



District 1  
Thomas Williston



District 2  
Tony Ward



District 3  
Kenny Bryant



District 12  
James Frazier



District 6  
Jennifer Woods



District 9  
James Dry



District 4  
Delton Cox



District 11  
Bob Pate



District 10  
Anthony Dillard



District 8  
Perry Thompson



District 7  
Jack Austin



District 5  
Ron Perry

## New Faces to Grace Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

by STACY HUTTO

After candidates in two districts did not receive the required 50 percent plus one or more required by the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance during the General Election held Saturday, June 8, a Run-Off Election was held Saturday, Aug. 5.

The Run-Off Election was held in District 6 and District 9.

In District 6 incumbent Joe Coley was on the ballot with challenger Jennifer Woods. After all the votes were counted

Jennifer Woods was the new Councilwoman for District 6.

According to the unofficial results released by the Choctaw Nation Election Board, Joe Coley received 38.79 percent, or 367 votes. Jennifer Woods received 61.21 percent, or 579 votes and won the District 6 seat on the Tribal Council. In District 6 a total of 946 votes were cast.

The second district in the Run-Off Election was District 9. The two candidates on the ballot were James Dry and Berdie Williams. James Dry received 58.71 percent, or 1,233 votes and became

the District 9 Councilman. Berdie Williams received 41.29 percent, or 867 votes. In District 9 a total of 2,100 votes were cast.

District 9 has been without a Councilman since the death of longtime District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh in October 2016. Dosh held the District 9 Council seat since he was first elected in 1980, following the 1979 Constitution.

Per the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, District 6 Councilwoman Jennifer Woods, District 7 Councilman Jack

Austin Sr., District 9 Councilman James Dry, District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard and District 12 Councilman James Frazier will begin their four-year term at 12 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4.

The Swearing-in Ceremony will be a part of the Labor Day official ceremonies and be held right before the State of the Nation Address by Chief Gary Batton.

The next election will be held in two years. The 2019 election season will include the position of Chief, as well as Council seats for Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 11.

## Tvshka Homma Stickball Games to be Livestreamed

by STACY HUTTO

Tvshka Homma, the official stickball team of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will open the 2017 Labor Day Double Elimination Stickball Tournament on Friday, Sept. 1.

The first game of the tournament will kick off at 6 p.m. when Tvshka Homma faces off against Beaver Dam.

The winner of Tvshka Homma vs Beaver Dam will go on to challenge Chickasha Toli at 9 p.m. The loser will play on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The last game on Friday night will start at 10:30 p.m. when Pearl River squares off against the winner of MBCI vs Koni Hata.

On Saturday, Sept. 2, the tournament will continue starting at 6 p.m., with the last game of the night starting at 10:30 p.m.

For those who are unable to attend the Labor Day Festival, Tvshka Homma's games, as well as the Championship game on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 9 p.m. will be livestreamed.

The games will be on Facebook Live

the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Facebook page and Choctaw Nation's YouTube channel, @choctawnationok.

As reception at the Tvshka Homma Capitol Grounds can be weak at times, please be patient with the livestreamed games.

Video of the games in their entirety will be posted on YouTube after the Labor Day Festival.

In addition to the stickball tournament stickball skills will be demonstrated at the Choctaw Village on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 10:30 a.m. with a game starting at 1 p.m. at the Choctaw Village.

A stickball exhibition will be held on the Capitol lawn on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 5 p.m.

A children's stickball exhibition game will be played on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. on the stickball field.

Following the children's exhibition game, a women's stickball exhibition game will begin at 8 p.m.

The championship game will start at 9 p.m. after the exhibition games.



### LOOK FOR THE LABOR DAY EDITION IN OCTOBER

The October 2017 issue of the Biskinik will be the Labor Day Festival issue. The October issue will contain Chief Gary Batton's State of the Nation Address, the 2018 Miss Choctaw Nation, Junior Miss Choctaw Nation and Little Miss Choctaw Nation, as well as pictures from the Choctaw Nation Capitol grounds and results for many of the Labor Day weekend competitions.



# Looking Towards a Better Future Through Education



Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation is committed to offering opportunities for education to our people through programs such as Choctaw University, internships, career development and general education.

The Career Development program is dedicated to making dreams come true for tribal members. Its vision is to create a pipeline to career and technology training as well as services for the Choctaw people.

Success after success are documented by the dedicated staff of Career Development. They help tribal members throughout the United States reach their goals to become members of law enforcement, medical practitioners, nurses, truck drivers, and more.

Higher Education assistance is also available to tribal members enrolled in accredited colleges or universities throughout the United States.

With assistance from either the Choctaw Nation Higher Education or Career Development programs tribal members are earning bachelors and masters degrees in fields they love.

Offering a variety of opportunities for education

## Bless the Chahta Tvshka and Troops Who Protect our Freedom



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

When I greeted Leo Smallwood of Rattan during his 100th birthday celebration, I was immediately impressed with his strength, both inner and outer.

Mr. Smallwood and his late wife, Jane, set the example and their family stays connected even though all of their children and grandchildren have spread their wings.

Their relationship is strong and they are very close. My dad spoke of him and his coaching days and how mentally tough his teams were because he had them prepared.

He is a very down-to-earth guy who worked hard and loves his family, preparing them in much the same way, a trait very reminiscent of that generation.

Leo is also an Army veteran of World War II with many stories to share. We are very grateful to all the veterans who serve to maintain our freedom and we are extremely proud of the Chahta Tvshka who protect our families and homeland.

The Choctaw Nation recently had an opportunity to partner with the Chickasaw Nation to assist a group from the 180th Cavalry to return home for a pass before deployment.

Last year, the two Nations also combined efforts to bring several members of the 45th Infantry Brigade home for Christmas. We continue to pray for the safety of all of the members of the Armed Forces.



by Kendra Germany

On Aug. 3, 2017, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veteran's Advocacy presented the First Squadron 180th Cavalry with a donation of \$30,000. This donation is a part of a combined mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), the Chickasaw Nation, and various other organizations to lease buses to bring members of the 180th Cavalry home for a pass before they deploy to Afghanistan. *Pictured from left, CNO Veteran's Advocacy Deputy Director Roger Hamil, Sergeant Chad Dougherty, Sergeant First Class Bruce Williams, CNO Community Service Senior Director Brent Oakes, Larry Marcy from Bryan County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3916, Jim Garner from Bryan County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3916 and Michael Robbins from CNO Veteran's Advocacy.*

remains a top priority. There are many other programs to help tribal members better prepare for the future and more information is on ChoctawNation.com. The Chahta Spirit is found in every heart seeking to grow and succeed.

Choctaw University and Learning Development are two options available to the approximately 10,000 associates of the Nation.

Choctaw University grows the knowledge and skills of the associates by instilling a deeper understanding of their purpose within the organization.

Participants receive professional development training, build knowledge, and improve their skills to be more efficient and productive leaders.

Choctaw University has graduated 585 participants from the Leadership Series and 338 participants from the Continuing Education Series since its conception in 2012.

The program currently has approximately 300 associates within its two programs—Leadership Series and Continuing Education Series—and they will graduate from their respective program levels in December 2017.

Choctaw University has helped 21 associates graduate from Southeastern Oklahoma State University by utilizing the Leadership Series and a number of them have continued to complete Masters Degrees in Native American Leadership.

The Choctaw Nation also offers courses through its Learning and Development (L&D) program that focuses on the specialized needs of both the government and commerce divisions.

The L&D family is committed to progressing and developing the skills of all associates through knowledge and the Choctaw Nation's values, creating unique learning opportunities that support the culture and traditions of the Nation.

In the last year, associates within the Choctaw Nation's government programs trained in 1,177 classes ranging from in-service training for educational programs to management and compliance trainings.

The Commerce Division's Learning & Development program has scheduled 90 different courses for its associates since October 2016, with a confirmed attendance of 6,473 associates.

With supervisor approval, any associate is eligible to attend the courses as quickly as the first week of employment.

Investing in our tribal members and its associates is an investment in the Choctaw Nation. The skills they learn benefit the tribe and provide a better future for all.



by Jason Hicks

During the 2017 Choctaw University Leadership Symposium, participants were encouraged to L.I.T.E. up Choctaw by leading, inspiring, transforming, and empowering those around them.

# BISKINIK

# September 2017 HOPONI HVSHI cooking month

### In This Issue

- Faith Family Culture
- Nursery News
- Education & Sports
- Notes to the Nation
- Obituaries
- People You Know

### Page 1:

**The results of the Run-Off Election on Saturday, Aug. 5, showed two new people will be taking their seats on the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council.**

**During the 2017 Labor Day Double Elimination Stickball Tournament, Tvshka Homma's games and the Championship game will be livestreamed.**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma](https://www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma)

[www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK](https://www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK)

[www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK](https://www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK)

[www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation](https://www.youtube.com/ChoctawNation)



# CHOCTAW VETERANS HUNT

DRAWING VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

### 3-DAY WHITETAIL HUNT

Five Choctaw Veterans will be drawn from eligible entries on Veterans Day for a 3-day whitetail hunt at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge. (Must be present to win. Subject to verification of CDIB and Veteran eligibility.)

**Day 1 - December 1st - Half Day Hunt** (Begins at 12pm)

**Day 2 - December 2nd - Full Day Hunt**

**Day 3 - December 3rd - Half Day Hunt** (Ends at 12pm)

#### HUNT INCLUDES:

- All meals and one overnight stay in the Choctaw Hunting Lodge
- 3-Day Rifle Hunt - Last 3 days of rifle season (management buck only)
- Selected hunters may bring one person with them if assistance is needed.

CHOCTAW  
HUNTING LODGE

WWW.CHOCTAWHUNTINGLODGE.COM

Travis Benes at 580-740-0040 or tbenes@choctawnation.com

The Choctaw Hunting Lodge is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



## MEET THE ARTIST

## Bonnie Dutton

Saturday, September 9, 2017 | 11am - 4pm



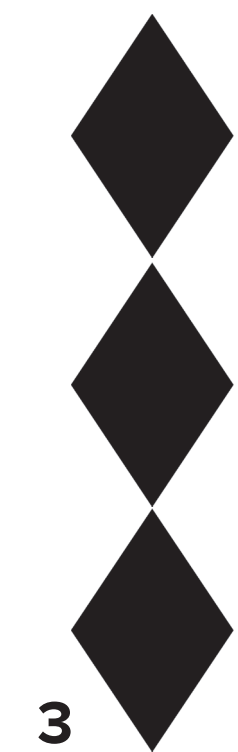
WWW.CHOCTAWSTORE.COM  
1882 HWY 69/75 | COLBERT, OK 74733  
580-296-2672

CHOCTAW  
STORE

Like Us On







by Stacy Hutto

## YAB Led Me to My Calling

by

Kelsey Janway

3

Identifying college as a feasible option after high school is difficult for many middle class Americans. Identifying

college as a feasible option after high school is exceptionally difficult for Native Americans.

High-income families produce 82 percent of students who attend college after high school graduation, while low-income families produce 52 percent of students who attend college after high school graduation.

Note that each percentage also offers the phrase “after high school graduation.” Only 65 percent of Native Americans graduate from high school, compared to the national average of a staggering 75 percent.

About 26 percent of Native Americans are actually attending college, but the graduation rate of these students decreases to nine percent.

Compare this nine percent to the national average of 20 percent. If these statistics weren’t brutal enough, the average college student graduates with \$30,000 worth of debt. All of this combined doesn’t quite equal success, but an uneven playing field.

What is it about Native Americans that put us “behind” everyone else? Are we less educated? Are we naturally unable to compete with everyone else?

Of course not. As indigenous people know these things aren’t true, but you know who doesn’t? Our lawmakers, at a local, state, and national level.

As a native, odds are stacked against us. We’re not given

the same privileges as others. We’re not put in a position to succeed.

It’s like we’re running a race and Native Americans were told “GO” after everyone else reached the five mile mark. We are born into a race that our elders have prayed to see the finish line of for many years.

The “finish line” at first was the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 that would bring them many things including freedom of speech, press, and assembly, along with protection from unreasonable search and seizure, right to a speedy trial, right to hire an attorney, protection against cruel and unusual punishment, protection from double jeopardy, and equal protection under the law and due process.

I listed each of these to make a point. They sound so familiar, right? What could it be? Nothing other than the Bill of Rights, that is guaranteed to every American citizen. Native Americans weren’t deemed as “citizens” until 1924.

We, as youth now, are running in this race. Behind everyone but not discouraged. We are running with our ancestors who give us wisdom and strength. We’re told to just “give up,” but that isn’t in our blood. We are resilient just as our ancestors were and we’ll overcome this adversity just like we overcame adversities in the past.

Growing up, I always wanted to be like my older sister. I wanted to dress like her, use the same choice of words, and participate in everything she did. So when she joined YAB, I knew I had to as well. I had absolutely no idea what this organization would do to me. The organization itself didn’t transform me, the people I met and the experiences I encountered engulfed me as a person and totally changed my life. It’s safe to say that I was sheltered growing up. I wasn’t exposed to things as a child because both of my parents were when they grew up. Even without face-to-face interaction with harmful things, my parents taught me about many different dangers. Dangers such as substance abuse, mental illnesses, and so much more. An important lesson they taught my sisters and me was the fact that “we may not be able to control the circumstances we are in, but we can control the way we react in these circumstances.”

At first, I may have just joined YAB because my sister was in it, but I stayed in the organization because I knew I had a calling. That calling was to invest in my community. I have had the incredible privilege of having not only one, but two incredible chapter advisors. Each advisor saw something in me before I saw it in myself and pushed me to become that person.

Whether it was volunteering at a food distribution, playing Ishtaboli (stickball) in the rain, recycling, visiting the nursing home, you name it, YAB was there. I have had

the honor of participating in this program for five years. Throughout these five years, YAB has allowed me to interact within my community, learn from our elders, and truly allow myself to discover who I am as a young Choctaw woman. Everything I have ever done and everything I have ever learned, has prepared me for this next chapter of life.

As a first generation college student, I am determined to actively compete with students who come from families that are more familiar with college. I will have this opportunity to compete with other students at the only four-year university within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Southeastern Oklahoma State University. There, I will obtain a degree in Choctaw Language with a minor in Native Studies. While in attendance, I will be very involved on campus; I believe and YAB has showed me, that investing in your community is important. Prior to becoming involved in YAB, I didn’t have a direct line of communication to solve local issues. At times, this was very discouraging.

There is strength in numbers. We as indigenous people are powerful alone, but when we unite we are unstoppable. YAB is a huge puzzle that takes different pieces to complete. After coming to the realization that I couldn’t do things alone, I knew I needed YAB’s help and that I could also be a puzzle piece, I knew this would be the perfect fit. Years later, what started out as a small project has become a lifestyle. YAB has humbled me as a leader and is still changing my heart. YAB has proven to me time and time again that there is still good in the world. This organization is still pushing me as an individual to share the good I have in me and help others find their good. YAB has made it evident to me that I will always have a role, a place, and a purpose.

I am very eager to begin this next chapter of my life and I look forward to changing society’s perception on Native Americans, and Native Americans in education.

*Editor’s note: This article was the Youth Advisory Board Scholarship third place essay. The writer, Kelsey Janway, was awarded a \$500 scholarship at the YAB Award Banquet at Tushka Homma on Wednesday, April 5. The first place essay was in the June 2017 issue. The second place essay was in the July issue. This essay was edited for space. The full essay will be on ChoctawNation.com under News & Events.*

## Recipe of the Month

### Rainbow Salad



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups cooked whole grain rotini
- 1/2 cup red onion, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, chopped
- 1 can black beans, rinsed
- 2 cups fresh corn on cob
- 1 bell pepper diced
- ½ cup sliced carrots
- 3 tablespoon oil
- ½ teaspoon garlic power
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Juice of 2 lemons

#### Preparation

1. Juice lemons in bowl and whisk in oil.
2. Combine all of the ingredients together in a large mixing bowl.
3. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

#### Nutrition Facts:

Servings per container 12  
Serving size 1/12 of recipe (161g)

(per serving)  
Calories 150, Total Fat 1g, Trans Fat, 0g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 85mg, Total Carbohydrate 30g, Dietary Fiber 6g, Sugars 2g, Protein 6g, Vitamin A 8%, Vitamin C 10%, Calcium 2% and Iron 8%.

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

## NURSERY NEWS

### Luke Alexander Beaver



Luke was born June 12, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches. Luke’s parents are Daniel Beaver Jr. and Alexandra Minter Beaver. He was also welcomed into the world by his big brothers Daniel Richard Beaver III and Michael Nolan Beaver.

Luke is the grandson of Angela Huffman Minter of Royse City, Texas, Michael Minter of

San Antonio, Texas. Brenda Tonubbee Beaver and the late Danny Beaver of Mesquite, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Leonard and Audeen Graves Huffman, Nick and Oteka LeFlore Beasley, and the late Joseph Minter, all of Madill, Barbara Johnson Shelton and the late Bob Shelton, the late Frances Beaver Burton, all of Mesquite, and the late Francis Murphy Tonubbee of Dallas.


### Kenneth Cash Gardner



Kenneth Cash Gardner was born early on May 24th in Durant. He weighed 3 pounds and 3 ounces. He was welcomed into the world by his parents Kenneth and Elisha Gardner of Durant.

Cash is the grandson of Ronald and Karen Gardner of Durant, and Fay and Jimmy Leblanc of Lago Vista, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Nancy Few of Buffalo

Texas, and Kay and Danny Bowen of Lago Vista.

 CHOCTAW Women, Infants and Children		
Location	Days	Hours
<b>Antlers</b> 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
<b>Atoka</b> 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Battiest</b> 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
<b>Boswell</b> 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
<b>Broken Bow</b> 580-584-2746	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Coalgate</b> 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
<b>Durant</b> 580-916-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Hugo</b> 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Idabel</b> 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>McAlester</b> 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Poteau</b> 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Smithville</b> 580-244-3289	1st Thurs. Every Month	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Spiro</b> 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
<b>Stigler</b> 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.
<b>Talihina</b> 918-567-7000 x-6792	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
<b>Wilburton</b> 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## 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

### October

#### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:  
Closed: October 30 & 31.  
Cooking with Carmen: October 2 & 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:  
Closed: October 30 & 31.  
Cooking with Carmen: October 4 & 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### DURANT

Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:  
Closed: October 30 & 31.  
Cooking with Carmen: October 6 & 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### MCALUSTER

Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:  
Closed: October 30 & 31.  
Cooking with Carmen: October 13 & 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### POTEAU

Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for:  
Closed: October 30 & 31.  
Cooking with Carmen: October 9 & 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



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

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

#### Idabel

Wednesday • Nov. 1 • 1pm  
Located at the Choctaw Nation Clinic (Education Room)

#### Poteau

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

#### Talihina

Wednesday • Oct. 18 • 1pm  
Located at Kiamichi Vo-Tech

#### Durant

Thursday • Nov. 9 • 9am  
Location TBD

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

### THINKING ABOUT FOSTERING?



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

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

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

### FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE



# Luis Punches Ticket to National Finals Rodeo

by STACY HUTTO

LaRae Luis, a tenth grade student at Epic Charter School in Oklahoma City, earned a place on the Oklahoma National High School rodeo team and will be competing at the 69th Annual National High School Rodeo Finals in Gillette, Wyoming July 16–22.

Luis competed in the Reined Cow Horse competition. The first night of competition on Sunday, July 16, Luis scored 246 points. Luis’ second Go–Round was on Friday, July 21. She scored 249.5 points for an average of 495.5 points.

Luis earned her spot on the Oklahoma National team during the Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association State Finals in Woodward June 7–11.

She qualified for the OHSRA State Finals in Cutting and in Reined Cow Horse. Luis won the Average Championship in Cutting and is the 2017 Oklahoma High School Rodeo State Champion in the Reined Cow Horse event.

The 16-year-old California transplant now calls Wynnewood home. One of the things she loves about living in Oklahoma is being close to her Choctaw heritage.

During her freshman year Luis started competing in American Quarter Horse Association and High School Rodeo events. The past year she began competing in National Reined Cow Horse Association events. In addition to competing in Reined Cow Horse and Cutting, Luis also serves as the National Reined Cow Horse Youth Association Student Officer Treasurer.

When Luis is not competing, she is working and training with her dad, Oklahoma professional horse trainer Mark Luis.

She credits her dad with teaching her everything she knows about riding and showing horses.

Luis is working her way towards a family tradition of training and showing horses.

Some of her accomplishments for 2016 and 2017 include 2016 CHSRA Mid-State Classic Cutting Champion, 2016 Team Resistol Appointment, 2016 Induction to the Paso Robles, California Independence High School Sports Hall of Fame, 2017 AQHA World Show National Qualifier in Cutting, 2017 AQHA World Qualifier in Reined Cow Horse and 2017 OHSRA Oklahoma Reined Cow Horse State Champion.

Over 1,750 contestants, Luis among them, from 43 states, five Canadian Provinces and Australia competed in the National High School Finals Rodeo. Competitors competed for more than \$200,000 in prizes, over \$350,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named NHSFR World Champion.

At the end of the NHSF the Oklahoma National Girls team was in fifth place with 2,467.50



points. The Oklahoma National Boys team was in second place with 4,943.33 points. The Oklahoma National High School Rodeo team earned a second place finish with a combined total of 7,410.83 points.

To be crowned World Champion contestants had to finish in the top 20–based on their combined times and/or scores of the first two rounds—to advance to the final round on Saturday night. World Champions were determined based on their three round combined times/scores.

# Braswell Signs Letter of Intent to Play Golf

Layne Braswell, a 2017 McAlester High School graduate, signed a letter of intent to play golf for Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. During his senior season Braswell placed second in two tournaments and his consistent play at the 5A East Regional qualified him as an individual for the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Class 5A Golf State Championships held May 8–9 at the Duncan Golf & Tennis Club in Duncan. Braswell had a score of 88 in Round 1, a score of 79 in Round 2 and a score of 81 in Round 3 for a total score of 248. His parents are Ryan and Christina Braswell.



## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Verb Conjugation

Choctaw verbs can be expanded in meaning by adding prefixes and suffixes. Here are a few, let’s take a basic word: hoponi – cook.

**Prefixes:**

Add ak (let me) before hoponi – Ak hoponi. (Let me cook.)

Add ke/kil (let us) before hoponi – Ke hoponi. (Let’s cook.)

**Suffixes:**

Add “kma” to the end of the verb to ma it future tense.

hoponikma – Ish hoponikma, impa la chi. (When you cook, I will eat.)

Add “chi” to the end of the verb to cause or make someone or something happen.

hoponichi – A hattak hoponichi li tuk. (I made my husband cook.)

Create sentences utilizing prefixes and suffixes. Practice your new sentences on other Choctaw language learners or speakers.

- Practice: Verb – nusi (sleep)
1. Ak – let me \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Ke/Kil – let us\* \_\_\_\_\_
  3. kma – future tense \_\_\_\_\_
  4. chi – to cause or make \_\_\_\_\_
- Practice: Verb – pisa (to see)
1. Ak – let me \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Ke/Kil – let us\* \_\_\_\_\_
  3. kma – future tense \_\_\_\_\_
  4. chi – to cause or make \_\_\_\_\_

\* Ke precedes words beginning with a consonant and Kil precedes words beginning with vowels.

# Jones Named Allen High Salutatorian



Josiah Jones is a senior at Allen High School in Allen. He was named the salutatorian of his 2017 graduating class. Jones served as the Senior Class President, Vice President of the Student Council, National Honor Society and the Oklahoma Honor Society. He was a starter all during high school in basketball and baseball. While on the Allen Mustangs basketball team, Jones was named to the Moss All-Tournament team in 2016 and 2017; Pontotoc All Conference Team in 2015, 2016 and 2017; Ada News Area Star Team in 2017; Daily Oklahoman All State Honorable Mention in 2017; Oklahoma Native All State Basketball in 2017, and selected for the 2017 Global Elite Sports All Native High School Basketball. The Global Elite Sports All Native High School Basketball selection was made from native high school students from across the United States. Jones was a player on the 2017 District Champions, Regional Champions and 2017 Class A Oklahoma State Tournament qualifying Allen High School baseball team. Jones plans on continuing his education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. He will be a member of the Savage Storm’s basketball developmental team. He is the son of Chris and Michelle Jones. He is the grandson of Janet Nash and Jimmy Jones and step-grandmother Paula Jones. He is the great-grandson of the late Benita John and great-great-grandson of the late Martha Billy.

# Gaskill Graduates Southeastern

Katy Gaskill graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in May. She was in the pre-med program as a biology/chemistry double major. While at Southeastern she was treasurer for the Pre-Med club, treasurer for AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society), treasurer of ACS (American Chemical Society), a member of Cardinal Key, and a member of the Southeastern IRB. She had also been a teaching assistant for chemical concepts, basic chemistry, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and general biology I. She is the daughter of Royce and Sandra Gaskill and has a little sister, Natalie.



# Rose Graduates OU College of Pharmacy

Candace Rose, a Hartshorne High School graduate, earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Oklahoma in June. She is married to Ross Rose. Her parents are Robert and Tina Ray of Hartshorne. Rose is the granddaughter of John and Gloria Sirmans and Robert and Birdie Ray, all of Hartshorne.



# Noble Accepted to Yale University

Alexandria Noble, an honors student at Carmel High School in Indiana, has been accepted to Yale University. Noble leads the Youth Advisory Board of the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI). She’s led fundraising efforts to provide Christmas gift cards for a Native boarding school, conducted an online fundraiser for AICI and assisted veterans. She is the daughter of John Noble and Rachael Shofner-Youngman. She is the granddaughter of Keith Shofner and Rita Petersen, great-granddaughter of the late W.C. and Elwanda Shofner and great-great-granddaughter of the late William Creilly and Ella (Davis) Shofner.



# Tushka Graduates High School

Tragan David Tushka completed all required curriculum courses and studies from Kentucky Public School system. He graduated from Central Hardin High School in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. He is the son of Ron and Mary Tushka Wood. His grandparents are Nannie Thompson Brown and Otis Tushka. He is the great-grandson of the late Jackson and Alice Wolf Thompson and the late Benson L. and Sweezy Jones Tushka.



# Schooling Inducted into National Honor Society

Beverly RayAnn Schooling was inducted into the Hispanic National Honor Society on April 26. It is an honor as inductees have to meet certain criteria to apply and still be accepted. Schooling was a sophomore at Decatur High School in Decatur, Texas. She was in Spanish III honors class. She is pictured with her Aunt Paula Talley.



# Rogers Graduates Ada High School



Major Jackson Rogers is a 2017 graduate of Ada High School. He has participated in the special education programs at Ada Public Schools since he was 3 years old. Previously he has participated in the Special Olympics in basketball, softball throw, bowling and the 100 yard dash. He is the son of Leslie Withers and Simon Rogers of Ada. He has a younger brother, Teagin and a sister, Mahli of Ada. Rogers is the grandson of George and Eoline Haliburton and Lee and Terry Rogers of McAlester and Scott and Cathy Withers of Lake Cherokee, Texas.

Spring 2016/2017 Awarding Period is Now Open!

**Deadline October 1, 2017**

Submit Online @ [www.Star.ChoctawNation.com](http://www.Star.ChoctawNation.com)



# NOTES

## Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, Aug. 12, in its chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Cost of Living Adjustment for the Head Start program.
- One-time funding grant for the Head Start program.
- Application for the Early Start COLA funds.
- Refunding grant for the Head Start program.
- Disposal of surplus capital assets.
- Authorized the Chief to place property, 142.91 acres, in Bryan Co. in trust status with the United States of America.
- Authorized the Chief to place property, 76.13 acres, in Bryan Co. in trust status with the United States.
- A right-of-way and easement deed for distribution system on land held USA in trust for the Choctaw Nation with Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp. in Latimer Co., Oklahoma.
- A recreational lease in favor of Bill Black on land held USA trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in Pittsburg Co., Oklahoma.
- Funding for a new cultural center.
- Funding for construction of new Choctaw Country Market in Coalgate, Oklahoma.
- Application for the Tribal Wildlife Grant.
- Funds and budget for Year Three Continuation for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program.
- Choctaw Nation WIC budget FY17 modification No. 1.
- Funding for remodel and reimage of Choctaw Village Shopping Center in Idabel, Oklahoma.
- Funding for housing development under LEAP program.
- Approved the Choctaw Nation Executive Branch to reimburse out-of-state citizens for hunting and fishing license costs.
- Funds and budget for Native American Museum Services program.

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

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

### Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Pre-Homeownership Education

September

9-14 Smithville  
9-19 Crowder

9-21 Hugo  
9-21 Poteau

No Fees. All materials furnished. Pre-registration required.

Please contact Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 or [arussell@ChoctawHousing.com](mailto:arussell@ChoctawHousing.com) to pre-register.

### The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

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

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

#### September Community Center Schedule

9-7 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3  
9-14 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3  
9-28 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3

#### October Community Center Schedule

10-5 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3  
10-12 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3  
10-26 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3

**Gary Batton**  
Chief

**Jack Austin Jr.**  
Assistant Chief

The Official  
Monthly Publication  
of the  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170  
Fax (580) 924-4148  
[www.ChoctawNation.com](http://www.ChoctawNation.com)  
email: [biskinik@ChoctawNation.com](mailto:biskinik@ChoctawNation.com)

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



## LETTERS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Choctaw Nation and the Education Department, along with April Carmelo, Program Coordinator for the Shasta County Indian Education Consortium for the on-going support we have received for our academic and educational guidance.

**Morgan Fisher**  
**Redding, California**  
**Jennifer Benson**  
**Palo Cedro, California**  
**Amanda Bowman**  
**Redding, California**

This issue (*the August 2017 issue*) is one of the best I have received lately. The Labor Day info and events with the map are superb. Best of all is Pastor Olin Williams' clarification to the crowns of the believers. I have read the scriptures for 30 years and was still confused with crowns, works versus rewards, until Pastor Williams' article this month. Please keep up the good communication to us Choctaws out here in California.

**Don Ayles**  
**San Diego, California**

We wish to say thank you so much to the Higher Education Program of the Choctaw Nation. We have five young members of our family that have graduated over the last couple years and their primary assistance came from the incredible support of the Higher Education Program. Ryan McHugh graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in agronomy. Avery McHugh graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with double masters degrees in marketing and business administration. Taylor McHugh graduated from Yale University with a degree in Molecular/Cellular Biology. Chase Cullison graduated with a masters degree in accounting from Texas State University, and Chelsea McHugh is completing her MBA from Florida Atlantic University. We are forever grateful to the Higher Education Program for all our generous help. And we are thankful to our great-grandparents, Cleo and Charlene Ivy, and our grandparents, Bonnie Ivy Hansen, and Stan and Linda Cullison for keeping the Choctaw heritage alive in our family.

**Mark McHugh**  
**Orlando, Florida**

### Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Post Purchase Education Workshop

9-12 Hugo  
10-10 Broken Bow

11-14 Calera  
12-12 Wilburton

Pre-registration required.

Please contact Amanda Russell at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4127 or [arussell@ChoctawHousing.com](mailto:arussell@ChoctawHousing.com) to pre-register.

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

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

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

**Look!**

**Tribal Members in 10.5 Counties**

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

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

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

[nextstep@choctawnation.com](http://nextstep@choctawnation.com)

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

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

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

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

**Wilburton Community Center**  
**September 15**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

## EVENTS

### Choctaw Nation Community Center September Health Fairs

**McAlester**  
**Wednesday, September 6**  
**Bethel**

**Wednesday, September 20**  
All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted.

### Phase III Choctaw Language Class

**Free**  
**16 Week Classes**

**Tulsa (Mondays)**  
**First class begins Sept. 11, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Tulsa Creek Indian Community**  
**8611 S. Union Ave. Tulsa, OK 74132**

**Muskogee (Thursdays)**  
**First class begins Sept. 14, 2017**  
**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Fife Indian United Methodist Church**  
**1100 Eufaula Street Muskogee, OK 74132**

**Taught by Abe Frazier.**  
**Bring a Choctaw Dictionary if possible.**

### Annual Tims-Wilson Reunion

**Saturday, September 21 at 12 p.m.**  
**Choctaw Nation Community Center**  
**Smithville, Oklahoma**

After the potluck lunch there will be a family business meeting. Bring an item for the auction. There will be an evening cookout.

For more information contact Jody Hendrickson at (918) 413-2084.

### Hartshorne Class of '72 Reunion

**Saturday, October 14**  
**1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**520 S. Fifth St.**  
**Hartshorne, Oklahoma**

Classmates, friends and teachers are invited to the 45th reunion of the Class of 1972. The reunion will be held at the Hartshorne High School Cafeteria. The Hartshorne Alumni Association is looking for the following classmates: Frances Blanlot, Kenny Cable, Betty Deere, Jerry Francis, Pam Impson, Donald Kitchell, Linda Landsaw, Wilma McClure, Jim Oxford, Teresa Scott, Mike Two Gun and Imogene Walker.

**If you know these people, please send their current address to: Hartshorne Alumni Association**  
**P.O. Box 221**  
**Hartshorne, Oklahoma 74547**

### Financial Fitness for Life Weaving Personal Finance into Your Classroom

for 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

Sponsored by

Choctaw Asset Building

**Wednesday, Sept. 20**

Kiamichi Technology Center, 301 Kiamichi Drive  
McAlester, OK 74501  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This event is FREE and includes a sub reimbursement, as well as curriculum, thanks to our generous presenting sponsor!

**RSVP to Jason Warner**  
at [jwarner@uco.edu](mailto:jwarner@uco.edu) or  
(405) 513-6315.



### Unclaimed Funds Notice

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

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1210

Durant, OK 74702

Attn: Becky Allen, Payroll and Employee Services Accountant

Or phone 580-924-8280 ext. 2434

**SERGIO DURAN II**

**SHANNA STEVENS**

**KYLER THOMPSON**

**JACELYN MCWILLIAMS**

**ALLIE MARIE JAMES**

**KATHRYN NICOLE**

**MILLER**

**DONALD STEVENS**

### Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

**October 2017**

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

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Email: [ddavenport@choctawnation.com](mailto:ddavenport@choctawnation.com)

Idabel by appointment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Antlers by appt.		Idabel By appt.	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Durant 8:00-4:30	Talihina 10:00-2:00	Crowder by appt.		Wright City by appt.	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Durant 8:00-4:30	Broken Bow by appt.				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Poteau 11:30-1:00	McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.		Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	
29	30	31				
	Wilburton by appt.					





# Jones Academy Hosts Back-to-School Bash

by DAVID SANCHEZ

Who would’ve guessed that going back to school could be so much fun? Jones Academy students enjoyed a rollicking back-to-school party on Saturday, Aug. 12, to mark the advent of the new academic year.

Teachers and staff hosted both new and returning students at a “Big Bash” which included games, food, entertainment and motivation. Superintendent Jay McAdams welcomed the student body and encouraged them to set high goals, pursue their opportunities and strive for greatness.

He exhorted the students and challenged them: “The world is looking for top leaders and why shouldn’t they come from Jones Academy?”

Staff and students participated in team-building exercises, Tae Kwon Do and CrossFit demonstrations, voted to choose new school colors and took portraits to mark the special occasion. Students also lined up to be measured for a new pair of Nikes and a matching athletic suit.

After supper, the students were treated to a surprise performance by the popular Native American rapper Christian Parrish Takes the Gun, professionally known as Supaman.

Supaman did a live act which included fancy dancing, comedy, flute playing, DJing, powwow drumming, looping and rapping with Native American themes.

He also offered sage wisdom inspiring the students to respond to adversity and the hardships of life in prayer, in love, in hope and faith.

Big Bash coordinator and staff member Melissa Shelton reported the event had gone very well. She commented that the students had a great time and deemed the Big Bash a huge success.

The whole theme of the Big Bash was in keeping with getting a fresh start for the new academic year, building on previous successes, moving forward and in a bright direction for Jones Academy and its students.

McAdams announced that the new mission statement of Jones Academy is “Developing Native American Leaders for the World.” Now is the time and place to begin working toward that destiny.



Native American rapper Supaman performs for Jones Academy students. In addition to his live act, he gave students words of wisdom and a call to action to respond to adversity and hardships with prayer, love, hope and faith.



Four Jones Academy students smile as they hold their shirts with the new mission statement for Jones Academy, “Developing Native American Leaders for the World.” (from left) Shelby Tushka, Kennedy Henry, Maria Mackey and Alexzandra Stroble.



Tegan Williams and Alexis Hayes participate in a team building activity during the Big Bash on Saturday, Aug. 12. Other activities were Tae Kwon Do, CrossFit demonstrations and voting to choose new school colors.

# COMMUNITY CALIFORNIA

## LOS ANGELES



Author Billie Denise Lavan (middle) and illustrator Charlene Mosley (right) answer questions about their book “Rudolph the Longhaired Dachshund.”



The Membership and CDIB booths were very busy as people updated information and received new Tribal Membership cards.



As his dad holds the blow gun steady, Levi Campos aims for the deer target at the Los Angeles Community Meeting.



The 2018 Okla Chahta Princesses finish getting ready before the start of the Los Angeles Community Meeting on Sunday, Aug. 20.

## From the Choctaw Nation Mail Room

When sending mail to the Nation please address as follows:

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

### 2017 EDUCATION CLASSES

#### Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency(HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 13 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver’s license, permit, or ID). The class will meet each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, an attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

**Haskell County**  
Monday, October 2, 9 a.m. - noon  
Every Monday and Wednesday  
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.,  
2208 E. Main, Stigler,

**Latimer County**  
Tuesday, October 3, 9 a.m. - noon  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.,  
515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton

**Bryan County**  
Tuesday, October 3, 9 a.m. - noon  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
Durant, Headquarters South Bldg.  
529 N. 16th Ave., Durant

**McCurtain County**  
Tuesday, October 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University,  
McCurtain County Campus  
2805 NE Lincoln Rd., Idabel



# MEETINGS

## ORNIA

### FRESNO



Johnson Garland shared her family album with Gary Batton during the Fresno Community Meeting on Friday, Aug. 18.



Chunyo Johnson was able to speak with Language Instructor Lillie Roberts. Johnson was one of Roberts' online language students.



Allison (left) and Tatyana Holbert (right) stand with the darts they shot with a blow gun. The opportunity to shoot a dart with a blow gun was a popular activity at the Community Meetings.



The Fresno meeting started the Chahta social dance. Chief Batton taught people at the meeting how to dance the Chahta.



During the Fresno Meeting Chief Batton demonstrated true servant leadership as he helped AlyMay Flowers with her shoes.



Tamaka and Chief Batton were able to visit during the Fresno Community Meeting.



Remy Grimes (left) and her older sister Rayleigh (right) were all smiles at the Fresno Community Meeting on Friday, Aug. 18.



Bill Harrison, from Okla Chahta, presented Stella Wright with a blow gun. Wright is starting to learn her Choctaw heritage and Harrison said she was a natural with the blow gun.

Photos by Stacy Hutto

#### Choctaw Nation High School Equivalency Classes

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

Beginning date for all classes is October 9, 2017

##### Morning Classes

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

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

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

##### Afternoon Classes

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

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

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

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

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

It's easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops!

It's simple: Buy the products; clip the Box Tops; drop off or send the Box Tops to the Choctaw Nation and help earn cash for things the school needs like: school supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.

Send to:  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Attn: Jerry Tomlinson  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702

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

For further information, contact Jerry Tomlinson at 580.524.8200, ext. 2904

Rental Property Services

Open To Tribal Members

ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

In Smithville is accepting applications for

One Bedroom Apartments

Includes:

Stove, Refrigerator, Central Heat & Air

Washer and Dryer

In- house Safe Room

Income Based

Applications can be obtained from Broken Bow Investment center

Located at 210 South Chata Road Broken Bow, OK 74728

Or

Online at [www.choctawhousing.com](http://www.choctawhousing.com) under Services Tab

- Independent Elder Housing

Or

By calling 800-235-3087 or 580-326-7521 or 580-317-5003



CHOCTAW NATION WIC

ANNOUNCES E-WIC COMING FALL 2017!



#### Aspiring Entrepreneur or Small Business Owner?

Attend a FREE Small Business Development Workshop In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma!

Training by RedWind In Co-Partnership with Citizen Potawatomi Nation CDFI and the Choctaw Nation CAB Program

- FREE 2-Day Native American Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop
- Wednesday, September 13th & Thursday, September 14th (9am-4pm)
- Location: OKC Community College - James Massey Center, Room 131, 7777 South May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73159
- Class materials & refreshments provided

- Register on-line: <http://www.nativesmallbusiness.org/okc>  
Or, contact Cindy Logsdon, Potawatomi Nation CDFI, 405-878-4697, [clogsdon@cpdc.org](mailto:clogsdon@cpdc.org) and Sherlynn Kennedy, Choctaw Nation CAB Program, 580-920-2260, extension 2608, [skennedy@choctawnation.com](mailto:skennedy@choctawnation.com)

Check out the Native American Entrepreneurial Empowerment Workshop experience at: [http://www.nativesmallbusiness.org/inside\\_the\\_workshop](http://www.nativesmallbusiness.org/inside_the_workshop)

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS ARE PROVIDED TO NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY THROUGH SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ONAA). ONAA CONTRACTED WITH REDWIND TO PROVIDE WORKSHOPS THROUGH CONTRACT NUMBER: SBAHQ-17-F-0060. FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [HTTP://WWW.NATIVESMALLBUSINESS.ORG/](http://WWW.NATIVESMALLBUSINESS.ORG/)



56th Annual Gospel Singing

Thessalonian Baptist Church

(6 miles SE of Red Oak on Hwy 82, Salonia Road)

Saturday, September 9th, 2017

3:00 pm–5:30 pm–Congregation Singing

7:00 pm–??? -Singing resume with Special Groups and Congregation singing.

Supper will be serve at 5:30 pm.

Joe Coley, Emcee



# S T I B O 8

## Davy Lee Graham



Davy Lee Graham, 87, of Alex passed away Jan. 5, 2017, in Duncan.

Davy was born Jan. 21, 1929, in Alex to Davy Mack and Cora Mae (Price) Graham.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Alma Graham; and son Davy Graham Jr.

Davy is survived by his children Alana Barr and spouse Brent, Tony Graham and spouse Lynn, Rod Graham and spouse Debra and Reggie Graham and spouse Diane; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law Faye Baird and Meta Johnson.

Interment was held at Alex Cemetery.

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

## Donald Roy “Nick” Nicholas

Donald Roy “Nick” Nicholas, 90, passed away July 8, 2017.

Donald was born Aug. 13, 1926, in Ft. Worth, Texas, to Roy and Birdie (Mitchell) Nicholas.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Nicholas; and sister, Gene Nicholas Doolittle.

Donald is survived by four children; grandchildren Jennifer, Kyle, Alex, Sam, Alex, Matt, Amanda, Sarah and Erin; and great-grandchildren, Ainsley, Addison, Eli and Grace.

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



## Jetta Lucille Tomblinson

Jetta Lucille Tomblinson, 100, passed away June 27, 2017 in Henderson, Nevada.

Jetta was born May 1, 1917, in Duncan .

She was preceded in death by husband C. K. Tomblinson and son Hurshell Tomblinson.

Jetta is survived by brother Claude Mitchell; son Richard Tomblinson Sr.; LaMerylis Gauger; 12 grandchildren Debra Tomblinson Boesl, Richard Tomblinson Jr., Kim Marie Tobmlinson Stevens, Lisa Tomblinson Dee, Suzette Tomblinson Marson, Janeice Tomblinson Willams, Heidi Tomblinson Wilder, Timothy Evans, James Richards, Michael Richards, Kevin Richards and Amy Richards; 24 great-grandchildren and 21 great-great-grandchildren.



## Lois Ruth (Baker) Thompson

Lois Ruth (Baker) Thompson, 62, of Salem passed away June 9, 2010.

Lois was born Aug. 5, 1947, in Broken Bow to Aaron Baker Sr. and Juanita (Billy) Baker.

She was preceded in death by mother; brothers Harold Baker and Darrell Baker; two sisters-in-law; and three brothers-in-law.

Lois is survived by Newman Thompson, Jr.; daughter Dierdra Soap and husband Kevin; son Steven Thompson; grandsons Aaron Soap, Emery Soap and Jarred White; granddaughters Laurisa Soap and Ashley Pigeon; one great-grandchild; brothers Robert Baker and wife Dinh, Aaron Baker Jr. and wife Linda and Ray Baker; sisters Joyce Baker and Nita Harrison and husband Kenneth; sisters-in-law Etta Dickinson and Sarah Thompson; brothers-in-law Marshall Thompson and wife Nancy and Emmanuel Thompson; uncles Ed Billy and Daniel Billy; and aunts Agnes Baker and Rose Billy.

Interment was held at Battiest Cemetery.

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



## Aaron Baker Sr.

Aaron Baker Sr., 97, of Battiest, passed away Nov. 15, 2013.

Aaron was born Sept. 24, 1916, in Battiest to Robinson and Ennettie (Winship) Baker.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Juanita (Billy) Baker; sons Harold Baker and Darrel Baker; daughter Lois Baker Thompson; brothers James R. Baker, Daniel Baker, Walter Baker, Anderson Winship, Floyd Baker and Owen J. Baker; and sisters Gladys Wade and Edith Gem.

Aaron is survived by sons Aaron Baker Jr. and wife Linda; Robert Baker and wife Dinh and Cecil Ray Baker and wife Deborah of Battiest; daughters Joyce Baker and Nita Harrison and husband Kenneth; son-in-law Newman Thompson Jr.; grandsons Chris Baker, Mark Baker, Steve Thompson, Richard Martinez and Shawn Baker; granddaughters Leslie Harrison, Michelle Soap, Robin Baker, Melony Large, Megan Baker and Cody Baker; 23 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Rose Billy; brothers-in-law Ed Billy and Daniel Billy; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

Interment was held at Battiest Cemetery

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



## Jeffrey Lynn Ward

Jeffrey Lynn Ward, 55, of Shady Point, passed away March 8, 2017, at his home.

Jeff was born June 29, 1961, in Idabel to Joseph E. and Peggy Jewnell (Bray) Ward.

He is survived by his father; brother Terry; sister Lisa Balcomba; daughter Kristin Mang; grandson Noah; along with a host of family and friends.

Interment was held at Holly Creek Cemetery.

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



## Mary Louise Brown

Mary Louise Brown, 85, of Pampa, Texas, passed away July 31, 2017 in Pampa.

Mary was born Dec. 27, 1931, to Matt and Ida Russell in Davis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister Tina Rozzell.

Mary is survived by her husband Billy Fred Brown; daughter Kathy Bradley and husband Rick of Houston; son Duane Brown and wife Adah Leah Wolf of McKinney; grandsons Ryan Bradley and wife Lindsey of Cypress, Russ Bradley and wife Elena of Denton, and Reid Bradley and wife Samantha of Canyon; and great-grandchildren, Emma, Ava, Revin, Rogan and Parker.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors](#).



## Elsie (Anderson) Walls

Elsie (Anderson) Walls, 82, passed away July 22, 2017, in Tulsa.

Elsie was born March 26, 1935, to Wilson and Oma Harris Anderson in Miller.

She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin Junior Walls; parents Wilson Anderson and Oma Harris Anderson; brothers George Anderson, Victor Anderson and Dan Anderson; sisters Mary Roller, Myrtle Thompson, Alice Hatten, Dorothy Pope and Thelma Brittingham.

Elsie is survived by her son William Marvin Walls II and Teresa Jones of Prague; daughters Marlene Lee and husband Bruce of Moore, and Tina Sapp and Riley Thomas of Choctaw; sister; Linda and Virgil Silvey of Antlers; grandchildren Billy Walls III, Melissa Walls, Charity Walls, Nicholas Walls, Steven Lee, and Shannon Walls, Heather Culp, Hollid Herd, Hailey Frazier, and Hannah Thomas; along with numerous family, friends, nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Antlers City Cemetery.

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



## Nathan Shane Hurst

Nathan Shane Hurst, 19, passed away July 19, 2017, near Marietta.

Nathan was born Dec. 19, 1997 in Ada, to Barry Hurst and Misty Cox Hurst.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother Linda Newton; great-grandparents Mary and Gene Hammons, Faye Cox, and Buddy and Velda Hurst.

Nathan is survived by his mother Misty Hurst of Marietta; father and stepmother Barry and Amber Hurst, also of Marietta; fiancée’ Aspen George of Dickson; brother Ryan Hurst of Marietta; sister Laura Beth Hurst of Marietta; two stepsisters Tamra Simpson of Marietta and Alex Brightman of The Colony, Texas; grandparents, Don and Corenia Hurst of Marietta, and Stan and LaDanna Cox of Marietta; uncles and aunts Brandon Cox of Shawnee, Donnie and Rena Hurst of Marietta, and Diane and Billy Eades of Ardmore; and numerous great-uncles and aunts.

Interment was held at Lakeview Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit [Watts Funeral Home and Creamatory](#).



## Mary Ann Burgess Robinson

Mary Ann Burgess Robinson passed away Feb. 22, 2017.

Mary Ann was born April 14, 1942, to Archie and Irene (Nelson) Burgess, in Antlers.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Charles and Buzz Burgess; and her parents Archie and Irene Burgess.

Mary Ann is survived by her best friend and husband Arvid; sons Scott and Brad and wife Michelle; granddaughters, Taylor, Kennedy, Marissa, Khloe and Emma; and sisters Norma, Jan, Judy, Mona and Linda.

To read the full obituary, please visit [AASUM-FOUR Funeral Home](#).



## Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Due to space limitations, there is a 150 word limit for obituaries. Full obituaries can be read online. Send official obituary notices to: Biskinik PO Box 1210 Durant OK 74702 or email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

## Naomi Ruth Rine

Naomi Ruth Rine, 83, of Liberal, Kansas, passed away on May 9, 2017, at Southwest Medical Center in Liberal.

Naomi was born on March 12, 1934, to Martin and Ellen (Plunkett) McKee in Moyers.

She was preceded in death by her husband Phillip; parents; daughters Carlotta Ann Rine, Pamela Sue Rine, and Virginia Leigh Rine; grandchildren Christopher Rine, Jordan Prouty, and Jerrod Gragg; brothers Earl Geyer and Charles Geyer; and sisters Julia Thomas and Irma McKee.

Interment was held at the Liberal City Cemetery.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Miller Mortuary](#).



## James Russell Frazier

James Russell Frazier, 55, of Grand Saline, Texas, died on July 22, 2017, at Texas General Hospital of Grand Saline.

James was born Oct. 2, 1961, to Eslin Nelson and Lillie Mae Taylor in Neshoba.

He was perceded in death by his parents E.N. and Lillie Mae Frazier; and brothers and sisters Virgil Frazier; David Frazier; Darrell Frazier; Brenda Dudley, Sandra Frazier; Lula Frazier and Lillian “Lee” Kincaid.

James is survived by his wife of 10 years Lorraine Johnson Frazier of Grand Saline; children Tiffany Stinson of Kaufman, Texas, Josh Dobbins of Hutchins, Texas, Stormy Frazier of Deport, Texas, Destiny Arredondo and husband Chase of Terrell, Texas, and Brittany Lozoya, of Grand Saline; grandchildren Juliet, Robert, Ryan, Dylan, Jayden, Kaylee, and Aurora; sisters Linda Frazier of Paris, Texas and Terry Hood of Paris; brothers Allen Frazier of Paris, Austin Frazier of Paris, and Leonard “Buck” Frazier of Deport.

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



## Emily Sue Zanne Morgan

Emily Sue Zanne Morgan, 23, passed away on Aug. 26, 2016. She was born on Jan. 1, 1993 in Talihina.

Emily was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather Harold Merryman; and paternal grandmother Geneva Morgan; aunts Odessa Johnson, and Rainella Sue Boren and Husband Morris.

She is survived by her 6-year-old son Payden Alexander Henson; mother Kimberly Merryman; father Charlie Morgan; sister Chelcey Akins and husband Courtney; grandmother Sue Zanne Grier; grandfather Jerry; great-aunt Mary Merryman-Campbell; great-uncle Harlis Merryman; niece Ti’Lee Akins; uncles Scott Anderson and Vincent Merryman; aunts Leslie Brosan, and Shelli Walters; brother, Lukas Morgan, his mother Barbrea Pride and Barbrea’s daughters, Raéven and Maliyah; aunts Marie Clark, Hope Primeaux and husband Jessie, Theresa Chicago, Sara James, Kathy Monday and husband Jack, and Tina Morgan; uncles William Morgan, Bob Morgan, George Morgan, Clyde James, and Richard Morgan and wife Kathleen.

To read the full obituary visit [Schaudt’s Funeral Service and Cremation Care Center](#).



## Gerald “Jug” Wayne Hankins

Gerald “Jug” Wayne Hankins, 65, passed away July 28, 2017, in Tracy, California.

Gerald was born in Dallas, Nov. 3, 1951, to Henry Hankins and Mattie AnnaBelle McKinney.

He was preceded in death by his sister JuliaAnn Calhoun; and brothers Henry Hankins and Lewallen (Luke) Hankins.

Gerald is survived by his sisters Nova Walker, Sarah Reynolds, Shirley Hankins and spouse Frankie Freeman; wife Reva Spangler-Hankins; daughter and spouse Cathy and Andy Martinez; son Allen Hankins, stepson and spouse Tom and Diane Spangler; step-daughters Ronnie Spangler, Nancy Spangler, Brenda and spouse Dan Clark; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

To read the full obituary, please visit [Fry Memorial Chapel](#).



## Ross Virgil Lawrence

Ross Virgil Lawrence, 82, of Durant, passed away Aug. 3, 2017.

Ross was born Sept. 9, 1934, to Rev. Lewis and Ella (Belvin) Lawrence, in Lawton.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Lewis Lawrence and wife Ella; son, Preston Lawrence; daughter, Becky Lawrence; and grandchildren.

Ross is survived by his sons, Roger Wardin of Lincoln, Arknasas and Virgal Lawrence of Durant; daughters, Louise Samis, Daisy Wall of Bethany, Ada Campbell of Madill, and June Kiene of Charleston, Arkansas; step-children, Jody Wilson of Achille, Alxie McGee of Odessa, Texas, and Sherry Wilson of Odessa; 17 grandsons; 19 granddaughters; 75 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great grandchildren.

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





# Iti Fabussa

## Father William Henry Ketcham *Part One*

With students settling back in to classrooms for the school year across the nation, it is a perfect time to reflect upon education.

The next few Iti Fabvssa articles will focus on lesser known missionaries from various denominations that influenced education in the Choctaw Nation, working to respect Choctaw children and their families in the face of change.

With the systematic assimilation policies in government and mission boarding schools that existed across the United States, we will never know the true cost of abuse, cultural loss, and historical trauma to Choctaw people.

How do we acknowledge the positive opportunities of an education, connections to life-long friends, and those individuals that worked to respect Choctaw people within the atrocities of a nightmare? Delicately.

Perhaps, focusing on stories of light, like legacies of missionaries who dedicated their lives to working within the Choctaw Nation, might offer some solace.

The first missionary whom we will focus on is Father William Henry Ketcham, who was born to Protestant parents on June 1, 1868 in Sumner, Iowa (Abing 1994).

Ketcham converted to Catholicism and later pursued a theological education by enrolling in an institution located in Indian Territory, Sacred Heart Monastery.

Sacred Heart Monastery had been a part of ministry to Native Americans since 1876 (Abing 1994). This work among Native American students so deeply pressed upon Ketcham that he sought permission from the highest Catholic authority in the region to conduct missionary work in Indian Territory exclusively.

His second mission assignment led him to Antlers to serve tribal members of the Choctaw Nation (Abing 1994). With only \$25 to start a mission, Ketcham slept in the railroad house and conducted mass to his growing congregation in the court house, all while studying the Choctaw language to better communicate with residents in the community that spoke little to no English (Abing 1994:3).

noted, “according to our traditions, with the sole exception of the late missionary to Louisiana Choctaws, the Abbe Rouquette, who died in New Orleans in 1887, Father Ketcham was the only priest who has acquired our language” (Nieberding 1955:189).

According to “The Indian Sentinel” (Locke 1920:423), Father Ketcham worked with a board of translators comprised of first language speakers, including Peter J. Hudson of Tuskahoma and Ben Henderson of Antlers, to develop materials from a Choctaw point of view, in the Choctaw language.

In 1899, these included a prayer book and catechism materials in dual English and Choctaw formats to better serve students including a Choctaw adapted Catholic Ladder (Nieberding 1955). Catholic Ladders, looked much like ladders on print with “thematic sequences of symbols or pictures for instructing candidates on how to achieve heaven” (Thiel 2009:49).

Ketcham secured donations to build a residence, a chapel, and St. Agnes Mission school to serve both day and resident students.

Over time Ketcham mastered the Choctaw language, so much so, that Choctaw Chief Victor Locke later

He purchased Choctaw education materials for students including spelling, arithmetic, and books of the Bible. In 1916, Ketcham published his Katiskisma, a detailed catechism he translated into the Choctaw language, to ensure future Choctaw students and their families could continue to connect with the Gospel in their own language (Nieberding 1955, Locke 1920:423-424).

The St. Agnes Mission served the community for 48 years and the school remained a prominent option for local children until April 12, 1945 (Abing 1994, Nieberding 1955). It was on this day an F5 tornado struck the town of Antlers, leaving nearly half the town homeless, 69 killed, and over 350 injured (Holmes 2015).

The tornado lifted the St. Agnes Mission rectory up into the air where it exploded into thousands of pieces (Nieberding 1955).

The Mission was leveled except for the hallway of the school building.

Here, huddled under collapsed walls were 60 young students with their teachers, miraculously saved from the storm (Nieberding 1955).

The community of Antlers worked together to rebuild the town within a short time, but St. Agnes Mission remained closed.

*Part Two of Father William Henry Ketcham's story will be in an upcoming issue of the Biskinik.*



Marquette University Special Collections and Archives, Bureau of Catholic Indian Mission Records, Series 09-1-39-06

**Father William Ketcham, students and nuns outside the St. Agnes Mission School in Antlers, Indian Territory. The photo was taken before statehood in 1907. The school, along with the chapel and a residence was built with donations Ketcham secured. The St. Agnes Mission School was an option for local children until an F5 tornado struck Antlers on April 12, 1945. The Mission was destroyed except for the hallway of the school building. Huddled under the collapsed walls were 60 children and their teachers. While Antlers was rebuilt, the Mission remained closed.**

## Five Businesses Receive Small Business Forgivable Loans

The Choctaw Nation Development Fund awarded several existing and start-up businesses within the Choctaw Nation a total of \$25,000 small business forgivable loans in June.

The businesses awarded the loans help stimulate the economy and provide jobs for Choctaw tribal members while providing necessary services for the communities they live in.

Choctaw Small Business Development Services awarded each business with a \$5,000 loan.

Jason Shoemaker of Durant owns Okpechi and Shoemaker Insurance, Inc. Shoemaker received the forgivable loan to purchase equipment for his start-up business. The business will provide affordable homeowners, auto and life insurance to local residents.

Lacey Clay of Rattan owns My Favorite Things. She was awarded the forgivable loan to purchase equipment and remodel her space for her flowers, gifts, home accessories and clothing start-up business.

Another Durant resident, Leah Anne Brooks, owns Texoma Wealth Management. Brooks received the forgivable loan to assist with equipment costs to establish Texoma Wealth Management, a financial advisement business that assists with portfolio management.

Sarah Wolf of Durant owns The Lions Den. She will use her forgivable loan to assist with start-up costs to expand her nutrition shakes and supplement business to a second location in Durant.

The final business to receive a forgivable loan in June was O-Tex Electric. The business is owned by Wade Stowers of Durant. He was awarded the loan to help purchase equipment for service calls for his electrician services business.

The Choctaw Development Fund supports economic viability and sustainability by partnering with Choctaw small business owners, cities and municipalities to create long-term growth and job creation within the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information about the fund contact Development Fund Manager Angel Rowland (580) 924-8280, ext. 2371, toll-free at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2371, or by email at arowland@ChoctawNation.com.



by Choctaw Nation

**Texoma Wealth Management was one of five businesses to be awarded a forgivable loan in June. Small Business Services Manager Billy Hamilton (left) and Small Business Development Coordinator Olivia Smith (right) presented owner Leah Anne Brooks (center) with a check.**

## Choctaw Nation Sponsors Hoop House Workshop

Would you like to start your horticulture crops earlier in spring, keep them going later in the fall and grow cool season crops all through the winter?

Choctaw Nation is sponsoring a popular hoop house workshop by the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Choctaw Community Center near Poteau.

Participants will go step-by-step through the hands-on process of building a 100-foot by 17-foot hoop house from bending the hoops, to pounding stakes, to attaching the plastic in the morning.

Lunch will be provided and then participants will head to the Kerr Center just a couple miles down the road to see

a hoop house in use and learn techniques for growing in a hoop house.

The hoop house design demonstrated at the workshop will be a lower cost version and will allow the grower to learn how to use a hoop house at a much lower cost than commercial versions.

Depending on the source, total materials should cost around \$1,500.

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end around 3:30 p.m.

Registration cost, including materials and lunch, will be provided by the Choctaw Nation for all tribal members at least 16 years old.

The deadline to register is Saturday, Sept. 30, or until the workshop capacity has been reached.

To ensure a spot participants are encouraged to sign up early. After registration, more information will be given.

To register, call the Kerr Center at (918) 647-9123, or by email at mailbox@kerrcenter.com.

## You're Invited

4th Annual

# Choctaw College Connect

A Tribal Member Exclusive Event

**NOV. 4TH | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Choctaw Event Center • 3702 Choctaw Rd. • Durant, OK 74701**

## STUDENT SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND

### NEED MONEY TO BUY SCHOOL OR ACTIVITY CLOTHES?

- Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are available July 1, 2017 and will end May 1, 2018. Each student with a tribal membership can receive this one time per school year.
- \$100 assistance available nation wide for Choctaw tribal members attending 3 year old day care to 12 grade High School.

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDS  
JULY 1, 2017 - MAY 1, 2018

Apply Online or at  
[ssafapplication.choctawnation.com](http://ssafapplication.choctawnation.com)

## JOIN US THIS FALL ENROLL AT JONES ACADEMY

We are accepting applications for the 2017 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost-free to families. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/ Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post-Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

**Apply today**  
[CHOCTAWNATION.COM/APPLYING-JONES-ACADEMY](http://CHOCTAWNATION.COM/APPLYING-JONES-ACADEMY)  
 800.522.6170

**909 JONES ACADEMY ROAD  
HARTSHORNE, OK 74547**

## JONES ACADEMY

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma    FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE



## Truvon Willis Attends Medical Summer Camps at SE and OSU

By his own admission, Truvon Willis is a “doctor in waiting.” The Jones Academy student has expressed a keen interest in pursuing a career in the medical field and was able to attend two medical camps at regional universities in Oklahoma this past summer. The camps were sponsored by the Health Sciences Department at Oklahoma State University. The first medical session, Operation Orange was a one-day event held on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant in June. While at the camp, the students studied human anatomy, performed intubations on simulators, and explored career opportunities in the health care profession. The second conference, the OSU Medical Immersion Camp was held from July 26-28, at the OSU Center for Health and Sciences in Tulsa. Students interacted with health care field professionals listened to lectures and participated in hands-on medical demonstrations such as suturing. Truvon viewed videos on medical operations, suturing techniques, and the different options doctors have when closing a patient. The students practiced the “horizontal mattress stitch” and the “running man suture” techniques (to name a few) on synthetic skin. The students were also able to shadow doctors and interact with patients at one of the hospitals in Tulsa. Tanner Thompson, the OSU Special Projects Coordinator, reported that Truvon had done very well at the camps and was anxious to see him next year. At the end of the camps, Truvon exclaimed, “I think I have the stomach for it!” Which is a good trait to have if you are going to be a doctor. Truvon Willis is a junior at Hartshorne High School and has been a resident of Jones Academy since the fourth grade. He is attending classes at the Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester where he is starting his second year in the Bio-Med Program.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Ernestine McKay of Idabel celebrated her 100th birthday June 26, 2017. Ernestine was born in Millerton to Ernest and Elizabeth Townsend and attended school in Millerton and Valliant. She graduated from Southeastern State Teachers College in Durant. After receiving her master’s degree from the University of Minnesota, she worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 35 years.

### *The Charlestons* Celebrate 73 years of marriage



WWII veteran G.M. “Choc” Charleston and wife Billie recently celebrated 73 years of marriage. They married July 3, 1944. The couple built and operated the Choctaw Trading Post on North Portland in Oklahoma City until Jan.1, 1989 when they sold and retired.

### *The Scroggins* 70 Years Strong



Wilbert “Wib” Scroggins and Juanita Foxx recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The pair married June 14, 1947. The Scroggins have lived in both Oakman and Ada for the majority of their marriage. The couple have two children daughter, Lynda Collins and husband Jud; son, David and wife Nancy; four grandchildren, Blake Collins and wife Shelly, Breanna White and husband Luke, Beau Scroggins and wife Shannon, and Brett Scroggins; five great-grandchildren, Wilder, Gwyneth and Adalyn Collons and Ellia and Palmer White.

### *The Harts* 50 Years Strong



Jim and Karen Hart recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They married Dec. 17, 1966, at Trinity Baptist Church in Tulsa. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. They have two sons, Jimmer and Jerrod Hart and five grandchildren. They enjoy cruises and traveling, Harleys and horses.

### *The Williams* Celebrate 70 years of marriage



Lee Roy and Connie Williams recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They married July 5, 1947. They have resided in Honobia for the past 60 years, 58 of those in the home built by Lee Roy. They have one daughter Carol Sue and husband Cooper Brown; two grandchildren Christy Lachelle, and Cooper Lee and wife Holly; and three great-grandchildren Lauren Leah, Rachel Elizabeth, and Caleb Cooper Brown.

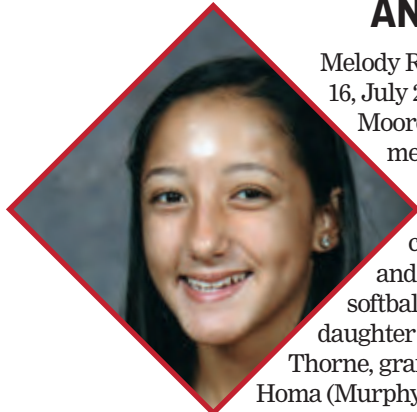
### TO YOU

Aubree Sage Fry celebrated her fifth birthday July 16, 2017. She is the daughter of Heather Fry. Aubree is the granddaughter of Sydney and Bo Baker. She is the niece of Larry Baker and the great-granddaughter of the late Lavada Baker and Patty Moore.



### AND YOU

Melody Rayne Thorne turned 16, July 21, 2017. She attends Moore High School; is a member of both Native American and National Honor Societies; Star Program, and is on the Her-icanes softball team. Melody is the daughter of John and Marie Thorne, granddaughter of LaHoma (Murphy) Crauthers and the great-granddaughter of the late William and Ella Murphy.



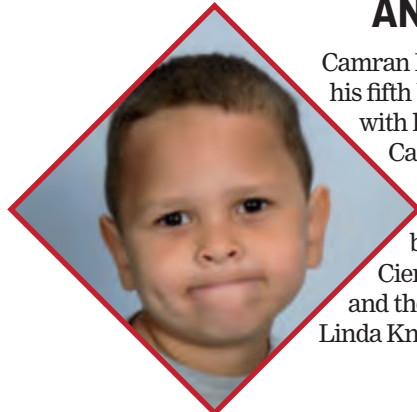
### AND YOU

Ryan Jacob Thorne turned 16, Aug. 28, 2017. He attends Mountain View High School in Tucson, Arizona. He is a member of the Star Program and finished his sophomore year with a 3.33 GPA. He is the son of Mike and Kristy Thorne, grandson of LaHoma (Murphy) Crauthers, and the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy.



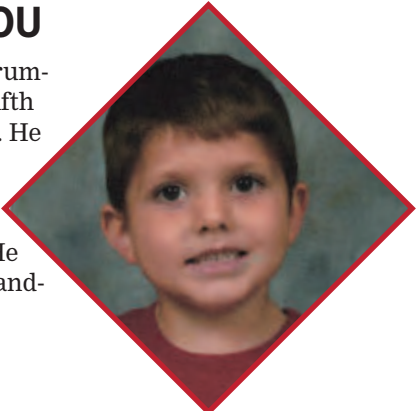
### AND YOU

Camran Lee Knight celebrated his fifth birthday May 7, 2017, with his family and friends. Camran is the son of Rickey and Stacey Knight. He is the brother of Hannah, Ciera, Kiera and Joshua, and the grandson of Lee and Linda Knight.



### AND YOU

Timothy James Grummitt celebrated his fifth birthday Feb. 7, 2017. He celebrated with his parents Mark and Michelle Grummitt and his Alexander. He is the great-great-grandson of Jincy Nell.



### AND YOU

Brady Kole French celebrated his first birthday April 18, 2017. Brady is the son of Blake and Bree French. He is the grandson of Lloyd Jr. and Jeanette French, Lonnie and Ireta Bond, and Ronnie Bean. He is the great-grandson of Virginia Thompson and late Llyod French Sr., Linda and James Cook, and the late Lloyd French Sr. He is the great-great-great-grandson of Helen Ashford.



## Taber Takes Part in VISTA Program



the ConnectHome Initiative. Siena College, working closely with HUD and CNCS, oversees the ConnectHome VISTA Project. The VISTA program places members at sponsoring organizations, which incur costs related to project supervision and logistical support.

The VISTA worker hired to work at the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is Sherra Taber, a Choctaw member.

CNCS provides VISTA members a modest living allowance and benefits, including an end of service stipend or education award. Investment by the sponsoring organization and the community is fundamental to the project, as the VISTA resources are intended to be short-term.



## Portalatin Represents Nation in D.C.

Ryan Portalatin, Student Trainee (Range-land) from Cypress, Texas (left) and Gavin Clarkson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development-Indian Affairs. Ryan is very proud to represent the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma this summer in Washington, DC.

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for their continued support as he plans to graduate from Texas Tech University on Dec. 16.

## HOT JOBS

Get **September 2017** HIRED!

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

Position	Location
• Attorney Staff I	• Durant

To apply for these positions or see other job postings in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, visit [www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com](http://www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com)

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of June 30, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,707,028,013	163,725,787	1,870,753,800
Receivables	257,341,358	39,091,467	296,432,825
Inventory	5,021,203	14,342,718	19,363,921
Prepaid Expenses	4,107,692	8,365,008	12,472,700
Other Assets			
Fixed Assets	697,516,727	699,244,565	1,396,761,292
Less Payables	(419,834,432)	(88,330,098)	(508,164,530)
Net Assets	2,251,180,561	836,439,447	3,087,620,008

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Nine Months Ended June 30, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	224,328,515	890,837,827	1,115,166,342
Expenditures:			
General Government	103,539,265	-	103,539,265
Health	95,112,087	-	95,112,087
Education	26,161,971	-	26,161,971
Human	34,306,991	-	34,306,991
Community	16,043,337	-	16,043,337
Cultural	7,731,899	-	7,731,899
Judiciary	1,096,251	-	1,096,251
Internal Service	70,159	-	70,159
Choctaw Businesses	-	592,557,414	592,557,414
Total Expenditures	284,061,960	592,557,414	876,619,374
Transfers	306,558,270	(306,558,270)	-
Increase in Net Assets	246,824,825	(8,277,857)	238,546,968
Beginning Net Assets	2,004,355,736	844,717,305	2,849,073,041
Ending Net Assets	2,251,180,561	836,439,448	3,087,620,009

This is a Notice of Reprimand to Candidate for Council, Berdie Mae Williams, for campaign violations of the Choctaw Nation Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance during her campaign for District 9. After hearing before the Election Board on July 27, 2017, it was determined the following violations had been proven to have occurred: (1) displaying political advertisement at the Durant Community Center Voting location on Election Day; (2) campaigning on Tribal Property at Durant Community Center on separate occasions; (3) campaigning on Tribal Property at Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant by recorded television commercial asking for votes. Candidate is hereby subject to a Public Reprimand and shall be required to pay a \$500.00 fine for campaign violations.



# Success is Sweet for Durant Small Business

by KENDRA GERMANY

When summertime makes its way to South-eastern Oklahoma it brings with it sunny skies and hot temperatures. Beating the heat can feel like an impossible task, but Snowbyrds Shaved Ice in Durant is doing its best to help Durant cool off with some sweet treats.

Tribal member Andy Byrd and his wife Kara decided to purchase JJ’s Shaved Ice this past November, modernizing and rebranding the local staple to Snowbyrds.

“It was one of those things where it was on my mind, it was on her mind and next thing you know we had a conversation about it. We had the opportunity to purchase it and it just kind of fell right into place,” said Andy.

“We bought JJ’s Shaved Ice and rebranded it to Snowbyrds. Some new things that we do are flavors of the week. We’ve got some really gourmet and different flavors that you’re not going to find anywhere else,” said Kara.

The new look and feel, along with Kara’s marketing skills have turned Snowbyrds into a local hot spot in the community.

Snowbyrds isn’t your typical snow cone stand, which is something both Andy and Kara take pride in.

According to Kara, there are a lot of factors that set them apart from the typical snow cone stand.

“I think it really comes down to the fact that we do have those really different and unique flavors. I haven’t seen another stand that does something like a cereal killer that actually has fruity pebbles on it. You know that is something definitely unique and different. We try to keep up with what’s going on in the modern times, so we had a Jon Snow cone last time. There are things like that that we really try to include that aren’t seen at other places.

According to the Byrds social media has played a huge part in the success of the business.

“It’s huge. It is some of the only marketing that we actually do. When we took over the business, the Facebook page that they gave us only had 480 likes. Today, we have surpassed 2,000. So, it’s massive for us,” said Kara. “That’s the way we communicate, to show the flavors of the week, and to let people know what we have in stock and available. The trailer is branded to have a photo booth, so we incorporate that as a social media tool to have other people who are coming here to brand and market for us as well.”

The Byrds manage two locations in Durant, one located at the corner of Washington and University, the other on First Street near Ceviche Mexican Restaurant. They also operate a shaved ice truck, giving them the capabilities to travel for special events.

The Byrds have roughly 15 employees who keep the business running, and interacting with customers daily.

“We have three guys that help us with the shift change, and we have 12 girls that work at the snow cone stands for us,” said Kara. “Our girls, some of them have been here for years, some of them are brand-new. They love coming to work every day. It’s a fun experience.”

The Byrds are thankful for the support of not only the community but the Choctaw Nation as well.

Snowbyrds was awarded Small Startup Business of the year through the Choctaw Small Business Development program. The Byrds were also recipients of a \$5,000 forgivable loan through the program.



Photos by Kendra Germany

(Above) Andy and Kara Byrd are co-owners of Snowbyrds Shaved Ice in Durant. Since it’s opening this spring, Snowbyrds has become a popular hot spot to enjoy fun summer time treats.

(Below) Snowbyrds top selling specialty cones. Snowbyrds is known for their unusual and over the top creations. Pictured is “The Unicorn,” a sweet concoction served in a color changing cup.



According to Choctaw Small Business Development Manager Billy Hamilton, the Byrds deserve these awards due to their hard work.

“Snowbyrds was selected as the startup of the year because they are a perfect example of an entrepreneur that has the goals and resources to take their idea and implement it to start their business and create jobs and opportunities within their community,” said Hamilton. “The forgivable loan is an application process and they must provide proof and planning that shows the Choctaw Nation that they will be starting or expanding

their business and creating new jobs and opportunities within the Choctaw Nation. The Byrds were a perfect example of completing the application completely and showing proof that they would utilize tribal dollars to create new jobs within the Choctaw Nation.”

The Byrds credit Choctaw Small Business Development for contributing to the success of their business.

“They helped us with our logo and gave us the \$5,000 forgivable loan which was a huge help in getting us started with the rebranding and things that we have done. So, it’s been very helpful,” said Andy.

“It was wonderful to work with their team. Their marketing team really worked with us when we had a vision for what we wanted to do with our logo and branding. We had a couple of meetings and they just helped us so much to create the brand that we were looking for,” said Kara. “The \$5,000 forgivable loan helped us to expand because we were able to get a walk-in freezer instead of having multiple small freezers. So it helped us to be able to get things like the truck that we can go do events with. Because now we can harvest more ice.”

According to Hamilton, he foresees a bright future for Snowbyrds. “The Byrds were easy clients to work with because a true entrepreneur knows what they want and will do everything it takes to accomplish their goals. We see their business being a long-term success and has high growth potential, because of the Byrds determination and ability to plan and prepare for the future,” said Hamilton.

The Byrds are excited to see where their business takes them in the future and bringing new and exciting business to Durant.

“We just love Durant. We’re excited to see what kind of impact our business can have and what potential growth it can have in the future,” said Kara.

Snowbyrds is open Monday through Saturday noon to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. They serve Durant in two locations at the corner of Washington and University and on First Street near Ceviche Mexican Restaurant.

For more information and to keep up-to-date on all things Snowbyrds follow them on Facebook. Also, for more information on Choctaw Small Business Development Services, visit ChoctawSmallBusiness.com

## Choctaw Nation 2017 Senior and WIC Farmers Market Season Winds Down

by PEGGY CARLTON

The WIC Farmers Market and Senior Farmers Market season is winding down.

Participants in the farmers market programs have two months to cash in their farmers market checks. The checks will expire on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Please utilize your farmers list and take advantage of the checks that were given to you for fresh fruits and vegetables grown in your area.

Farmers who still have produce available

will be at the Durant, Hugo, Atoka, McAlester, Broken Bow and Idabel Community Centers every Wednesday.

They usually arrive between 8-9 a.m. and are there until noon, or their produce sells out. Call the community center ahead of time if you are going specifically to purchase from a farmer to make sure they will be there that Wednesday as produce will start dwindling as the fall season starts.

Farmers will also continue to be at the Durant and McAlester Health

Clinics on Mondays and Tuesdays and the Poteau Health Clinic on Mondays, as long as produce is available.

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

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

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

The WIC Farmers Market funding has been depleted. If you currently have WIC Farmers Market checks they will expire on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

The last day to apply for the Senior Farmers Market Program is Saturday, Sept. 30. Farmers market checks

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



Photo Provided

The WIC Farmers Market and Senior Farmers Market is winding down for the 2017 season. If you currently have WIC Farmers Market checks, they will expire on Tuesday, October 31.

### Effective September 1, 2017

Choctaw Nation Food Distribution will begin to serve Native Americans that reside in the four counties in Texas, and the five counties in Arkansas that border the Choctaw Nation , if they meet all of the eligibility requirements.

- Must meet all eligibility requirements.
- Must be willing to travel to one of our existing locations. (Antlers, Broken Bow, Durant, McAlester and Poteau)
- At least one member of the household must have a CDIB from a federally recognized tribe.
- Cannot live in a city with a population of 10,000 people or greater. (USDA requirement)
- Cannot participate in SNAP and this program at the same time. (USDA requirement)
- We will not be able to issue food until we have been able to verify all required information.

For more information or to receive an application contact one of the food distribution stores:

Antlers: 580-298-6443

Broken Bow: 580-584-2842

Durant: 580-924-7773

McAlester: 918-420-5716

Poteau: 918-649-0431





# All Stages of Construction Continue In Choctaw Nation

by STACY HUTTO

Choctaw Nation continues to expand as construction projects in various stages of completion continue to make progress across the 10 ½ counties.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in Stigler on Thursday, Aug. 17, for a new Choctaw Travel Plaza.

The new travel plaza is located at 1801 E. Main St.

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Choctaw Tribal Councilmembers, tribal member and members of the community were on hand for the travel plaza’s official opening.

Oklahoma Senator Larry Boggs (R), who represents District 7 also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

District 7 includes Haskell, Latimer, Pittsburg and portions of Hughes and Okfuskee Counties.

The Stigler travel plaza is the 16th Choctaw Travel Plaza in the 10 ½ counties.

The 6,600 square-foot facility is open 24 hours and offers four fuel pumps with diesel and regular gas, hot and fresh food prepared daily, a beer cave and a cultural center highlighting Choctaw heritage, as well as travel information.

“We are trying to make sure we provide opportunities for our tribal members and make sure that we keep our communities alive. Cities like Stigler, because we see a lot of those areas decline, hopefully this will keep people home, where you are going to see a great food opportunities that are provided here,” Chief Gary Batton said.

“We are very fortunate and blessed to be able to do this in the community, but it’s because of this council and all of us working together. None of this could happen without great partnership, I think about the City of Stigler, We’ve got our Senator here, Mr. Boggs. I thank you all for embracing us and hopefully we are coming here and providing more to the City of Stigler and promoting keeping people at home,” continued Chief Batton.

The opening of the new travel plaza brought 24 additional jobs to the Haskell County town.

“We are ecstatic to officially open this travel plaza in Stigler. We hope to open more trave plazas like this in the 10 ½ counties soon,” Choctaw Nation Division of Commerce Senior Executive Director TR Kanuch said.

On Tuesday, July 25, a ground break-

ing ceremony was held in Broken Bow for a new community center.

The new community center will be located at 1346 E. Martin Luther King Dr. in Broken Bow.

In addition to the new community center, the stickball field will be re-built.

The new community center will replace the old one located at 210 S. Chahta Rd. The old community center was built in 1996.

Chief Batton said it was one of several facilities in the Choctaw Nation currently under construction in southeastern Oklahoma.

The 10,287-sq.-ft. building will be in a more convenient location, between the Choctaw Nation Clinic and the Food Distribution Center.

“The new one will be larger. With the addition of so many offices and programs in recent years, we’ve outgrown the one we’re in. There will be more parking too,” Broken Bow Field Office Representative Wanda Sanders said.

During the ceremony Chief Batton said, “It’s always an honor to do a Groundbreaking Ceremony. It’s all about growing our communities and about providing opportunities for our elders.”

He went on to say, “We want people to come here, and we want jobs for our children and grandchildren, but we want to keep the family atmosphere and the natural beauty of the area.”

District 2 Councilman Tony Ward also spoke during the ceremony.

“We’ve got this building going on and a lot of construction going on in the Choctaw Nation and it shows the leadership of this council. They are really doing a fine job trying to do something for our people in each district,” Councilman Ward said.

He went on to mention other groundbreakings are expected soon in Broken Bow, including one for new Independent Elder Living Residences.

Throughout the past couple years Independent Elder Living residences have opened in Calera, Hartshorne, Hugo, Idabel, Poteau, Smithville, Sti-



by Deidre Elrod

**On Thursday, Aug. 17, District 5 Councilman Ron Perry, along with Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Senator Larry Boggs, and fellow councilmembers cut the ribbon at the new Choctaw Travel Plaza in Stigler. Stigler residents, local officials and Choctaw royalty also joined the festivities. Choctaw Nation’s newest travel plaza is located at 1801 E. Main St. in Stigler.**

gler and Talihina.

Between the different locations there is a total of 121 one-bedroom units.

The units are designed for a single person, or a person and their spouse.

The units in Smithville are 740 square feet and consist of a bedroom, bathroom, living room, utility room, dining room and kitchen complete with appliances.

The units also have an individual safe room.

The Independent Elder Living Residences are for Choctaws age 55 or older. Preference is given to elders age 62 or older.

Applications are currently being accepted for unites in the Smithville Independent Elder Living residences.

For applications, or more information on the Independent Elder Living residences go online to [www.choctawhousing.com](http://www.choctawhousing.com) and click on the Services tab.

The new Choctaw Nation headquarters continues to inch closer to the opening date.

The headquarters will house Choctaw Nation employees from 34 different offices, as well as the current headquarters.

The interior colors of the new five-story headquarters will have themes to honor the elements.

The lower level will honor earth. The first and fifth floors will honor fire. The second floor will honor the sun. The third floor will honor water. The fourth floor will honor wind.

Tribal members will be able to see

how the elements are honored when the 500,000-sq.-ft. building opens near the end of 2017, or early 2018.

The new headquarters is the cornerstone of the complex on the 130-acre campus that includes the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic.

In preparation of an increase of traffic due to the headquarters, a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of South Ninth Street and Big Lots Road. Construction on the traffic light will begin on Friday, Sept. 8.

If you use South Ninth Street to get to the Choctaw Casino and Resort–Durant, Kiamichi Technology Center, Eaker Field, the Hwy. 70 Bypass, or the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Equestrian Center, plan to leave earlier until the traffic light is installed.

The street names at the new complex have been assigned. The east road leading to the new headquarters is Atoksvli Hina and is pronounced *Ah-tohk-sah-lih Hih-nah*. Atoksvli means to work.

The west road leading to the Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic is Alikchi Hina and is pronounced *Ah-lihk-che Hih-nah*. Alikchi means doctor, to doctor.

The middle road of the campus is Ittvfama Hina and is pronounced *Et-tah-fah-mah Hih-nah*. Ittvfama Hina means where the roads meet.

The main entrance road to the clinic and headquarters is Chukka Hina and is pronounced *Chohk-ka Hih-nah*. Chukka Hina is aptly named as it means home road.

## Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia’s Single Moms’ Day Out

On Saturday, July 22, the Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia, which means Choctaw Women Leaders, partnered with Totally Cosmo Beauty School in Broken Bow to bring the “Single Moms’ Day Out” to the McCurtain County area.

The event was held in honor of Erica Martinez, a former student of Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia, who passed away in 2015.

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia ladies released 27 pink balloons in memory of Erica.

During the event the single moms got a haircut, eyebrow wax and their nails painted for free.

This year’s event was a success with approximately 46 ladies getting pampered. Ten of this year’s Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia students were there to help volunteer with cleanup.

Among those helping with the event were seven alumni Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia students.

Debbie Elliott, the owner of Totally Cosmo, allowed her facility to be used for the event.

Cosmetology students Felicia Paul, Charise Butler, Sam Taylor, Jacey Hubbard, Beth Johnson, Jennifer Egger, Brittney Young, Reese Hannah, Mandy Underwood and instructor Debbie Elliott volunteered their services to pamper the women at the event.

Local beautician Flo Crosby also volun-

teered her services.

The Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia program is made possible through a grant by the United States Department of Agriculture and partnerships with the following Choctaw Nation programs; Outreach Services, Housing Authority, Small Business Development, Utility Authority, Career Development and the Cultural Department.

Funding for the program will end September 2017.

The program has provided 26 women in the McCurtain County area with training in home buyer education, Small Business development, energy efficiency and cultural activities.

The ladies in the program have set goals for themselves and Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia helped them develop the skills needed to reach their goals.

A graduation is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Broken Bow First Assembly of God Family Life Center.

Since this is the last year of the grant in addition to the ladies graduating, all alumni and their families have been invited to celebrate.

There will be a bounce house for children and an awards ceremony.

The Broken Bow First Assembly of God Family Life Center is located at 1501 S. Park Dr. in Broken Bow.



Photo Provided

**Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia and Totally Cosmo Beauty School in Broken Bow teamed up to bring “Single Moms’ Day Out” to McCurtain County on Saturday, July 22. Among the Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia ladies getting pampered were Nettie Webb, Chelci Moore, Katie Baker, Marcia Noahubi, Bessie Allensworth, Rebecca Goins, Debra Noah, Cassandra Davis, Paula Griffith, Reannon Billy, Janet Jacob, Gail Gonzalez, Susan Baker, Renae McDaniel, Eveline Steele, Vivki Perez and Sierra Wesley. Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia Director Melissa Cress and District 2 Councilman Tony Ward were also at the event to show their support for the Choctaw Women Leaders.**

## Pastor Olin Williams Reward, Compensation, Payment, Remuneration



**Pastor Olin Williams  
Employee Chaplain**

In the Book of Job, we find a concept in the discussion between God and Satan. They were discussing Job. “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil (Job 1:1 KJV).”

Job was blessed with flocks and herds of sheep and camels and a very great household and was the greatest of all the men of the east (Job 1:3 KJV).

Satan, with a gleeful sneer at Job’s righteousness, asked, “Does Job serve God for nothing?”

Satan was implying that Job served God because of the prosperity that has been bestowed upon him.

He did not dream that the answer would be, “Yes Job serves God for nothing. He will serve him in adversity just the same.” This is what the rest of the Book of Job was written to say.

The ethics of labor or service has been diminished during the evolution of individual rights. The real reward, compensation, payment and remuneration lies within the service itself.

Service to others is a calling and should be a feeling of deeper interest in the work itself than the monetary return. The physician, minister, teacher, every honest worker in any field of service, should be true to self and the work performance should not be the consequence of the monetary, glory, acknowledgement, or praise.

Self-sacrifice is the word which Christianity gave to the world. Self-sacrifice does not mean self-effacement. It means losing oneself in one’s work in full surrender to the nature of God and finding another realm of values that is rewarding in the labor itself.

Our modern society has been influenced greatly by the question that Satan posed that of the selfish nature. We do service with self in mind. God on the other hand is trying to show us that being unselfish is to be more like him.

What God does, He does for nothing. He loves because he is love. He provided salvation to unworthy souls unconditionally, who will accept him by grace through faith. An unconverted person possesses the conditional nature of service.

The converted person possesses both conditional and unconditional natures of service. The Apostle Paul battled with the warring of the natural law of the flesh and the spiritual law of God. He concludes with the gratitude that the deliverance can only come through the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 7:14-25).

## Do you have an address change for the Biskinik?

### The Circulation Department can help!

If you are not receiving your copy of the Biskinik, or need to change your address, please give us a call.

We’ll make sure your contact information is correct.

The Circulation Department can be reached at:

(800) 522-6170  
Ext. 2116, 2409, or 2310