



September 2018 Issue



Choctaw Nation at the Forefront of [Drone Technology](#)

by CHRISTIAN TOEWS

The Choctaw Nation achieved another historic milestone for the tribe and the development of drone research in the United States.

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, Choctaw Nation, researchers from Intel®, Oklahoma State University (OSU) and officials from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) completed a successful drone demonstration in Stringtown, Oklahoma.

In May, Choctaw Nation was one of 10 sites selected by Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and the Department of Transportation for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems or “drone” Integration Pilot Program (or UASIPP). These 10 research sites are paramount in the advancement of drone research and integration in the United States.

While addressing the crowd at the event Chief Gary Batton said, “I do believe drones will be an effective way for us to utilize this technology, we just want to make sure it’s safe.”

The demonstration showcased the capabilities for drones to integrate into the agricultural needs of the Choctaw Nation and rural agricultural areas.

Feral hogs are a growing problem for the agricultur-



Chief Gary Batton addresses the audience before the drone demonstration.

al community and cause approximately \$2 billion in damage to U.S. land and crops each year.

Farmers, ranchers, hunters, as well as national and state parks are all affected by this damage.

Feral hogs pose disease risks to livestock, pets and humans.

During the demonstration a drone weighing less than 55 pounds, including 10 pounds of corn feed, flew in from around 4,000 feet away while staying within line of sight of the drone pilot.

The purpose was to transport the feed to a feral hog trap that was developed by the Noble Research Institute called the “BoarBuster™.”

Once the drone was

era will do is detect heat signatures of wildlife,” an Intel® representative said.

This application could be used to search for lost cattle, as well as learn about the habits and tendencies of local wildlife.

Intel also demonstrated “Open Drone ID.” This is an open standard that offers a potential solution for identifying and tracking drones.

In the future, the Choctaw Nation UASIPP team will conduct more advanced drone operations that will include operations beyond visual line of sight of the drone operator.

These tests will help the UASIPP program better understand applications for agriculture, public safety and infrastructure inspections, safe operations over people and more night operations.

James Grimsley, President and CEO of DII, a leading edge advanced research and development company based in Oklahoma that focuses on innovative technology for unmanned aircraft/“drones” said, “Rather than us at the federal level figure out how to solve this problem, we are going to involve tribes, cities and states and

we are going to collectively figure out—what are the interests, what is it that we are worried about, what do we like about it, and we are all going to work collaboratively.”

These tests will continue to break new ground in the field of unmanned aircraft and help everyone involved to better understand the necessary safety infrastructure needed for more advanced operations.

Tests like these hope to unlock more potential uses for drones within the Choctaw Nation and the rest of the United States.



A drone pilot from Intel® performs a demonstration on Aug. 15.



James Grimsley shares the vision of the UASIPP program with everyone gathered at the event.

Make
a
Difference
in a Child's Life
*By Living Out the
Choctaw
Spirit*

The October 2018 issue of the *Biskinik* will be the Labor Day issue. Regular features such as Education, People You Know, Sports, Obituaries, etc. will not be printed. They will return in the November issue of the *Biskinik*. Submissions will be printed in the order received. Yakoke!

Resources Available for Students of All Ages



Chief Gary Batton

It's that time of year again. Summer break has come and gone. Our students and teachers are back in the classroom gearing up for a new school year. I hope everyone had a fun-filled summer with great memories. I know it was an eventful one for many young Choctaws here in the 10½ counties. Our Choctaw Nation Special Projects department hosted a total of 25 summer camps this year. Over 2,000 campers took part in summer programs ranging from Cultural Enrichment to various sports camps. It is great to see our young people out there learning about our culture and growing as individuals. This was another successful year for the Summer Youth Work Program. A total of 921 young Choctaws ages 16-21 completed the program. Participants gained employment at various locations. Some even landed jobs that will continue after the program and learned things that they can carry on with

them throughout life. Now that our students are back in school, there are so many programs offered through the Choctaw Nation to help them this school year. Our nationwide Choctaw STAR program encourages students to make education a priority. STAR's mission is to develop student work ethic, improve graduation rates and to reveal opportunities for continued education after high school. Students participating in the program are rewarded for their hard work and good grades for the fall and spring semesters. Students must be Choctaw tribal members and enrolled in the second through 12th grade. Purchasing new school clothes and supplies can be expensive. The Student School Activity Fund offers the opportunity to receive a \$100 dollar grant to help with those costs. Students must be tribal members ages 3 through 18 and enrolled in an accredited daycare or Pre-K through 12th grade school. Other programs include Adult Education, Choctaw Asset Building, Career Development, Chahta Foundation, Choctaw STEM, College Clothing Allowance, College Freshman Year Initiative, Educational Talent Search, Higher Education, High School Student Services,

Johnson-O'Malley, Technology Allowance Program, Vocational Development and Youth Advisory Board. Each of these programs serves a unique purpose that caters to many different age groups. No matter your age, it is never too late to begin your educational journey or take it to the next level. I encourage every tribal member to follow their dreams and hope we will be able to assist them in their endeavors. For more information on all the programs mentioned, please visit [Tribal Services](#).



by Stacy Hutto

Rick Braziell (far left) and James Ward (far right) taught the Hunter Safety classes during the Youth Conservation Camps held at Tvshka Homma over the summer. The Hunter Safety class was one of many activities at the camp. Youth were also able to fish, climb a rock wall, learn to shoot a bow and more.

CHR Program Important to the Wellbeing of our Elders



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

The CHR program (Community Health Representative) is one of the Choctaw Nation's most important programs for maintaining the wellbeing of our elders. It is available for elderly Native Americans with a CDIB who reside within the Choctaw Nation's tribal service area. This program is designed to assist Choctaws and other Native Americans to continue living healthy lifestyles. The CHR Program can do many things to assist clients such as taking vitals, glucose monitoring for diabetes, providing hypertension and cholesterol diet education, patient health education, wound care, medical referral follow-up care, as well as many other health care services. There are no income guidelines for eligibility. I would like to share the story of one client, Junior Blaine. Mr. Blaine is a diabetic and he continued going to his doctor, who was treating a wound on his foot. Due to concerns of him being diabetic and having the serious infection, his CHR visited him at least once

a week to check his vitals and to check for signs of improvement with the infection. One afternoon his CHR called to check on him. He told her he was weak and not feeling well. Once finding out he had an appointment with his doctor the next day, she told him she would be there within the hour to check on him. When she arrived at his house, Mr. Blaine's vital signs were very low. The CHR told him they were going to the doctor immediately. Mr. Blaine uses a walker, and they had to stop and rest multiple times on the way to her vehicle due to his weakness. She drove him to the Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic in Durant where they rushed him in to see the doctor. Once inside the doctor immediately called for an ambulance because his vitals were so weak. Mr. Blaine was taken to Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas, where it was discovered his infection had turned septic and he was in critical condition. After 14 days in the hospital, his health improved. Mr. Blaine now calls his CHR his angel, because his doctor told him if he had waited until his next-day appointment, he would not have made it. Yakoke for your quick action in helping Mr. Blaine and to all the CHRs for your continued dedication. He is very grateful to his CHR, Angela Hall; the referred care program for helping with his expenses; the doctors, nurses and pharmacists at the Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic in Durant; his Councilman, the Healthy Aging program and everyone who provided spiritual support, praying with him and for him. He thanks God for these people and for having his health back. We are all very thankful that we have a variety of tribal programs making a difference in our elders' lives. It is truly a blessing to have such caring people in the Choctaw Nation.



by Choctaw Nation

Community Health Representatives help maintain the health of Chahta elders. CHRs do many things such as taking vitals, wound care, glucose monitoring for diabetes and so much more.



by Lisa Reed

Teddi and Sylvester Moore of Talihina took top honors in the domino and checkers tournaments at the annual Watermelon Festival July 28 in Valliant. Teddi won first place in dominos and Sylvester came in second. The roles reversed in the checker tournament when Sylvester won first place and Teddi brought home second place.

BISKINIK SEPTEMBER 2018 HOPONI HVSHI cooking month

In This Issue

- 2 Faith Family Culture
- 3 Nursery News
- 4 Education
- 5 Notes to the Nation
- 8 Obituaries
- 10 Iti Fabvssa
- 11 Sports
- 12 People You Know

Page 1:

After being selected to take part in the initial Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program, or UASIPP, Choctaw Nation, along with their partners in the endeavor, demonstrated the usefulness of drones as they baited a trap for feral hogs with corn. Feral hogs cause millions of dollars of damage to land and crops each year.

Front Photos by Christian Toews

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

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

- [www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma](#)
- [www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK](#)
- [www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK](#)
- [www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK](#)



by Lisa Reed

During the Tribal Council meeting on Saturday, Aug. 11, Letters of Appointments were approved for (from left) Gerald Gibbs, David Holt, Micah Knight and Ronnie Parent. Not pictured is Tray Ardeese. Please see Page 5 for the Tribal Council Meeting article.

End of the Year Gospel Singing

Saturday, Oct. 6 at 3 p.m.

Black Jack Church, East of Rattan

Black Jack Church is 11 miles east of Rattan on SH 3. The singing starts at 3 p.m. and supper will begin at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**For more information contact,
Mary Woody at (580) 372-5114**

Talihina Turning Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Every two minutes a patient is diagnosed with breast cancer. “Your fight is our fight.”

This is Team Choctaw Cycling’s eighth year of sponsoring the Breast Cancer Awareness “Paint the Town Pink” activities in Talihina.

The campaign will be held Oct. 8-13 with three bicycling events, a luncheon, a cookout, football game and the Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Oct. 13. This year there will be a new featured event.

All proceeds go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) is committed to achieving prevention and finding a cure for breast cancer.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer, Evelyn Lauder and friend, Dr. Larry Norton, created the BCRF. Lauder and then editor of SELF magazine, Alexandra Penney, developed the pink ribbon.

Lauder then launched the breast cancer awareness campaign within the Estee Lauder companies. Today we honor Lauder’s efforts, and our survivors, warriors and departed family members in this fight.

There will be events each day of the week starting with a Monday evening “Tour of Talihina” bicycle ride for novice and beginning riders.

The Tuesday evening bicycle ride is for the intermediate and advanced riders, average speeds will be 15-18 mph, and the distance will be 25+ miles. There will be a SAG-wagon available to pick up any cyclists who are too tired to continue. There will be no rider left behind on either event.

Other local events include the Pink Pearl Luncheon,

Teacher Appreciation activities and the Pink-Out football game.

Saturday, Oct. 13, there will be a 5- and 10-mile bicycle Ride for the Cure, the 5K Pink Pajama Pancake Run and the 1-mile March on Main Street.

Historically, the 9 a.m. March on Main Street has only been for those affected by breast cancer.

This year, we would like to invite anyone affected by any cancer (including survivors, warriors, friends, families and health team) to participate. “Your fight is our fight.”

The annual pancake breakfast will be from 7:30-10 a.m. and the health fair will be from 8-11:30 a.m.

A new event this year is the “Paint the Town Pink Cook-Off.”

The competition categories are BBQ/smoked meats; soup/chili; entrees; side dishes; breads; desserts; and/or ethnic dishes.

Cooking teams may enter more than one category. No entry fees for cooking teams. Event food tasters will pay a one-time entrance to the event and will be allowed one vote for each category. Prizes will be awarded for category and overall winners.

Team Choctaw Cycling is open to anyone who wants to ride bicycles, tricycles or unicycles. This group is committed to promoting cycling and activities that improve the health and wellness of our participants.

In addition to health promotion, Team Choctaw is an advocate of the Don’t Drive Distracted programs and the use of helmets when riding.

Any novice, intermediate and advanced riders are eligible to ride with Team Choctaw. The group members

must have an operable bicycle with warning equipment that meets state statutes and riders must obey the “rules of the road.”

The development of Team Choctaw and Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team, both a part of Choctaw Nation Cycling, was in 2011, after the death of Tribal Judge Juanita Jefferson who was an avid proponent of cycling.

Team Choctaw participates in multiple national fundraising events in addition to Breast Cancer Awareness activities.

The team participates in the Tour de Cure of the American Diabetes Association and the MS150, the premier fundraising event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

For more information, registration will be available at the [Team Choctaw Bicycle Booth](#) in the Healthy Living Tent, Friday and Saturday during Labor Day activities at Tvshka Homma; or call Brandy Griffin at (918) 567-7131 at CNHSA; or text Nancy Jefferson at (918) 413-1581.

Per Jefferson’s request, please text only, do not call.

3

Outreach Services Advocates for Elders in Need

by JIMMY SMITH

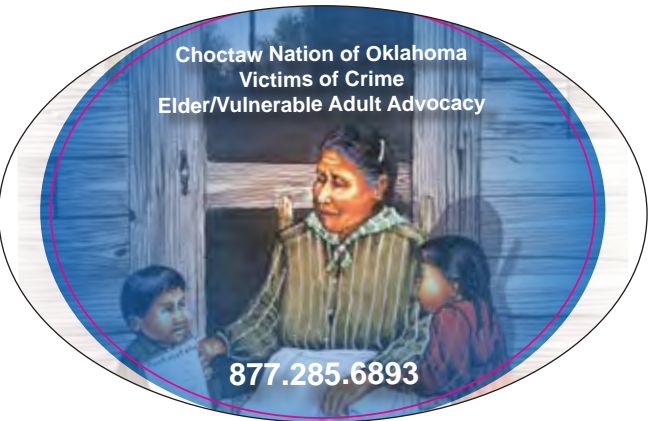
According to the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, about 5 percent of the older population has suffered from some kind of abuse.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define Elder Abuse as “an intentional act, or failure to act, by a caregiver or another person in a relationship of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult.”

There are many things that you can do to help prevent elder abuse, the

following are some ways to help our elders from being abused.

- **Avoid isolating elders.** This can cause depression, sadness and loneliness that will increase the chances of abuse.
- **Stay in touch with your elders.** Family members can be on the lookout for any abuse.
- **Keep elders active.** Staying active decreases the chances that they will be vulnerable to elder abuse.
- **Encourage elders to attend religious services and community**



activities. This can help them stay in touch with others that have the same things in common.

- **Don’t allow elders to live with someone who is known to be abusive or violent.** A person who has an abusive past history increases the chances they will be again.
- **Be wary of caregivers or friends needing financial help, or those who have issues with substance abuse.** These people can manipulate an elder and steal or mismanage their finances.
- **Elders should be aware of their own financial affairs.** Elders often need help with

their financial affairs but, they should have the ultimate decision on their finances.

- **Don’t allow others to alter an elder’s will or add their names to financial accounts or land titles.** This can lead to financial exploitation.
- **Inform elders of solicitations by phone, internet or mail.** Most are scams designed to steal an elderly person’s money.

If you or someone you know have been abused or a victim of a crime please contact the [Choctaw Nation Elder/Vulnerable Adult Advocacy](#) program at (580) 326-8304 or (877) 285-6893.

NURSERY NEWS

Willow Grace Layne



Willow Grace Layne was born July 6, at 5:31 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19.4 inches long.

Willow is the daughter of Devan and Jimmy Layne and the sister of Wyatt Gage Layne.

She is the granddaughter of Angie and Bryan Thompson.

David Jack Wood



David (Davy) Jack Wood was born at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center on April 22, at 3:03 p.m.

He was 9 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long.

Davy is the son of Dallas and Hannah Wood and joins brothers Dalton and Dane.

His grandparents are Bruce and Megan Bacon; Kam and John Harden; and Ira and Gina Wood. He is the great-grandson of Imogene and the late Jack Bacon; Calvin and Beth Gann; Elwin and the late Albert Wood; and the late Gene and Donna Grubbs.

Jolyn Kay Elrod



Jolyn Kay Elrod was born at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center on June 5, at 3:07 p.m.

She was 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long.

Jolyn is the daughter of Jared and Deidre Elrod and sister to brother Judd.

She is the granddaughter of Bruce and Megan Bacon; Kam and John Harden; and Jerry and Valinda Elrod, the great-granddaughter of Imogene and the late Jack Bacon; Calvin and Beth Gann; Wylie and Louise Loyd; and the late John and Juanita Elrod.

Tyler Ridge Vester



Tyler Ridge Vester was born Jan. 29, at 9:04 a.m.

He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long.

Tyler is the son of Justin and Natia Vester. He was welcomed home by older brother, Jaxon, all of Wilburton.

His grandparents are Doug and Tammy Harley along with Kathy and the late James Vester, all also of Wilburton. Tyler is Choctaw and Cherokee.

Recipe of the Month Meatloaf Burgers



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

- Ingredients**
- 1 pound bison
 - ½ cup diced onion
 - ½ cup diced bell pepper
 - ¼ cup farina
 - 2 tablespoons egg mix
 - ¼ cup shelf-stable milk
 - 1 teaspoon garlic powder
 - 1 teaspoon pepper
 - salt to taste
- Preparation**
1. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
 2. Form into four patties.
 3. Grill until done.
 4. Top with cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion.

Nutrition Facts:
Servings 4
Serving size 214 grams
(per serving)
Calories 302, Total Fat 14 grams, Trans Fat 0 grams, Cholesterol 319 milligrams, Sodium 165 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates 12 grams, Dietary Fiber 1 gram, Sugars 2 grams, Protein 32 grams, Vitamin A 7 percent, Vitamin C 15 percent, Calcium 5 percent and Iron 43 percent.

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

| CHOCTAW NATION 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 2018 | |
|---|--|
| ANTLERS | |
| Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for: | |
| Closed: October 30 & 31. | |
| Cooking With Carmen: October 12 & 25, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | |
| BROKEN BOW | |
| Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for: | |
| Closed: October 30 & 31. | |
| Cooking With Carmen: October 9 & 17, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | |
| DURANT | |
| Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for: | |
| Closed: October 30 & 31. | |
| Cooking With Carmen: October 15 & 24, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | |
| MCALESTER | |
| Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for: | |
| Closed: October 30 & 31. | |
| Cooking With Carmen: October 8 & 19, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | |
| POTEAU | |
| Market open weekdays October 1-31, except for: | |
| Closed: October 30 & 31. | |
| Cooking With Carmen: October 11 & 23, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | |
| In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html , and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov . | |
| <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</i> | |

Haskell County Holds Back-to-School Round-up

The Stigler Child Development Center threw a Back to School Round-up for the children of Haskell County. Child Development and Head start passed out more than 300 boxes off facial tissue and gave participants erasers, stress balls and pencils. They also gave away door prizes, along with a \$50 gift card from Walmart, which was donated by District 5 Councilperson Ronald Perry. The round-up gives out backpacks filled with supplies, then the children participate in a sort of “trick-or-treat” for school supplies, going around from table to table collecting other things they will need for the coming school year.



The Stigler Child Development Center Round-up gave out backpacks filled with school supplies as well as door prizes and other much-needed items to the children of Haskell County. District 5 Councilperson Ronald Perry donated a \$50 gift card.

Fun in the Sun Summer Adventure Provides Unique Learning Opportunities



Students who ranged from kindergarten to third grade attended the Fun in the Sun Summer Adventure program. The program provided students with a unique opportunity to continue learning throughout the summer months.

The Fun in the Sun Summer Learning Adventure provided a great learning opportunity for Whitesboro elementary students. Children in kindergarten through third grade participated in six weeks of reading and math lessons each morning and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities each afternoon. Students enjoyed outdoor fun in the sun experiences at the Choctaw Nation Capital Museum in Tvshka Homma, Robbers Cave State Park and the

Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center. The adventure concluded on June 28, with a field trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. Students were able to experience and investigate first-hand the ocean life and sea creatures they had been reading about in books provided by the Partnership of Summer School Education program. Whitesboro Public School would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.,

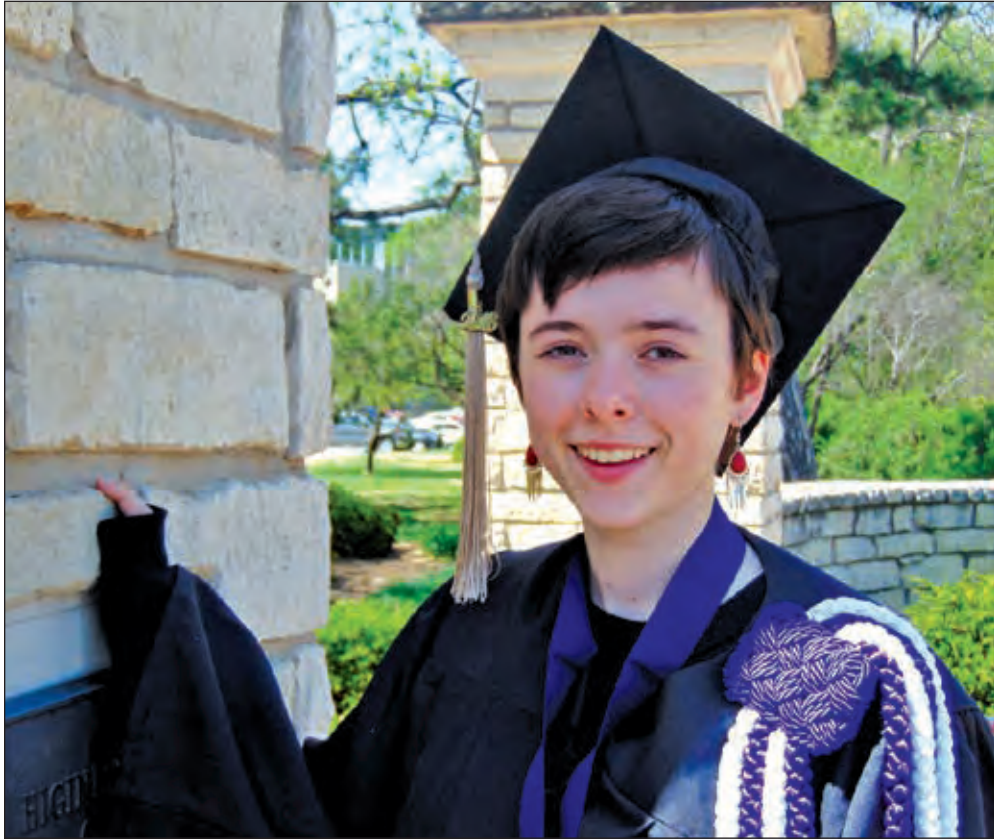
Tribal Councilmembers, the POSSE Program, the Choctaw Cultural Program Lee Toliver, Ruth McClard, and their staff and the Whitesboro Public Library for allowing them to participate in their Summer Reading Program. They feel the POSSE program was successful in continuing to enhance our students’ educational journey. The program provided opportunities which would not have been possible without the support of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

MacInnis Brothers Start Careers



Garrett MacInnis (*left*) recently passed his professional engineering exam after graduating from the Colorado School of Mines and is currently working as a Senior Project engineer in San Jose, California. Cameron MacInnis (*right*) graduated the University of North Dakota with his doctorate in medicine as part of the Indians into Medicine Program. His is now completing his residency in Family Medicine in Pocatello, Idaho. Garrett and Cameron are originally from Healdsburg, California. They are the sons of Jim and Anita (Fulton) MacInnis, grandsons of Carol and the late Fulton and the great-grandsons of the late Silas “Sock” and Pauline Fulton.

Whitney Graduates Summa Cum Laude



Jael Sage Whitney of Overland Park, Kansas, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in marketing. She is now a digital sales trainee for IBM in the greater Boston area. During her time at K-State as a Putnam scholar, Jael served as president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, was a library ambassador and a study abroad advocate for the College of Business Administration. Jael was homeschooled by her parents Nathan Whitney and Patricia (McAlpine) Whitney, formerly of Tahlequah and McAlester. Jael appreciates the Choctaw Nation for its educational and cultural support.



SOSU Begins Fall Semester

District 9 Councilperson James Dry addresses students at Wednesday’s Camp Chahta, an orientation program for Choctaw freshmen at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Southeastern has started fall classes, with officials projecting a continued upward trend in enrollment. A number of events were scheduled for the week prior to the new school year, including a general Faculty-Staff meeting with president Sean Burrage; a Faculty Symposium; New Faculty orientation; Freshman Convocation; and orientation sessions for students.

Garvey Receives Scholarship to CSU

Damian James Garvey has been awarded a First Generation Scholarship from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Damian is a recent graduate of Elizabeth High School and plans to attend CSU in the fall with a dual major of biomedical and electrical engineering. Damian is the grandson of Bob and Betty Garvey of Elizabeth, Colorado and great-grandson of Dura Ann Wilson. Damian is eager to represent the Choctaw Nation and hopes to connect with other Native American students at the university.



Yasmin Hamilton Takes Part in Junior National Gymnastics Championship

Yasmin Hamilton, 17, is graduating from Plano East High School in Plano, Texas. She has been competing in gymnastics since she was 6 years old and is a level 10 Gymnast, the highest level in Junior Optional division of United States of America Gymnastics. Yasmin competed in the Texas State Championship in Coppell, Texas, where she came in 11th place and qualified for the Regional Championships. The Regional Championships were held in Denver, Colorado, at the University of Denver. Yasmin scored 36.500 all around. She went on to represent the Region 3 team at Nationals. She is an uncommitted gymnast seeking a college gymnastics team to compete with. Yasmin will be enrolling in college this fall to pursue an accounting degree. Yasmin is the only girl of her siblings, three brothers, two older and one younger.



EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center
September Health Fairs

McAlester
Wednesday, Sept. 5

Bethel
Wednesday, Sept. 19

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

Wilson Family Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 1 at noon
Smithville Community Center

A potluck dinner will be served followed by a short business meeting and auction. There will be a cookout on Sunday, location to be determined later.
For questions or to give input,
Jody Hendrickson at (918) 413-2084

57th Annual Gospel Singing

Saturday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m.
Thessalonian Baptist Church

Thessalonian Baptist Church is located six miles southeast of Red Oak, Hwy. 82, on Salonia Road. The congregation singing will be held from 3–5:30 p.m. Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. Singing will resume with special group and congregation singing at 7 p.m.
Joe Coley will be the emcee.

CHR Fall Fest

Wednesday, Sept. 12
Starts at 10 a.m.
McAlester Expo Center

The theme this year is Traditional. Everyone is welcome to attend.
For more information, call (580) 271-1033

Jones Academy Alumni Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.
Jones Academy Gym

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the gym on the Jones Academy campus. Lunch will be provided in the school cafeteria. Come join Jones alumni and renew old friendships.
For questions please contact,
Robert Wilson at (918) 931-2016
Elois Cole Barcus at (972) 845-2779
Paulette Phillips Wilson (918) 931-2012

Biskinik Announcement
Policy

We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer's full name and city will be published.
All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.
We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Mail to: Biskinik
Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
Apryl Mock, Reporter/Photographer
Christian Toews, Reporter/Photographer

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170
www.ChoctawNation.com
email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for space, proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive. Items are printed in the order received. Faxed photos will not be accepted.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK 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.



Annual Gospel Singing

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 5 p.m.
First Indian Baptist Church
608 W. Tyler, McAlester

Supper will begin at 5 p.m. Convention style singing starts at 6 p.m. followed by group singing at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Joe Coley will be the emcee.

District 6 September Events

- Volleyball practice every Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., except no practice on Sept. 25
 - Senior Citizens Lunch every Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
 - WIC every Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - September 1
 - Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma
 - September 2
 - Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma
 - September 3
 - Labor Day Festival and State of the Nation at Tvshka Homma
 - September 6
 - Shopping Day
 - September 7
 - Prayer Meeting 7:00 a.m.
 - September 14
 - Taco Sale, bake sale, indoor garage sale 11 a.m.
 - September 22
 - Shopping Day TBA
 - September 25
 - Senior Night TBA
- Volleyball games to be announced

LETTERS

I am a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. I am also a Vocal Music Teacher at Cheyenne Middle School in Edmond, Oklahoma. I went to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma to study music education and recently graduated in December of 2017.

While I attended college, I was blessed to have received financial assistance from the Chahta Foundation, Choctaw Career Development and Choctaw National Higher Ed.

I'd like to personally express my gratitude to these branches of the Nation due to their unbelievable support in the financial and personal needs for my career throughout my time in college.

Through the unwavering and consistent support, I was able to go through college debt-free. This financial blessing has not allowed the burden of debt to control the decisions of my future.

Thanks to these services, I wouldn't have been able to achieve my personal and professional goals within my career. If there is one thing I've learned over the past five years, it is that the Choctaw Nation sincerely cares for its' people and their education.

Again, thank you to the Chahta Foundation, Scott Wesley; Choctaw Career Development, Gina Fowler; Choctaw National Higher Ed, Eleanor Caldwell (Mamaw); Chief Gary Batton; and to all the contributors and its people who make the Choctaw National what it is.

Jace R. Caldwell

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 10½ 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 10½ 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 24
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tribal Council
Holds Regular Session

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

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, July 14 were approved.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Letter of Appointment for Tray Ardese to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Ethics Committee.
- Letter of Appointment for David Holt to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Ethics Committee.
- Letter of Appointment for Gerald Gibbs to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission.
- Letter of Appointment for Micah Knight to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission.
- Letter of Appointment for Ronnie Parent to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Gaming Commission.
- The Plan/Application for FY2019 funding through the Department of Health and Human Services for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).
- The Plan/Application for FY2019 funding through the Department of Health and Human Services for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program.
- Dispose surplus capital assets.
- Choctaw Nation WIC budget FY2018.
- The Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program budget FY2018.
- A service line agreement on land held by the USA in trust for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in favor of Dobson Technologies in Latimer County, Oklahoma.
- Funding for construction of a new Choctaw Country Market in Boswell, Oklahoma.
- Application for the 2018 Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing Grant.
- Application for the 2018 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Grant.
- Application for the 2018 Bureau of Justice Assistance Supporting Innovation: Field-Initiated Programs Grant.
- Funds and budget for the Year Three Continuation for the 2016 Native Youth Initiative for Leadership, Empowerment and Development (I-Lead)–Chahta Himmak Pila Pehlich (Choctaw Future Leaders).
- Funds and budget for the Year Four Continuation of the 2015 Native Asset Building Initiative–CAB-NABI.
- Funds and budget for the Year Two Continuation of the 2017 Connecting Kids to Coverage.
- Funds and budget for the Year Three Continuation of the 2016 Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program-CHAHTA INCHUKKA.
- Resind CB-136-15, CB-85-14, CB-107-12 and all other enactments pertaining to required methodology or procedure for allocation of tribal funds.
- Adopting the Choctaw Nation Adoption code.
- Adoption of the Choctaw Nation Children's code.

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

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

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

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

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

| September Community Center Schedule | October Community Center Schedule |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9-6 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3 | 10-4 Hugo: 10-1 & 1:30-3 |
| 9-13 Bethel: 10-1 & 1:30-3 | 10-18 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30-3 |
| 9-27 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3 | 10-25 Talihina: 10-1 & 1:30-3 |

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

October 2018

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

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

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



Choctaw Nation Zero Suicide Team Honored with Award

by KENDRA GERMANY

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Zero Suicide Team was honored with the Hope & Healing Award at the 2018 American Indian Alaskan Native National Behavioral Health Conference in Washington, D.C.

The annual conference was held July 25 through 27. AIANBHC is a premier behavioral health event attracting over 500 public health professionals, federal employees, advocates, researchers and community based providers.

The Hope & Healing Award had three categories including tribal, program and community.

The Zero Suicide Team won the program category award.

The Choctaw Nation Zero Suicide Team was formed in January 2016.

In December 2015, five behavioral staff from the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority were invited to attend the first Indian Health Services sponsored Zero Suicide Academy.

Following the experience, the CNHSA staff were committed to implementing what they learned at the academy into the Choctaw Nation health care system.

Since its conception, the team has grown from a five-person group of behavioral health providers, to a multi-disciplinary group with over 30 members. Members include, psychiatrist, nurses, behavioral health counselors, tribal police, administrators, quality assurance, EHR/IT, pharmacy and administrative assistance.

The team also has the full support of Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., both of whom are mental health advocates.

The Zero Suicide team wanted to improve all aspects of suicide prevention, suicide knowledge and assessment

and treatment of suicide in the CNHSA.

Zero Suicide has been instrumental in implementing system wide policy changes, and helping tribal members deal with depression and suicide.

The Zero Suicide Team also decided to make depression screening a priority. The CNHSA was doing a great job of screening patients age 18 and up. However, the team wanted to expand the depression screenings to youth as well. In 2017, a new policy was approved to screen youth ages 10 through 18 for depression. Youth are now screened every three months for symptoms of depression and suicidality.

Through the hard work of the Zero Suicide Team and the increased number of patients being screened for depression and suicide, behavioral health therapists were integrated into primary care, pediatrics and the Emergency Room.

Through the leadership of the Zero Suicide Team, the CNHSA adopted the Question, Persuade and Refer module in CNHSA's new hire orientation. A suicide prevention module was also added to the CNHSA's annual Joint Commission education.

Not only have these changes been beneficial in bringing training and programs into the CNHSA, but have also increased staffing.

Over the past year, eight staff members were added through CNHSA and grant funded positions. This has been a complete system wide change.

Behavioral health clinicians are now available to work with patients in a regular medical setting. This allows patients to be seen immediately if in crisis. The behavior-



Photo Provided

The Choctaw Nation Zero Suicide Team was honored with the Hope & Healing Award at the American Indian Alaskan Native National Behavioral Health Conference in Washington, D.C. The team was formed in January 2016 with five members and has grown to over 30. One of the team's many accomplishments is expanding depression screening to Choctaw youth.

al health providers and medical providers are working as a team to ensure the best treatment plan for patients.

According to Kristie Brooks, MS, LPC Global Behavioral Health Manager Director of Behavioral Health with the CNHSA, it was an honor to receive the Hope & Healing Award.

"Seeing our programs and our staff recognized for their hard work makes me so proud to work for the Choctaw Nation. I see the work the CNHSA does on a daily basis and couldn't be more proud of their devotion and their commitment," said Brooks. "I'm so proud that their work as helpers, healers, and advocates is being recognized at a national level."

If you or someone you know is having suicidal thoughts, please seek help. You can contact the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) 24/7 at 1 (800) 273-8255.

Agriculture Expo a Huge Success, Educational Experience for Everyone in Attendance

by CHARLES CLARK

The numbers are in and Durant's first agricultural trade show in more than a decade, the Choctaw Nation Ag Expo, proved there is enough interest to bring it back again in 2019.

According to Jody House, Agriculture Outreach Manager for the Choctaw Nation, there were more than 500 attending the event that included 49 vendors and 50-plus door prizes provided by the vendors.

Among those door prizes were an upright smoker and three new chainsaws.

The public event, held Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Choctaw Nation Event Center in Durant, was organized by the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach Program to bring together in one place agricultural resources and professionals to help farmers and ranchers of the community.

Two speaker sessions provided information for multi-acre agri-businesses and backyard gardeners alike.

One featured Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service representatives discussing "Alternative Structures for the Home Garden," the other with the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave updates on programs and services offered to assist producers.

"As for next year we hope to be able to do it again," House said. "We thought the event was a success and received lots of positive feedback from the vendors and

patrons."

Vendors set up shiny new horse trailers, farm machinery, home improvement equipment and booths for insurance specializing in agricultural needs, home gardening tips, jewelry, canned goods, cleaning products and much more.

"We're here to promote beef," said Patti Townsend of the Oklahoma Cattle Women.

"Anyone can join. We meet four times a year, sell rib-eyes at the Tulsa State Fair, provide scholarships and set up booths like this."

Another non-profit booth was for Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers.

"We are joined today with the Oklahoma State University Extension Service. We sometimes set up together to offer help to people in the ag business," said James



by Charles Clark

Over 500 people made the first Agriculture Expo in 10 years a resounding success. The Ag Expo was organized by the Choctaw Nation Ag Outreach program. During the school year Ag Outreach Tribal Extension Agents go to different schools and youth programs and teach them the importance of agriculture. There were approximately 49 vendors at the Ag Expo, making it easy for farmers and ranchers to speak to the many representatives to help make any needed improvements.

daughter Isabel were searching for a Choctaw language-specific booth.

His wife and other daughter were in another section of the hall.

"Our children are home schooled and one of the things they are studying is Choctaw," he said. "My wife is Choctaw."

Isabel, 16, will graduate this year. The family seemed to stop and check out every booth.

One of the busiest sites on the floor was a full-sized simulated cow called Bessie that allowed one gleeful child after another to actually go through the motions of milking.

Another highly visible teen activity was the concessions stand, a fundraiser operated by the FFA. All ages from across southeastern Oklahoma and north Texas were in attendance at the Ag Expo, demonstrating the strength and appeal of the agricultural lifestyle.

To find out more about the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach program and the Choctaw Nation Ag

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

 **Choctaw Nation Career Development**

2018 Career EXPO

866.933.2260 www.choctawcareers.com
Location: South East EXPO Center
4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74502

JOIN US THIS FALL ENROLL AT JONES ACADEMY

We are accepting applications for the 2018 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 (1st-12th)
- 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
(800) 522-6170

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

JONES ACADEMY

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

GROWOK

Workshop: Get to Know Your Perfect Customer

"This class greatly helped us refine our vision and our approach into the market. Greatly helpful to young companies."
-Trevin Cole, CliqFlik

Are you just starting your company and have few or no customers yet?

GROWOK is right for you!

Is your company growing or do you want to expand to a new customer segment?

GROWOK is right for you!

You must be an Oklahoma resident to participate and the deadline to apply is one week prior to the workshop date.

Cost: \$375 FREE for Oklahoma residents thanks to a grant from the U.S. EDA and regional partners
Find a workshop near you!

The GrowOK program is designed to confirm your business' product match with the perfect customer.

Our Partners

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Cherokee Nation | September 21 | Purcell |
| Chickasaw Nation | October 19 | Okmulgee |
| Choctaw Nation | | |
| Muscogee (Creek) Nation | | |
| U.S. EDA | | |
| Oklahoma Business Roundtable | | |
| OCAST | | |
| REI | | |
| i2E, Inc. | | |

This one-day intensive workshop is held from 9am to 4pm.

Register today, seating is limited!

All registrations include free lunch!
To learn more about the program visit [GrowOK.org](#)

**i2E, Inc. © 2018 | 840 Research Parkway, Suite 250
Oklahoma City, OK 73104 | 405-235-2305 | Reply to unsubscribe**

THE CHANCE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

Serving our members

Job for the Day is here for you! We are not successful unless we help others. By offering work opportunities within the Choctaw Nation, we enable participants to serve tribal members and our communities while becoming active in the workforce.

JOB FOR THE DAY

800.522.6170

7

Student School and Activity Fund

Need money to buy school or activity clothing?

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

Applications for 2018-2019 School Year
Available July 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019

For more information contact
(800) 522-6170 ext. 2175 or 2463

DISCOVER THE ROAD TO BENEFITS

CONNECTING KIDS TO COVERAGE

Native Americans who live in Oklahoma may be eligible to receive insurance benefits through SoonerCare (Oklahoma Medicaid).

Your Choctaw Nation Insurance Specialists Can Give You More Information, Please Contact Your Outreach Benefit Coordinators:

Gloria Ortega
Phone: (580) 740-9932
Email: gmortega@cnhsa.com

Ashley Robertson
Phone: (580) 740-9932
Email: anrobertson@cnhsa.com

Living out the Chohta Spirit
FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

WHERE OPPORTUNITY IS MORE THAN JUST A WORD

Please apply today at careers.choctawnation.com

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

Do you have access to a computer and the internet/wifi?
Are you interested in earning your high school equivalency diploma?

The Choctaw Nation offers High School Equivalency classes for all members within the United States. Classes meet each week for 12 weeks with all books, supplies and testing fees provided.

Must have:

1. A tribal membership or CDIB card
2. A Social Security card, driver's license or state issued ID

Visit www.ChoctawNation.com or call 800-522-6170, ext. 2122 for more information.

800-522-6170 ext. 2122
www.ChoctawNation.com

Career Development Workshop Series

Job Search Workshop:

Showcasing Your Skills in Writing and the Interview
Sept. 5, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Soft Skills Workshop:

Becoming a Professional
Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Choctaw Headquarters Bldg, Room 1552
(Career Development Computer Lab)
1802 Chukka Hina Durant, OK 74701

Pre-registration: Rhonda Mize -
rmize@choctawnation.com or
(580)931-7624

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 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 800-522-6170
Living out the Chohta Spirit

THIRD ANNUAL YOUTH BIKE RIDE

September 29, 2018
Durant Wellness Center

Pre- and On-site registration: 8:30 a.m.
Bike Clinic: 9:00 a.m.
Rides Begin: 10:00 a.m.

For more information please contact:
Janis Taylor 580-775-3400
Teresa Eagle Road 918-367-7119
Billy Eagle Road 918-275-8825
Terry Stephens 580-379-2390
Register at: <http://bit.ly/2K3M3G6>

Choctaw Nation
Trail of Tears Bike Team

Mail Entry Form:
72N 707 3rd Annual Youth Bike Ride
Teresa Eagle Road
One Choctaw Way • Tallahassee, FL 32310

Make checks payable to: "Choctaw Nation 707 Bike Team"

FEES:
Pre-Registration Individual Fee: 1 mile (\$10), 5 mile (\$15), 10 mile (\$20)
Pre-Registration Child and Parent Fee: 2 mile (\$15), 5 mile (\$20), 10 mile (\$25)
Registration on-site - Individual Fee: 2 mile (\$15), 5 mile (\$20), 10 mile (\$25)
Registration on-site - Child and Parent Fee: 2 mile (\$20), 5 mile (\$25), 10 mile (\$30)
Drinks and snacks provided

Awards are limited to ages as follows:
2 Mile (ages 8 years and under) • 5 Mile (ages 11 years and under) • 10 Mile (ages 13 years and under)

Choctaw Nation Head Start

Now accepting applications for Children who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1.

Choctaw Nation Head Starts are now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. There are currently openings in Antlers, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Wilburton and Wright City. For an application, or for more information please contact Crystal Thompson at (580) 924-8280 ext. 4649, by email at cdthompson@ChoctawNation.com, or go to www.ChoctawNation.com.

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

5k at Tvshka Homma, Ok.
Friday, October 19, 2018

The Zombie 5K Run is a great way to have fun while getting exercise. As a participant of the race, you will play the role of the Human and will be given a bell with three flags that represent your vital organs. Zombies will be stationed along the race course that will attempt to eat your vital organs (capture your flags). If you finish the race with at least one flag left, you are a survivor! Sign up today to join the fun!

The Zombie 5K will be held at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Grounds in Tvshka Homma, Ok. on Friday, October 19th, 2018. Awards: Medals for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place male & female in each age category (5 year age groups). Also: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place medals to the overall Male & Female. The first 250 registered will receive a T-shirt. Start and Finish line will be on the north side of the Capitol Museum. Registration will be from 6:00pm-8:00pm. No exceptions! Race time is 6:30pm and for your convenience we will have a chip start, not gun start. Pre-registration Deadline Date October 12, 2018 and \$15 entry fee, after deadline date you must register on site for \$20. Please make all checks payable to CNYAB. All proceeds will go to the YAB Senior Trip.

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of profits involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury or loss I might suffer even if injury or loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photographs of me or my child in the Biskinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional on physical activity.

Signature: _____ (Parent signature required if participant is under 18)

** In order to participate you must be at least 18 years old and over or be accompanied by a parent or guardian **

Mail entry form to: Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment:
Zombie 5K C.O. Rebecca Nul
P.O. Box 348, Clayton, OK 74159
For more information contact:
Choctaw Nation
One Choctaw Way
Tallahassee, FL 32310

CHOCTAW CAREER EXPO 2018

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018
9:00AM - 3:30PM

SOUTHEAST EXPO CENTER
4500 W. HWY 270 MCALESTER, OK 74501

Presented by: Career Development
www.choctawcareers.com/expo
866.933.2260

COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

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

Spring awarding is June 1 - September 1

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

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

BIG FOOT 5K 1 MILE HONOBIA, OK

October 6, 2018

2018 Bigfoot 5k/1mile will be held at the Christ 40 Acres in Honobia, Ok. at the intersection of the Indian Trail Highway and State Highway 144, on Saturday, October 6th.

- Event category will be 5 k run/walk or 1 mile fun run/walk
- Registration begins at 6:30 am - 7:30 am at the entrance of Christ 40 acres.
- Race Begins at 8:00 am at the entrance of Christ 40 acres.
- Pre-register by Sept. 20th and you will receive a T-shirt.
- On-site participants will receive a T-shirt based on availability.
- Awards for 5k participants only - 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place male & female in each age category (5 year age groups). Also, 1st, 2nd & 3rd place medals for overall male & female.
- Register by mail no later than September 20, 2018
- After Sept. 20th you MUST register on site! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
- Contact: Choctaw Nation (800) 349 7026 ext 6044 or 6958.
- 5k course will consist of a one mile on dirt, challenging course!

1 hr. time limit on 5k course.

Pre-Registration deadline date: Sept. 20, 2018

Name: _____
Race day Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Male _____ Female _____
Are you a Choctaw Nation PACE member? Yes No
Circle One: 5k 1 mile
If you plan to push a child in a stroller, please list name and circle shirt size for the child. No bib needed for child in Stroller, Wagon or carried at any time during the race.
Child's Name: _____

T-shirt Adult: Sm. Med. Lg. Xlg. 2X 3X Youth: Xsm. (2-4) Sm. (6-8) Med. (10-12) Lg. (14-16) XLg. (18-20)

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury or loss I might suffer even if injury or loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Biskinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Parent or Guardian must sign if under 18yrs.

Sponsored by: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Healthy Lifestyles
One Choctaw Way
Tallahassee, FL 32310

Mail registration form to:
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles
One Choctaw Way
Tallahassee, FL 32310

1 800 QUIT NOW

STOB

8

Darrell Sides

Darrell Wayne Sides, 56, Atoka, Oklahoma, passed away June 26.

He was born Sept. 2, 1961, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He is survived by his sons Brenton Sides and spouse Stevie and Stefan Sides; mother Mary Prater; father Larry Baucom and spouse Donna; grandmother Alene Prater; brothers Gary Hurd, Jon Baucom and Frank Baucom; sisters Lana Justus and Tana Baucom; along with many extended family members and dear friends.

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

Geneva Songer

Geneva Mae Songer, 69, Tyler, Texas, passed away June 10.

She was born July 15, 1948, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Geneva was preceded in death by her parents Joseph E. Thompson and Christine M. (Caldwell) Thompson; grandson Anthony Scott Songer; and brothers Eddie Chris Thompson and Joseph P. Thompson.

She is survived by her spouse Johnny Lee Songer, Sr.; son John "Bubba" Songer; daughter Lisa Hunter and spouse Harvey; sister Janice Finch and spouse Robert; brother Ronnie Dale Thompson and spouse Bobbie Jo; grandchildren John Erik Songer, Christopher Hunter, Ceara Sales, Ricky Songer, Kelsey Songer and Canyon Songer; great-grandchildren Ashton Cody Songer, Kaydence Songer, Katelyn Sanchez, Ayden Hunter, Jace Hunter, Aubriannaa Hunter, Brynleigh Shannon, Kynza J. Wright, Halleigh Lynn Talley and Kylin J. Wright; and several nieces, nephews, many other relatives and friends.

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

Glendon Harris

Glendon "Glen" V. Harris, 82, Clarksville, Tennessee, passed away Aug. 2.

He was born June 13, 1936, in Pleasant Hill, Oklahoma.

Glen was preceded in death by parents, Gus and Lola Mae Harris; and his beloved "Grannie" Lillian Ogburn.

He is survived by his spouse of 57 years Patti "Patsy H."; sons Tyson Harris and spouse Janet, Bryan Harris and spouse Dixie; grandson Andrew "Drew" Harris; granddaughter, Abigail (Harris) Bass and spouse; sister Waleda and spouse Don Smith; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

Jackie Rose

Jackie Boyd Rose, 60, McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away June 21.

He was born Sept. 20, 1957, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his father Gilbert Rose; sister-in-law Laura Lee Rose; grandparents Buster and Maggie Adams and Herbert and Edna Rose; uncles Jr. Adams and Bill Adams; and aunts Elgene and Wanda.

Jackie is survived by his mother Ruby Burns and spouse Jim; brothers Randy Rose, Gilbert Rose, Ricky Rose and spouse Ladena, Nicky Rose and spouse Melody; sister Teresa Mote and spouse Pat; and uncle Bud Rose.

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

Dennis Sam

Dennis M. Sam, 78, McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away July 6.

He was born June 6, 1940, in McAlester, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents Charlie and Louisa Sam; spouse Friga Sam; and son Dennis Sam, Jr.

Dennis is survived by his sisters Bessie Sam and spouse Virgil, Louise Mitchell and spouse Bill; brothers Charles Sam and Jimmy Sam and spouse Emma; step-children Vera, Christopher, Perry and Gabriel; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends.

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



Angie Pickens

Angie Eugene Pickens, 67, Coalgate, Oklahoma, passed away July 11.

He was born July 27, 1950, in Caney, Oklahoma.

Eugene was preceded in death by his parents Absolum Jefferson Pickens and Ellie (Carnes) Pickens; son Timothy Eugene Pickens; brother A.J. Pickens Jr.; and sister Christine Pickens.

Eugene is survived by his spouse Rebecca Pickens; daughter Kimberly Pickens; sister Vangie Robinson and spouse Roy; grandsons Creed Timothy Pickens and Preston Cole III; aunts Louise Ott and Catherine Williams; uncles Wilburn Shields and Ellis Carnes Jr.; along with numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and dear friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).



Betty Watkins

Betty Blanche Watkins, 81, McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away May 25.

She was born Sept. 21, 1936, in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents George and Letha Reed; and sister Phoebe Motley.

She is survived by her spouse of 64 years W.A. Watkins; sons John Watkins and spouse Dana, Paul Watkins and spouse Julie Whitney and George Watkins and spouse Beth; grandchildren Will Watkins and spouse, Jennifer, Jennifer Watkins and Kenny Gandee, Mitch Watkins and spouse Alison, Brett Foster, Jr., Samantha Palmer and spouse Brian, Jessica Adsit and spouse Joshua, Beth Winningham and spouse Brad, Wade Watkins and Sidney Whitney and Shelby Lusk; 13 great-grandchildren; niece Laura Johnson and spouse Tom; and a host of other family and dear friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Bishop Funural Service](#).



Dan Holman

Dan W. Holman, 80, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away June 28.

Dan was born Nov. 30, 1937, in Cloudcroft, New Mexico.

He is preceded in death by his parents Boss and Emma Jean; and grandson Michael McDermitt.

Dan is survived by his spouse Sally Holman; daughters Theresa Holman, Mary Kay Phillips and spouse Dennis, Margaret Reynolds and spouse Brad, Susie Murray and spouse Mark, and Amy Holman and fiancé Dennis Coon; brother Gene Raymond Holman and spouse Paula; grandchildren Matthew Holman, Christopher McDermitt, Joseph Bowen, Brian Vann, Thomas Vann, Kevin Vann, Kathryn Vann, James Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds, Samantha Reynolds, Sean Murray, Grace Murray and Allison Holman; great-grandchildren Emma Holman, Jude McDermitt and Laylah Vann.

For full obituary, please visit [Smith and Kernke Funeral Directors](#).



Hugh McNeal

Hugh Nathan McNeal, 71, Denison, Texas, passed away July 22.

He was born Jan. 13, 1947, in Idabel, Oklahoma.

Hugh was preceded in death by his parents JB and Opal E. (Jennings) McNeal; brothers Jerry and Arnold McNeal; mother-in-law Mona B. Andrews; brother-in-law Steve Williams; and sister-in-law Arlene McNeal.

Hugh is survived by his spouse Pamela McNeal; daughters Natalie Carlgren and Lindsey Marshall; grandsons Jacob Carlgren, Blake Marshall and Andrew Carlgren; sister Sandra Williams; father-in-law John Andrews; sister-in-law Nancy McNeal; brother-in-law Clay Andrews and spouse Janice and Mark Andrews; and numerous extended family and dear friends.

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



James Hammond

James Robert Hammond, 50, Boulder City, Navada, passed away July 2.

James was born Sept. 27, 1967, in Enid, Oklahoma.

He is preceded in death by his father James N. Hammond; brother Scott N. Hammond; grandparents Jack and Lucy Hammond and Robert and June.

James is survived by his mother Sheryl Hammond; brother John P. Hammond; uncles and aunts Joe and Tresa Hammond, Jerry and Sandra Hammond, Jack and Julie Hammond and Nancy and Richard Woods; cousins Kyle Hammond and Kristin Towery; the Folsom family; and dear friend Teresa Redmayne.

For the full obituary, please visit [Boulder City Family Mortuary](#).



Joan Rutherford-Hogan

Joan Louise (Haynes) Rutherford-Hogan, 97, McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away March 11.

She was born May, 25, 1920, in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma.

Joan was preceded in death

by her parents William E. and Arizona (Leflore) Haynes; brothers James Haynes and Gene Haynes; and son-in-law Tommy Lindley.

Joan is survived by her daughters Faith Lindley and Jennifer Blasingame and spouse Jim; grandson Jody Lindley and spouse Robyne; great-grandchildren Josh Lindley and Jaelyn Lindley; and nephew Chris Haynes.

For the full obituary, please visit [Bishop Funeral Service and Crematory](#).



Austin Griffin

Austin Alva Griffin, 21, passed away on June 10.

He was born Aug. 1, 1996, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Austin was preceded in death by his brother Dustin Buckner; grandmother Helen Griffin; grandfather Glen Bearden; and great-grandparents May and Alva Griffin.

He is survived by his mother Ann Bearden; his father John Griffin; his step-mother Cheryl Griffin; sister Crystal Mease (Matt); brothers James Griffin and Brady Buckner; niece Destiny Griffin; grandfather Robert Griffin; grandmother Sue Bearden; uncles Rob Griffin, Adam Bearden, and Allen Bearden; cousins Zachary and Emily Griffin and Jacob, Justin, Joshua, Jonathan, and Analee Bearden; and numerous extended family, friends and loved ones.

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



Charles W. James

Charles "Charlie" Webster James, 83, Gore, Oklahoma passed away April 7.

Charlie was preceded in death by his first spouse Beatrice Lumsden; and brothers Richard and Robert James.

He is survived by his spouse Barbara Clopton James; daughters Sandra Lumpkin, Vicki Tunnell, Melissa Sumpter and Gayla Johnson; son Jeff Clopton; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters Helen Blankenship and Mary James; brothers J.B. and Ralph James and Dan James; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.



John Stubbs Jr.

John Franklin Stubbs, Jr., 57, Boswell, Oklahoma, passed away July 8.

He was born July 18, 1960, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He is preceded in death by his mother Georgia Stubbs; and grandson Xander Eugene Stubbs.

John is survived by his father John Stubbs, Sr.; son J.D. Stubbs; daughter Jackie Stubbs; grandchildren Drake Stubbs, Slade Stubbs and Katy Stubbs; sisters Donna Pope and spouse George and Rhonda Hamon and spouse Rusty; nephews John Michael Massengale and Daniel Massengale; niece Jennifer Brown; and numerous other relatives and a host of dear friends.

For full obituary, please visit [Miller and Miller Funeral Home](#).



Jack Sewell

Jack Sewell, 78, Valliant, Oklahoma, passed away July 5.

He was born March 31, 1940, in Holdenville, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents George and Mollie; brothers Paul and Willie; sisters Harriet, Aggie, Malinda and Margie; nephews Jimmy and Dennis; and niece Sally.

Jack is survived by his loving spouse Claire; daughter Jacqueline Sewell; brothers Newman Sewell and Thomas Sewell and spouse, San Juana Becky; sisters Velma Martin, Deborah Sewell and Wanda Hulbutta; and several nieces and nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

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



Jennifer Ludlow

Jennifer Lynn Ludlow, 45, Broken Bow, Oklahoma passed away April 27.

She was born Oct. 12, 1972, in Idabel, Oklahoma.

Jennifer was preceded in death by her parents Joel and Isabelle Ludlow; and brother Jason Ludlow.

She is survived by her children Pillar Marshall and spouse Jeremy, Kobi Noah, Jonathon Battiest and Gabriel Noah and spouse Samantha; brother Marsill Jacob Ludlow; grandchildren Kalel Flagg, Nova Noah, Evan Noah, Braxton Noah and Cleo Noah.

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



John Billy

John Austin Billy, Sr., 59, Durant, Oklahoma, passed away July 24.

He was born July 15, 1959, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Johnny was preceded in death by his father Solomon Billy; brothers Darryl and Robert Thomas; and sister Geneva Billy.

He is survived by his spouse Karen; children John Billy II and spouse Kristie, Justin Edward Billy and spouse Jackie, Jared Billy, Rachael Cochran and spouse Michael and Ryan Carroll and spouse April; grandchildren Delilah, Abigail, Alexia, Hailey, Lily, Braylee, Abbygail, Travis and Austin; mother Margaret Billy; siblings JoEllen and spouse Carey Scroggins, David "Buck" Billy, Camilla Day, Solomon "Feller" Billy Jr., Donald Billy, Neil and spouse Teresa Billy, Justin and spouse Gina Billy, Mickey and spouse Amanda Billy, Jerry Thomas and Yvonne Mogros; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and a host of friends.

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



Obituary Policy

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

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Joy Wesley

Joy Ledell Wesley, 78, passed away June 1.

She was born Oct. 26, 1940, in Norman, Oklahoma.

Joy was preceded in death by her spouse Ottis Wesley; mother Edna Gettings; father Grady Vaughn; and brothers Coy Vaughn and Geary Vaughn.

She is survived by her sons Mark Wesley and spouse Shelly, Daniel Wesley and spouse Cindy and Philip Wesley and spouse Neta “Bug”; daughter Linda Powell and spouse Command Sergeant Major, Retired Jeffery P. Powell; grandchildren LeiAnn Palmer and spouse Daniel, Lacey Gonzalez and spouse Eli, Matthew Wesley and spouse Linda, Paul Wesley and spouse Vivianne, Deidre Inselman and spouse Colby, Amanda Kennedy and spouse Randall, Jennifer Lang and spouse Ryan, Katy Lewis, Scottie Wesley, Joshua Wesley and spouse Shonda and Leslie Drennan; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters Carolyn Douglas and spouse George and Phyllis Hawley and spouse Bill; along with a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

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

Ronald Milam

Ronald Allen Milam, 80, of Simi Valley, California, went to his heavenly home on July 18, 2018.

Ronald was born on Christmas day, 1937 to J.W. Milam and Beulah Lee (Battiest) Milam in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Ron was a very generous man, donating 21 priceless and beautifully preserved woven baskets, as well as an extremely rare cane cradle board, to the Choctaw Nation Museum. Ron was the owner of National Indian Center which he started in the 1960’s and held many Charity Auction Events for many different Tribal Nations. Ronald was very proud of his Choctaw Heritage and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Ronald is survived by eight children; Allen, Steve, Pam, Sandra, Roger, Cheryl, Rhonda and Tanya as well as 18 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Twila Powell

Twila Powell, 86, Ponca City, Oklahoma, passed away July 4.

She was born in Marlow, Oklahoma on Nov. 2, 1931, to Charles Vernon Thompson and Flossie Thelma (Graham) Thompson.

Twila was preceded in death by her parents; spouse Richard; son David Lee Powell; and granddaughter Amy Dawn Wilson.

Twila is survived by her daughter Cindy Wilson and spouse Mark; son Steve Powell and spouse Susie; granddaughter Michelle Driver and spouse Drew and their children, Rylan and Hayden; grandson Shane Wilson and spouse Kara and their children, Tanner and Ellie; grandson Daniel Powell and spouse Michelle and their children, Kyrsten and Tyler; sisters Darlene Reaves, Mary Jo Ailey and Judy Watkins; and brother Charles Thompson.

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

Williston Jefferson

Williston “Willie” Jefferson, 61, Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away June 14.

He was born June 3, 1957, in Talihina, Oklahoma to Elliston Jefferson and Ola Mae (Baker) Jefferson.

Willie was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents Preston and Annie Jefferson; and niece Nicole Focks.

He is survived by daughters Serenity Jefferson, Jasmine Jefferson and Christina Mae Johnson; sons Jeremy Haiakanubbi and Jared Jefferson; brother Ellis Jefferson; spouse Audrey; sisters Debbie Jefferson and Janet Prewitt; five grandchildren; 11 nieces and nephews; 17 great-nieces and great-nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

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

Leola Faye Maddux

Leola Faye “Lee” Maddux, 81, Frederick, Oklahoma, passed away on Aug. 11.

She was born Feb. 20, 1937, in Madill, Oklahoma.

Leola was preceded in death by her parents; son Johnny Mark Blankinship; grandson Zachary Williams; and brothers Bill and A.L. Barker.

She is survived by her spouse Dale; daughter Kristi McCullough and spouse Earl; son James Arthur Blankinship and spouse Carolyn; step-son Troy Maddux; brother Jim Barker; four grandchildren Katie Chapman and spouse Chris, Micah Blankinship, Jesse Blankinship and spouse Charlie and Jeremy Besson and spouse Laura; great-grandchildren Aaron Blankinship, Bryan Blankinship, Klaya Blankinship, Nyla Blankinship, Josily Chapman and Carly Chapman; and a host of nieces, nephews and many cousins.

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

John David Carter

John David “J.D.” Carter, 83, Soper, Oklahoma, passed away Aug. 12.

He was born July 30, 1935, in Antlers, Oklahoma to Sherman Michael and Elizabeth (Sherbuck) Carter.

He was preceded in death by his spouse Norma Herman; parents; and brother Billy Carter.

He is survived by his daughter Dianna Dennis; sons James Carter and spouse Janice, Ronnie Carter and spouse Sharon and Don Carter and spouse Lori; grandchildren Norma Greer, Heather Dennis, Joni Johnson, John Carter, Jay Carter, Cassie Campbell, Robin Malone and Bryce Carter; 17 great-grandchildren; brothers Waymon Carter and Sherman Carter; and many other relatives and friends.

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

Jamie Givens

Earl “Jamie” James Givens III, 56, was killed in the line of duty July 21.

Jamie is survived by his beloved Cindy; mom Delores Givens; sister Lourinda; and two sons Garret and Greyson.

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

Nina Roach

Nina “Narney” Faye Crossett Roach, 96, Granite Bay, California, passed away May 26.

She was born in Caddo, Oklahoma, on Aug. 23, 1922, to Guy A. Crossett and Daisy Baxter Crossett.

Nina was preceded by spouses Pat W Hardy, George Bunyea and James Roach; daughter Janine Royce Souter; and grandson Scott Hardy.

She is survived by sons Guy Michael Hardy and Pat Crossett Hardy; eight grandchildren.; as well as many great-grandchildren and step-children spanning four generations.

For the full obituary, please visit [Blue Oaks Cremation and Burial Services](#).

Mary Davis

Mary “Marie” Joel Davis, 84, Dallas, Texas, passed away on April 6.

She was born Aug. 10, 1934, in Wright City, Oklahoma.

Mary was preceded in death by daughters Rita and Martha; parents Rev. William and Pearley Louis; three brothers Byars, Jesse and Nelson Louis; and nephew Jeremy Louis.

She is survived by her spouse Willis Davis; sons Alvin, Darryl and Duane Davis; sisters Sue Louis and Dorothy Beller; brothers Ben Franklin, William Louis and Ray Louis; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

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

Roma Hayes

Roma L. Hayes, 87, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, passed away June 26.

She was born April 7, 1931, in McCurtain, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; spouse James; brother Limmie Jay Blaylock; and sister Margaret Greenwood.

Roma is survived by her children Jim and spouse Sally, Jerry and spouse Tookie, and Linda; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, brother and sister-in-laws.

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

Josephine Gallant

Josephine Gallant, 71, Paris, Texas, passed away on Aug. 3.

She was born June 9, 1947 in Unger, Oklahoma, to Jim Robinson and Alice (Jacobs) Robinson.

Josephine was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Liz Smithhart, Cathy Nelson, Bertha Jacobs and Paulene Tom; brothers Willie Jim Robinson and Earl Wallace; grandchildren Kordel Lee Gallant and Emmanuel Robinson.

She is survived by her spouse Delbert Gallant; sons Jimmy Robinson, Ron Gallant and spouse Kristi, Albert Gallant and spouse Chrisan and Willie Gallant; brother Donnie Leflore; 28 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and family and friends.

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

Matthew Gardner

Matthew Grant Gardner, 28, Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away July 29.

He was born July 9, 1990, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He is survived by his parents Noel and Jackie Gardner; his biological mother Diana Cain; brothers Chad Gardner, Ronnie Mendenhall, Terry Buie, Jerry Buie and Charles Lee Buie; aunts Brenda Holliday, Sondra Hickman, Rebecca Rubio, Ann White and Dallina Gardner; uncles Lyman Gardner, Nathan Gardner, Larry Hickman, Antonio Rubio and Billy White; best friend Kasey Ashlock; along with many other relatives and friends.

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

John Robert Belvin

John Robert “Big John” Belvin, 71, Boswell, Oklahoma, passed away Aug. 13.

He was born Dec. 28, 1946, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Henry and Sarah Belvin.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Lavada Duke, Richard Belvin, Henry Belvin, Jr., Jimmie Lou Hunt, Vernon Belvin and Baby Boy Belvin.

He is survived by sons Johnny Raymond Belvin, Bryan Belvin and spouse LaDonna and Zachary Belvin and spouse Cristin; siblings Virgil “Buddy” Belvin, Virginia Rutledge, Dante Belvin, Solomon Belvin, Debbie Bacon and Jerry Paul Belvin; 19 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and many other relatives and friends. For the full obituary, please visit [Miller and Miller Funeral Home](#).

Paula Zeek

Paula Denise Crane-Zeek, 63, Chandler, Arizona, passed away on April 28.

Paula was born July 5, 1955, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Leo and Emma (Boddy) Crane.

She is survived by her spouse Bradley; son Caley Zeek; daughter Courtney Zeek; and son Tyler Zeek.

For the full obituary, please visit [Pinal Central](#).

Lee McCoy

Lee Francis McCoy, 66, Ada, Oklahoma passed away Jan. 2.

He was born in McAlester, Oklahoma, on July 28, 1951, to Vernon LeRoy and Loretta Winlock McCoy.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Leslie Rice.

He is survived by his spouse Sandy; daughter Jeannette and Shanen Cogan; son Sean and Cara McCoy; daughter Rae McCoy; seven grandchildren; and sister Sidney Rise.

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

Seth Leal

Seth Lee Leal, 21, Atoka, Oklahoma, passed away June 10.

He was born Jan. 22, 1997, to Ricky Lee and Lisa Marie (Jim) Leal in Ada, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather David Jim; great-grandparents Emmitt and Susan Jim, Ruby Barcus, Mad-die Wilson and Walter Wilson.

He is survived by his parents Ricky and Lisa Leal; brother Tyler Leal; grandmothers Anita Leflore, Debralyn Peters and special friend Lance Thomas; aunt Madalyn Machuca and spouse José; uncle Mike Barcus and spouse Stacy; great-uncles Lee Jim and spouse Yvonne, Daniel Jim and spouse Geneva, Elmer Barcus Jr., uncle Mike Scott and spouse Felicia; great-aunts Betty Jim and spouse Jack Helsley, Rhonda Jim, Ann Sleeper, Marian Davis; special cousin Shelli Dailey along with numerous cousins, other relatives and many dear friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Browns Funeral Service](#).

Wanda King

Wanda Irene King, 86, passed away on Jan. 9.

Wanda was born on Aug. 4, 1932, to Norby and Mary Jane Plant in Waurika, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Dail and Henry; sisters Sarah, Margie and Yvonne Mae; and great-granddaughter Jannessa.

She is survived by her spouse Bill; son Tony and spouse Dayl; grandchildren Jonica, Tonya and spouse Tyler, Trina and Jeremy; great-grandchildren Jayden, Jaylin, Deegan, Jayce, Reagan and Anthony; sisters Ethel and Stella and spouse W.L.; and many nieces and nephews.

For the full obituary, please visit [Advantage Funeral and Cremation Services](#).

Kaitlin Fryer

Kaitlin Paige Fryer, 23, Caddo, Oklahoma passed away Aug. 6.

She was born Oct. 24, 1994, in Denison, Texas, to Larry and Christie (Ogle) Fryer.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Graham and Nelta Fryer, John and Effie Behrens and Carlos and Dessie Ogle; and boyfriend Tanner Jones.

She is survived by her parents Larry and Christie; sister Kesha Callicoat and spouse Steven; nephew Tripton Callicoat; maternal grandparents Marion and Shirley Ogle; paternal grandparents Ron and Pat Fryer; uncle Ricky Ogle and spouse Sissy; uncle Mike Fryer and spouse Tamara; cousins Abbey Fryer, Wyatt Ogle, Richard and Maria Ogle and family, Ashley and B.J. Malfitano and family; special family Rickey and Tracy Jones; along with other family members and dear friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Browns Funeral Services](#).

Peggy Williston

Peggy Lee Williston, 56, passed away July 18.

She was preceded in death by her fathert Leroy Williston; sister, Kim Qualls; grandparents Tobias and Rosa Williston and Enis and Mae Burke; and uncle Douglas Burke.

Peggy is survived by son Brad Williston; grandchildren Dawson “Noswad” Williston, Blakley Williston, Ryder Williston; mother Barbara Mitchell; brothers Russell Williston and Darrell Williston; sisters Brooke Williston, Debra Aguirre and spouse, Chico, Angela Pierce and spouse, Richard; nephews and nieces Tyler Williston, Dakota Williston, Brie Williston, Dakota Williston, Kendall Flowers, Santana and Brandon Scarborough, Jessica and Mond Faulks, Candace and Will Parker, Ashley and Wesley Johnson, Nina and Tanner Strawn, Shaylie Canant and Michael, Misty and Kyle Manning, Cody and Ashley Williston, Tammy Houston, Dobber Williston, Jason Qualls, Addie Jean Pierce and Sierra Manning; aunts Patricia Stafford, Alline Johnson, Stella Williston, Martha Williston, Virginia Franklin and Effielene Harley and Esterleene Anderson; numerous great-nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

For the full obituary, please visit [Clardy Funeral Service](#).

Thomas McClosky

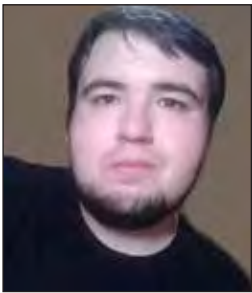
Thomas “Gene” Eugene McClosky, 83, passed away July 3.

Gene was born to Charlie and Aurie McClosky of Wichita Falls, Texas, on Dec. 21, 1934.

He was preceded in death by sister Viola McClosky; brother Leon McClosky; and his parents.

Gene is survived by daughters Edith and spouse Tracey Herring, Evonna and spouse Michael Mays and Elaine Hogue; grandchildren Mandi Stephens, Amber Baker, Ashley Colvin, Niki Persall, Shelby Boszor and Chelsea Baker; three great-grandchildren; sister Lucille Gramet-baur; and many nieces and nephews.

For the full obituary please visit [Jacksonville Progress](#).





Iti Fabussa A Year in the Life Series

For the next calendar year, *Iti Fabussa* will be presenting a new series titled, “A Year in the Life.”

Focusing on the time period around 1700, the next 12 articles will follow the traditional Choctaw calendar, providing a glimpse of the activities that our ancestors were up to during each month.

These articles are excerpted from a new book titled, “Choctaw Food: Remember-

ing the Land, Rekindling Ancient Knowledge,” by Ian Thompson, which will be published by Choctaw Nation later this year.

This month’s edition of *Iti Fabussa* begins the “A Year in the Life” series by exploring the traditional Choctaw calendar.

Over 15,000 years, our ancestors built a series of civilizations within the Choctaw homeland (present-day western Alabama and eastern Mississippi).

Over that span of time, they developed an advanced knowledge of how to draw the resources needed for life from the ecosystems around them in an adaptable sustainable way that could be renewed year-after-year.

The Choctaw calendar represents one part of that knowledge.

The Choctaw calendar is divided into two parts, a warm season, **Toffa**, and a cool season, **Hvshtula**. These two seasons are separated from each other by the spring and fall equinoxes and are divided into months.

Originally, Choctaw communities kept a 13-month calendar based on the phases of the moon (Adair 1775:74; Byington 1852:83; Claiborne 1880:489).

The Choctaw word for month, **hvs**hi, is the same as the Choctaw word for the sun. However, given the fact that the calendar is based on the phases of the moon, the Choctaw word for “month” probably comes from the phrase **hvs**hi **nin**ak **aya**, *the sun that travels at night*—the Choctaw way of saying “moon.”

Several sources indicate that, unlike today’s calendar, which ushers in the New Year during the winter, the New Year came in the early part of fall for the Choctaw calendar.

This was because fall is the time of year when oral traditions indicate that the Choctaw people were first created (York 2012:18).

More specifically, the Choctaw New Year, as well as the first month in the Choctaw calendar, began

on the first full moon after the fall equinox.

By today’s calendar, the fall equinox occurs between September 21–24 in different years, so each year, the Choctaw New Year would have begun on or shortly after that date.

As far as we know, the first time that the months of the Choctaw calendar were written down was in the 1852 Choctaw Definer.

By that point in time, the Choctaw homeland had already been ceded to the United States through Treaty and thousands of Choctaw people had been relocated to present-day Oklahoma.

As a result of these and other changes, some of the knowledge concerning the details of the calendar had been lost or confused.

The list given in the Definer, provided by one or several Choctaw individuals, includes the names for 13 Choctaw months. This list includes a month named **Luak Mosholi**, *Fires Extinguished*. The name of this month refers to the Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony.

Besides being the most important spiritual activity of the year, this may be when Choctaw communities adjusted the 354-day lunar calendar each year to keep in step with the 365¼-day solar year.

The list of months given in the Definer is complete, but from the names, they appear to be out of order from the natural seasons.

In 1981, a 13-month calendar was presented, which

rearranged these Choctaw months to make them match the natural seasons (Green 1981).

Back in the 1850s, two other Choctaw individuals had provided alternative lists of Choctaw months for inclusion in the Choctaw Language Dictionary.

These lists included the original month names, excluding, **Luak Mosholi**.

In 2002, a group of elders working with the Choctaw Tribal Language Program (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians), adapted a list of 12 Choctaw month names, originally provided in 1854 for the Dictionary by a man named Ilapintvbi (Byington 1915:146).

These cultural elders rotated the original list, so that the month names match up with the seasons. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians adapted these months as their Choctaw calendar.

In 2012, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma adopted this same calendar. In order to avoid the confusion of presenting yet another version of the Choctaw calendar, the Year in the Life Series will be based on this currently accepted version.

The next twelve articles reconstruct the Choctaw seasonal round as it was in 1700. This has been done by combining information from a variety of different sources in order to put together a detailed, coherent account that proceeds through the whole Choctaw calendar year.

These individual sources come from different Choctaw communities that may have done things somewhat differently during different years.

Thus, what follows may tend to generalize a seasonal round that probably differed slightly from year to year and from community to community. We hope that you enjoy reading about what our ancestors were up to, month-by-month, as we experience the same seasons.

[Click here for Iti Fabussa stories you might have missed.](#)

| Choctaw Month | English Translation | Rough Equivalent |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Chafo Iskitini Hvshi | Little Hunger Month | October |
| Hohchafo Chito Hvshi | Big Hunger Month | November |
| Koichito Hvshi | Panther Month | December |
| Koichush Hvshi | Wildcat Month | January |
| Watonlak Hvshi | Crane Month | February |
| Mahli Hvshi | Windy Month | March |
| Tek Ihvshi | Women’s Month | April |
| Bihi Hvshi | Mulberry Month | May |
| Bissa Hvshi | Blackberry Month | June |
| Kafi Hvshi | Sassafras Month | July |
| Takkon Hvshi | Peach Month | August |
| Hoponi Hvshi | Cooking Month | September |

Choctaw Firewood Could be Coming to a Travel Plaza Near You

by STACY HUTTO

Sometime this fall select Choctaw Travel Plazas and Country Markets will be selling firewood from Choctaw Farms.

The hardwood is mostly pecan and comes from tribal land managed by the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Department.

According to Steve Swigert, Sr. Director of Agriculture, Choctaw Hunting Lodge, the wood is salvage wood that needed to be cut down. He stated the resources were there and the Tribal Council wanted to utilize the Job for the Day program.

So far seven people from the Job for the Day program have been working to make the firewood available to be sold.

The price of the firewood will be determined by the staff at the Choctaw Travel Plazas and Choctaw Country Markets.

There will be no limit on the amount of firewood a person can purchase.

The Choctaw Nation has historically been stewards for the land and managed forests throughout Southeastern Oklahoma.

This is another way of managing resources in a way that helps keep orchards, farm land and forests healthy, as well as helping to improve tribal members’ lives at the same time.



Firewood from Choctaw Farms will have the above label on it. There will be two different amounts of firewood, .75 cu. ft. and 2 cu. ft. The bundles of firewood will be available at Choctaw Travel Plazas and Choctaw Country Markets in the 10½ counties sometime this fall.



Steele to Lead Brick Stitch Workshop

The Museum of the Red River will host a beading workshop on Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Attendees will learn how to use a strong, versatile beading technique known as the brick stitch to create a pair of earrings.

The program costs \$45. All supplies are provided.

The class will break at noon for a potluck lunch and resume at 1 p.m.

Registration is available online at <https://www.museumoftheredriver.org/product/brick-stitch-workshop/> or over the phone, (580) 286-3616.

The class will be led

by Eveline Steele, a local artist with over 30 years of experience.

Steele is experienced in several media including weaving, beading and basketry.

Samples of her work can be found at the Choctaw Nation Museum in Tvshka Homma, the Community Center in Idabel and are pictured above.

Steele also helped develop the latest Choctaw Dictionary.

Beadwork is one of the best-known types of art practiced by native Americans.

Prior to European

contact, native artists used materials like shells or quills to decorate everyday goods.

The introduction of glass beads led to an explosion of new art forms.

Over time, each tribe developed their own distinctive techniques, colors and styles.

Today, artists often combine a wide range of materials and traditions to create new and exciting designs.

Although beaded items are no longer a part of every day life, beadwork continues to serve as a powerful symbol of Native American identity.

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆
Word Usage

lahba - warm, tepid; lukewarm, applied to liquids.
libesha - to be warm
lashpa - hot; sultry; burning
lashpa fehna - scalding hot; very hot
laksha - sweaty v., to sweat
laksha chiyyohmi - a profuse sweat
alashpaka - a place with no shade
hoshontika - the shade of inanimate objects, a cloud; etc.

1. Oka kapvssa ishko sv bvnnu tuk o, oka mvt lahba.
I wanted to drink cold water instead the water is lukewarm.
2. Kafi lahba ishko sv bvnnu kiyo.
I don't want to drink lukewarm (stale) coffee.
3. Ninak a libesha beka tuk.
It is usually warm at night.
4. Kocha yvt lashpa!
It is hot outside!
5. Tabokoli fokalikma lashpa fehna chi.
It will be very hot around noon.
6. Sv laksha.
I'm sweaty.
7. Towa washoha mvt laksha.
That ball player is sweating.
8. A nakfi yvt laksha chiyyohmi.
My brother is really sweating.
9. Ofi yvt alashpaka ya bininli.
The dog is sitting where there is no shade.
10. Iti mvt hoshontika achukma ikbi.
That tree makes a good shade.

www.choctawschool.com

Homebuyers
Education

Are you interested in becoming a home owner?

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

For more information on dates and course locations, or to preregister, contact Neile Vance at 580.579.7319 or nvance@choctawhousing.com

Please address mail to the Nation as follows:

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

TELL US YOUR STORY

The Choctaw Nation has a proud and storied history.
Tell us your family's Choctaw Story
Follow the link below to tell what Living out the Chahta Spirit means to you?

bit.ly/2vPslPI

Registration for Annual Futures Showcase Opens



by Krislan Turner

During the 2017 Labor Day Festival high school students visited the Futures of Basketball Showcase booth near the basketball courts. The showcases feature athletes from multiple sports.

Once again Youth Events and Special Projects will host the Annual Futures Showcase. The Futures Showcase will feature basketball, softball and baseball. The showcases are for competitive high school athletes in grades 9 through 12, with a Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership card. Athletes will receive instruction and evaluation from regional college coaches. The Futures of Basketball Showcase for boys and girls will take place on

Sunday, Sept. 16, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The deadline for the basketball showcase is Monday, Sept. 10. The Futures of Softball and Baseball Showcases will be held on Sunday, Oct. 14, at Durant High School. The deadline for both showcases is Monday, Oct. 8. Registration forms and additional information can be found at www.ChoctawNation.com. For more information contact Javen Henson at jhenson@choctawnation.com, or call (800) 522-6170 ext. 2739.

Coleman Named Athlete of Character

Levi Coleman, a sophomore at Southwestern Christian University has been named a Collegiate Student-Athlete of Character Award winner at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Awards Luncheon May 15. The award recognizes those who embody the NAIA's five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship



Levi Coleman and servant leadership. The award winners were selected based on the way they demonstrate these values throughout their daily lives. Levi is a business major and a member of the Eagle's tennis team.

He graduated from Piedmont High School in 2016. While there, he was a four-time qualifier for the Oklahoma 5A Boys' Tennis Championship. He was a member of the Honor Society and the Builder's Club. Levi attributes his success to his parents, Brad and Robie, and the coaches who have trained him since he first picked up a racket 16 years ago. Levi is the grandson of Mary Childers of Idabel, Oklahoma, the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Florence Thomas and the great-grandson of the late Oklahoma State Representative Wayland Childers.



Levi Coleman poses with tennis coach Jenny Marcos.



Dallas Tigers Take Sports World Series

Kaleb Lee Gilreath of Rockwall, Texas and his Dallas Tigers teammates won the Travel Sports World Series on July 3. Kaleb and his teammates beat out more than 40 teams to take home the first place trophy. Kaleb came in clutch, ensuring his teams' victory with his hitting and pitching skills.

Stigler Family Fun Day Beats the Heat

To beat the heat and bring their community some joy, the Stigler Child Development Center hosted a Family Fun Day. Everyone was invited to attend. Dozens of families and few Choctaw Nation Employees came to enjoy some fun in the sun. A water slide, water-filled bounce house and grilled hot dogs and hamburgers were provided for guests.



Hawkins Signs with EOSC Mountaineers

Mallory Hawkins, a 2018 graduate of Leedey High School in Leedey, Oklahoma, has recently signed to pitch for the Eastern Oklahoma State College Mountaineers in Wilburton, Oklahoma. Mallory is the 19-year-old daughter of Kent and Jennifer Hawkins, granddaughter of Clint and Charlene Hawkins and the late Macky and Patricia Folsom. Mallory plans to major in psychology and sociology. While at Leedey High School, Mallory attended three state tournaments in basketball and four in softball. She was also the recipient of the NorthFork Electric Co-Op Leadership Award and held the title of Miss Leedy High School. Mallory is a member of Harvest Fellowship Church and is looking forward to representing her tribe.



Choctaw Nation Outreach Hosts Community Meeting

Choctaw Nation Outreach services hosted a community meeting at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Durant Oklahoma. Choctaw seniors had an Indian Taco fundraiser and free promotional items and information was available for attendees.



Photos by Charles Clark



2018 HARVEST CARNIVAL

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 19, 2018

Arts and Crafts Building Choctaw Capitol Grounds at Tvshka Homma
163665 N. 4355 Road, Tuskahoma, OK 74574

- Costume contest for children up to 16 years will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- \$1 cake walk and \$1 bingo
- Free games and prizes
- Trail of Terror begins at dusk
- YAB "Stop Domestic Violence" Zombie Run
- T-shirts given out in the souvenir shop

- Haunted House by Cultural Events: amphitheater backstage
- Movie shown hosted by Cultural Events: amphitheater
- No strollers or walkers allowed in the Trail of Terror or Haunted House

Food and drinks will be served in the cafeteria

Check your local Choctaw Nation Community Center for bus pickup times and to reserve your seat if available

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services 877-285-6893



FOR A BETTER YOU

| Locations: | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Antlers..... | (580) 298-4723 |
| Atoka..... | (580) 889-1981 |
| Broken Bow..... | (580) 584-2740 |
| Coalgate..... | (580) 927-9172 |
| Crowder..... | (918) 334-5666 |
| Durant..... | (580) 931-8643 |
| Hugo..... | (580) 326-9422 |
| Idabel..... | (580) 286-7381 |
| McAlester..... | (918) 429-7520 |
| Poteau..... | (918) 649-1100 |
| Smithville..... | (580) 244-3289 |
| Stigler..... | (918) 649-1171 |
| Wilburton..... | (918) 465-5620 |

Memberships available for Choctaw Tribal members, Choctaw Nation associates, CDB card holders, and their dependents up to age 26.

Choctaw Nation Wellness Center

Alissa Eudy Illustrates Chahta Spirit with Donation

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.” Isaiah 11:6

Alissa Eudy showed the true meaning of living out the Chahta Spirit when she generously donated the meat from her show steer to the Downtown Food Pantry in Paris, Texas.

Detroit Meat Locker donated the processing of the steer.

The Choctaw Nation purchased the steer at

the Lamar County Junior Livestock Show then returned the steer to Alissa.

While Alissa could have easily kept the meat she worked so hard to raise for herself and her family, she instead gave it to those less fortunate.

The meat of an average steer could feed a family of four for over a year, according to igrow.org.



Photo Provided

(From left) William, Stephanie, Alexis, Shelby, Ashleigh and Alissa Eudy pose with District 8 Councilperson Perry Thompson, Director of Transportation Bill Blankenship and Downtown Food Pantry employee, Alicia Jallah at the Downtown Food Pantry in Paris, Texas. Alissa Eudy generously donated the meat from her show steer to the food pantry. The steer was originally bought by the Choctaw Nation, then returned to the Eudy family.

Postoak Ferguson Appointed Johnson County Manager



Penny Postoak Ferguson has been appointed as County Manager for Johnson County, Kansas.

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners made the unanimous decision on July 12.

Postoak Ferguson began serving as interim county

manager Jan. 1. On June 28, the Board of County Commissioners authorized Chairman Eilert to extend an offer to Postoak Ferguson to serve as the County Manager.

“We have witnessed Ms. Postoak Ferguson’s capabilities during the past six months of her interim role,” said Eilert.

“Successes during this period include presenting a proposed 2019 budget with a rollback in the mill levy, launch of construction on the new Johnson County Courthouse and the kickoff of major improvements to the Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility.”

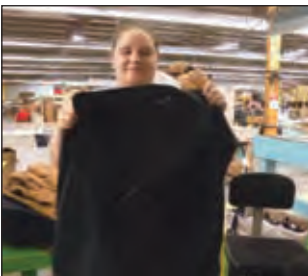
Postoak Ferguson began her contract July 15 and will serve through Sept. 15, 2019, with intent to renew for two years.

“I have been honored to serve as interim County Manager for Johnson County Government and am excited to take on the role of County Manager,” said Postoak Ferguson.

“It is my pleasure to serve our 590,000 residents and I am proud of our workforce of nearly 4,000 employees.

“I want to thank the Board of County Commissioners for its faith in me, and I also greatly appreciate the support of our workforce.

King Louie Employees Find They’re Making Jackets for Their Tribe



Dee Cooper and Katie Jo Cortner were recently pleasantly surprised at work.

The two discovered the jackets they were preparing at the King Louie America sewing factory in Baxter Springs, Kansas, were for their tribe.

Both Dee and Katie are members of the Choctaw Nation.

“When I found out, I went to my niece (Katie) and told her. We thought it was amazing and we could not believe we were getting to work on them. It made us so proud,” Cooper said.

Photos Provided by Dee Cooper

Denny’s Celebrate 60 Years

Nowassia (Folsom) and Royce Denny celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 15. They were married in 1958 in Wasco, California.

They have two sons, Jim and spouse Becky and Mike and spouse Tricia; six grandchildren, Matt, Zac, Jason, Casey, Nick and Samuel; and two great-grandsons Harper and Elijah.



Eagle Scout Raises Funds to Place Memorial Statue

BY APRYL MOCK

After a year of planning, hard work and the patience of a saint, a Lawton Boy Scout’s project has made his church a more beautiful place.

Eisenhower High School student Heath Strahan, 15, worked tirelessly over the past year raising funds to place a stone grotto in honor of past deacons of the Holy Family Catholic Church as his Eagle Scout project.

The brick arch contains a statue of Saint Lawrence, the patron saint of deacons, and will soon carry plaques for all the church’s deacons who have passed.

Strahan designed the structure himself, spending countless hours working with community members to get it right.

“It was a labor of love,” Strahan said. “I’ve always had this vision in my head as to what it would finally look like, but the end result turned out to be

even more beautiful than I had dare hoped it would ever be.”

During the blessing of the grotto, Father Seeton of the Holy Family Catholic Church, stated, “Let’s give thanks to God for Heath Strahan, for those who were benefactors and for those who helped with the project.”

On July, 23 Strahan was awarded the highest rank given by the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout.

Another plaque will now be added to the grotto designating it as his Eagle Scout Project.

Strahan is a member of Troop 4100. He said he’s surrounded by a great troop and leaders, who were encouraging in his efforts.

Strahan’s late father, Gregory Strahan was an Eagle Scout and after his passing in 2012, he decided to carry on the tradition.

His mother, Heather Strahan, has also been a pillar of support for her son and is proud

of his hard work. “The donation letter he sent to family, friends and fellow parishioners was quite heart felt,” she said.

“He wanted to get the message across to everyone how much this project meant to him.”

According to Strahan, bringing the project from start to finish was very satisfying. He credited a list of mentors who made a difference in his journey including Steve Brown, Ronnie Webb, Mike Chronister, James Rockwood, Mike Hickman, his mother Heather and



Heath Strahan

sister, Helena.

After the dedication was over Strahan simply said, “Today is a great day. A very great day.”



Photo Provided

The Saint Lawrence grotto was Heath Strahan’s Eagle Scout Project. It was placed at the Holy Family Catholic Church.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Gladys Bowden Holt turned 92 on July 25. Gladys is the daughter of Ruben and Annie Bowden, was married to the late Walon D. Holt and has six children. Your family wishes you a happy birthday!



Jeff McDonald celebrated his birthday with granddaughter Ariyanna “Curls” Walker. She brought him a cake and sang him happy birthday. She wants her papa know she loves him a lot.



Rosa Hyahwahnah Kaniatobe Wells turned 85 on Sept. 9. Your family and great-granddaughter Phia wish you a happy birthday, Rosa!



Trevor Hood turned 13 on July 20. Trevor is from Talihina, Oklahoma. Mom and Mathew wish you happy birthday Trevor!



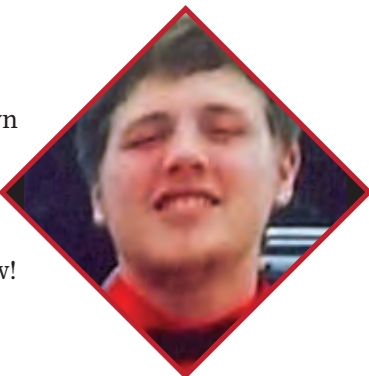
James Hood turned 12 on Aug. 3. James is from Talihina, Oklahoma. Mom and Mathew wish you happy birthday, James!



Evelyn Grace Brooks turned one Aug. 31. She is the daughter of Janie and LynThomas Brooks, granddaughter of Louis Hutchinson, Mike Brooks, Lois Barlow and the late Georgia Gallaher. We love you sweetie. Love, mommy, daddy and big brother Michael.



Andrew LaShawn Pace celebrated his birthday on Aug. 30. Happy birthday Andrew!



Tammy Nunn turned 57 on Aug. 29. Happy birthday, Tammy. May you have many more to come!



Choctaw Nation Veterans Dinners



Photo by Karen Jacob

Idabel
(from left) Walker Davis, Bill Lambert, Harvey Allen, Greg Willie, Frank Nahwooksy, Truman Jefferson, Deborah Mooney, James Long and Benny Frazier.
Idabel veterans not pictured: Ben Williston, Ronald Williston, Jimmie Paxton, Deroy McKinney, Sandra Riley, William Tonihka, Leon Wesley, Jeff Wilson, Charles House, Melton Baker, John Epperson, Herbert Jessie, Cheryl Stephan, Alan Clark, Louis Clark, Larry Wesley Sr. and Halcomb Butler.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

SEATTLE



Historic Preservation Department Senior Director Ian Thompson visits with tribal members at the Seattle, Washington Community Meeting on July 27.



Chief Gary Batton visits with Betty King, 84, who was the eldest person at the Seattle Community Meeting.



(from left) J.J. Jacob and Brad Joe, followed by Chief Gary Batton lead the procession to start the Seattle meeting.



Bryan Ventra quickly picked up the steps of a social dance at the Seattle Community Meeting.

PORTLAND



One of the funnest dances to watch at the Portland, Oregon Community Meeting was the Raccoon Dance. A set of partners chase each other around the dancers and through the crowd until they tag each other. The dance represents young raccoons playing in the corn.



Violet Blackman visits with District 10 Princess Calli Armstrong during the Portland, Oregon Community Meeting on July 29.



(from left) Chief Gary Batton, Haskell Lancaster and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. visit after the Portland, Oregon Community Meeting. Lancaster was the eldest man at the meeting at age 85 and is originally from Durant, Oklahoma.



The membership table is always busy during the community meetings. With the new All-in-One membership card people can give membership all the documents needed and will get their card in the mail at a later date.

SHAWNEE



The Snake Dance is a popular dance at the Community Meetings. People from the crowd joined in the dance at the Shawnee Community Meeting.



Harper Harris and Harrison Smith show off necklaces created by Choctaw artist Phillip Brown.



Chriselle Baker from Moore, Oklahoma, works on a project at a table set up in Shawnee.



Marie Arnold, 89, Maysville poses with Chief Gary Batton. Marie was the eldest in attendance at the Shawnee Community Meeting.

Community Meeting photos by Kendra Germany

Conference in France to Share the Story of the Choctaw Code Talkers Begins Journey to Retrace Otis Leader’s Experiences

by SARAH ELISABETH SAWYER

A panoramic view of the French countryside lay before us as we stood on a high hill above a loop in the Aisne River.

A quiet, serene setting now oblivious to the thousands of thundering shells and machine gun fire that blanketed the area 100 years ago.

The tranquil village of Voncq hosts the overlook where visitors—if they can find it—survey reclaimed farmland that once was a bloody, hard-fought-for Forest Ferme battlefield where Choctaws used their language to help bring an end to World War I.

Covered in spring sunshine and prayers, our ten day France research trip began in Reims with The National Association for Interpretation conference.

Choctaw artist and speaker Tiajuana Cochnauer had welcomed me to join her on a trip to France where she presented the Choctaw Code Talkers story to attendees from 12 countries.

After the conference, we picked up our rental car and hit rural roads in the beautiful farm countryside of northeastern France, retracing routes taken by the American Expeditionary Forces in 1917-1918.

Blessed with the guide services of writer, historian and translator Roger Cook, we climbed to the top of monuments, visited ossuaries, cemeteries and roamed battlefields and trenches unclaimed by the country after 100 years.

We hiked through enormous craters and stood atop rumored caches of explosives still underground.

At Jean-Paul de Vries’s museum, we lifted a World War I machine gun, stepped down into replica dugouts, hiked through woods with a Dutch school group and explored leftover German concrete bunkers.

On our own again, Tiajuana and I retraced the 1st Division and Sgt. Otis Leader’s experiences.

He was the only one of the Choctaw Code Talkers who did not serve in the 36th Division.

We toured the Saint Mihiel American Cemetery where we were privileged to help superintendent Jeffrey Hayes fold the flags set against the backdrop of marble crosses marking the resting places of American soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I.

We ended the conference/research trip with a day and a half in Paris, where we had the privilege of viewing the original painting of Otis Leader at the Musée de l’Armée–Hôtel National des Invalides.

The French government had commissioned artist Raymond Desvarreux to paint the “ideal American soldier.”

When he spotted tall Choctaw/Chickasaw Otis Leader in the Fourth of July 1917 parade through Paris, he thought, who better to represent the doughboys than an American Indian?

With permission from the Musée de l’Armée, Tia-

juana and I had a canvas replica of the painting made in the same size and with a similar frame as the original.

After we presented it to our chief, assistant chief, and tribal council in June, it made its way to the museum at Tvshka Homma.

You can find it upstairs in the Choctaw Code Talkers display, near Otis Leader’s service cap.

The most moving experience of the trip for me remains the river loop overlook at the battle of Forest Ferme.

The first battle of the 36th Division was at Saint-Étienne-à-Arnes.

It was disastrous with shocking casualties, including Choctaw Corporal Nicolas Brown.

By contrast, Forest Ferme and the river loop battle went “by the book.”

Several commanding officers credited the use of the Choctaw language on the telephone as the reason the division took the critical river loop at Forest Ferme.

It was the first code the enemy had not broken.

All through the trip, I felt respect and appreciation from the French for all Americans and our sacrifice in both world wars.

Given the prevalent stereotypes in Europe of American Indians, it was an honor for us to share true Choctaw history and culture with the French people.

My novel about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I will be available widely this fall.

In it, I strive for an accurate, heart-level portrayal



by Lynda Kay Sawyer

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer and Tiajuana Cochnauer were permitted by the Musée de l’Armée–Hôtel National des Invalides to have a replica of an original painting of Choctaw Code Talker Otis Leader made. The two women then presented the painting to Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and the Tribal Council. The painting is currently at the Capitol Museum in the Code Talker exhibit near Otis Leader’s cap.

of who these men were and the service they did as code talkers.

The trip to France solidified the project.

For more photos and stories, please visit www.sarahelisabethwrites.com.

Or come by and say “halito” at my book table (booth #33) in the Arts and

Crafts building during the 2018 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

For a chance to win the stunning Choctaw Code Talkers wall hanging donated by Tiajuana as a fundraiser for the Choctaw Code Talker Association, you can purchase raffle tickets at my book table or

in the museum.

If you are interested in joining the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, please call Treasurer Carole Ayers at (405) 990-0030. Membership is open to everyone.

Yakoke to all who are supporting the preservation of the Choctaw Code Talkers story.



by Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer

At the outlook by Voncq visitors can view farmland where the Forest Ferme battle was fought 100 years ago. Commanding officers credited the Choctaw language as the reason the 36th Division won the battle and took the critical river loop at Forest Ferme.

Preferred Supplier Fair Big Success

by CHARLES CLARK

More than 60 businesses from Oklahoma and Texas set up displays at the Choctaw Nation’s first Preferred Supplier Program Fair.

The event was held Wednesday, June 27, in the Grand Theater at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.

A lot of planning and hard work went into making it happen and it has paid off.

Boyd Miller, Preferred Supplier Program Commodity Manager of the Choctaw Nation Procurement Department, said “We are having a great turnout.”

Indian dancers in full regalia followed the Choctaw Color Guard to lead a procession from the lobby into the Grand Theater launching the business showcase.

The opening ceremony included the National Anthem in Choctaw and The Lord’s Prayer in Indian sign language by Choctaw royalty.

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and members of the Choctaw Tribal Council joined the Grand Entry before taking their places on stage.

“Halito and welcome,” said Chief Batton as he addressed the vendors and procurement officers before doors opened to the public.

Chief Batton stated the

importance of small and large businesses to the growth and success of tribes and communities.

“Thanks to the preferred suppliers, buyers and contract officers who are here from across the state.”

After speaking, he spent hours visiting with company and tribal representatives in attendance.

The crowd continued to build throughout the day as visitors from across the region stopped at display booths, picked up samples and made appointments for future meetings.

Businesses present ranged from family-owned and operated, such as Choctaw Petroleum Transport and Mother Earth Eco-Remediation to those with national recognition, such as New Fire Native Design (which had a hand in the

new Choctaw Nation Headquarters that was dedicated the day before the fair) and industry leader Betsy Ross Flags.

Communications companies 360 Communications (which is placing a new Internet tower north of Durant) and Oklahoma City-based RFIP Inc. had steady visitors; while Sacred Grounds Coffee, 903 Brewery and Klement Ice Cream Distribution also proved popular stops.

With the success of this first Preferred Supplier Program Fair, Miller said he expects it to become an annual event.

For further information on the Preferred Supplier Program Fair or to become a Preferred Supplier, visit online www.choctawnation.com/preferred-supplier-program.



by Charles Clark

Visitors fill the aisles and excitedly view booths at the Choctaw Nation’s Preferred Supplier Program Fair. The fair was held in the Grand Theater at the Choctaw Nation Casino & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma.



Pastor Olin Williams Marriage is Still in the Book



Pastor Olin Williams Employee Chaplain

Modern view of marriage and deviation from the biblical standards have given rise to domestic issues in today’s family values.

Before the development of human government and before the development of the church, God ordained the sanctity of the home in the union of human marriage.

We read in Genesis 2:24, that in marriage “a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

The three verbs in this verse indicate the foundation of the structure of marriage. These words are; leaving, cleaving and becoming.

Leaving involves the departure from parents and implies a legal union of husband and wife into a marriage.

Couples who ignore this legal principle have a “stolen marriage.” There may be love and physical attraction, but there is no real responsibility to give marriage its proper balance.

Cleaving comes from a Hebrew word which means to stick or glue together. A husband and wife are to be glued together like two pieces of paper. When you try to separate two pieces of paper which are glued together, you tear them both.

The couple is to cleave to each other by loving each other and remaining faithful to each other. When cleaving is not there, the marriage may be legal but it is an “empty marriage.” It is devoid of love.

Becoming one flesh means more than just physical relationship. It means a husband and wife share everything they have from material possessions to sharing feelings. They share their joys and their sufferings. They share their hopes and their fears.

Successes and failures are also shared. They share their faith. Their two unique personalities are not obliterated, but are combined with each other and make a complete relationship. When this becoming one flesh relationship is lacking, this marriage is an “unfulfilled marriage.”

Marriage conflicts are often the symptoms of something deeper. Before marriage, people in love tend to emphasize their similarities and overlook their differences.

Then after marriage, comes the tensions of two people with different backgrounds and values trying to live together in the most intimate of human relationships. Marriage is a process of a human relationship.

It is time development of a male and female human union to complete each other.

