



Choctaw artists – Paul Hacker and Roger Amerman

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Cultural gatherings in Lubbock and Ardmore

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

April 2014 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular March meeting

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session March 8 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted on:

- Application for COPS Tribal Resources Equipment/ Training Grant
- Application for the Social and Economic Development Strategies Grant
- Application for the Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education
- Application for the Native Youth and Culture Fund
- Dispose of Surplus Equipment
- Declaration for the Day of the Young Child

The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers on the capitol grounds in Tvshka Homma.

Over 18 years old?

Don't forget to update your membership card

If you have recently turned 18 or will be turning 18 within the next 60 days and have not yet obtained your Adult Membership card please complete a new Tribal Membership application and return to the Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership Department. The application can be found online at www.choctawnation.com or by contacting the Tribal Membership office at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280.

Youth Stickball League wraps up inaugural season

By ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The inaugural season of the Choctaw Youth Stickball League wrapped up on April 5 in Broken Bow. The hometown Hiloha Ossi (Little Thunder) from Broken Bow, Nashoba Homma (Red Wolves) from Hugo, Koi Iskitini (Little Tigers) from Tahihina and Osi Heli (Flying Eagles) from Durant.

League organizer Joey Tom said there were four teams from throughout the Choctaw Nation which participated in the stickball league between February and April. These included Hiloha Ossi (Little Thunder) from Broken Bow, Nashoba Homma (Red Wolves) from Hugo, Koi Iskitini (Little Tigers) from Tahihina and Osi Heli (Flying Eagles) from Durant.

"When we first started, each team had about 30 players," said Tom. The effort grew to include more than 200 children playing stickball by season's end.

"It has evolved since February," Tom said. "It's all volunteers and community based. We're trying to build strong relations with the communities."

The effort began with a grant to Boys & Girls Club of McCurtain County which helped start a youth stickball team in that area. Since then, the Choctaw Nation has stepped in to help and community volunteers and coaches also have held fundraisers to offset the cost of fuel, jerseys and equipment.

"The main thing is getting kids active in their culture and language," Tom said. "We want to bring it back together and keep it going. It's about teamwork, pride and attitude."

"Stickball is part of life," Tom said.

Joey Tom is one of six coaches under Stanley Shomo guiding Hiloha Ossi. Others include Bobby



Choctaw Nation: ZACH MAXWELL

Players from Hiloha Ossi and Nashoba Homma/Koi Iskitini teams battle for the ball in the junior division youth stickball championship on April 5 in Broken Bow.

Baker, Kerry Willis, Brad Willis, Derrick Willis and Gabriel Shomo. Nashoba Homma coaches: Brandy Sigler, Jason James, Teela Walton

and Randy Hammons. Koi Iskitini: Mikey Milton, Ross Green and Isaac Wacochee. Ossi Heli: Jared Tom, Brenner Billy, Ryan

Spring and Ryan Impson. Players will be honored at an awards assembly at 1 p.m. on April 26 in Tvshka Homma.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.

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<http://www.choctawnation.com/newsroom/biskinik-newspaper-archive/>



The Choctaw Nation/Choctaw Casino Resort was awarded the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce 2013 Community Partnership Service Award. Pictured from left is Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Frank

Deal, James Dry, Choctaw Casino Resort Executive Director Janie Dillard, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Durant Chamber of Commerce Board Member Chris Pierce.

Choctaw Nation honored by Durant Chamber of Commerce

Durant Area Chamber of Commerce 2013 Community Partnership Service Award is an award that recognizes businesses, individuals, organizations and/or clubs who have formed a partnership which enables the community to make sound investments for the future.

The 2013 awards went to the Choctaw Nation/Choctaw Casino Resort for its formed partnership with First United Bank to make the vision of a Boys and Girls Club in Durant a reality. An award was also given to First

United Bank of Durant.

Choctaw Casino Resort Executive Director Janie Dillard was inducted into the Chamber Hall of Fame. James Dry and Frank Deal received individual recognition for their involvement with the Magnolia Festival of Oklahoma.

The Banquet was held April 3, 2014, at the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Ballroom in Durant.

Preserving families is investment in our future



From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The older I get, the more I see a common thread woven through our Choctaw people – family. My wife, Pat, and I want to be positive examples for our grandchildren. We enjoy watching them grow and explore new things. My vision for the Choctaw Nation is to see their generation leading the tribe with confidence, empowering members with the knowledge to remain self-sufficient and continuing to be the first to set positive courses. Many of the activities we attend are sports – we watch our grandchildren compete in baseball, soccer and stickball. These kids are kept busy and so are we! As they practice and play in the games, they are learning much more than how to score points. The interaction they have with each other and their coaches is invaluable. They are developing social skills, building character and learning to overcome obstacles. Schools will be out soon and the Choctaw Nation has several options for the youth during the summer, from culture and sports camps to employment opportunities.

The Workforce Investment program has received over 1,200 applications this year. The students look forward to their summer jobs for a number of reasons. It's a great chance to learn job skills and they use the money they earn to buy school clothes, car insurance or electronics they couldn't normally afford. A few years ago, one set of siblings was overjoyed when they received their first checks. They said they had been staying with their grandmother and by pooling their money they would have enough to help their mom put a deposit on a house. It's not unusual to see the teens using their income to buy things for younger brothers and sisters. Their desire to preserve the family unit is strong. I also see the strength of staff members who work all week to mend broken families or educate teen parents, all taking a physical and mental toll. Many then spend their weekends – their time off – volunteering to hold benefit basketball tournaments, participate in 5k runs, or work concessions at daylong stickball games. Preserving our families is an investment in our future. Every effort we make to build up our children, whether at home or at the office, at school or in the community, can make a difference in tomorrow.

Stickball more than a game

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The formation of the Choctaw Youth Stickball League is generating a lot of excitement this year. Building on the success of the men's team and the popularity of the stickball summer camps, we thought a small group of kids practicing and competing for a few months would be a good way to teach the tradition. It is surpassing our expectations.

On my way home a few weeks ago, I saw some kids playing in the yard and assumed they were out practicing baseball. As I drove closer I saw they were each holding two stickball sticks and tossing the ball back and forth. It's hard to describe how I felt. Even though I practice with my grandson, I hadn't realized how popular stickball is becoming until I saw that small group of boys and girls.

Broken Bow started working with a youth group last year. In February, three more area youth teams were formed and together comprise the Choctaw Youth Stickball League. More than 250 kids have signed up to play. Yakoke to all the coaches and volunteers who give their time to make it happen. It's wonderful to see the turnout at the games. Whole families, including grandparents and great-grandparents are on the sidelines.

Stickball is leveling the field for all youth, all ages, to play. I've heard parents say their son or daughter isn't athletic but thoroughly enjoys playing stickball because there are so many others just learning the game. There are positions for those who are fast and positions for those who aren't. The coaches



work with each one to discover the talent. We are remembering the old stories. We are remembering our past and culture of who we are as Chahta people. I heard one of the coaches saying that we are playing a game our elders used to play and told the kids, "Remember that you are representing yourself, your family, your community and the Choctaw Nation so make sure to play hard, tough and have the heart of a warrior but play fair and respectful the way the game should be played."

The game is more about the heart and soul of our people rather than just a game and I am so glad that our youth are developing these beliefs at such a young age. That type of leadership will sustain our Nation for many years to come.

Chaplain's Corner

Blessings of salvation

We are going to study about God's wonderful salvation. It is important for everyone to have a clear understanding of what the Bible teaches about salvation.

When we have this understanding, we can fully praise Him and thank Him for what He has done for us.

What does salvation mean? It means to be saved, or to be rescued.

As we study or review the blessings of God's wonderful salvation – the rescuing of souls, let's remember that all need salvation.

Let's look at these familiar words from the book of Ephesians. In Ephesians 2:8-9 we read: v.8 "For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." v.9 "Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Notice that Paul said we are saved by grace through faith. In some circles people don't like to talk about being saved. To them the word "saved" doesn't sound sophisticated.

But it's a fact that the idea of being saved is very familiar throughout the scripture.

Let's look at some other passages where the word "save" or "saved" is used. In Matthew 1:21 we read about the birth of Jesus Christ: v.21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

And in Luke 19:10 Jesus Himself said: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost."

And the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

Jesus Christ is the Savior who came to save sinners. He paid for their salvation with His life, His death, and His resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) And every person without Christ needs salvation.

Even though the Bible clearly emphasizes that all men are sinners, many people in self-righteousness and pride refuse to admit their guilt before a Holy God.

They resent being called "sinners" along with the murderers, adulterers, thieves, child molesters and perverts.

By comparison to outstanding members of society they feel satisfied with themselves.

These people fail to realize that they are judging themselves by the wrong standard.

God is the One who sets the rules. He is holy and righteous – He is perfect.

In God's sight, not only are murder, adultery and theft wrong, but so also are lying, self-will, hatred and any other thing you might name that violates or falls short of God's glory.

They are sins, and the committing of any one of them calls for punishment by God.

Salvation is a gift of God's grace. Sinful man needs spiritual cleansing.

The salvation that God has provided through the gift of His love does exactly that. That deliverance, that freedom from the judgment of God upon sin has been

made possible because of God's grace.

Remember in Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you are saved through faith."

Yes, salvation is ours by grace. We should be thankful for that, because not one of us as sinners could ever save ourselves.

God's grace is part of His being, His very nature. It is by grace that He gives us this wonderful salvation when we do not deserve it.

And John declared in 1 John 4:8 that: "God is love."

Way back in eternity, knowing that man would sin and, concerned for his sin, God made provisions for our salvation.

Before man was created, God planned that the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, would become a member of the human race through virgin birth, live a sinless life and die to pay the price for our sins. As our substitute, He lived His perfect life and died that death in our place.

His resurrection from the dead was proof that God the Father was satisfied with the sacrifice He gave. Yes, Jesus Christ fully paid the penalty of our sin – death. (...the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Ezekiel 18:4)

God was under no obligation to save us. In fact, as a holy, just God who demands perfection, he would have been perfectly right to condemn the whole human race.

But the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Because of His love and mercy, in His grace has provided a way of salvation through the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He showed His love and grace to us, even though we are completely unworthy and deserve only His judgment.

The Bible says in Romans 5:8: "But God commended His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Now, the all-important question is this: How can I share in the benefits of the salvation God has so graciously provided? The answer is simple – by faith.

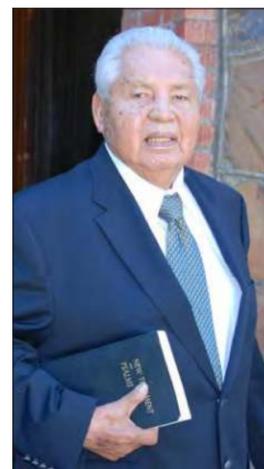
We read again in Ephesians 2:8-9 v.8 "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: v.9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."

When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, we are delivered from the condemnation, and we know the blessing of God. Yes, we are saved through faith!

When the Philippian jailer fell down before Paul and Silas in Acts 16:30-31 with the question, v.30 "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, v.31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and though shalt be saved..."

The work of Jesus Christ in providing our salvation is a completed work. Nothing can be done to supplement it. He has done it all. And now, through trusting Jesus Christ as Savior, we can know the blessings of salvation, the forgiveness of sin. You can trust Jesus Christ as your personal savior; we can know the blessings of salvation, the forgiveness of sin. You can trust Jesus Christ as your personal savior today.

Jesus lived, He died, He was buried and He rose from the dead. He is alive! Happy Easter.



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

Reminder: Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk is Saturday, May 17. An opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at Millerton's city park and the approximately 3-mile walk will end at the historic Wheelock grounds. Please park at Wheelock where buses will be available to transport participants to Millerton. Drivers will begin taking passengers at 8 a.m. Lunch will be shared with everyone. Wheelock Academy is located at 1377 Wheelock Rd., Garvin, OK.



Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt Order Form

2014 T-shirts are blue.

Sizes available are:

Children – (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)
Adults – Small, Medium, Large,
X-Large, 2X, 3X and 4X

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Cap – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
Name _____			
Address _____			
City/State/Zip _____			
Phone Number _____			
E-Mail _____			

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and 3X sizes. To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:

**Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210**



A group of 25 Danish students, aged 17-19, from the Silkeborg School of Business in Denmark, two of their teachers, plus 10 Eastern Oklahoma State College students, and Steve Glazier, EOSC vice president of Student Affairs, traveled across the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to tour its facilities and experience the culture. The students were given dance and stickball demonstrations, as well as the opportunity to taste Choctaw food.

Danish business students tour Choctaw Nation



Amy Thompson and Rebeckah Boykin hand out gift bags to the Danish students visiting the Choctaw Nation on April 2.



Mandy Lawson and two of the Choctaw Princesses, Callie Curnutt and Isabelle Cox, perform Choctaw social dances with the student visitors.



Lorene Blaine made tanchi labona and grape dumplings so the students could have a taste of Choctaw food.



At right, Billy Eagle Road explains the game of stickball to the students.

Photos by LARISSA COPELAND | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Dr. Ian Thompson readies the fire to start the pottery firing process with the seniors from the Talihina area. The firing took place at the In a Good Way farm, located in Buffalo Valley.

Talihina seniors hold pottery firing



Greg Irwin sets a pot into the fire.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Ruth Bentley gets ready for the firing.



Marianne Lewis shows off her pottery.

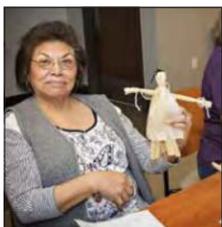


Durant seniors hold corn husk doll making classes

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Debbie Damron and Shelley Garner give instructions to the Durant seniors on corn husk doll making.



The seniors work on their corn husk dolls.



Youth of the Nation

By Tryndi Holder, YAB member

A few weeks ago, over spring break, I was given the opportunity to travel to Wynne, Arkansas and tour a small portion of the Trail of Tears in an effort to experience the same journey my ancestors once did long ago. If it was not for the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB,) members like me may not have gotten the privilege to participate in such knowledgeable events. It is very important that the children of today have some insight to our culture and realize the importance of retaining the historical paths of our ancestors.

Along our journey, I was able to meet many new people, one of them being Sandy Stroud. Sandy, being a full blood Choctaw, had many stories to tell about the Choctaw culture and the Trail of Tears. She also brought some sage to share with all of us. Since sage is so greatly cherished in many tribes, we placed some along the trail as we walked, to show our gratitude and respect. I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful organization that teaches about heritage and culture.

CHOCTAW CDIB MEMBERS CAREER FAIR
Apply with Us!

Choctaw Casino & Hotel in Pocola is searching for Qualified Choctaw Applicants

Full Time & Part Time Openings:

Tuesday April 22, 2014	Servers/Hosts/Waitress
10:00am - 2:00pm	Bar Back/Bartender
Choctaw Community Center	Dishwasher
208 B Street, Poteau, OK	Restaurant Cashier
	Sous Chef/Cook

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 730 of the Indian Self-Determination Act. Please attach copy of CDIB Card to Choctaw Careers profile if applicable @ <http://careers.choctawnation.com>

Diabetes and colon cancer: an emerging link

A few years ago we looked at a very large study which showed a direct link between type 2 Diabetes and cancers which can affect many different parts of the body. March 14, 2014, Elizabeth Mendes of the American Cancer Society reports on Diabetes and Colon Cancer: An Emerging Link. In Mendes's report she states more than 25 million adults aged 20 and older in the United States have diabetes. This is a staggering amount of people with diabetes due to the fact this number has more than tripled since 1980. Being diabetic is hard enough let alone all the possible complications which can occur. For a long time we thought the complications to be most aware of where heart disease, stroke, nerve damage, amputations, eye issues/blindness and renal failure. However, we can now add cancer to this long list of possible complications. According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer is one of the most preventable types of cancer, yet it is still the third most common cancer among both men and women in the U.S. Also, many of the ways people can lower their risk for colon cancer are the same as how they can avoid type 2 Diabetes:

- Avoid red and processed meats
- Stay physically active daily
- Get and maintain a healthy weight
- Avoid tobacco and heavy alcohol use

Studies not only show type 2 diabetes is linked to increased risk of developing colon cancer. The studies also show that among patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer, those with diabetes were more likely than those without it to die – even after controlling for other factors such as disease stage, body weight, and smoking habits, reports Mendes.

Peter Campbell, Ph.D., a researcher for the American Cancer Society, has been studying the connection between diabetes and colon cancer for a number of years and he has a few major

hypotheses for this link.

1. Hyperinsulinemia (abnormally high levels of insulin) is a condition which can lead to the development of type 2 Diabetes. Hyperinsulinemia along with high levels of glucose (sugar) create an environment in the colon that promotes the development and growth of cancer.
2. Untreated hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) and chronic inflammation due to diabetes is another hypothesis. Campbell states researchers seem to have ruled out the idea that it is the injected insulin that people with type 2 Diabetes sometimes have to use to treat their condition that is linked to colon cancer. Rather, the cancer risk appears to have something to do with type 2 Diabetes itself.

However, Campbell states, much more research is needed to discover exactly why type 2 Diabetes appears to increase a person's risk for colon cancer and other cancers as well. Diabetes is also linked with increased risk of dying from pancreas, breast, and liver cancers.

The good news in all of this is lifestyle!!!

- Evenly spaced balanced meals following the plate method
- Taking in a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in many different colors
- Staying physically active daily
- Avoiding processed meats/ foods
- Avoiding tobacco and alcohol use

Taking these steps can help to prevent type 2 Diabetes as well as many different types of cancer. Below is a fun recipe full of flavor and colors. This is also, a good way to involve the whole family in the preparation of the meal.

Recipe of the Month

Honey-Lime Chicken Kebabs with Mango Slices

(Recipe from Cooking Light my recipes June 2013)

Yield: Serves 4 (serving size: 2 kebabs and 1 sliced mango half)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 orange and 1 green bell pepper all cut into large chunks
- 1 red onion cut into large chunks
- 2 teaspoons grated lime rind
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- Cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 sliced peeled mangoes
- Additional chili powder (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat broiler to high.
2. Combine first 5 ingredients; toss to coat. Thread chicken onto 8 (6-inch) skewers. Alternating chicken

with bell peppers and onion. Place kebabs on a broiler pan coated with cooking spray; broil 4 minutes on each side or until done.

3. Combine juice and honey in a small bowl; stir with a whisk. Arrange kebabs and mango slices on a platter; drizzle with honey mixture, and sprinkle with chili powder, if desired.

Prep Time: 30 mins

Nutrition Facts:

Amount per serving: Calories: 254, Carbs: 30.9g, Fat: 3.8g, Fiber: 2.9g, Saturated fat: 0.8g, Protein: 25.7g, Monounsaturated fat: 1.1g, Iron: 0.9mg, Polyunsaturated fat: 0.6g, Sodium: 265mg, Cholesterol: 73mg, Calcium: 30mg

I hope you all enjoy this wonderful recipe full of colors, flavors, and texture. For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 800-349-7026 ext.: 6959

NURSERY NEWS

A.K. Thompson

Allen Keith Thompson was born at 10:36 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2014, at Integris Hospital to Allen and Catalina Thompson in Oklahoma City. A.K. was the first baby born in 2014 at Integris Hospital. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 18 and 1/2 inches long. He is the grandson of Allen Keith and AdeLina Thompson and great-grandson of Julian and the late Earlene Thompson all from Oklahoma. A.K. is another blessing to the Thompson family.



Everly Williams

Everly Mae Williams arrived on Feb. 5, 2014, at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Wash. Proud parents are Carson and Ericka Williams. Carson serves in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord near Tacoma. Delighted grandparents are Jim and Berdie Williams of Durant.



Mathis Foster

Mathis Callen Foster, first child of Brandon and Haley Foster of San Antonio, Texas, was born Nov. 24, 2013. Mathis weighed in at 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 inches long at birth. Mathis is the great-grandchild of Ramona Covlasky from Anchorage, Alaska, from whom he gets his Choctaw heritage.



Avery Jarvis

Avery Jean Jarvis was born on Jan. 29, 2014, weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are David and Darian Jarvis of Lawton where David serves in the Army. Grandparents are Todd and Lynnette Johnson of Lemoore, Calif., Elgin and Frances Moore of Clovis, Calif., David and Evie Jarvis of Corcoran, Calif. And Leticia Heafy of Lemoore, Calif. Aunts are Holly, Jaislen, Lou, Juliana and Elyia and Uncles are Todd and Easi. Avery has many great-grandparents, great aunts and uncles and cousins.



Choctaw Nation Breastfeeding Classes

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

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

DURANT	HUGO	TALIHINA
May 14, July 9, Nov 12 1:00 - 3:00 pm Choctaw Nation WIC Office	Apr 9, Jun 11, Aug 13, Oct 8 9:00 - 11:00 am Choctaw Nation Social Service	May 7, July 2, Sept 3, Nov 5 9:00 - 11:00 am Choctaw Nation DWC
POTEAU	IDABEL	MALESTER
Apr 2, Jun 4, Aug 6, Oct 22 1:00 - 3:00 pm Rubin White Health Clinic Conference Room	Apr 9, Jun 11, Aug 13, Oct 8 1:00 - 3:00 pm Choctaw Nation Clinic	May 7, July 2, Sept 3, Nov 5 1:00 - 3:00 pm Choctaw Nation Health Clinic Downstairs Conference Room

Sponsored by Choctaw Nation WIC
For more information, or for breastfeeding help, please call Erin James, IBCLC 1-800-522-8170 extension 2907

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Staff will take lunch from 11:30 to noon.

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Antlers: 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Center
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Community Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays May 1-28, except for:
May 7: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12:30 - 3 p.m. (market open)
May 14: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed: May 26 for Tribal holiday and May 29-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: May 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays May 1-28, except for:
Closed: May 26 for Tribal holiday and May 29-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: May 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

MALESTER

Market open weekdays May 1-28, except for:
Closed: May 26 for Tribal holiday and May 29-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: May 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays May 1-28, except for:
Closed: May 26 for Tribal holiday and May 29-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: May 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

sweet drinks
Today's children drink a lot of sugary drinks such as soda, fruit drinks, sport drinks and other drinks with added sugar. **This is not good!**

what's the problem?
There can be a lot of calories in sweet drinks. A small child can become overweight from what he drinks, not what he eats.

A 12 ounce can of soda has 150 calories. **An average preschool child needs only 1400 calories each day.** If a preschool child drank 1 can of soda every day in addition to his normal diet, he could gain an extra pound each month or 15 extra pounds in a year above his normal growth.

too much sugar
A 12 ounce can of soda has 10 teaspoons of sugar. You don't want your child to eat 10 teaspoons of sugar for a snack. **All this sugar can cause cavities in your child's teeth.**

too little nutrition
A child who drinks lots of sweet drinks is probably not drinking enough milk. His diet can be low in calcium, vitamin D and protein.

Small children usually eat when they are hungry and stop eating when they are full. However, drinking sugary drinks is not the same as eating solid foods. **The calories in sugary drinks are not as satisfying as the calories in solid foods.** Some children will eat a normal size meal even after drinking a large number of calories.

Serve milk, not sugary drinks at meals.

© Nutrition Matters, Inc.

Make a Change

Application Deadline: May 15, 2014
CDIB not required

Choctaw Nation Health Services Summer Fit & Culture Camp

CAMP INFORMATION:
Location: Jones Academy
Date of Camp: July 9-11
Ages Accepted: 8-12 year olds

Applicants must live within the 10 ½ counties. The first 100 applications received will be accepted for camp. Accepted applicants will receive a camp packet. Transportation will be provided if needed.



ALL CAMPERS MUST PARTICIPATE AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO STAY THE NIGHT DURING CAMP

For more information or applications contact Raina Sparks at: 918-942-8078, rasparks@cnhsa.com or by fax at 918-297-2364.

Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

SITE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers (580-298-3161)	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka (580-889-5825)	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Bethel (580-241-5458)	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell (580-380-5264)	8:30-4:00	Every Friday
Broken Bow (580-584-2746)	8:00-4:30	Daily, except 1st Tues. & 2nd Thurs.
Coalgate (580-927-3641)	8:00-4:30	Every Wednesday
Durant (580-924-8280 x 2257)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo (580-326-5404)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Idabel (580-286-2510)	8:00-4:30	Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
McAlester (918-423-6335)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Poteau (918-647-4585)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Smithville (580-244-3289)	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro (918-962-3832)	8:00-4:30	Every Wed. - Fri.
Stigler (918-967-4211)	8:30-4:00	Every Mon. - Wed.
Talihina (918-567-7000 x 6792)	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton (918-465-5641)	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline
Free help
1 800 QUIT NOW
784-8669 OKhelpline.com

NOTES TO THE NATION

Family sends their thanks

I would like to thank everyone for attending Jarrod Choate's funeral. I know he would have been very happy to see you all. I would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation for everything. It was appreciated. Thank you also to my younger sister, Joyce.

God bless,
Geraldine Pierce and Tommy Choate

Looking for family members

I'm looking for descendants of my family, John E. and Dixon D. Sumpter. Their father and mother were Jacob and Nancy (Gibson) Sumpter. They lived around Foster, Paul's Valley and Palio, Okla. I would appreciate any information. My number is 580-475-6133.

Jean Harper

EVENTS

Dyer-Labor family reunion

Plan your family reservations for the 2014 Dyer-Labor family reunion at Beavers Bend State Park, near Broken Bow. Group Camp #2 rustic cabins RV pads, & tent spaces available. Check-in 3 p.m., Friday, June 27-Sunday, June 29 rate of \$25 for the two nights. Reunion contact number is 803-649-0207. Make checks payable to: Tiajuana Cochnauer, P.O. Box 5933, Aiken, SC 29804. If you have questions email tribalresearch.tc@gmail.com or Stahr Terrazas at terrazasstar@yahoo.com. Looking forward to a great reunion.

LeFlore 55th annual alumni banquet

LeFlore High school & former students association will hold its 55th annual alumni banquet on Saturday, May 10th starting at 5 p.m. in the new high school gym. All former students and faculty, especially those students celebrating a milestone anniversary, are invited to attend for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. For more information, contact Susan (Ward) Cantwell at 918-647-6327.

49th Annual Gospel Singing

The 49th Annual Gospel Singing at the Oka Achukma Presbyterian Church near Broken Bow will be held on Saturday, May 3. It will start at 7 p.m. with Henry Battiest serving at emcee. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Contact Cleland Willis at 580-212-0829 for more information.

Ritter family reunion

The Ritter family reunion will be held May 17 at the Quarry Island in Wister. Any relatives of Isaac (Ike) and Georgia Ritter and Frank and Tennie Ritter are welcome to attend. Please bring a covered dish and something to drink. Any donation to help on the reunion is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Imogene (McCoy) Odell at 507 Chickasaw, Poteau, OK 74954 or 918-647-3791 or 918-647-7596.

Church to hold monthly gospel singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. on May 2 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month, at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-760-6127.

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Article deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

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.



BISKINIK 2014

Noahubi-Columbus-Battiest family reunion

The 2014 Noahubi-Columbus-Battiest family reunion will be held on Saturday, May 10 at the Broken Bow City Park from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. All family members are asked to bring lawn chairs, gifts for games, old photos to share memories and a covered dish. All friends are invited to come visit and enjoy the day with us. For more information please contact Louise (Tonihka) Laney at 580-286-3647 or Susie (Baker) Rose at 580-584-2971.

CNHS to host Senior Day

The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority's Senior Nutrition program will be hosting its 29th Annual Senior Day on May 21 at the McAlester Expo Center.

Parnell-Green-Blake family reunion

The Parnell-Green-Blake reunion will be held June 14 at the Choctaw Senior Center in Smithville. Come enjoy the great food at lunchtime, the music, singing, and good fellowship. For more information call 580-244-3404, 580-244-7276 or 918-427-6050.

Casey-Ward family reunion

The Casey and Ward Cousin Reunion will be held at the Choctaw Building in Spiro on June 14. It will be a covered dish lunch from 11:30 a.m. until after lunch and visits. Please bring pictures and articles that family members will enjoy seeing. Contact John Casey at 918-962-2316 or 918-774-4940 or Anna Denny at 405-348-8686. A donation will be taken to cover the drinks, paper needs and rent on the building.

HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

ARE YOU READY TO PURCHASE A NEW HOME?

COME TO OUR HOMEBUYER CLASS TO LEARN THE IMPORTANT STEPS IN THE HOME BUYING PROCESS. WE MAKE THE PROCESS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL. CALL TODAY TO REGISTER

Carrie Blackmon, Homebuyer Education Counselor 1-800-235-3087 ext. 318

PLAN TO ATTEND AT THE NEAREST LOCATION NEAREST YOU
COME DRAW FOR A \$50.00 GIFT CARD
Must Be Present to Win

Talihina Community Center
April 29, 2014 @ 4:30

Idabel Community Center
May 15, 2014 @ 4:30

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
HOME FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Hugo, Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10.5-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. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 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:

Choctaw Nation Community Center
19400 Aes Road, Spiro
April 29
10-11 a.m. and 12-1 p.m.

Attention Tribal Veterans

The Choctaw Nation Health Services is hosting enrollment fairs for Veterans Affairs health benefits.

Choctaw Nation Health Care Center	McAlester Clinic
One Choctaw Way	1127 S. George Nigh Expy
Talihina, OK 74571	McAlester, OK 74501
April 16	April 23
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Hugo Clinic	
401 N "M" Street	
Hugo, OK 74743	
April 30	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	

Please bring a copy of your DD-214. ODVA will also be available for claims filing and lost DD-214 filing.

For any questions please contact:
Rick Dereas, 918-567-7000, ext. 6856
John Alley, 918-577-4261
Bunner Gray, 918-577-3977

District princess pageant schedule announced

The District Princess Pageants are scheduled! Young ladies will be chosen in three age groups to represent their district for the next year. The winners in each district will then vie for the titles of Little Miss, Jr. Miss and Miss Choctaw Nation during the Labor Day Pageant Aug. 28 at Tvshka Homma.

District 1
May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel. Deadline for applications is May 5. For more information, please call 580-286-6116.

District 2
May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Investment Center in Broken Bow. Applications may be picked up at the McCurtain County Boys and Girls Club or Bethel field office. Deadline for applications is noon on May 1. For more information, please call 580-584-3636.

District 3
April 24 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Talihina. Deadline for applications is April 21. For more information, please call 918-567-2106.

District 4
May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Poteau. Deadline for applications is May 1. For more information, please call 918-647-9324.

District 5
May 7 at 11 a.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler. Deadline for applications is April 28. For more information, please call 918-967-2398.

District 6
May 23 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton. Deadline for applications is May 16. For more information, please call 918-465-2389.

District 7
May 25 at 2 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Wright City. Deadline for applications is 3 p.m. on May 9. For more information, please call 580-298-3856 or 580-981-7011.

District 8
May 29 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo. Deadline for applications is May 15. For more information, please call 580-326-3528.

District 9
May 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Event Center in Durant, held in conjunction with the annual Magnolia Festival. Deadline for applications is May 9. For more information, please call 580-775-1774.

District 10
May 15 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Atoka. Deadline for applications is May 1. For more information, please call 580-889-6147.

District 11
May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester. Deadline for applications is April 18. For more information, please call 918-423-1016.

District 12
May 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Crowder. Deadline for applications is May 2. For more information, please call 918-334-5344.

STEM Camp
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

WHEN
July 13-18, 2014

WHERE
Jones Academy Campus
Horseshoe OK

WHO
High 9-12 grade students who hold a CDIB card and have successfully completed Algebra I

WHY
To explore STEM in new ways and meet other students with similar interests

HOW
Contact: Karen McLaughlin at 888.202.3518 x1030 or 580.233.0239 or email: kmcLaughlin@choctawnation.com for an application or more information

Are You Into Science, Math, Technology, or Engineering?

If so, you may be just who we are looking for!

This summer, come and explore STEM hands-on and in the real world. Your days will be filled with workshops, challenges, fun, and field trips. We promise you won't be bored!

Students who are selected will attend camp free of charge and will spend five nights on the Jones Academy campus. Transportation will be provided for those students who need it.

Space is extremely limited, so apply soon. The deadline for applications is May 9, 2014.

ANNUAL CALIFORNIA CHOCTAW GATHERING

Special raffle
2 Disneyland 1 day/2 parks Hopper tickets

Free BBQ Dinner on 3rd and Hamburger social on the 4th after church

2014 Highlights

Make and Take Classes:
9:00 to 10:15 a.m. 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

During the day visit the following displays:

- Traditional Choctaw Wedding and Food Tasting
- Learn to make traditional Choctaw clothes
- History/Culture booth
- Learn to use the rabbit hunting stick and blowgun
- Participate in stickball game and traditional social dancing

Princess contest and crowning of Miss Okla Chahta, Jr Miss and Little Miss.

May 3rd-4th
Bakersfield College - Practice Field
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305
661-319-6308

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Bill and Louise celebrate 65th anniversary

Congratulations to Bill and Louise Amos on their 65 wedding anniversary on March 26! Each season brings its joys and challenges. Bill and Louise have two children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. In today's world families often live far apart. When birthdays roll around they manage to get together. Every day they thank God for the blessings and the goodness of God that is present in every season.

Simmons receives Firefighter of the Year

Nashoba Simmons received assistance from the Nation's Career Development Program for his firefighter training at EOC Eastern Oklahoma County Technology center. He started as a volunteer part-time employee at the Seminole Fire Department about one year ago. The Seminole Fire Department voted and by a unanimous vote of his peers he was awarded in February the award "Firefighter of the Year". This March he was offered and accepted a full-time position with the Seminole Fire Department. Once again, with the support of the Career Development Program he is working towards achieving an Advanced EMT national certification attending Gordon Cooper Technology Center.



Debo graduates with Doctorate in Pharmacy

Dr. Erica Debo graduated with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University on December 20, 2013. She is a 2007 graduate of Hugo High School, graduated Valedictorian of her class. Parents are Randy and Charlotte Debo of Hugo. Grandparents are Charles and Norma James of Hugo and the late Jackie Debo of Seagoville, Texas and the late Nelson Debo of Shidler. Erica is currently employed as a pharmacist with the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada.



Valentine's Day Court

Inez Herndon and Dan Herndon were crowned Valentines day, Queen and King at the Wright City Community Center on Feb. 12.



Ortiz excels in senior year

Chris Ortiz Jr. just completed his senior year of basketball for Adamson High School in Dallas. While maintaining a 3.38 gpa he averaged 10.1 pts, 8.7 assists, 4.1 rebounds and 3.02 steals as Adamson's point guard. He is the oldest son to Chris (Bubba) and Karen Ortiz of Dallas, Texas and the grandson of Albert Ortiz and Norma Billy-Ortiz of Dallas, Texas. He also plays basketball for the tournament team for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Both his Oklahoma and Texas family are extremely proud of him as an athlete but more proud for the good, strong family oriented man he has become.



Clarence 'Chief' Key, famous circus Choctaw

Clarence William "Chief" Key was born July 30, 1897 in Indian Territory, now Durant. Clarence had four brothers and a sister. They grew up on a farm near Fort Towson. The Key brothers (Joe, Clarence, Claude & Willie) were natural showmen. They were raised on a farm and competed in their own family rodeos.



The Key brothers' first show was at the city park in Fort Towson where the town's people held their annual picnic. Joe, the oldest brother, owned and managed the Key Brothers Wild West Show from 1916 until his death in 1929. Joe was an expert horseman, rope spinner, calf roper and bulldogger. He taught his brothers the skills necessary for a Wild West Show. Claude "Buck" Key was the chief cowboy and saddle bronc rider. Willie, the youngest brother, joined the show in 1927 when he was 18. Clarence "Chief" Key was a knife thrower and rifle marksman. He only stayed with the family show for a brief period.

Chief Key continued his rodeo years as an All American Cowboy, bronc buster and continued to increase his skills. His act included knife throwing, sharp shooting, roping and rope twirling.

Knife throwing came natural to the Chief. He started each season without a minute of practice. His wife, Tillie Key, was his target. He needed to be perfect, and he was. He only nicked her once in 30 years, 420 performances, 25 knives per performance, or 315,000 throws.

Sharp Shooting - He would hit a knife with the bullet, split the bullet, and light two matches with the bullet halves. Then with upside down and side shots he puts out candles with the bullets.

Roping - He was famous for his "big horse catch" in which he ropes six running horses at one time.

Chief Key appeared under the Big Top with Tim McCoy, Four Paws Sells, Hagenback and Wallace, Russell, Fred J Mack, Ringling Brothers, Cole Walters, Hugo Brothers Side Show and Al G Kelly Miller. His show business career included appearances in silent movies and had been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not. His career took him to every state, Canada and Mexico.

Chief Key's life was not just show business. He was a Veteran of World War I. He served as Acting Chief of the Choctaw Tribe at all government affairs. He was a deputy constable then a constable. He played an important role in one of Choctaw County's major crimes, the murder of the Rogers family near Fort Towson in 1939.

Chief Key and Matilda (Tillie) had 2 children, Mary and Edward. Their family traveled with the shows. When the children were of age they became part of the show. Chief Key retired from Kelly Miller and enjoyed his retirement on his farm in Fort Towson.

Chief Key died May 3, 1960. He is still the most famous Circus Choctaw, but the future brings many youth circuses, with new talent, new stars and perhaps a new Chief.

Four Generations

Four generations of granddaughters of Andel Hunter, original enrollee. Catherine Hunter Boles, Lynnette Johnson, Darrian Moore Jarvis and Avery Moore Jarvis.



Watson accepted into Indian law program

Whitney Renee' Watson, a 2008 graduate of Kinta Public School was recently accepted as a degree candidate for the Masters of Jurisprudence in Indian Law program at the University of Tulsa College of Law. Whitney is the daughter of Robert Watson III and Sandra Watson and the granddaughter of Robert and Johnnie Watson and the late Willie and Marie Bowers. She graduated from Southwestern University in Weatherford in 2013 with a triple major which included, Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology of Political Science and American Indian Studies.



Whitney said her greatest desire is to be able to help her fellow Native Americans. While at Kinta she took Choctaw classes and is fluent in the Choctaw language. Her maternal great-grandmother, the late Susan Riddle Harris, was a full blooded Choctaw. Whitney was also a state FCCLA officer while at Kinta and salutatorian of her class. Kinta Supt. Patricia DeVillie said "Not only was Whitney an outstanding student at Kinta, she was an exemplary role model for other students to follow."

Whitney was honored on Jan. 4 with a celebration of congratulations for her achievements at the home of her grandparents, Robert and Johnnie Watson in Oklahoma City. In addition to her grandparents, those in attendance were Sandra Watson, Krystal Watson, Nicole Watson, Jonathan Watson, Paula Watson, Lauren Watson, Zoe Watson, all of Oklahoma City, Robert Watson III, Susan Johnson, Loretta Bowers, Cardell Johnson, Jose McCoy, all of Kinta, Stan and Cassie Shelton and Steven Johnson of Stigler, Kayla Hale of Dallas, Texas, Cassiday Pinion of Bethany, Starr Chavez and Tiffani Quezada of Grace Mont, Norman Clark, Lacey Leonard, Jobie Clark and Tara Tavttsah of Anadarko.

Whitney is currently employed by the Oklahoma Gaming Commission at the Sugar Creek Casino in Hinton.

Whitney's family and friends are extremely proud of her accomplishments and wish her the best in her future at TU.

Spann competes in Colorado State Chess

February 15-16 at the Auraria Campus of the University of Colorado Denver, Nabil Spann, 16, of Fort Collins, Colo. competed at the Colorado State Chess Association Scholastic State Championship winning first place in the high school division and will thus be invited to represent Colorado at the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions and compete against the high school chess champions of the 49 other states this summer in Orlando, Fla. Nabil has not lost in the Colorado High School Championship tournament for the past two years. He compiled four wins and two draws last year, and did the same this year. As the fifth seed in the tournament his win was a significant upset.



Henry and Minnie celebrate 50th anniversary

Congratulations to Henry and Minnie Miller who celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 5.



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation May 2014

Durant - Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Broken Bow - Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Idabel by appt.
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-2410 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GERALDINE BLACK

Geraldine Black celebrated her 95 birthday in December. She missed her surprise birthday at the Choctaw Community Center in Poteau. She took a picture with Council Speaker, Delton Cox holding a picture of her birthday cake.



SHELBY CAST

Shelbie Lee Cast of Panama turns 18 on April 10. Her parents, Bob and Kimberlee Cast, as well as her sister, Kodie would like to wish her a very Happy Birthday and a wonderful year ahead.



RONNIE SMITH JR.

Happy Birthday to Ronnie Smith Jr. who turned 16 on April 8. His parents are Deloures and Ronnie Smith and sister, Danielle of McAlester; Aunt, Annette Johnson of Ardmore; and Grandparents are, Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore and Effie Smith of Sherman, Texas. Happy Birthday, we love you Big 16.



Touch My Tears

Anthology recounts Choctaw Removal stories

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Tears of sadness.
Tears of joy.

A new book, *Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears*, is an anthology of fictional and historic stories written by Choctaw storytellers and edited by Choctaw author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer. It tells of the heartbreaking, yet hopeful stories of Choctaws on their removal on the Trail of Tears.

"I chose the Removal because it's such a traumatic experience, a traumatic event, for the Choctaw history but there was also hope," says Sawyer, of Canton, Texas. "There are tons of misconceptions [about the Trail of Tears.] We just wanted to wrap all that up into stories and really emotionally involve readers who aren't familiar with the history. We want people involved emotionally with the stories of that time period so they can understand and take away the hope, the resilience and the faith of the Choctaw people."

For Sawyer, the path leading to publication was long, yet rewarding. It began in 2012 when she was accepted into the Artist Leadership Program with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

As part of the program, Sawyer traveled to Washington D.C. in late 2012 to research the Trail of Tears as well as attend artist training. In March 2013 she conducted a writing workshop in Durant for Choctaw authors as part of the program, which was met with a great response. It was a historical fiction writing workshop, Preserving Choctaw Removal Stories.

"I was overwhelmed by the response from the Choctaw authors," she says, stating that more than 20 writers took part.

Those attending the workshop were invited to be a part of the anthology by submitting their own Trail of Tears stories for publication. Seven of the 20 authors accepted the offer and their stories were included in the book.

In addition to those who submitted their stories, Sawyer also included a story she personally had written, as well as obtained reprint rights for the story *Rising Fawn and the Fire Mystery*, written by



Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer and mother Lynda Kay Sawyer.

Marilou Awiakta (Cherokee) and illustrated by Beverly Bringle (Choctaw).

Also contributing was the winner of last year's Biskinik short story contest, Benjamin Zeller. "We were at the Five Tribes Storytelling Conference and when they mentioned what he had written was a Trail of Tears story a couple of other writers around me started nudging me.

"I told [Zeller] we were almost finished with this project but that I still had time to slip in his story if he was interested and he said yes. We were all very excited about that. So all together we have 10 stories from 10 different Choctaw authors and illustrators.

"I used as many Choctaws as possible," says Sawyer.

Along with the stories, Sawyer also involved Choctaws in other aspects of the book's creation. "The primary illustrator, Leslie Widener, and my brother, Jon Sawyer, who modeled for the front cover" are both Choctaws, says Sawyer. Also Julie Cantrell, who is Choctaw and a New York Times best selling author, wrote the foreword on the book.

"My whole purpose in this, and in all of my writing, is preserving history," explains Sawyer. "I have a desire to preserve it through fiction because it's in archives online and in Washington and in anthropological departments and all these things but it's not really accessible to the general public.

"What I want is to get these stories out in an entertaining form but in a way that keeps the real history, not the stereotypical history that we've heard that come

from history books read by kids and seen in Hollywood movies.

"I want real stories but I do fictionalize to enhance the real stories while staying culturally and historically accurate but in a way that the general public enjoys reading them. That's one of the ways that I feel we can use to preserve our history, our legacy and our culture."

The authors who contributed to *Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears* are Marilou Awiakta and Beverly Bringle, Dianna Street, James Masters, Ramona Choate Schrader, Francine Locke Bray, Leslie Widener, Curtis Pugh, Jerry Colby, Benjamin Zeller, Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer and Lynda Kay Sawyer. Leslie Widener was the primary illustrator.

Sawyer says she recently sent the authors their copies and told them, with great thanks, "that their part is now finished and now I'll put it in as many readers' hands as I can. That's the goal for me."

In addition to the authors, Sawyer is grateful for the assistance of the Choctaw Nation, which she says, "was a huge supporter from the start."

She goes on to say Dr. Ian Thompson, director of the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department, was incredibly instrumental in her research. "He was a great asset," she says. "We just bombarded him with ques-

tions. He was amazing."

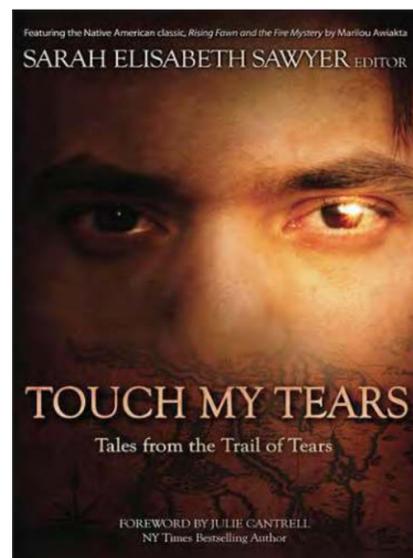
Also, Sawyer would like to acknowledge Assistant Chief Gary Batton for his support and letter of recommendation to the NMAI, as well as Ryan Spring from Historic Preservation, Lillie Roberts from the School of Choctaw

Language, and Choctaw artist and history aficionado Presley Byington for their involvement with checking for cultural and historical accuracy.

"I really love all the work that the authors put into this. It wouldn't have happened without them and without the support of those in the Choctaw Nation."

Sawyer also gives much credit to her mother, Lynda Kay Sawyer, for her vital role in the book project. "It would have never left the ground and be what it is without [her] support and wisdom," she says. "She encouraged me to apply for the NMAI program, went to [Washington] D.C. with me to help research the Removal, carried the heavy load in preparing for and operating the writing workshop, and helped tremendously with editing and researching for the book itself. She also took the stunning front cover photo of my brother."

Sawyer will be donating a portion of all the sales of the book to the Choctaw Nation scholarship



fund. "Donating to the scholarship fund is just something I wanted to do as a way to give back. We are also donating 20 copies to educational facilities."

Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears is available online from major retailers including Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com, among others, in both print and eBook formats. Signed copies of the book are also now available from the Choctaw Store, both online at choctawstore.com, and in the store at the Choctaw Travel Information Center, located just south of Colbert on Highway 69/75.

Upcoming book signings by Sawyer will be at the Artist Bazaar at the Choctaw Nation headquarters in Durant on May 5, and the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk at Wheelock on May 17.

For more information on *Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears* or to follow the work of Sawyer, visit her website at sarahelisabethwrites.com.



Sawyer and the participants of the writing workshop she held in Durant in March 2013.

Choctaw Nation names Spiro a JOM Exemplary Program

Congratulations Spiro Public Schools! The school was recognized as an Exemplary Program by the Choctaw Nation at the Johnson O'Malley Awards Banquet in Tulsa on Tuesday, March 4. Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton (left) and Tribal Councilmen Ron Perry and Delton Cox are shown with Spiro School representatives Russel Thornton (assistant superintendent and director of Spiro JOM), Mikka Welker, Lisa Shipman, Sarah Bridges, Sarah Shackelford and Janet Rogers. Choctaw Nation JOM staff, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton are thankful for the hard work of Spiro Supt. Don Atkinson and the staff at Spiro Schools.



Choctaw Nation: ZACH MAXWELL

English receives Certified Workforce Development Professional award

Ken English, Ph.D., has been awarded the Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP) credential by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

Workforce Development Professionals facilitate the process by which individuals identify, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment and self-sufficiency; and assist businesses with accessing and retaining a quality workforce. They may work directly with the customer or may work as support personnel for and with staff who do work directly with the customer.

The CWDP recognizes the training, experience and expertise of professionals in the field in 10 areas of competency:

- History and Structure of Workforce Development System
- Career Development Process
- Labor Market Information
- Diversity
- Customer Service
- Program Management
- Communication
- Technology



DR. KEN ENGLISH

- Collaboration and Problem Solving
- Business and Employer Knowledge

"Dr. English exemplifies the degree of professionals and commitment to excellence that America needs if it is to continue to enjoy a world-class workforce," said NAWDP Executive Director, Bridget Brown.

The CWDP program is administered and endorsed by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. NAWDP is a national association for individual practitioners in the workforce development profession, with over 4,000 members. Its mission is to be the national voice for the profession and to meet the individual professional development needs of its members.

Dr. English currently serves as the Senior Director of the Choctaw Nation Career Development Program. This program was established by the Choctaw Nation in 2007. The vision for the development of the Career Development Program is to create a pipeline to quality career and technology training as well as career services for the Choctaw people.

Obtaining the highly sought after CWDP credential is another example of how Dr. English's knowledge and experience has brought immeasurable value to the program.

Choctaw U honored by Association of Continuing Higher Ed, Inc.

Choctaw University, in partnership with Southeastern Oklahoma State University, has received the Distinguished Program-Credit Category Award for the Great Plains Region from the Association of Continuing Higher Education (ACHE), Inc. The ACHE Great Plains Region includes: Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Western Ontario.

The Association for Continuing Higher Education, Inc. (ACHE) is an institution-based organization of colleges, universities, and individuals dedicated to the promotion of lifelong learning and excellence in continuing higher education. ACHE encourages professional networks, research, and exchange of information for its members and advocates continuing higher education as a means of enhancing and improving society.

The award was presented to Choctaw University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University during the ACHE Great Plains Conference on the campus of Kansas State University on March 7, 2014.

OBITUARIES

June Shipp

June Shipp, 77, peacefully went to be with our Heavenly Father on May 30, 2012.

June was born in Lawton on Oct. 26, 1934, to Albert and Ruby Harman. She was valedictorian of her Lovington, N.M., high school class in 1952. June attended Southwestern Bible Institute in Waxahachie, Texas and from there, went on to pursue her passion of nursing. She received her nursing degree from Methodist Hospital in Lubbock, Texas in 1956. She worked as a registered OR nurse at St. David's South Austin Medical Center, where she was a "work mother" to many co-workers. She was a devoted member of The Church of Glad Tidings in Austin, Texas, and stood strong in her faith throughout her life. Junebug loved being a mother and grandmother, enjoyed cooking, reading, going to the beach and caring for others. She was also proud of her Choctaw native American heritage. A kaleidoscope of a life well lived, she will be greatly missed, but will live in our hearts forever.

June was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Ruby Harman, and her loving husband, Jerry.

She is survived by her daughter, Denise Saylor; granddaughter, Mariah Saylor; brother and sister-in-law, Walt and Ruth Harman; brother-in-law and his wife, Royce and Mary Catherine Shipp; and nieces and nephews, Scott, Ami, Addison, Leslie, Ricky, Marcy, D'Ann, and many other family members.

Burial was at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Houston.

Linda Sue Shipley

Linda Sue Shipley, 64, passed away April 29, 2012, in Stillwater.

Linda was born on Oct. 3, 1947, to Martin M. Shipman and Ruth (Rogers) Shipman in Guthrie. She completed two years at OSU and graduated from OU as a Paralegal. She married Jerry L. Shipley in Stillwater on Nov. 24, 1965.

Linda worked as a Probate Specialist and court administrator at the Iowa Tribe in Perkins for the past 10 years. Prior to working for the tribe she was a legal secretary for a law firm for more than 35 years, the last years being with R.L. Hert, Jr. and William J. Baker. She also taught legal secretarial classes at Meridian Technology Center. Linda kept books and did what she could for the family business known as the "Taco Hut" from 1973-1983.

Linda was a member of the Eden Chapel United Methodist Church where she served in various leadership roles. Linda volunteered and stayed in dorms for the Oklahoma Special Olympics for more than 20 years - this was her joy. She was an avid supporter of The Sheltered Workshop of Payne County where she served as a member and advocate for clients on the board from 2004 till present. Linda often served as an interpreter for the deaf when needed. She was very family oriented and enjoyed researching her roots in the Choctaw Tribe.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Ruth Shipman; brother-in-law, Kenneth Newsom; and a very dear nephew, Michael Allen Jenkins.

Linda is survived by her husband, Jerry L. Shipley; daughters, Kerrie Shipley and April Shelton with husband David; granddaughter, Mykelti Shelton; grandson, Dawson Shelton; Virgil Danforth; and sisters, Ellen Jenkins with husband Bill, and Ruth Newsom.

She was buried at Glenwood Cemetery in Perkins.

Patricia Gail Newsom

Patricia Gail Newsom, 66, of Durant, passed away Jan. 26, 2014, in Denison, Texas.

Patricia was born on Dec. 11, 1947, to Juanita Charline Work and Cecil M. Willis. She married Grady Newsom on May 12, 1967, in Durant. Her hobbies included playing piano, cross-stitching and painting.

She is survived by her husband, Grady Newsom of Denison, Texas; son, Alan Newsom of Denison, Texas; daughters, Dusty DeBord of Denison, Texas and Misty Chavarria of Whitesboro, Texas; brothers, James Linder of Gainesville, Texas (Walnut Bend) and Charles Linder of Mesquite/Rowlett, Texas; grandchildren Kevin Newsom, Anthony Newsom, Chris Newsom, David Newsom, Julie-Anne Newsom, Fawne Heddin, Caleb England, Trinity Wright, Ally Self, Andrew Chavarria, Alex Chavarria, Joanna Tolley and Cheyanna Tolley; one great-grandchild, Addyson Eddowes.

Joyce Joan (Burriss) Thomson

Joyce Joan (Burriss) Thomson, 78, passed away on Feb. 2, 2014, in Chickasha.

She was born to Mabel and Sid Burriss in Blanchard on March 30, 1935. She was the fifth of 10 children. She attended Blanchard School, graduating in 1953. She married Myron C. "Tubby" Thomson. They lived in California while he was stationed there. They later lived in Oklahoma City and Arkansas City, Kansas when he worked for the railroad there. They moved back to Oklahoma City and moved to the farm in Tuttle, Bridge Creek area in 1971. Joan and Tubby were married almost 50 years when he died. She lived there until moving to Chickasha in May 2012 to be near her daughter.

After Tubby passed away, she met John Quinn, who became her best friend and companion. They both enjoyed going to different casinos.

Every time you saw her she was showing baby pictures. She was so proud of her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. She was extra special to her nieces and nephews. She taught them to sew, cook, garden and ride the golf cart.

Joan belonged to the OHCE and had a lot of different talents. She was an excellent seamstress and made many beautiful quilts. She was an excellent cook. She had a lot of friends and cared for all of them. She will be missed.

She was preceded in death by her mom and dad; husband Tubby; one brother SFC Tony K. Burriss; three brothers-in-law Doyce Wilson, Virgil Witt and Don Kniss.

She is survived by John Quinn of Chickasha; Carla Buzzin with husband Steve of Chickasha, Scot Thomson with wife Stacey of Cypress, Texas; grandchildren, Chase O'Brien with wife Jill of Chickasha, Scot Thomson with wife April of Katy, Texas, Christin Thomson of Cypress, Texas, Steven Thomson with wife Amanda of Cypress, Kory Buzzin of Chicago and Sam Buzzin of Highland Park, Ill.; four great-grandchildren and one on the way; eight brothers and sisters, Loretta Wilson, Wanda Witt, Burnett and Bonnie Burriss, Karen and Jimmy McConnell, Perry Burriss, Terry and Dianne Burriss, Jennifer Kniss and Judy and Charlie Simms.



Frances Parnacher Brokeshoulder

Frances Parnacher Brokeshoulder, 73, passed from this life on Jan. 25, 2014, in McAlester.

Frances was born March 18, 1940, in Ada to her parents Nonles and Rena (McGee) Parnacher.

Frances lived most of her life in Denver, Colo. with the last five years in McAlester with her family. She attended the Homer School district in her elementary years and graduated high school from Chillico Indian School in Ponca City. Frances married Eugene Brokeshoulder, who preceded her in death in January 1995. Frances enjoyed bingo, arts and crafts, baking and garage sales. Most of all she enjoyed being with her family.

She is survived by two sons, Leonard Brokeshoulder with wife Wynoka of McAlester, and Darrell Brokeshoulder with wife Janice of Marietta; one daughter, Terri with fiancé Michael Ramirez of Midlothian, Texas; one brother, Floyd Parnacher of Newcastle; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and longtime friends.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, husband, four sisters and two brothers. Interment was held at Hickory Hill Cemetery.

Dorothy Elizabeth Anderson Pope

Dorothy Elizabeth Anderson Pope, 83, died Jan. 18, 2014, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Dorothy was born May 3, 1930, near Antlers to Oma and Wilson Anderson. She was one of 10 children. She lived there until she married Clyde A. Pope on March 15, 1947, in Paris, Texas. They lived in California, Oklahoma, Oregon, Arizona and eventually settled in Medford, Oregon, to be close to their daughter in 1993. They were married 64 years when Clyde died in September 2011. Dorothy spent the remainder of her years in Arizona close to her three sons and their families.

She is survived by one daughter, Pauline Minter with husband George of Medford, Oregon; three sons, Lee Pope with wife Susan of Phoenix, Junior Pope of Phoenix, and Bill Pope with wife Linda of Phoenix; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Linda Silvey of Antlers and Elsie Wells of Rattan.

Interment was at the Rose Garden in Siskiyou Perl Cemetery in Medford, Oregon.

Joshua John Hazel

Joshua John Hazel, 32, of Little Kansas passed from this life on Feb. 16, 2014.

Joshua was born on Oct. 8, 1981, in Eldorado, Ark., to Gary D. Hazel and Lois E. Samuels. A graduate of Decatur High School, a star athlete in basketball and an honor student, Joshua continued his education attending The University of Arkansas, with mathematics a career interest. Joshua was an avid reader, still liked to play basketball, and adored all of his nieces and nephews. Joshua had recently given his life to Jesus and wanted to make a difference.

Preceding Joshua in death were his maternal grandparents, Minerva and Eli Samuels; paternal grandfather, William O. Hazel and nephew Casey Murray.

Joshua is survived by his father Gary Hazel of Bangkok, Thailand; his mother, Lois Samuels of Little Kansas; sisters, Tina Foster with husband Wayne of Gravette, Ark. and Jamie Wilson of Colcord; aunts, Ruby Taylor of Durant, Sharon Walker of Bartlesville, Loretta Hueberger of Hugo, Laura Wells of Broken Bow, Olivene Wadley of Norman, Leah Samuels of Bokchito, Ura Leach of Arlington, Texas; great-aunt Jan Francis of Del City; uncles, Gavin Samuels of Oklahoma City and Leland Samuels of Maine; great-uncle Norris Samuels of Oklahoma City; grandmother Vera Darlene Hazel of South Carolina; his nieces and nephews, Cameron Murray, Kyler Murray, Jason Wilson Jr., Eric Wilson, Lillian Wilson and Aedan Wilson, along with a host of other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held at the Long Prairie Cemetery in Little Kansas.

Delbert George Davis

Delbert George Davis (George Delbert Davis), 71, passed away on Feb. 2, 2014.

He was born on June 9, 1942, in Lawton. He was the son of Verleen and George Clarence Davis. The family moved to Modesto, Calif. where Delbert was a star athlete in junior and senior high school in the 50's and 60's. Later, Delbert moved to the Los Angeles area where he met the love of his life, Madeleine Babcock. They married not long after and raised three sons. Delbert or "Big D" worked for Universal Studios for 30-plus years. Delbert was a happy go lucky guy who lived life to the fullest.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Deanne Hughbanks.

Delbert is survived by his wife Madeleine; sons Tony, Jerry and Mike; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Larry Don Davis with wife Carol, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Margaret Reese with husband Ed, and brother-in-law Charles Babcock. He is also survived by his aunts, uncles and many nieces and nephews.

Peribanou 'Pearl' DaVault

Peribanou "Pearl" DaVault, 92, passed away on Feb. 13, 2014.

She was born in Blue to Sydney and Caroline Hogan on May 16, 1921. Pearl married Leamon (Bud) DaVault on March 6, 1946, in Durant. He preceded her in death on Dec. 16, 2007. Pearl was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She was a homemaker, taking care of three children and a household while her husband was in the Air Force for 23 years. She was a graduate of Blue High School where she loved playing basketball. That is how she met Bud, he too played basketball but went to a rival school. She finished her junior year at Southeastern in Durant before leaving school to marry. Wherever they traveled, Pearl got involved in the community and church. She was a Girl Scout leader, PTA leader and President of the Ladies 21 Club. She followed her children and grandchildren to every game, even out of town. She was a member of Faith Fellowship Baptist Church in Denison, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her daughter Sharon DaVault Lovell with husband Cliff of Denison, Texas; granddaughter Cassie Lovell of Kingwood, Texas; grandson Chase Lovell with wife Courtney of Denison, Texas; granddaughter Mallory Shackelford with husband David of Austin, Texas.



Cheryl Himes

Cheryl Himes, 42, passed away Feb. 17, 2014.

Cheryl was born on June 7, 1971, to Wanda L. Mitchell and Solomon J. Meely. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation and an avid OU fan. She was a factory worker for 12 years in Oklahoma City.

Cheryl enjoyed her country music, crocheting and being with family and friends.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her father, Solomon J. Meely and her brother, Joseph P. Meely.

She leaves one daughter, Nicole P. Himes; companion and friend Thomas Condulle; husband Steven Himes, Jr.; five sisters, Chenena Wise, Donna Sanchez, Mary Meely, Cecelia Roubidoux and Cynthia Mitchell-Mason; three brothers, Jeffery Meely, Gary Mitchell, Jr., and Timothy Meely; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, brother-in-law and other relatives and friends.

Harry James

Harry James, 86, of Talihina, passed this life on Dec. 22, 2013, in Fort Smith, Ark.

His life was a testament to courage, kindness, and fellowship to all who knew him. Talihina was his birthplace where he lived most of his life. He was a full-blood Choctaw with Chata as his first language and was very proud of his heritage. His military service included the 11th Airborne as a paratrooper during World War II. He was recalled to duty and served in Korea where he earned the Combat Infantry Badge.

He received an Associates Degree from Eastern Oklahoma State College in auto mechanics which was his first love. He was employed at Talihina Indian Hospital for 23 years where he retired in 1982. Before retirement he learned silversmithing and became well known for his craft. Harry was a charter member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Talihina, which he attended, and was also a charter member of the Talihina Indian Club and served as president for many years.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Aaron James and Cleo Johnson James; daughter, Rainella Boren; a son, Thomas James; a brother, William James; and two sisters, Mildred James and Alice Ann James.

Survivor of the home is his wife of 56 years, Carol; daughters, Marie Clark of Durant, Theresa Chiago of Scottsdale, Ariz., Sarah Chandler of Poteau, Hope Primeaux of Tulsa, Mary Himes of Talihina, Terry Ragland of Norman, Laura Durant of Talihina; sons, Harry C. James Jr. of Oklahoma City, Michael James of Hulbert, Anthony James of Talihina; brothers, Jimmy James of Buffalo Valley, Billy James of Muskogee; sisters, Henryetta Holman of Horton, Kansas, Lafonda Mathews of Poteau. He had 31 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren and was very proud of them all. Also many nieces and nephews of which he was equally proud.

Minnie Analyene (Oxford) Martindale

Minnie Analyene (Evelynn) Oxford Martindale, 94, of Prescott Valley, Ariz., passed away on Nov. 6, 2013, at her home.

Minnie was born Jan. 27, 1919, to Henry Clay and Luvenia (Ward) Oxford in Wilburton at Center Point. She married Clyde Adell Martindale Sr. on March 23, 1940. They lived throughout California before heading out west to California and Arizona, later retiring in Prescott Valley, Ariz., in 1977.

She was a proud grandmother of 27, 44 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She was a remarkable wife, mother, grandmother and sister. We've always told everyone we know that we had the best mother in the world. She gave us her best advice and made us feel as if we were the most important person in the world. We all miss her immensely.

Minnie was preceded in death by parents Henry and Luvenia Oxford, Husband Clyde Martindale, brothers Henry Clay Oxford Jr. and Carl Marion Oxford, and sister Cora Elizabeth Oxford.

Minnie was survived by children Wanda Lou Gregorius of Prescott Valley, Ariz., Clyde Adell Martindale Jr., with wife Patty of Joshua Tree, Calif., James Larry Martindale of Prescott Valley, Ariz., the late Jack Howard Martindale Sr. with wife Judy of Henderson, Nev., Jarrett Wayne Martindale of Indio, Calif., Edwin LeRoy Martindale with wife Cindy of Casper, Wyo., Lavonda Martindale of Prescott Valley, Ariz., and Sheila Irene Kennington with husband Bud of Prescott, Ariz.; brother Jack Oxford of Center Point, Ore.; sisters Ruby Talley with husband Bill of Stigler, Imogene Dryer of Midwest City, and Patricia Stricklin of Stigler; 27 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and 10 great, great grandchildren.

Jack Howard Martindale Sr.

Jack Howard Martindale Sr., 65, unexpectedly passed from this life on Feb. 19, 2014, at his home in Henderson, Nev.

Jack was born on July 31, 1948, in Blythe, Calif., to Clyde Adell Sr. and Minnie Martindale.

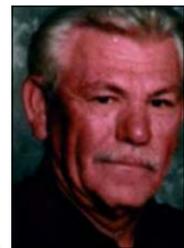
Jack was a member of the Carpenters Union for 35 years. He worked as a general foreman on many roads and bridges in and around Las Vegas. Jack also worked in southern California on several large construction projects including Los Angeles metro subway and Universal Studios parking garage. He was known to never have called in sick and had excellent work ethics.

Jack enjoyed exploring the deserts of Nevada, California and Arizona. Jack loved driving on all dirt and back roads. He enjoyed deer hunting, camping and water skiing with family and friends.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde Adell Sr. and Minnie Martindale.

Jack is survived by his wife Judy Ann Martindale; son Jack Howard Martindale Jr., with wife Robin of Pioche, Nev.; two daughters, Jackie Darlene Martindale of Las Vegas and Jennifer Renee Martindale of Las Vegas; five grandchildren, Brittany and Roman Miller, Morgan and Kenady Martindale, Gage Waugh and one great-granddaughter, Skye Renaye Miller-Noel; four brothers and three sisters, Wanda Lou Gregorius, Clyde Adell, Jr., James Larry Martindale, Jarrett Wayne Martindale, Edwin LeRoy Martindale, Lavonda Kay Martindale, Sheila Irene Kennington and numerous other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all their help and support through this very difficult time.



Through a New Lens

Multi-media artist, Paul Hacker

Paul Hacker carves his niche into Native art

By ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Multimedia artist Paul Hacker (Choctaw/Cherokee) will make his return to Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian this year.

Hacker, who has more than 170 awards for Native art dating back 34 years, made his first appearance at Choctaw Days in 2012. At that time, one of his hand-carved flutes was presented to the French ambassador and a knife engraved by Hacker was given to the Smithsonian's director.

Hacker also creates ledger art, a modern take on the scenes drawn on old ledger paper by captive Native Americans being held in a military prison in Florida more than a century ago.

He depicts scenes from everyday Native life on the ledger paper, inspired by the battle and dance scenes left on ledger paper by imprisoned Plains Indians in St. Augustine, Fla.

"You can tell a story, but like people say, that picture is worth a thousand words," Hacker said. "It's part of that old traditional art," but as he explains, he depicts "just everyday life."

"It might be someone riding a pony and holding an umbrella," Hacker said.

A new twist on this concept will include Hacker's art on ledger books from the Civil War era, which will touch on a subject of historical significance specific to the Choctaw Nation.

Now Hacker is looking forward to Choctaw Days as a sort of capstone to a busy year of artistic expression and

accolades. Later this spring, OETA will release a feature on Hacker and fellow artist Alan Houser.

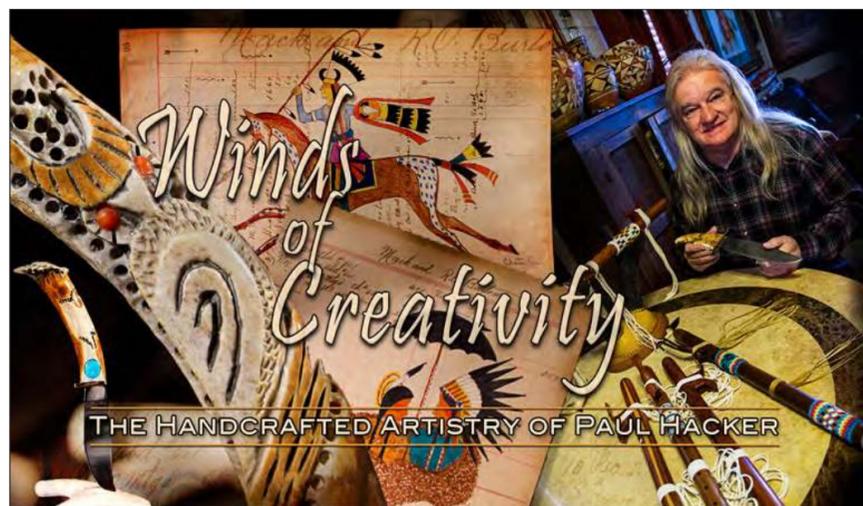
"It's a great honor for me to be thrown in the mix with him," Hacker said. He recently introduced Houser at the Oklahoma History Center's new exhibit on the Apache artist. It closed a full circle started by Houser, who presented Paul Hacker his first award many years ago.

"All these things coming together, it's a good thing," said Hacker, 65. "I'm just trying to keep up a good standard of artwork. You always keep pushing, you've got to keep the juices flowing."

"It's pretty competitive out there with a lot of young people coming up and they have a lot of new ideas," Hacker said.

His six-hole cedar flutes and engraved knife handles with inlaid precious stones are the "bread and butter" of his work. "I just like the old traditional stuff," he says.

He has recorded seven full-length soundtracks, including a recent collaboration with the Oklahoma



PAUL HACKER

Photo provided

Symphony. "It's really easy listening, it can calm your spirit," he says.

Hacker also re-creates Native pottery, which is part of a Choctaw worldview but includes pottery styles of Anasazi and Hopi nations of the southwest.

"I see it through Choctaw life, as they are intertwined through the five tribes who came here," he said. "I'm proud of what I do and proud of my heritage. I try to do the best I can as an artist, to represent the Choctaw people."

Choctaw beader, Roger Amerman

Amerman to feature beadwork and Choctaw designs

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw beader Roger Amerman will again be a featured artist at this year's Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's American Museum of the American Indian.

Amerman and his brother, Marcus, who will also present this year, were part of Choctaw Days in 2011 as well.

"It's doubly honoring to be able to represent the tribe again," says Amerman. "I consider being able to present at the NMAI, especially as a representative of the Choctaw Nation, to be a huge highlight of my artistic career."

Amerman, who, with his wife, Carolyn, resides on a ranch on the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho, is known for his vibrant, high color and intricate, pictorial style beadwork.

At Choctaw Days, Amerman will feature his beadwork, including some that he's done on buckskin. He will also focus on Southwest designs.

"I look at it as an opportunity to really talk about our Choctaw designs," he explains, "and this venue gives me access to literally an international audience. Visitors from around the world come to the Smithsonian and they are interested in the American Indian culture. This is a platform to educate."

He says he receives lots of questions about the designs, such as the meaning, the colors, origin and age.

One of the items he plans to display is a full length, full



Photo provided

ROGER AMERMAN

buckskin, ornately beaded Choctaw frontier coat. "It's one of the biggest and best pieces of my career," he says proudly. "So, I'm going to the highlight [event] of my career with the best thing I've made in my career; and just to put icing on the cake, I recently sold this frontier

coat to the University of South Carolina." Amerman will deliver the coat to the university following Choctaw Days.

He credits the exposure he received from the first Choctaw Days as the reason the university contacted him to purchase his coat.

Amerman says growing up his family had a big impact on his path to a career in art. "We come from a very artistic family," he says. "Our aunts and uncles were either bead workers, metal smiths, or wood carvers, so we had all this influence."

He goes on to say an interest in pow wow dancing at a young age is what brought him to where he is today with his beading artwork. "I danced and I made my own regalia," he says. "I was 12 or 13 years old, and it was just by accident that I realized I really liked this medium of beadworking. I found that it really fit me and it just took off from there."

Amerman's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Oregon, a master's in geology from Colorado School of Mines, and a master's in natural resource science from Washington State University.

Amerman is looking forward to Choctaw Days this June as being one of the many things that have made this year great. "This whole year has just been phenomenal to me," he says. "So many things have happened. It's really been a blessing. And I'll be putting my best foot forward at the NMAI. I truly believe our tribe has a rich background and the world needs to know about it."

Happy kiddos and proud papas

"A father's involvement has a unique impact on children's outcome, including cognitive development, achievement, math and reading scores, as well as behavioral problems," said W. Jean Yeung, an assistant research scientist at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor.

The Choctaw Nation Head Start in Wright City and the fathers of their students understand the important role a father has in a child's life. The role a father plays can impact a child throughout their lives.

The Head Start program offers support to all parents and provides activities for the parents to enjoy with their children. The program understands that it is increasingly more difficult for fathers to find the time to create these lasting memories. "In Wright City we have had a wonderful turnout for parent meetings and father's meetings. These parents care deeply for their children and want them to be successful in all endeavors," said Head Start Supervisor Kim Griffith.

On March 27 the students and their fathers built birdhouses together.



Photo Provided

Building birdhouses with a child is not only good for the child's motor and creative skills but it can also help a child build a better understanding of nature. The fathers enjoyed the activity and the children adored spending time with dad.

The students and their fathers have played kickball together and will also enjoy learning to pitch tents this semester. The final father/child meeting this year will be a Nature Walk in May. Mrs. Griffith says, "The lessons we have learned this year are that the fathers need only to have opportunities to spend time with their child. Once we give them the opportunity, they change their schedules, they make the time and they always show up for their child. These relationships are so very important to the Dad. When those connections are made, everyone wins."

Jones Academy Elementary School sets high marks in national student achievement

Catherine Fatheree, Oklahoma Area Education Line Officer, offered congratulations to Jones Academy and the Choctaw Nation. In the recently released summary, "Bureau of Indian Education Report on Student Achievement and Growth: 2009-10 to 2012-13," the Northwest Evaluation Association recognized Jones Academy as one of the top-performing schools in the Bureau of Indian Education. They were acknowledged for academic achievement in both math and reading.

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) formed a partnership with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to provide the BIE with an annual summary of test performance for students across all BIE schools. This beneficial summary provides the BIE with valuable information about achievement and growth trends for students throughout the BIE system, and it is useful in identifying strengths and weaknesses in the broader BIE system and in individual schools.

During the 2012-13 school year, 147 BIE schools across 23 states participated in the NWEA testing program which measures math and reading performance. Over

26,000 students took part in the testing. Jones Academy was one of the highest-achieving schools in both math and reading. Out of the 147 schools tested, Jones Academy finished 4th overall nationally in math achievement and 6th overall in reading.

Brad Spears, Superintendent of Jones Academy, commended the hard work and dedication of the academic staff.

"The teachers, assistants, tutors and newly-hired principal Robert Ray have done an outstanding job in educating our students. Our students live at Jones Academy and the dorm-staff play an important role in developing our students. It takes a team effort--all departments working together--to achieve this kind of recognition." Mr. Spears went on to praise the students for their efforts and dedication to learning.

Spears concluded by saying, "The Jones Academy staff work diligently to improve academic skills as evidenced in this report. We are proud that they have chosen to meet the needs of Indian children in this and many other ways at Jones Academy. Again, great job, staff and students!"

Fort McCulloch | A mostly forgotten Choctaw historical site

In 2012 David Howington, a local historian, approached the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Office about conducting historical research at Fort McCulloch. Staff at Historic Preservation made several trips to the fort to document some of the finds made there by Mr.

Editor's Note: This month's Iti Fabvssa is part two in a two-part series by James Briscoe on Fort McCulloch.

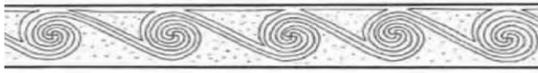
Howington. A retired historical archeologist was consulted for further advice, who began with a review of old historical maps and aerial photographs of the property. Aerial photographs from the 1940s were found to show a great deal of detail about the area that no longer exists, due to farming and land improvements over the years.

A review of available literature about post revealed a confusion of accounts and facts about the old fort, its make-up and even as to where it exactly was.

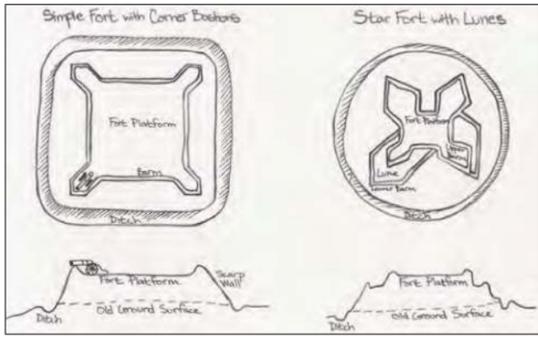
A number of visits have been made to the area over the



Detail of the remaining portion of the main fortified position, as depicted on the 1948 aerial photograph.



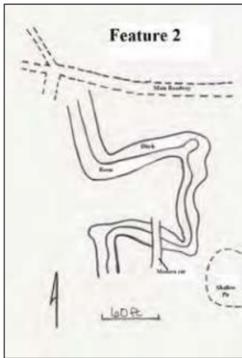
Iti Fabvssa



Generalized fort plans at Fort McCulloch.

past year and over a dozen fairly impressive archeological features have been recorded. Fortified positions include several star forts and open trench and berm positions located from 100 to 300 yards apart, with each supported by one or more other fortified positions. Star forts were fairly simple platforms, built up with earth 3 to 5 feet high on points of high ground. Most were rectangular with berm walls 2 to 4 feet high above the fort platform and triangular bastions in each corner. The 'fort' was surrounded on at least two sides by a trench about 10 feet wide and 5 to 8 feet deep. Open fortified positions generally have trenches and berms of dirt on three sides, and open from behind the area being guarded.

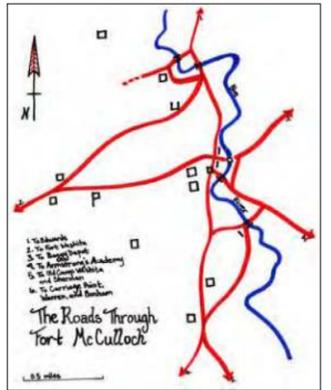
A number of roads converge on the fort area and the focus of the fortifications was to guard the traffic along the roads. So far, four river fords and one bridge location have been identified on this part of the Blue River. The main road through the post was the Texas/Butterfield Road from Boggy



Feature 2, next to the Texas/Butterfield Road.

Depot to the northeast and Fort Washita to the west.

Other roads through the area include the old Dragoon Road from Camp Holm to the north, the Fort Towson and Armstrong Academy Road from the east-southeast, the road to Sherman and Bonham to the south, and a branch road to Preston/Denison to the southwest. The bridge location is marked by a large gauge braided steel cable still firmly attached to its anchor on the riverbank. The



Main Roadways (red) and fortified positions (squares) through Fort McCulloch.

cable is believed to be from the second bridge at this point, a toll bridge erected after the Civil War. There are references to an earlier 'rickety' bridge at this location before the war. A mill built on the river by Claude Nail in the 1840s (and used by the fort) has not been identified at this point. Local tradition says that there were the graves of several soldiers next to the Nail/Folsom family cemetery at Nail's Station on the east side of the river. A brief visit to the area in 2012 did not locate any graves but several sandstone rocks (such as was common markers of the period) were noted piled next to the wrought iron fence enclosing the Nail/Folsom graves.

One of the more impressive features at the fort was a corral complex which included a Glanders compound and one adjacent to it for the general remuda. Glanders was a deadly disease for horses and the Confederates learned that new animals had to be quarantined for a period to stop the spread of the virus long before it was heard of in the north. According to era descriptions, the Glanders compound would have had a stockade and a berm perimeter. A low berm remains in place around two sides of the compound today. The compound and remuda corral show clearly on the earlier aerial photographs, across a sunken roadway from the quartermaster's compound. A log cabin that once existed in the area also shows clearly on the old aerials, but has since been lost to a stock pond on the property.

A great deal of research remains to be done at this important military post.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Question:

**Ilvppvt kvta
im mi?**

Pronounced:

Eh-lah-paht kah-ta ehm-meh

Whose is this?

Responses:

Vmmi kiyo.

Pronounced:

Ahm-me ke-yoh.

It's not mine.

Mvt vmmi.

Pronounced:

Maht ahm-meh.

That's mine.

Ak ik kano!

Pronounced:

Ahk-ik -ano

I don't know.

Chimmi sv yimmi!

Pronounced:

Chim-meh sah-yim-meh!

I believe it's yours.

Word Meaning:

kvta - who

vmmi - mine

kiyo - not

ilvppvt - this

immi - possessive pronoun; his; her; its; theirs;

belonging to; ownership.

sv - referring to yourself (I)

yimmi - believe

mvt - that

chimmi - yours

ak - I not (precedes a verb

in the negative form)

ikhano - not know (don't

know)

This is called the 'ik - o'

because it 'wraps around' a

verb to show negation.



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- MEET INCOME REQUIREMENTS (SHOW PROOF)
- NATIVE AMERICAN AT LEAST 60 YEARS OF AGE (CDIB)
- DISABLED PERSON UNDER 60 (SHOW PROOF)
- SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly Income
1	\$21,590	\$1,800	\$900	\$831	\$416
2	29,101	2,426	1,213	1,120	560
3	36,612	3,051	1,526	1,409	705
4	44,123	3,677	1,839	1,698	849
5	51,634	4,303	2,152	1,986	993
6	59,145	4,929	2,465	2,275	1,136
7	66,656	5,555	2,778	2,564	1,282
8	74,167	6,181	3,091	2,853	1,427
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,511	+626	+313	+289	+145

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT **PEGGY CARLTON**,
FMNPS COORDINATOR AT (580) 924.8280 EXT. 2303

Making education his business

Cole Palmer attends LeadAmerica's Conference on Business Innovation

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program

Getting a head start on educational opportunities can be exciting. That was just the case for Cole Palmer, a 17-year-old junior at Durant High School, from Calera, Okla.

During the summer of 2013, Palmer had the pleasure of attending LeadAmerica's Conference on Business Innovation at Stanford University. He was specially nominated for this 10-day program purposed to expand horizons of students with an aptitude for business.

"It is a competitive selection process – they are picking someone who demonstrates strong leadership qualities," stated Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program's



COLE PALMER

(SAP) College Prep Coordinator Stephanie Gardner.

"It was incredible," Palmer stated as he reviewed his activities of the past summer. According to Palmer, the program focused on many aspects of business with an overarching project which divided the entire population into small teams.

These teams were charged with conceiving and developing a product for which they would build a business. Palmer's squad made the decision to build a business around a bike helmet composed of eco-friendly and cost-efficient material deemed the "Green Dragon." In this plan, Palmer was designated the VP of management and was required to plan the work involving employees and manufacturing locations for the mock company.

Palmer mentions that it taught him all the steps involved in creating a business, asserting that he can now see business models from a more complete view, identifying the inner-workings and the behind-the-scenes planning.

Along with Palmer were over 100 U.S. and international students from countries such as Japan and Russia. This added a great deal of cultural learning to the experience Palmer stated. He noted it was interesting to learn about the various ways those from other nationalities view business

and how it shaped the overall project.

Along with the projects and new acquaintances, Palmer was also able to experience the campus life of a prestigious university, as well as the atmosphere of San Francisco. His group visited a large local flea market where they interviewed small business owners and discovered first-hand the work involved in starting a small business.

Upon his return from the summer expedition, Palmer received a letter from Envision, the program responsible for the LeadAmerica conference, stating that he had been invited to the 2014 Global Young Leaders Conference.

Palmer plans to attend this conference, learning leadership skills on a global scale. He will be traversing Europe, absorbing lessons from leaders in a multitude of countries. Notable locations such as Prague, Berlin and Vienna are on the 13-day itinerary, which begins June 29, 2014.

Choctaw Nation SAP is proud to recognize Palmer's accomplishments as he primes his resume for college. He mentions that he plans to attend a university with a distinguished business program upon graduation in 2015.

To prepare for his graduation, Palmer has taken part in SAP's ACT test prep and has been able to have his testing fees paid by SAP. "By providing testing assistance, SAP hopes to grant our members a strong advantage in the collegiate application process. We are glad to see Cole take advantage of this asset," stated Gardner.

To learn more about the Envision program, visit their website at envisionexperience.com. For information on more college prep services, visit SAP's website at choctawnation-sap.com and follow on social media.

Spanish Mustang of Oklahoma named state Heritage Horse

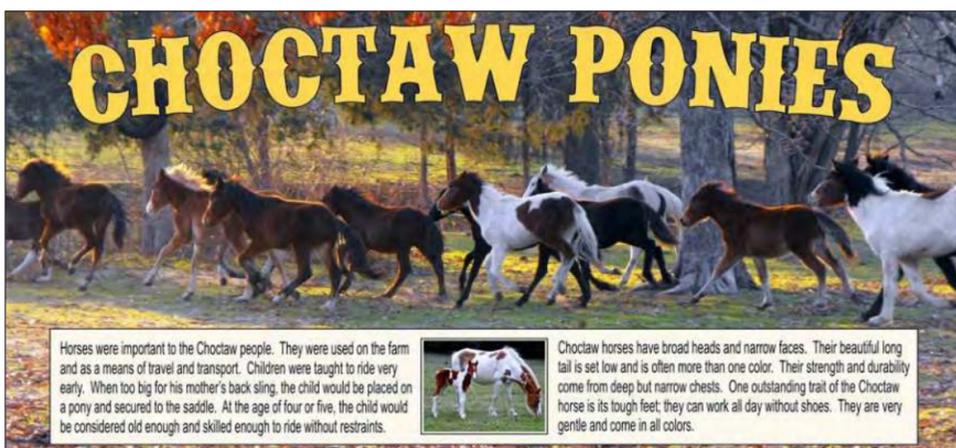
The Spanish Mustang of Oklahoma, famous for excelling in endurance competitions and all around equine events was officially bestowed the honorable title of "The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma" on March 5, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

"The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma" Concurrent Resolution No. 34 declared these horses be recognized as the Official Heritage Horse of Oklahoma.

Sen. Jerry Ellis authored the resolution in the Senate where it passed unanimously, and Rep. Curtis McDaniel presented it to the House, and again, it was approved unanimously. As stated in the Resolution, these equine treasures... "Originated from Spanish horses brought to the Americas with the early settlers, and are unique in their genetics, history, geography and contributions to the people of Oklahoma.

In addition, "These Spanish horses were relocated in the 19th century to Indian Territory when tribal peoples were removed from their ancestral homes and were carefully bred and maintained by families who treasured them as cultural remnants and practical beasts of burden."

The Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (SSMA) was established in 1977 to protect and preserve these wonderful and rare horses.



Debbie Damron and Brad Joe demonstrate basketry and bead work at the Choctaw cultural booth during Take to the Skies AirFest in Durant on March 29.



The Stealing Partners Dance at Take to the Skies AirFest in Durant.



Choctaw Nation Junior Princess Kayleigh Powell invites her grandmother, Lorene Blaine, to participate in the Stealing Partners Dance.



Choctaw culture meets aviation history: Eli Pyle of Osi Heli team scored the first stickball goal against the windsock pole at Eaker Field.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle welcomes visitors to Take to the Skies AirFest.



Choctaw social dancers invite youths into the circle at Take to the Skies AirFest on March 29.



Verree Shaw works with customers at the Choctaw Store booth.



Choctaw social dancers gather in the traditional circle for the Raccoon Dance.

Photos by ZACH MAXWELL | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw cultural gatherings

LUBBOCK



Chief Pyle welcomes Kellie Pryor Long of Lubbock and her children, Kasen, 9, and Kelsey, who was celebrating her 17th birthday.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton greets Billie James Miller of Brownfield, Texas, and mother and daughter, Brenda Baker of Lubbock and Laurie Key of Halfway, Texas.

Photos by LARISSA COPELAND | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chief Greg Pyle chats with Jess and Gerrie Dillard of Borger, Texas.



Brittany Fremont of Lubbock tries her hand at beading.

Scan this code to view a highlight video from the Lubbock Cultural Gathering! Also, follow **ChoctawNationOK** on YouTube!



Roger and Carolyn Guthrie and son Andrew, 6, Bill and Melanie Guthrie and Charlotte Young gather at the Lubbock meeting.



Annie Thomas Odell of Lubbock and Helen Thomas Liphan of Floydada, Texas, escort their mother, Willie Mae Thomas, to the Lubbock Cultural Gathering.



Rita Jo Fitzgerald, center, and daughter Mary Elizabeth Allred are pleased with the pottery mask they purchased from artist Evangaline Robinson.

ARDMORE



Language instructor Lillie Roberts gives a Choctaw language lesson.



Choctaw woodworker Cecil Henderson burns lines into a carved duck decoy in Ardmore.



Brad Joe sings the Lord's Prayer in Choctaw to open the gathering.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Mike Scott, far right, welcome Earlene Marris and Leona Johnson, both of Ardmore and Onita Carnes and Kathy Eye, both of Madill.



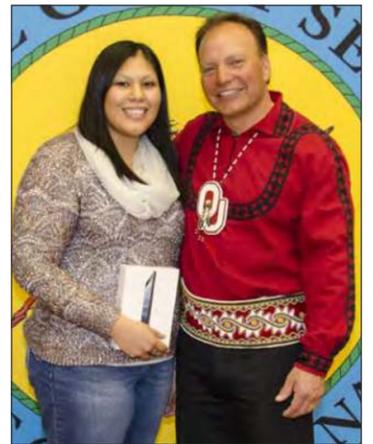
Mary Ann Allen proudly displays her artwork at the Ardmore meeting.



Assistant Chief Batton and the Choctaw language instructor in Ardmore, Lillian Vaughn.



Kari Gossvener of Healdton and her one-year-old nephew, Tate Idleman, of Wilson examine a Choctaw arrow.



Congratulations to Landa McClure of Ada (originally from Talihina). She won the drawing for the iPad Mini. Attendees who pre-registered for the meeting on choctawnation.com were entered into the drawing.



Shelley Tate instructs first-time beaders Yvonne and George Johnson of Ada.



Zakk Shamholtzer, 4, joins Becca Patton and daughter Kaia, 2, for the Snake Dance.

Scan this code to view a highlight video from the Ardmore Cultural Gathering! Also, follow **ChoctawNationOK** on YouTube!

