.

WILBURTON LIVESTOCK SHOW

Swine-Overall

Grand Champion - Makayla Campagna, Red Oak



Reserve Champion - Braylon Spears, Hartshorne
Bronze Champion - Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy
Junior Showmanship - Leyton Jacobs, Ada
Senior Showmanship - Railey Spears, Hartshorne

Berkshire

Champion - Lea Medders, Red Oak
Reserve - Ally Trotter, Vian
Bronze - Tory Mason, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Lea Medders, Red Oak 2. Ally Trotter, Vian
3. Adarra Wilson, Parker
Class II: 1. Tory Mason, Hartshorne 2. Ben Thomas, Red Oak 3. Rebecca Brunson, Buffalo Valley
Class III: 1. Tory Mason, Hartshorne 2. Broc Rogers, Spiro 3. Quade McGee, Whitesboro

Chester

Champion - Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy
Reserve - Trenton Peel, Wetumka
Bronze - Kenidee Woods, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Trenton Peel, Wetumka 2. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak 3. Bronc Ward, Wister
Class II: 1. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Kenidee Woods, Hartshorne 3. Reed Allen, Red Oak

Duroc

Champion - Kaulen Turpin, Moss
Reserve - Kaden Dugger, Checotah
Bronze - Trenton Peel, Wetumka

Class I: 1. Luke Spradlin, Porum 2. Joshua Williams, Caddo 3. Dalton Carter, Checotah
Class II: 1. TruVon Willis, Jones Academy 2. Tanner McAlester, Wister 3. Kyler Thompson, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Trenton Peek, Wetumka
2. RiLee Miller, Porum 3. Ethan Sparks, Antlers
Class IV: 1. Jalen Spears, Wilburton 2. Destanie Logston, Jones Academy 3. Lainey Hightower, Canadian
Class V: 1. Kaulen Turpin, Moss 2. Kenidee Woods, Hartshorne 3. Hailey Cox, Checotah

Hampshire

Champion - Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Reserve - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Bronze - Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy

Class I: 1. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak 3. Kaulen Turpin, Moss
Class II: 1. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne 3. Manning Robertson, Moss
Class III: 1. Madison Walker, Red Oak 2. Stetson Spears, Hartshorne 3. Emma Lawson, Wilburton
Class IV: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne 2. Raylee Phillips, Hartshorne 3. Jalen Spears, Wilburton
Class V: 1. Natalee Harper, Spiro 2. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne 3. Zabre Pound, Porum
Class VI: 1. Caden Sumpter, Red Oak 2. Emma Wilkett, Wilburton 3. Kasen Krebbs, Heavener
Class VII: 1. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Jaelin Lyday, Caddo 3. Torben Vocque, LeFlore

Poland

Champion - Braylon Spears, Hartshorne
Reserve - Tuff Trotter, Vian
Bronze - Kasen Krebbs, Heavener

Class I: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne 2. Tuff Trotter, Vian 3. Kasen Krebbs, Heavener

Spot

Champion - Kaleb Robison, Moss
Reserve - Addison Spicer, Fairview
Bronze - Kaleb Robison, Moss

Class I: 1. Addison Spicer, Fairview 2. Kaleb Robison, Moss 3. Cody McFarland, Holdenville
Class II: 1. Kaleb Robison, Moss 2. Peiper Rogers, Spiro 3. Luke Spradlin, Porum
Class III: 1. Bayley Neal, Adair 2. Dalton Lee, Sapulpa 3. Trenton Peel, Wetumka

York

Champion - Joshua Williams, Caddo
Reserve - Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Bronze - Braylon Spears, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Joshua Williams, Caddo 2. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne 3. Lainey Hightower, Canadian
Class II: 1. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Chasity Smith, Vian 3. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class III: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Jenaro Lujano, Jones Academy 3. Raylee Phillips, Hartshorne
Class IV: 1. Ashlyn Moody, Heavener 2. Taymen Vocque, Leflore 3. Jaycee Robison, Moss

Cross

Champion - Makayla Campagna, Red Oak
Reserve - Braylon Spears, Hartshorne
Bronze - Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy

Class I: 1. Turner West, Hartshorne 2. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy 3. Mattie Robertson, Moss
Class II: 1. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak 2. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy 3. Tory Mason, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne
2. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak 3. Quincy Pearce, Porum
Class IV: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Kensley Yandell, Heavener 3. Dallas Carter, Checotah
Class V: 1. Daxton Weiher, Hartshorne 2. Madison Walker, Red Oak 3. Jaclin Lyday, Caddo
Class VI: 1. Kylee Free, Heavener 2. TruVon Willis, Jones Academy 3. Kenidee Woods, Hartshorne
Class VII: 1. Titus Montgomery, Red Oak 2. Sheldon Buchanan, Yukon 3. Sara Coates, Holdenville
Class VIII: 1. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak 3. Latasha Beall, Jones Academy
Class IX: 1. Zabre Pound, Porum 2. Nate Doshier, Poteau 3. Natalee Harper, Spiro
Class X: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Hazen Sparks, Buffalo Valley 3. Kyrar Rogers, Spiro
Class XI: 1. Shaylan Duncan, Heavener 2. Kasen Krebbs, Heavener 3. Tanner Hambricht, Spiro
Class XII: 1. Bayley Neal, Adair 2. Braylin Harper, Spiro 3. Bryeigh Clark, Spiro
Class XII: 1. Torben Vocque, LeFlore 2. Shyla Hatcher, Tuskahoma 3. Taymen Vocque, LeFlore

Doe Goats

Grand Champion - Carson Wheeler, Luther



Reserved Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Bronze - Hailey Pryor, Moss

Div. I, Class I: 1. Carson Wheeler, Luther 2. Tucker Conrad, Spiro 3. Hunter Cole, Wister
Class II: 1. Makayla Crawford, Moss 2. Tripp McGowan, Fanshawe 3. Colten Phillips, Crowder
Class III: 1. Lane Caudell, Wister 2. Brookelyn Cannon, Wilburton 3. Garrett Clark, Poteau
Class IV: 1. Kate Trammell, Washington 2. Hayven Hoffman, Panama 3. Zoe Moreno, Howe

Div. I Champion - Carson Wheeler, Luther
Div. I Reserve Champion - Lane Caudell, Wister
Div. I Bronze - Hailey Pryor, Moss

Div II, Class V: 1. Karlee Trammell, Washington 2. Alia Caudell, Howe 3. Hailey Pryor, Moss
Class VI: 1. Jade McPeak, Checotah 2. Karlee Trammell, Washington 3. Hailey Pryor, Moss
Class VII: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne 2. Hailey Pryor, Washington 3. Skye Gammon, Broken Bow
Class IX: 1. Kate Trammell, Washington 2. Paisley Bershear, Poteau 3. Hayven Hoffman, Panama

Div. II Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Div. II Reserve - Hailey Pryor, Moss
Div. II Bronze - Karlee Trammell, Washington

Wether Goats

Grand Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne



Reserve Champion - Skye Gammon, Broken Bow
Bronze - Skye Gammon - Broken Bow
Junior Showmanship - Paisley Bershear, Poteau
Senior Showmanship - Lane Caudell, Wister

Div. I, Class I: 1. Connor Williams, Coalgate 2. Clayton Lawson, Wilburton 3. Dalton O'Dell, Whitesboro
Class II: 1. Skye Gammon, Broken Bow 2. Paisley Bershear, Poteau 3. Riley Pryor, Moss
Class III: 1. Jace Milburn, Asher 2. Riley Pryor, Moss 3. Marissa Lambert, Moss

Div. I Champion - Skye Gammon, Broken Bow
Div. I Reserve - Jace Milburn, Asher
Div. I Bronze - Paisley Bershear, Poteau

Div. II, Class V: 1. Tucker Conrad, Spiro 2. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne 3. Tara Goldsborough, Red Oak
Class VI: 1. Skye Gammon, Broken Bow 2. Maddison Wynd, Moore 3. Laney Sparks, Buffalo Valley
Class VII: 1. Jase Sparks, Hartshorne 2. Skye Gammon, Broken Bow 3. Twine Palmer, Hartshorne

Div. II Champion - Jase Sparks, Hartshorne
Div. II Reserve - Skye Gammon, Broken Bow
Div. II Bronze - Paisley Bershear, Poteau

Lamb

Grand Champion - Payne Reavis, Broken Bow



Reserve Champion - Bailey Simpson, Locust Grove
Bronze - Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Junior Showmanship - Brookelyn Ramsey, Moore
Senior Showmanship - Dylan Simpson, Locust Grove

Div I, Class I: 1. Rynda Wilson, Quinton 2. Rynda Wilson, Quinton 3. Sarah England, Spiro
Class II: 1. Bailey Simpson, Locust Grove 2. Taylor McGill, Tuttle 3. Paisley Bershear, Poteau
Class III: 1. Dylan Simpson, Locust Grove 2. Taylor McGill, Tuttle 3. Paisley Bershear, Poteau

Div. I Champion - Bailey Simpson, Locust Grove
Div. I Reserve - Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Div. I Bronze - Dylan Simpson, Locust Grove

Div II, Class IV: 1. Dylan Simpson, Locust Grove 2. Maddison Wynd, Moore 3. Brookelyn Ramsey, Moore
Class V: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow 2. Bailey Simpson, Locust Grove 3. Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Class VI: 1. Felicity Ruthart, Broken Bow 2. Paisley Bershear, Poteau 3. Ashton Winingham, Vian

Div. II Champion - Payne Reavis, Broken Bow
Div. II Reserve - Dylan Simpson, Locust Grove
Div. II Bronze - Bailey Simpson, Locust Grove

Wilburton Livestock Show Photos
by Susie Holly-Bull

Heifer-Overall

Supreme Heifer - Isaiah Sallee, Porum



Reserve Supreme - Isaiah Sallee - Porum
Bronze - Mylie Campbell - Checotah

Heifer- English Division

Champion - Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Reserve Champion - Baylee Smith, Oktaha
Bronze - Baylee Smith, Oktaha

Class I: 1. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket
Class II: 1. Baylee Smith, Oktaha 2. Jace Bibee, Stigler 3. Colton Hulsey, Wilburton
Class III: 1. Ciara Johnson, Panama
Class IV: 1. Baylee Smith, Oktaha 2. Blakelee Pugh, Gore
Class V: 1. Ethan Shoemake, Porum 3. Jaylee Kelso, Konawa

Heifer-Continental Division

Champion - Isiah Salee, Porum
Reserve Champion - Mylie Campbell, Checotah
Bronze - Kelsey Wall, Bluejacket

Class I: 1. Ketch Coates, Tushka
Class II: 1. Isiah Salee, Porum
Class III: 1. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket 2. Alaysia Barbee, Porum 3. Dalton Johnson, Checotah
Class IV: 1. Brynn Bibee, Stigler 2. Kaytie Cash, Porum 3. Cody Johnson, Checotah
Class V: 1. Dalton Johnson, Checotah 2. Kody Wall, Bluejacket 3. Cody Johnson, Checotah
Class VI: 1. Payton Foran, Holdenville
Class VII: 1. Kelsey Wall, Bluejacket 2. Brynn Bibee, Stigler
Class VIII: 1. Brynn Bibee, Stigler
Class IX: 1. Alaysia Barbee, Porum
Class X: 1. Mylie Campbell, Checotah
2. Quincy Pearce, Porum
3. Blakelee Pugh, Gore

Heifer-Brahman Influence

Champion - Jaxon Hill, Moss
Reserve Champion - Jaxon Hill, Moss
Bronze, Cade Hill, Moss

Class I: 1. Cade Hill, Moss
Class II: 1. Jaxon Hill, Moss
Class III: 1. Jaxon Hill, Moss

Heifer-Any Other Breed

Champion - Isaiah Sallee, Porum
Reserve Champion - Randie North, Broken Arrow
Bronze - Abby Cato, Savanna

Class I: 1. Randie North, Broken Arrow 2. Abby Cato, Savanna 3. Connor Williams, Coalgate 4. Karen Woodrall, Howe
Class II: 1. Ethan Shoemake, Porum 2. Jaylee Kelso, Konawa 3. Peyton Bolinger, Fort. Gibson 4. Justin Kerlan, Bluejacket 5. Waylon Dishman, Porum 6. Alaysia Barbee, Porum
Class III: 1. Mylie Campbell, Checotah 2. Kollin Coates, Tushka 3. Patricia Walden, Wister 4. Ali Price, Red Oak
Class IV: 1. Jaylee Kelso, Konawa 2. Adysen Dishman, Porum 3. Emma Jo Holland, Fort Gibson
Class V: 1. Isiah Salee, Porum 2. Malichi Barnes, Rockdale 3. Trenton Mayhall, Stigler
Class VI: 1. Conner Williams, Coalgate 2. Jace Bibee, Stigler
Class VII: 1. Kaytie Cash, Porum 2. Dylan McCabe, Wilburton
Class VIII: 1. Peyton Bolinger, Fort Gibson 2. Konner Upton, Wister 3. Alyssa Powell, Wilburton

Steers - Overall

Grand Champion - Emma Jo Holland, Ft. Gibson



Reserve Champion - Jaycee Kitchell - Hartshorne
Bronze Champion - Randie North, Broken Arrow
Cattle Senior Showmanship - Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Cattle Junior Showmanship - Baylee Smith, Oktaha

Steers-English Division

Champion - Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne
Reserve Champion - Charli Curliss, Hartshorne
Bronze - Malichi Barnes, Rockdale

Class I: 1. McKenzie Hodge, Eagletown
Class II: 1. Malichi Barnes, Rockdale 2. Alexis Stufflebean, Hartshorne
Class II: 1. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne 2. Colten Hulsey, Wilburton 3. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket
Class IV: 1. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne 2. Kollin Coates, Tushka
Class V: 1. Brent Lambert, Moss

Steers-Continental

Champion - Randie North, Broken Arrow
Reserve - Roni Jo Martin, Wister
Bronze - Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Justin Herlan, Bluejacket 2. Malichi Barnes, Rockdale
Class II: 1. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne 2. Alyssa Powell, Wilburton
Class III: 1. Ketch Coates, Tushka
Class IV: 1. Randie North, Wilburton 2. John O'Kelley, Hartshorne
Class V: 1. Roni Jo Martin, Wister

Steers- Brahman Influence

Champion - Jaxon Hill, Moss

Steers-Any Other Breed

Champion - Emma Jo Holland, Fort. Gibson
Reserve - Ray Mathis, Canadian
Bronze - Christian Mathis, Canadian

Class I: 1. Malichi Barnes, Rockdale
Class II: 1. Ray Mathis, Canadian 2. Christian Mathis, Canadian
Class III: 1. Emma Jo Holland, Fort. Gibson

8 OBITUARIES



Sonya Conn

Sonya Conn, 52, passed away Dec. 12, 2018. Sonya was born April 22, 1966, in Atoka, Oklahoma to Earl and Sandra (Frazier) Conn. She was preceded in death by her parents. Sonya is survived by her brothers Kevin Conn and spouse Gwendolynn and Henry Conn and spouse Deanna; sister Leslie Page; mother Dana Page and spouse Ronald; 12 nieces and nephews, numerous great-nieces and nephews and many other friends and family. For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Home](#).

Evelyn Christene (Dorton) Mach



Evelyn Christene (Dorton) Mach, 79, passed away Sep. 25, 2018.

Evelyn was born Sep. 16, 1939, in Fewell, Oklahoma to Elmer and Jewel Dorton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother Jerry.

Evelyn is survived by her husband Paul; daughters Debra, Paula, Diane and son Gary and spouse Waisse; sister Joyce Cherry; grandchildren Misti Stephens and spouse Dan, Brandi Mach, Dillon Mach and spouse Kristen of Clinton, Casey Mach, and McKenna Mach; and five great grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Smith Turner Mortuary](#).

Charles Pebworth



Charles Pebworth, 92, passed away Jan. 10.

Charles was born Nov. 3, 1926, in Kinta, Oklahoma to Louis Aaron and Ann Lorena (Hodges) Pebworth.

He is survived by his wife Nona; children Lisa and spouse Abhijeet and grandsons Ian and Larkin, Jeff Pebworth and spouse Julie, Alison and partner Chris Sollars, and Cindy King and spouse Jared and grandchildren Lily and Liam.

For the full obituary, please visit [Moores Funeral Chapel](#).

Aline (Lance) Monk



Aline (Lance) Monk, 93, passed away Jan. 4.

Aline was born in Harts-horne, Oklahoma Aug. 12, 1925, to Juanita Pearl Richardson and Benjamin "Sim" Lance.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband George W. Monks Jr.; stepfather Jay Allen; brother Kenneth Lance; and brother-in-law K Hudson Jr.

Aline is survived by her sister Geneva L. Hudson; nieces Lorela Hudson and Sewa Kaur Khalsa; and many other cousins, nieces and nephews.

For the full obituary please visit [Yanda & Sons Funeral Home](#).

Lajuana Ludlow



Lajuana Ludlow, 40, passed away Jan. 8.

Lajuana was born March 3, 1978, to Floyd Ludlow and Doris Burris.

She was preceded in death by her son Andre'as Ludlow; father Floyd Ludlow; grandparents Lewis and Minnie Ludlow, and lee and Mildred Burris; and cousin Jamie Lynn Burris.

Lajuana is survived by her son Brenden Jackson; daughters Shyla Jackson and Serenity Jackson; mother Doris Burris; brothers Dennis Ludlow and Jeremy Burris and spouse Joy; nephews Jett and Jase Burris; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

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

Dorothy Wesley



Dorothy Wesley, 81, passed away Dec. 31, 2018.

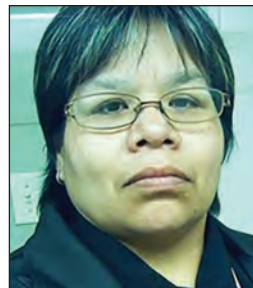
Dorothy was born July 19, 1937, to Lestie and Lizzie (Jessie) Battiest.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Susie Wesley; brothers Abbie Battiest, Abraham Battiest and Virgil Jessie; close friends Mary Caterby and Newton Wesley; nephews Adam Carterby and Ross Sanders; niece Rebecca Battiest.

Dorothy is survived by her children Elsie Jumper, Melissa Wesley, Lucinda Wesley, Sharon Wesley, Lizzie Adams, Dorinda Wesley, Dora Tom and spouse Glenn; sons Roger Wesley Sr., Newton Wesley Jr., Nathan Wesley, Nolan Wesley; special nephew John Ray Carterby; sisters Violet Sanders, Eva Baker, Vera Battiest, and Emily Basnight; 42 grandchildren; 52 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and many friends.

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

Stephanie Denise Noahubi



Stephanie Denise Noahubi, 46, passed away Oct. 14, 2018.

Stephanie was born Oct. 10, 1972.

She was preceded in death by her father Stephen Carnell Noahubi; uncles Cornelius Noahubi and David Williams; aunts Nina Ramirez and Olivia Longoria; and special friend Gail Begay.

Stephanie is survived by her mother Jean Noahubi; sister Roberta "Bird" Noahubi; brother-in-law Ray Gomez; nephew Ignacio Gomez; great-nephew Elijah Gomez; nieces Veronica Gomez, Amber Gomez and Chianna Gomez; great-nieces Angelina, Lynsia, Davelynn "pollie" and Nevayah; Dennis "Robin" and Mrs. Ann Noahubi, Edison Williams, Nathan Greyhawk and Donna Williams, James and Melissa Williams; aunts Bertha and Johnny Bason Jr. and Jackie Davis; cousins Tricia, Jimmy, Stephen, Anthony, Jacob, Amelia, Tonya, Sonia, Jobina, Nicholas, Johnny, Tenayah, Angel, Buddy, Joseph and Junior.

For the full obituary, please visit [Hughes Funeral Homes](#).

Jeremy Michael Poston



Jeremy Michael Poston, 41, passed away Jan. 11.

Jeremy was born Oct. 14, 1977, to David Ray Poston and Cindy Delosier.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Virginia and A.V. Dollar and Lee Roy and Dorothy Poston; great-grandparents Wilard ad Mary Delozier; sister Angel Marie; uncles Jerry Dollar and Roy Edwin Poston; and aunt Tammie Dollar.

Jeremy is survived by his wife Mylissa Poston; children Joe Crow, Chevy Lane Poston and Hailey Poston; mother Cindy Poston and spouse Jerry Farrell; father David Poston and spouse Darla; sister, Tamara Williams and spouse Hoss; brothers Brandon Delozier, Ryan Poston and spouse Ashleigh Nagy, and Joseph Poston; nieces and nephews Brendon Farrell, Cactus Williams, Bailey Williams, Jarron Delozier and Carson Ray Poston; great-niece and nephew Robin Womack "Sissy" and Lane Farrell.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Service](#).

Karen Kay (Davis) Holliman



Karen Kay (Davis) Holiman, 72, passed away Dec. 29, 2018.

Karen was born July 14, 1946, in Taihina, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her mother Florene Susan Logan; her partner Olegario Guy Gutierrez; brothers Johnny Mack Knapp, Erick Frank Knapp, Cecil Fletcher Hinkie and Paul (Pete) Hinkie; grandson Jonathan Michael Irish; and her devoted dog Buster.

Karen is survived by her brother Mark Hinkie and partner Sharon Hetmaniak; daughters Laura (Holiman) Corley and son-in-law Jack Corley, and Karen Nicole Sonnier and son-in-law Woody Sonnier; grandchildren Keely N. Brack, Brandon G. Irish and Dragan A. Sonnier; granddaughter-in-law Patricia Sonnier; nephews John (Andy) Knapp, Paul Hinkie, William Hinkie, and spouse Thy, and Cal Hinkie; Nieces Susan Holt and spouse Justin, and Candice Hinkey; and many lifelong friends.

For the full obituary please visit [Blackwell and Vazquez - Woodforest Funeral Home](#).

Ricky Ray Bohanon



Ricky Ray Bohanon, 53, passed away Jan. 6.

Ricky was born Feb. 20, 1965, to Issac and Lula Bohanon in Taihina, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by brothers Willard, Henry and Bradley Bohanon; wife Rolena (Wallace) Bohanon; and his parents.

Riicky is survived by his sons Randall and Jordan Bohanon; sister Elaine Wallace; aunt Melissa Bohanon; and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

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

Wesley Gaines



Wesley Gaines, 74, passed away Dec. 6, 2018.

Wesley was born May 13, 1944, in Lawton, Oklahoma to William and Abbie Gaines.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Woodrow and Lewis Gaines and Watson Nedd; sisters Willie Joyce Ross, Betty Owens and Hattie Williamson; and grandson Vincent Gaines.

Wesley is survived by his children Wesley Gaines Jr. and Pattie Williams; sisters Willie Ahdunko, Joy White Buffalo, Lula Sailor; brothers Henry Nedd and William Gaines; grandchildren Brandie, Natoshia, Wesley III, Lavona, Evan, Vincent, Meloney, Danicia, Deabrean, Isacca, and Derrick; and many nieces and nephews.

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

Sue Anne Dean



Sue Anne Dean, 73, passed away Jan. 17.

She was born June 17, 1945.

Sue is survived by her husband H.A. Dean Jr.; and daughter Danielle (Dean) McFarlane and spouse Steven.

For the full obituary, please visit [Swicegood Funeral home](#).

Thelma Jean Prewett



Thelma Jean Prewett, 58, passed away Dec. 22, 2018.

Thelma was born on Aug. 29, 1960, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to James and Betty (Bratton) Mason.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Thelma is survived by her husband David Radford; step-son Devin Radford; sister-in-law Debbie Radford; Close friends: Rachelle Holder, Dana Church, Kari Smith, Ella Young and James Wallace. She also considered her team she worked with over the years as friends: Heather Prince, Tonja Smalling, Cindy Pickett, Casey Smith, Ashlie Miller, Gina Nas-sar; She also greatly appreciated the new comers of her team Tonya Samuel, Tracy Turner, and Kristy Gilpatrick, and all the maintenance men from the Choctaw Nation.

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

Don "Donnie" Houston Robertson



Don "Donnie" Houston Robertson, 79, passed away Jan. 18.

Donnie was born Oct. 5, 1939.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Dorothy Barnes and Linda Christian; brothers Billy Joe Robertson and Alvin Lynn Buchanan.

Donnie is survived by his wife Carolyn; daughters Melissa Wilson and spouse Raymond, and Rebecca Robertson; granddaughters Lauren Wilson, Laurissa Kovacs and Caren Wilson-Bowler and Stasha Ganaway; grandsons Jeffrey and Kevin Dillard; great-granddaughters Journee Bowler and Scarlett Craig; Sister Louise Buchanan; brother Rickey Buchanan; step-father Alvin Buchanan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Service](#).

Howard Dennis Folsom



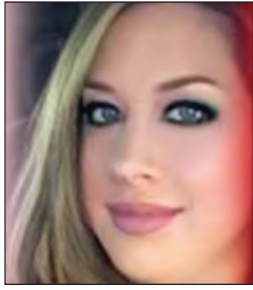
Howard Dennis Folsom, 93, passed away July 6, 2018.

He was born July 22, 1924, in Non, Oklahoma.

Howard is survived by his wife Mary Ellen; sons Dennis Folsom and Richard Folsom; daughter Eileen Harrington; grandchildren Spencer, Patty, Ashley and Tara; and great-grandchildren Juliet and Jade.

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

Jessica Maritte (Juric, Taylor, Maple) Dobson



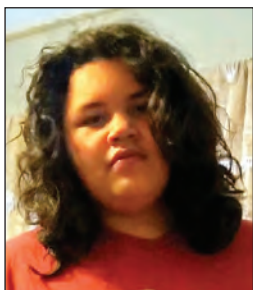
Jessica Maritte (Juric, Taylor, Maple) Dobson, 38, passed away Sep. 14, 2018.

Jessica was born on May 21, 1980 at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas to Patti and Joseph Juric.

She was preceded in death by her father; grandparents Olga and Melvin Juric; maternal grandfather Thomas Novotny; and grandfather Hugh Taylor. Jessica is survived by her husband David Dobson; daughter Kayla Juric and son Kody Dobson; parents Patti and Neal Taylor; sister Jennifer Juric-Roberts; brother Travis Taylor; grandmother Margueritte Novotny; and many extended family and friends.

For the full obituary please visit the [Biskinik website](#).

Logan Little Eagle Moore



Logan Little Eagle Moore, 14, passed away Sep. 2, 2018.

Logan was born Feb. 2, 2004, in Durant, Oklahoma to Davey LaRon and Jessica Ann (Sanford) Moore.

He was preceded in death by brother Cyle Laymon; maternal grandparents Dave and Barbara Sanford; paternal grandparents Carl and Gladys Moore; and cousin Trace Sanford. Logan is survived by his parents Davey and Jessica Moore; sisters Karen Center, Kylie Laymon, Katelyn Laymon, and Kaycee Moore; brothers, Cody Laymon, and Chase Laymon; nieces Phoebe Laymon, and Olivia Mizell; nephews Cody Laymon, Sean Laymon, and Waylon Laymon; aunts Besse Baker, Mariea Noahubi, and Donna Christmann; uncles Tiger Moore, Jamie Sanford, and Scott Bradshaw; cousins Kevin, Chance, Amanda, Chelci, Brandon, Derek, Joey, Kendall, Cassie, and Piper; special friend Melvin Owen, Jr.; and many other relatives and friends.

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

Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw Nation tribal members only and are free of charge.

The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes.

Family members/individuals may submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspaper 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. The online issue of the Biskinik will contain links to the full obituaries.

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702
or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Hoag Named 2019 Engineer of the Year



by CHARLES CLARK

Anna Hoag was recognized as Engineer of the Year for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation.

The Quinton native lives in Oklahoma City where she is employed as a civil engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation.

She credits scholarships from the Choctaw Nation for assistance in obtaining her civil engineering degree from Oklahoma State University and her master's degree in environmental engineering from California State University-Fullerton.

She has also obtained her license

as a Professional Engineer in Oklahoma.

"The Choctaw Nation has played such a pivotal role in my life," said Hoag. "The Choctaw Nation has done so much to elevate those from southeastern Oklahoma and I am so proud to be a member of our tribe."

The award was presented, along with 31 other federal agency winners from around the world, at a ceremony hosted by the National Society of Professional Engineers Feb. 22.

The National Press Club in Washington, D.C. keynote speaker was Edward M. Dieser, Chief Engineer Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service.



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Kennedy Family Hosts Yearly Dinner



The Kennedy family is a cornerstone of the El Reno community. The Kennedys organize a yearly dinner which is funded by surrounding businesses and the community.

"There are people who have been coming here every year for decades," said Diana Kennedy. Diana started the event with her husband around 30 years ago. She added "We've really been blessed by so many people."

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Joel Harkins will celebrate his 80th birthday March 3. Joel is a U. S. Navy Veteran. He is the grandson of William Joel Harkins and the great-grandson of George Washington Harkins. One of Harkins' favorite quotes is, "Never regret growing older. It's a privilege denied to many."

Geneva Jane (Duncan) Smith celebrated her 90th birthday Dec. 24, 2018.

Geneva's sons, daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson were all present to spend time with her on her special day.

Geneva is the proud daughter of Martin and Ethel Duncan.



CHOCTAW NATION HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

2019 LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE!

Eligibility Requirements

- Choctaw Tribal Members
- Oklahoma Residents

To apply, please visit
HuntingandFishing.ChoctawNation.com

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks processing time for receipt of license. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation applicable laws apply to Choctaw License holders.

Annual application process for new or renewal of license from October 1 - September 30. Any applications received after September 15 will be processed for the following season.

If you have questions, contact the State of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at 405-511-3852 or visit their website at: <https://wildlifedepartment.com/>

LICENSE HOLDERS MUST RE-APPLY EACH YEAR

HUNTINGANDFISHING@CHOCTAWNATION.COM | 800-522-6170 EXT. 2503 | CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Chief Batton's 2019 Easter Celebration

April 13, 2019

Tvshka Homma

10 a.m. until dark
Stickball games

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Live cultural demonstrations at the Choctaw Village

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Lunch Served
(Food blessed by Olin Williams)

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bunny Pictures
Tribal Membership Building

11 a.m. - end of event
Children 0-12 Pre-registration for wristbands for 2019 Labor Day
Carnival Rides
located next near to 1-A/101 table

1:30 p.m.
Kids Easter Egg Hunts
Ball Fields

2:00 p.m.
Elder Easter Egg Hunt
Museum Lawn

12:30 p.m.
Welcome
Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

Opening Prayer
Cousinperson Jennifer Woods

Introduction of Chief Gary Batton
Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

Lord's Prayer

Introduction of Speaker of Council
Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

Introduction of Tribal Council
Council Speaker

Announcements
Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

Easter Message
Olin Williams

Door prize drawing
Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.

Homebuyers Education

Are you interested in becoming a home owner?

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

For more information on dates and course locations, or to preregister, contact our education coordinators at 580.579.6007 or 580.579.7319 or HousingEducation@choctawnation.com

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Iti Fabussa Windy Month

This article is part of a series entitled “A Year in the Life”. Focusing on the time period around AD 1700, this series follows the traditional Choctaw calendar through a year, with each article providing a glimpse of the activities that our ancestors were up to during each month. This information is excerpted from a book, soon to be published by the Choctaw Nation, which is entitled “Choctaw Food: Remembering the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge”.

Mahli Hvshi, Windy Month, roughly corresponds with March. During March, the lengthening days of late winter begin to bring warmer temperatures and wind. By the end of the month, the woods begin budding out, and new green growth peeks out from under the protective mat of dormant native grass. March is a time of transition in the landscapes of the Choctaw homeland, and it was also the time when our ancestors played their biggest role in

shaping these landscapes — They set them on fire.

Today, wildfire has a bad reputation. We think of it burning down houses and destroying beautiful landscapes. Fire is nothing to play with, but it is also a natural part of the landscape and has a very important role to fulfill. Long before people were around, lightning strikes set fire to North America’s landscapes. Fires helped to recycle nutrients and reset ecological succession. Many native plant species adapted to fire in ways that helped the plants to seed, regenerate, and even helped to spread future range fires. By at least 10,000 years ago, our Native American ancestors had begun to use intentionally set range fires as a tool to manage the landscapes around them. Over time, these regularly set range fires opened up the woods, making travel easier. They made plant and animal habitat more diverse, increased the land’s carry capacity for deer, and improved the habitat for a number of culturally important plants.

Range fires have really only become a problem in more recent years, as people have built permanent homes in areas that are prone to fire. As land managers have worked to prevent wildfires, the landscape has become more dense in woody plant growth and less diverse. By working to prevent fire, land managers have often made the situation more dangerous, by allowing dead plant material to build up on the



The effect of a March range fire. Left: natural meadow. Right: fresh grass springing to life on recently blackened ground.



A mixed forest in the Choctaw homeland, managed by burning (Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge).

ground. When a fire eventually does get started, this extra plant material acts as a fuel that makes the fire hot enough to kill plant life as well as the microscopic organisms in the soil that help plants to regenerate. Today, many land managers, including Choctaw Nation Forestry, are working to bring fire back to the landscape. In honor of Windy Month, it is interesting to look at what managing the land with fire meant for our ancestors.

The season of a burn influences its effects on the landscape. A fire in late winter encourages a growth of forbs (non-woody vascular plants). A fire later in the spring encourages a luxurious, green growth of fresh grass. A fire that occurs during the hottest part of the year can bring more significant changes to the landscape because it is more likely to get hot enough to cause long-term damage.

As mentioned above, Choctaw land managers preferred March for conducting their burns (Cushman 1899:197). In the Choctaw homeland, a March range fire colors the ground black with carbon right at the time the new grass is ready to sprout. In the past, March fires supported a fresh growth of wiregrass in the southern part of Choctaw country and of bluestem grass species in the northern part (Romans 1999[1775]:97). The new grass, in turn, provided food for grazing and browsing animals, like bison and deer.

Studying the ancient sediments trapped in the bottom of bogs, it appears that our ancestors set fire to any given upland area about once every three years on average. Because the fires were regularly set across the landscape, they limited the available fuel load, preventing the occasional wildfire from getting hot enough to kill mature trees or significantly damage the microbes in the soil. These cooler fires had a patchy impact on the landscape; greater in the uplands and lesser in the stream valleys. As a whole, the fires cleared out brush and vines and increased plant spacing. This led early Euro-American visitors in the Choctaw homeland to describe it as an open, park-like environment (e.g. Hilgard 1873), something very different from what most of that region looks like today. On a more local level, the dense canebrakes of the Southeast were expanded by the practice of leaving low-lying agriculture fields fallow and periodically setting fire to the cane that moved in to stimulate new growth (Delecourt and Delecourt 2008:87; Platt and Brantley 1997:13). Range fires also temporarily decreased the abundance of some parasitic insects, such as ticks (cf. Scifres et al. 1988).

Today, we sometimes hear about the “pristine” “natural” landscapes that blanketed this continent before European arrival. In reality, they were neither fully natural nor pristine. These landscapes were shaped by our ancestors’ intentional management for thousands of years. Looking back, nowhere is this management better demonstrated than in seeing what our ancestors were up to during the month of March.

A list of works cited in this article is available by contacting the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at 1-800-522-6170.

Editor’s Note: For Iti Fabussa stories you might have missed please visit ChoctawNation.com and click on [History & Culture](#).

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Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

March Language Lesson

Food Names – Illimpa Hohchifo

beans – tobi

blackberries - bissa

milk - pishukchi

bread – palvska

strawberry – bioko

black pepper – tishi homi

corn bread – tanchi palvska

dumpling – walakshi

salt - hvpi

cheese – pishukchi nia kvllo

eggs – akakushi

potato - ahe

chicken – akaknipi

fish – nvni

sugar – hvpi champuli

corn – tanchi

meat – nipi

venison – issi nipi

1. Tobi vpa sv bvna.
2. Palvska mvt lapushki.
3. Tanchi palvska pvt lashpa.
4. Pishukchi nia kvllo chompa la chi.
5. Akaknipi ma awvshli la chi.
6. Tanchi il aiyoa chi.
7. Bissa il amo chi.
8. Bioko yvt homma.
9. Bissa walakshi ish ikba hinla ho?
10. Akakushi holbi vpa la hinla.
11. Nvni hoklit kil ia.
12. Nipi nanta chi bvna?
13. Pishukchi ishko li tuk.
14. Tishi homi et vma.
15. Hvpi et vma.
16. Ahe honni la chi.
17. Ti ma hvpi champuli ish ibanikma.
18. Issi nipi epa chi.

I want to eat beans.
 That bread is soft.
 This cornbread is hot.
 I will buy cheese.
 I am going to fry that chicken.
 We will gather corn.
 We will pick blackberries.
 Strawberries are red.
 Can you make blackberry dumplings?
 I can eat boiled eggs.
 Let’s go fishing.
 What (kind of) meat do you want?
 I drank milk.
 Hand me the black pepper.
 Hand me the salt.
 I will boil potatoes.
 (You) add sugar to the tea.
 We will eat venison.

Retired Teacher Recognized for Servant Leadership



Virginia Mann keeps a watchful eye on food prepared for lunch at the Marlow Senior Center.

By CHRIS JENNINGS

92-year-old retired Choctaw teacher, Virginia Mann is helping feed seniors who otherwise may have missed a meal.

The Community Center in Marlow, Oklahoma hosts the Senior Nutrition Program. The program, run in cooperation with Delta Nutrition, provides seniors 60 and over with a hot lunch on weekdays.

On holidays, when the community center is closed, no meals are provided. That's where Mann stepped in, and the meals moved to the Marlow Senior Center on those days.

It was during a game of cards with friends that Mann said, "Why don't we have a picnic?"

That first "picnic" has grown from around 25 people to over 40.

When asked about cooking for so many people Mann said, "I really enjoy it...I came from a big family, six brothers and a sister. Every Sunday they would come home and it would be like this."

Mann confesses though, "When I got married I couldn't boil water...six sisters-in-law's in the kitchen, there wasn't any room."

She has progressed over the years. Mann went from not being able to boil water, to winning an award for preparing meals for large groups of people.

In October 2018, Mann received the Pioneer of the Year award from the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association. The award goes to an OREA member who is over 85-years-old.

It all started when Mann's daughter submitted an application nominating her mother for a different award, the OREA Community Service Project award.

Sharon Cox with the Oklahoma Education Association said, "When the Awards Committee read her application it became clear that she was most deserving of the Pioneer of the Year Award."

Mann says she was honored by the award, especially that it was given by retired teachers.

Cox goes on to say, "Her selfless giving of time, efforts and own money made her an obvious choice. This world could use more Virginia Manns!"

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Virginia Mann reaches to give Frank Hall a hug during lunch at the Marlow Senior Center. Hall says the people that come to the lunch are just like family.

Photos By Chris Jennings

The cost of feeding 40-plus people doesn't deter Mann, who uses mostly her own money. Donations are accepted, but they are not required to be able to eat.

Mann explains that she made some smart investments with money earned from sewing after her retirement. Now she's able to use that money to help the community.

"I feel like the Lord blessed me, and if I don't use it to his glory I don't deserve it," said Mann.

The spread is never a simple affair. There's plenty of options with things like Salisbury steak, meatloaf, green beans, black-eyed peas, sweet potatoes, deviled eggs, salad, even sauerkraut and wieners.

"I could cut back, but everybody doesn't like the same thing, and there's so many. This way everybody can get a little of all of it," said Mann.

Even with all Mann's work, the meals are a community effort.

Several people arrive before Mann to set up tables and chairs. Some bring desserts and other food items to help.

Nellie Carr, a friend of Mann's who helps with the volunteer efforts, says Mann is "one of the most gracious, awesome persons there is."

Carr and Mann both agree that the work is hard but gratifying.

It's Mann's willingness to help and her rallying of the community that exemplifies the Servant Leadership in her.

Mann is proud of her Choctaw heritage and credits her parents with instilling this core value in her. "It just makes me feel good to do it. It's not anything special, it's just hard work," said Mann.

Mann is a living out the Chahta spirit by being a servant leader. As an elder, she is setting a great example for younger generations who will continue to demonstrate Choctaw values wherever they go.

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Teach to Reach Program Increases Number of Native Teachers



Photo Submitted

Traeton Dansby signs his Teach to Reach paperwork as Career Development Lead Counselor, Jamie Hamil watches.

by CHRIS JENNINGS

Choctaw Nation Career Development received a \$995,959 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Indian Education. The funding will be used to assist Choctaw tribal members and other Native Americans seeking education degrees.

Kelly Brame, project director for the Choctaw Nation Teach to Reach program said, "The focus of the program is to assist Native American teachers with the necessary funding to complete their degree, earn their teacher certification and become employed in a timely manner."

Potential Teach to Reach participants must have completed their first two years of college and have been accepted into the teacher education department at one of five partner universities.

Those five universities are; East Central University, Northeastern State University, Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma.

These universities were selected from a study done by the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education. The study showed that these schools were responsible for graduating 73 percent of the state's educators since 2010.

Traeton Dansby, a Choctaw student currently attending NSU in Tahlequah is the program's first participant. Dansby, who wasn't thinking about being a teacher after high school, started working at the Cherokee Immersion School after moving to Tahlequah.

It was then he says it clicked, "I just really fell in love with the profession and really fell in love with teaching people."

Participants in the program will be eligible for assistance with tuition and books, as well as a monthly living stipend. Brame said, "This can be used to help students concentrate more on studies instead of having to work."

After graduation, teachers are required to work a minimum of two years in schools with predominantly Native students. Brame said, "Our goal is to keep teachers in Oklahoma. We'll do that by focusing on recruiting

Native American teachers for Oklahoma classrooms." After graduation, participants can receive job placement assistance and one-time funding for classroom supplies.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education is highly encouraged in Teach to Reach Funding could be used to purchase hands-on supplies to build a STEM "tool kit" generating more interest in these fields with students.

According to a report from the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 30,000 teachers have left the profession in the last six years. The Teach to Reach program addresses this by giving participants crucial assistance at the beginning of their careers, resulting in a higher retention rate.

By having a Native American teacher in the classroom, they can serve as a minority role model for Native students and incorporate cultural awareness into the classroom. Using that cultural awareness as a teaching aid is one way to preserve the memories and history of Native tribes.

Dansby, who is focusing on elementary education, can't wait to incorporate some Native culture into his classroom. "You can tie into doing a lot of things outside, a lot of experiential learning, like using science properties to talk about traditional roots or traditional medicine," Said Dansby.

Or with little ones, using math and Native languages to count. "I'm really excited about integrating Native Culture in with the core subjects,"he said.

Career Development hopes to recruit 51 new teachers for the program. Enrollment has begun and will continue over the next three years.

For application information, contact Teach to Reach at 866-933-2260 or choctawcareers.com/t2r.



Photo By Apryl Mock

Casey Robinson holds his grandson, Maverick House, as a cow stretches for more attention Sunday afternoon.

See the 2019 Choctaw Nation Livestock Show results on pages 6 and 7.



Photo by Chris Jennings

Hayze Morris, from Hugo bows his head during the opening prayer Sunday morning.

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Page 1:
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Front Page Artwork by Apryl Mock

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