


Outreach  
at the  
Beach



Page 8

Labor Day  
information,  
entertainers  
and schedules  
throughout  
paper



Continuing publication  
of recorded interviews of  
Choctaw elders from 2007




This month – Sarah Belvin  
Page 9




Choctaw Nation: LISA REED


Chief Pyle, center, and the 2011 OK Choctaws stickball team are fired up about playing in Mississippi.




**Thomas Williston**  
District 1




**Tony Messenger**  
District 2




**Kenny Bryant**  
District 3



**Ron Perry**  
District 5



**Perry Thompson**  
District 8



**Bob Pate**  
District 11


### Election results

The general election held July 9 resulted in a winner emerging in District 11 and run-off elections required for Districts 2 and 5.

The District 11 winner is incumbent Bob Pate, who received 67.58 percent of the votes in that district.

The run-off election was held July 30 for Districts 2 and 5. Counting of absentee ballots completed the voting on Aug. 3. In District 2, Tony Messenger came out on top with 52.6 percent of the votes. Ronald Perry was declared the winner in District 5, with 60 percent of the votes.

Swearing-in will be held during a ceremony on Labor Day at Tushka Homma for new four-year terms for Gregory E. Pyle as Chief and Council members Messenger, Perry, Pate, Thomas Williston, (District 1), Kenny Bryant (District 3) and Perry Thompson (District 8).



**Chief Gregory E. Pyle**

### The last of the first

*Original enrollee Georgia Mae Self dies at age 106*

By LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation sadly accepted the end of an era as the last of its Dawes Roll signees passed away June 27 in Antlers. Born Oct. 21, 1904, in Antlers, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self was one of over 200,000 whose application was accepted for tribal enrollment between 1899 and March 4, 1906.

Georgia was among four remaining Choctaw original enrollees honored by Gov. Brad Henry at an event held in 2008 in Oklahoma City. All centenarians, there were also two from the Chickasaw Nation, one from the Muscogee-Creek Nation and one from the Cherokee Nation. She, at 103, and Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, 102, were able to attend the celebration in Oklahoma City, accepting recognition for being among the state's oldest citizens as well as acknowledgement of the trying times they lived through during the period of statehood. Choctaw enrollees Dorothy Arnote West and Irene Roberts Mills were also honored.

"We were so happy to hold a special reception for the women during our Labor Day Festival that same year," Chief Gregory E. Pyle said. "Artist Ruby Bolding had made sketches of Georgia, Dorothy, Ruby and Irene. We presented copies of the portraits to them and the originals hang in the Capitol Museum."

Her pride in her heritage and of being a member of the Choctaw Nation were excellent reasons to attend the special occasions, but there was another motivation – she delighted in going anywhere.

### Burn ban issued

Due to the extreme drought in Oklahoma, Gov. Mary Fallin has issued a burn ban for all counties. Caution must be used with respect to the extreme fire danger and extra precautionary measures must be taken to prevent wildfires.

Tom Lowery, Choctaw Nation's director of Forestry and Firefighters, asks everyone to heed the advice of the Oklahoma Forestry Services. "During the Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma, cooking outdoors on campfires, charcoal or wood grills will not be allowed if we are still under the burn ban," he stressed. "Propane or Coleman stoves are allowed."

According to guidelines issued by the state forestry service on campfires and outdoor cooking, "Outdoor campfires or bonfires are prohibited. LPG and natural gas grills and charcoal-fired cooking outside in a grilling receptacle are permitted provided that the activity is conducted over a nonflammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation. However, any fire resulting from grilling or the use of one of these cookers or stoves is still an illegal fire."

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### Tornado Relief Concert nominated for award

VH1 has announced nominees for The 2011 Do Something Awards. On this year's list is the Tornado Relief Concert which was hosted at Choctaw Casino Resort and featured Oklahoma natives Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton.

Since 1996, DoSomething.org has honored the nation's best world-changers. The Do Something Award is the premier national award for social action.

Nominees and winners represent the pivotal "do-ers" in their field, cause or issue.

Online voting, which was open to the public through Aug. 14, determined the winners of the awards. "We are up against some stiff competition," said Janie Dillard, executive director of gaming for Choctaw Casinos. "This is an opportunity for us to keep the Atoka County devastation top of mind and continue offering support."

Held on May 25 and 26 at Choctaw Casino Resort, the Tornado Relief Concert was co-headlined by Oklahoma natives Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton. The two sold-out shows raised \$500,000 for victims of tornadoes in Atoka County.

The Do Something Awards will be held at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles and premiere Aug. 18 at 8 p.m. CST on VH1.

## Sport of stickball bringing together tribes, communities

By LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The centuries-old game of stickball has always been the Choctaw national sport. Once used to settle disputes, it is played today strictly as a sport and is fast growing in popularity. All ages are picking up sticks to play the game of their ancestors.

Last year, the OK Choctaws team played in its first World Series of Stickball in Philadelphia, Miss., with 35 players. This year, 63 men followed Chief Gregory E. Pyle onto the field July 8, ready to meet the opposition, Nukoachi. The players, many with painted faces, raised their sticks in the air, yelling challenges and displaying no fear of the more experienced team as the beat of the drums and shouts from the crowds added to the intensity.

Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom explained, "It's more of a sports game now and played more for fun but we still take pride in the games and want to win. I am extremely proud of how they played."

Each team is comprised of 30 players on the field, normally divided into 10 on defense, 10 on offense and 10 centers or "shooters." After the opening ceremony, all but the 60 players leave the field and the game begins with four 15-minute quarters on the clock. It is usually played on a 100-yard football field with a tall pole ("fabvssa") set as a goal post on each end.

The score at the end of the first hard-fought quarter of the late-night game was in favor of Nukoachi, 4 to 2. The OK Choctaws dominated the entire second and third quarters, tying it 4-4 and holding Nukoachi scoreless. The Mississippi team caught the Oklahoma team off guard in the last quarter, overloading their defense to stop the OK Choctaws' control of the game. Nukoachi scored 2 more points, winning the game 6-4.

The game is very physical and very fast-paced. Few fouls for roughness are called and an injury has to be pretty serious for the game to stop. There are not any pads or helmets in the game of stickball but players are banned from hitting each other with sticks, tripping or pulling hair. Anyone on the sideline needs to stay there, well out of the way both for safety and to not be a distraction to the players who are giving everything they have to win the game.

The coaches made it a point to play every member on the team – first-year players and veterans – to build experience and confidence.

"We played tough and we earned the respect of the Mississippi Choctaw," Folsom said. "I could hear people in the stands cheering for our team, the Oklahoma Choctaws. We are bridging the gap, re-establishing a relationship with the Mississippi Choctaw through the games and other cultural activities. We gain their trust

See STICKBALL Page 11

## Tournament to be held at annual Labor Day festival

The field is being prepared, coaches are gathering players and fans are counting the days until the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's first stickball tournament. The two-day tournament will be held Sept. 2-3, during the tribe's annual Labor Day Festival. Starting small with four teams, the Choctaw Nation expects the inter-tribal tournament to grow from year to year.

When asked what the team is doing to get ready, offense coach Joey Tom said,

See TOURNAMENT Page 11

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See GEORGIA Page 5




Photo provided

**Georgia Mae Self and Bertha Burgess at a family picnic at Clayton.**

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### No outdoor fires allowed at festival

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# Looking forward to Labor Day improvements and additions



From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Each year I look forward to the Choctaw Labor Day Festival for many reasons, and it is always exciting to explore the changes and additions to the grounds. Thankfully, there are new shade awnings at the ballfield for basketball, horseshoes and fast-pitch, which in this 100+ degree weather will be absolutely necessary.

For the first time ever, a stick-ball tournament is being held at our festival – and because it is so hot, our players will begin the tournament at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The games are expected to last late into the night.

The amphitheater has received a facelift, giving it more beauty and efficiency. The concerts are always a huge draw for our guests, so I am sure we will have a lot of people enjoy the improvements in this area.

A change in our health division has spearheaded the Going Lean program, which will be obvious in the large Healthy Lifestyles tent beside the Council Chambers. This year, visitors will



enjoy interactive education in the tent and healthy snacks of fruit.

The long-term vision of the Choctaw Nation is “To achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud Nation of Choctaws,” and the Going Lean program is a tremendous effort by the tribal health division to promote healthier lives for all of us.

One goal of the Healthy Lifestyles tent is to promote ways to not only keep people living longer, but also keep us feeling better so we WANT to live and have a better quality of life.

I am told that vendors at the festival are offering more than just the ordinary fair food this year. There are going to be some healthy choices available, as well. That sounds good to me. The Healthy Lifestyles tent will have a list of vendors offering these healthier food options on their menus.

Please be safe as you travel to the festival and enjoy the activities this year. This has been the hottest summer on record in our Choctaw Nation counties in Oklahoma, and we may still be experiencing those record-breaking temperatures, so please be careful!

## Excessive heat in Oklahoma this summer may make festival more challenging

See related articles  
on Page 1 and Page 7

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival is the hot ticket this year for fun – in more ways than one. The Labor Day weekend event is always a great way to get the family together for inexpensive activities, with lots to do for all ages, but please be extra cautious this year if the temperatures continue the current trend of being excessively hot.

Oklahoma has been breaking records with three-digit degrees day after day since June. Employee meetings have been conducted to actually coach our staff on how to avoid heat-related illnesses and how to recognize symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Because so much of the Labor Day Festival is centered around outdoor activities, it is especially important that families with small children and elderly plan appropriately for their visit this year.

Please make sure that everyone drinks plenty of water and stays in the shade as much as possible. There are a few air-conditioned areas on the Capitol Grounds, such as the cafeteria and the museum, but they are limited in space and only open during certain hours of the day.

Each year during the Labor Day Festival,



the Choctaw Nation has first aid staff on the grounds, which headquarter out of the law enforcement building behind the museum, as well as having mobile health first aid and emergency aid staff walking and cycling the grounds throughout the day. There is also a first aid station at the ballfield area during games in case of accidents or illness.

It is extremely important to take proper precautions while working or playing in high temperatures and humidity, so please read over the information on Page 7 that has been provided by the Choctaw Nation Safety Department to help prepare us all for the Labor Day Festival and other activities in the hot summer weather.

## Chaplain’s Corner

### The positive experience

It is a privilege and joy to be in a Christian ministry on Sunday as a part of the 2011 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival weekend at Tushka Homma. Pray for the personal testimonies and fellowship.

Today many people associate Christianity with restrictions with the do’s and don’ts – don’t do this, and don’t do that.

We Christians have talked so much of the negative side of Christian experience that we have forgotten to emphasize the positive, joyous, thrilling and victorious experience of daily fellowship with Jesus Christ.

For our Bible text today we turn to the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament.

The prophet Isaiah looked out on a people who longed for happiness and security but were looking for it in the wrong places. They were running to the places of amusement, spending their money for things which brought them no permanent satisfaction.

Isaiah stood before them one day and gave them the Word of God. We read in Isaiah 55:1-2: “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

“Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

Notice that Isaiah didn’t speak negatively and berate them for their sins. He didn’t grab the bottle from the drunkard’s hand, he didn’t shame them for their immoral practices. He left all that for the moment.

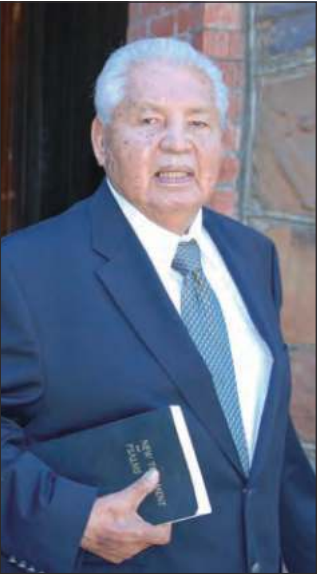
He simply asked them, “Are you getting what you want out of life?” Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not?”

If Isaiah were living today, he would probably stand here and simply ask, “Are you getting what you want? Are you finding satisfaction?”

He would say to the successful businessman, “Are you getting what you want?” He would say to the labourers, “Are you getting what you want?” He would say to the young people, “Are you getting what you want?” He would say to those who have the best homes and the smoothest, powerful automobiles, “Are you getting what you want?”

Isaiah did not leave them with an unanswered question. He went on to tell them that there is a satisfying way of life, if they wish to seek it. He exhorted them to abandon the vain searching for pots of gold at the end of the rainbow, and to start searching for happiness where it is really found.

Jesus said to the thirsty, unsatisfied Samaritan woman in John 4:14: “But whoso-



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

Join us at 10 a.m. Sept. 4 for worship services in the tent behind the amphitheater during the Labor Day festival!

ever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Just as the body of man cannot live without water, the spirit cannot be satisfied apart from God. He alone can satisfy our spiritual thirst.

David said in Psalms 107:8-9: “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

“For he satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”

Now, as then, listen to God’s Word in Isaiah 55:2, God says: “Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

This is the secret of soul-satisfaction: let your soul delight itself in fatness. Remove the obstructions, and let your soul find the fulfillment of its deepest longings in the fellowship with God.

God said another significant thing in our text. He said in Isaiah 55:1: Salvation is “free!” God puts no price tag on the gifts. It is free! It is as Isaiah said, “without money and without price.”

God is not a bargaining God. You cannot bargain with him. You must do business with Him on His terms. He holds in His hands the priceless, precious, eternal gift of salvation, and He bids you to take it without money and without price.

So, you who have spent your money for that which is not bread and your labor that with satisfieth not, come and receive this life-giving soul-satisfying life from the hand of God – Salvation through Jesus Christ our Savior!

One last thing. This offer is for everyone: “Everyone that thirsteth come ye to the water” (Isaiah 55:1). He can meet the need of all of us. I ask you: “Are you getting out of life what you want? Have you found peace and satisfaction?”

God has given to us His wonderful plan for salvation. He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for sin, which is death, on the cross (John 3:16). Trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith so that you can have peace and reconciliation.

The apostle Paul said in 1st Corinthians 15:3-4: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Jesus Christ is alive. Trust Him as your Savior. Pray for America, and pray for our men and women in our armed service.

## Behrens holds Offensive MVP title

Roger Behrens holds his MVP trophy as he poses with Choctaw Nation Chief, Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief, Gary Batton. He represented the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in the Jim Thorpe Native American All Star Game at North Texas University in Denton, Texas, and was selected as the MVP offensive player for the blue team.

Graduating seniors with tribal enrollment cards from any federally recognized tribe in the United States or Canada are eligible to participate in the all-star game. This program got its start in Lawrence, Kan., in 2002. It was used as a recruiting tool for the football team at Haskell Indian Nations University.

During the event, players attend a week of practices before the game. They also meet college recruiters, football scouts and Dallas area corporations aside from their two-a-days. A special tour of the Dallas Cowboys stadium was also included for the players.

Another Choctaw, Dylan Parker, a quarterback from Valliant, was named MVP for the



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Roger Behrens and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

game.

Behrens was very pleased to represent the Choctaw Nation and will be attending Haskell Indian Nations University in the fall.

“It is always a delight to me to see young Choctaws succeeding in their areas of interest. I wish Roger the best as he furthers his education,” said Chief Pyle.

## Tribal Council members meet in July session at Tushka Homma

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council members met in regular session on July 9 at Tushka Homma. Council members addressed several items of new business, approving council bills:

- to approve procedure manual for Choctaw Nation Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), a

team that was initiated by the Project EMPOWER Program under the Outreach Services Division to aid Native American women who have been victimized to reclaim successful lives

- to approve the budget and re-contracting for the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program, which will

continue the program from Nov. 1, 2011, through Oct. 31, 2012;

- to donate playground equipment to Battisti Public School;
- to donate a 1991 Chevrolet Blue-Bird 24-passenger bus to Armstrong Baptist Church;
- to donate a 1992 Chevrolet Blue-Bird 24-passenger bus to Choctaw

Community Center in Hugo;

- to donate a 1993 Chevrolet Blue-Bird 24-passenger disability bus to Mead Baptist Church;
- the adoption of certain codes for use in Court of General Jurisdiction of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which will aid attorneys dealing with legal issues in tribal courts;

- establishment of Choctaw Global Staffing, Inc.;
- and the establishment of Choctaw Staffing Solutions, Inc.;

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Events

### Thank you, Antlers and Clayton YAB

The Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize and extend a heartfelt thank you to the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. Members were Malichi Stroud, Tamren Smith, Cassidy Courtwright, Jordan Billy, Cooper Wood and Chelsea Bishop of the Antlers chapter for their superb help and community service at the Antlers Homecoming 5K Race and fish fry. Their help was greatly appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge the YAB Antlers and Clayton chapters that bussed the tables at the 2011 Pushmataha County Chamber Banquet for tips that they so graciously donated to the Tushka community after the tornado. This was an appreciated and commendable act of kindness.

**Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce**

### Seeking information

I am searching for information on my ancestor, Simon Colberts', ancestors. I have the following information from the 1896 census: Simon was number 2120 and his father was Winchester Wade, number 2402. Elsie Wade, number 6121, was included on the census as well as Elsie's father, John Davis, number 12598. If you have any information regarding my ancestors, please contact Jeramiah Colbert at 164 Cypress Mead, OK 73449.

### Thank you to Scholarship Advisement

My name is Scott Suddath, grandson of original enrollee Ralph M. Suddath, and I have been a recipient of scholarships provided by the Choctaw Nation throughout graduate school. On June 11, I received a master's degree in social work from Portland State University, which has been a lifetime goal of mine. With the help of these scholarships, I achieved my academic goal. I also want to sincerely thank Lori of the Scholarship Advisement Program for her kindness and professionalism throughout my time in school.

### Admiration for BISKINIK article

Yakoke for the excellent article written by Larissa Copeland, "Teaching today with stories of ancestors' yesterdays," as told by Les Williston. Many sweet blessings to you, Mr. Williston, for teaching and instructing our future generation with such respect and passion for your trade and profession.

**Shirley Krieger, Woodbridge, Va.**

### Jordan a registered nurse

Jordan Lynn Dill and her family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping her through nursing school at Connors College. She is the granddaughter of Rosie Jane Cricklin Harrison and the late James E. Harrison. Jordan is now employed with W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah as a registered nurse and she appreciates all the support.



### 'Capture the Spirit' Calendar Photo Contest winners announced

We would like to thank everyone who sent photo entries for the "Capture the Spirit" Calendar Contest. There were so many great entries. Judges narrowed it down to the final three. All photos were judged on content and the elements that represented the Choctaw Nation. Our winners are: first place, Melissa Reich with a photo of her mother and her daughter, both in traditional dress, shucking corn by a river; second place, Sherry Nail with a photo of Jeremy Williston in his traditional shirt sitting by a stream; and third place, Hoally Baker with a photo of her grandfather singing hymns from Chahta Taloa to one of his great-grandchildren.

Thanks to all the photo entries, the 2012 calendar will be something to treasure. We hope you will enjoy it!

**Gregory E. Pyle**  
*Chief*

**Gary Batton**  
*Assistant Chief*

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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 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.

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The BISKINIK E-News is a digital version of your monthly Biskinik. It is delivered to your e-mail inbox twice monthly and contains articles from the most recent BISKINIK newspaper as well as links to the current BISKINIK and archives. Sign up today on choctawnation.com.



BISKINIK' 2011

## Choctaw Days Festival at the Smithsonian Washington, D.C. • June 22-25



### Thankful for Choctaw Days

I would like to express my thanks to all involved in the recent Choctaw Days at the National Museum of the American Indian. Not living in Oklahoma, I have few opportunities to be involved in Choctaw events. I attended all four days at the museum and came away with unique, wonderful and powerful experiences each time. I had the opportunity to share parts of this with several members of our extended Choctaw family, descended from Veda Quincy Leeper. I also had friends from Florida drive up to be here for the event. Pictured are Jeff Hancock, Caroline Hancock, Jennifer Hancock, Nate Hancock, Judith Coats, Chief Pyle, Richard Leeper, Laura Leeper and John Leeper. Caroline, Jennifer, Judith, Richard and John are Choctaw members.

**John Leeper**

### Amerman's admiration for Choctaw Days

To Judy Allen, thank you so much for all your hard work and coordination put into Choctaw Days. I would be on your team any time. The event was life-changing for my family and me. The group of people assembled to do the program was outstanding and represented our tribe well. My brother and I were very honored to be with you and the invited participants.

**Roger Amerman**

### Choctaw Days informative and fun

I wanted to commend the Choctaw Nation and the Smithsonian Institution for the spectacular program, Choctaw Days. My daughter and I attended the events on June 22. Thank you so much for bringing this event to Washington, D.C. It was such an informative and fun program. My daughter, who is 7 years old, and I truly enjoyed the hands-on workshops, beading and basket weaving. At first, I wondered how anyone could conduct such intensive workshops in such a short amount of time, but I was blown away by the knowledge and skill of the presenters. We enjoyed everything, from the hands-on activities to the dancers and exhibits. The only negative thing we have to say is that we just didn't have enough time to enjoy it all. I wish we could have stayed into the night, what a delight! Again, thank you so much. We're spreading the word.

**Angela R. Brown**

### King thankful for Choctaw Days

It was truly my honor to represent the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma at the Choctaw Days event in Washington, D.C. As an artist, to exhibit at such a prestigious venue, words cannot express the honor I felt to be there. I witnessed quality craftsmen and artisans, performing and visual, that made me proud to be an Oklahoma Choctaw.

Growing up in Ardmore, it was not always acceptable to be an Indian, but through efforts of quality individuals, such as yourselves and your staff promoting our Oklahoma Choctaw heritage, it is now "cool" to be Indian. Working with individuals on your staff, such as Judy Allen, Lana Sleeper, Lisa Reed, Chrissy Dill, and my cousin, Cyndi Houser, all were truly professional and helpful. There were great memories, a great experience and great people.

**Paul King**

### Thank you, Councilman Coley

I wanted to say thank you to Councilman Joe Coley for helping me in May and for the assistance that was provided for me, it was a blessing. I pray that God's blessings be upon him and his district people.

**Michael Aaron**

### Thank you, Councilman Thompson

The Buckhorn Community Center would like to thank its wonderful councilman, Perry Thompson, for his help in getting their newly renovated community center and the necessary appliances needed. Mr. Thompson is a very thoughtful and caring councilman and the people of District 8 appreciate him very much. Thanks again, Perry, from the Buckhorn Community Center.

### Seeking information on Hollidays

At the bottom of page 11 of the July BISKINIK, Isabel Holliday is identified in one of the pictures. I would like to make contact with her about her Holliday ancestors. If anyone knows her or has any information about her, please contact JoAnn Holliday Scantlen at 918-967-8160.

**JoAnn Scantlen, Stigler**

### Check us out on Facebook!



Like

facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma

### Labor Day Quilt Show 2011

The Labor Day quilt show entries need to be dropped off at the Information Center from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, and picked up by noon on Monday, Sept. 5. For additional information, contact Shawna Folsom at 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext. 2246.

### Code Talkers Association invites you

The Choctaw Code Talkers Association wishes to invite everyone to support the work of this organization. Efforts include preserving and honoring the memories of our Choctaw men who served in World War II. These men were not considered citizens of the United States but still enlisted to fight for the homeland. Some of the Code Talkers were first members of the National Guard and defended the U.S. on the Mexican border from invasion by Poncho Villa.

The original Code Talkers need to be recognized with other Choctaw veterans. You do not need to be related to a Code Talker in order to preserve their history-making service and stories. Consider becoming an associate member for \$9 per year.

The Code Talkers Association meets annually during the Labor Day Festival in the Council Chamber, across from the museum at 1:30 p.m. The association invites everyone to join, to hear the latest news concerning the association, to meet descendants and friends and to find out about how you can get involved.

If you are interested in joining, contact membership chair Lila Swink at 580-873-2301 or email at swink1ok@yahoo.com. You may also contact association president Nuchi Nashoba at 405-245-5425 or email at nuchinashoba@aol.com.

### Tims/Wilson family reunion

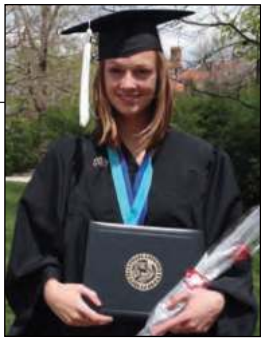
The children of Julia Tims and Isaac Wilson Sr. will host an annual family reunion. All of the relatives, near-relatives, friends and any interested individuals are invited to attend. The reunion will be held Sept. 3 at the Smithville Community Center. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish and items for the auction. The family hopes everyone can make it so they can catch up on the happenings of the past year.

### Annual Jones family reunion

Descendants of Cephus Jones, Betty Jones Thompson, Reba Jones Meashintubby and Wilburn Jones will hold the annual Jones family reunion at the city park in Talihina on Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information or directions, call Kathy Leach at 214-440-1455, Joyce Purser at 972-424-7477 or Mary Lou Meashintubby at 918-567-4392.

### Thankful for scholarships

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the generous scholarships I received over the past four years. I graduated in May from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in integrative physiology and I intend to eventually pursue a Master's of Public Health. Thank you so much for these scholarships that have allowed me to continue my education.



**Danielle Bogrett**

### Thank you for support

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Choctaw Nation for the guidance and support I received while attending Columbia University in New York. I am proud to say that in May I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle East and Asian languages and cultures and a minor in anthropology. Currently, I am teaching English to children in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. No matter where I am, I always speak of the Choctaw people with pride and appreciation. Thank you again for supporting me.



**Destiny Sullens**

### Thank you

Our deepest thank you to Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for caring during my family members' loss and the assistance towards her burial expenses and service meal after the funeral. Also thank you to Candi Buck of the Muscogee/Creek Nation, all family and friends and most of all, Jesus Christ. Alma Jean's family sincerely thanks you all for your prayers and kindness.

**Michael David Skaggs, grandson of Alma Jean Atkins**

### Thankful for vocational rehab

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks for the assistance I was provided by the Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehab in getting the brace I needed for improving my walking. It has helped so much. Having the brace has greatly improved my quality of life and made my ability to continue to work possible. Without the help of the Choctaw Nation and all the great programs they offer, I would never have been able to get the brace. Again, I give many thanks.

**Teresa Gallant**

### RV GATE CHECK-IN TIMES

Check-in times for RVs will be as follows. Please make arrangements to arrive and check in at your respective RV gate during one of these times.

Wednesday (8/31) 7 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Thursday (9/1) 8 a.m.-12 midnight  
Friday (9/2) 8 a.m.-12 midnight  
Saturday (9/3) 8 a.m.-12 midnight  
Sunday (9/4) 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

No RVs or tents in RV park until Aug. 27.



# Ten tips to a great plate

Making food choices for a healthy lifestyle can be as simple as using these 10 tips. Use the ideas in this list to balance your calories, to choose foods to eat more often, and to cut back on foods to eat less often.

1. Balance calories – find out how many calories YOU need for a day as a first step in managing your weight. Go to [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov) to find your calorie level. Being physically active also helps you balance calories.
2. Enjoy your food, but eat less – take the time to fully enjoy your food as you eat it. Eating too fast or when your attention is elsewhere may lead to eating too many calories. Pay attention to hunger and fullness cues before, during and after meals. Use them to recognize when to eat and when you’ve had enough.
3. Avoid oversized portions – use a smaller plate, bowl and glass. Portion out foods before you eat. When eating out, choose a smaller size option, share a dish or take home part of your meal.
4. Foods to eat more often – eat more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and fat-free or 1% milk and dairy products. These foods have the nutrients you need for health – including potassium, calcium, vitamin D and fiber. Make them the basis for meals and snacks.
5. Make half your plate fruits and vegetables – choose red, orange and dark-green vegetables like tomatoes, sweet potatoes and broccoli,

## WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

along with other vegetables for your meals. Add fruit to meals as part of main or side dishes or as dessert.

6. Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk – they have the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but fewer calories and less saturated fat.
7. Make half your grains whole grains – to eat more whole grains, substitute a whole-grain product for a refined product, such as eating whole-wheat bread instead of white bread or brown rice instead of white rice.
8. Foods to eat less often – cut back on foods high in solid fats, added sugars and salt. They include cakes, cookies, ice cream, candies, sweetened drinks, pizza and fatty meats like ribs, sausages, bacon and hot dogs. Use these foods as occasional treats, not everyday foods.
9. Compare sodium in foods – use the Nutrition Facts label to choose lower sodium versions of foods like soup, bread and frozen meals. Select canned foods labeled “low sodium,” “reduced sodium” or “no salt added.”
10. Drink water instead of sugary drinks – cut calories by drinking water or unsweetened beverages. Soda, energy drinks and sports drinks are a major source of added sugar, and calories in American diets.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Sept. 1-27, except for: Sept. 5  
**Sept. 7:** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)  
**Sept. 14:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)  
**Closed** Sept. 28-30 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Sept. 8 & 23, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: Sept. 1-27, except for: Sept. 5  
**Closed** Sept. 28-20 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Sept. 2 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays Sept. 1-27, except for: Sept. 5  
**Closed** Sept. 28-30 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Sept. 6 & 14, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays Sept. 1-27, except for: Sept. 5  
**Closed** Sept. 28-30 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Sept. 12 & 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday. We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 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, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building  
**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center  
**Idabel:** Choctaw Community Center  
**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center  
**Stigler:** 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.

# August is designated as National Immunization Month

August is designated as National Immunization Month to spotlight the importance of keeping your immunizations up to date. The Center for Disease Control has put together a number of charts to help you keep on top of the vaccines that you and your children need. It’s gotten rather complicated over the past few years, as many additional shots have been added to the requirements for kids.

As an adult you may be in need of some shots as well. Many of the immunizations that kids now take for granted didn’t even exist when many of adults were children. It’s worth checking out what is available and what you need. The diseases that these vaccines protect against are pretty nasty and better off avoided.

Vaccines became a required part of childhood in the early 1950s, when four vaccines were introduced: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and smallpox. Luckily for kids back then, three of the four were combined into a single injection. This meant that kids only had to receive five shots by the time they were 2 years old, and they never had to receive more than one per doctor’s visit.

Kids are not as lucky on that score nowadays. By the time kids are at age 2, they have received as many as 20 vaccinations, sometimes receiving as many as five shots in just one visit. The good news is that kids today are protected from a long list of dangerous diseases. The bad news is that there are just too many shots. This will hopefully change in the next few years. There are more vaccinations being added each year, which unfortunately means more shots, but they are also working on a number of combined vaccines, which means less shots. Hopefully the final outcome will mean more protection from disease with less shots.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Bethany Caldwell

Bethany Christine Rosa Caldwell was born at 6:32 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2010, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel. Her parents are Jon and Kay of Broken Bow. She has a brother, Johnny, of Oklahoma City.

Grandparents are Donna Harraman of Broken Bow, the late Glenn Harraman and the late Willie and Hannah Caldwell.



### Kelsie Wesley

Lisa and Dewayne Wesley would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Kelsie Jane Wesley, who was named after the late Elsie Jane Wesley. Kelsie was born at 10:56 p.m. on April 5, 2011, in Talihina. She weighed 7 pounds and was 18.5 inches long.

Her grandparents are Verna and Jamie Washington of Idabel and Dorinda Wesley of Broken Bow. Her great-grandparents are the late Elsie J. Wesley and Lenis Wesley of Sobol, along with Newton and Dorothy Wesley of Broken Bow.



### John Basura

John “Denali” Basura was born on June 12, 2011, at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Panorama City, Calif., weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 21 inches long.

The proud parents are Bruce and Melissa Basura of Burbank, Calif. At home, Baby John has a 3-year-old brother, Michael “Yuma,” and a sister Amanda. John is the Grandson of Kay (Boyd) and Mike Basura, and the great-grandson of the late John Boyd and Auddie Lee Self Boyd, an original Choctaw minor.

John was named after his maternal great-grandfather and given a Native American middle name meaning “Great One.” His parents are very proud of his Choctaw heritage.



## Make water the main ingredient for summer meals

We are in the heat of the summer and nobody wants to cook or grill for that matter. Yet we still need to eat. So, what do we do?

Serve cold, refreshing foods with high water content. This time of year we have so much to choose from: cucumbers, tomatoes, berries, peaches ... the list goes on and on. Taking a few fresh fruits and vegetables and some left over grilled lean meat you can create a light and refreshing meal in no time.

Try grilled chicken sliced and placed on a fresh mixed green salad; add fresh tomatoes, cauliflower, yellow squash, blue berries, sliced strawberries and almonds tossed with a light balsamic vinegar dressing. Serve this with a tomato, corn and black bean salsa with some whole grain chips and ice water spiked with cucumber and strawberry slices. Cool, refreshing and healthy to boot.

## Tomato, Corn and Black Bean Salsa

### Ingredients

- Seeded, finely chopped
- 1 cup black beans, rinsed and drained
- ½ cup fresh tomatoes
- Frozen corn kernels,
- ½ cup finely minced cilantro leaves
- ¼ cup thawed finely minced red onion
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp salt and black pepper to taste
- Hot pepper sauce or a few dashes of Tabasco (optional)

### Directions

In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients.

Serve chilled or at room temperature.

### Nutrition Information:

Makes five servings. Calories: 63, Sodium: 138mg, Total Fat: 2 g, Total Carbohydrate: 9g, Saturated Fat: 0g, Dietary Fiber: 2g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Protein: 2g.

I hope you all enjoy this cool and refreshing summer recipe from the American Institute for Cancer Research served with whole grain chips!

For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD at the Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center: 800-349-7026 ext: 6959

# Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority introduces Going Lean Initiative

The rising cases of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and other diseases linked to poor nutrition and obesity among Indian people has long been a concern to the Choctaw Nation. A recent State of the Nation’s Health Report (2010) demonstrates a growing frequency of these health problems, and they are occurring in younger and younger tribal members. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the Tribal Council and the Health Services Authority have all agreed that something has to be done to break this trend. To that end, the Choctaw Nation “Going Lean” initiative was established in October 2010.

The Going Lean Team currently consists of 30 members throughout the Choctaw Nation, including Wellness Centers, Health System, Health Providers, Diabetic Educators, Community Health, Talihina Youth Center Staff, Youth Advisory Staff, Clinic Directors, Hospital Cafeteria Staff, Outreach Staff, Lifetime Legacy and Behavioral Health, IT Staff, and CN Epidemiology/Statisticians.

Their main focus is on obesity prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles. Program Director Tammie Cannady is determined to make a generational change within the Choctaw Nation that will greatly reduce the incidence of disease among our people.

“We will be targeting Choctaws of all ages, through outreach with staff surveys, partnerships with the indigenous Wellness Research Institute at the University of Washington, and reaching out to the entire area through community forums,” she stated. “Our goal is Healthy People, Strong Nation.”

Other plans include establishing weight loss clubs and exercise classes; gardening programs to develop community gardens and farmers markets, and to illustrate healthy ways to cook traditional foods; public school programs focused as early as preschool; and even lifestyle/motivational counseling. The Going Lean Team is also working on developing a line of walking and cooking videos.

“As each of these products is readied and made available to our communities, we expect to see real change among our tribal members,” says Cannady. “And since Going Lean is a fluid program, we will be able to take feedback from the participants and use it to focus on specific needed areas, or even to expand to new ones.”

Within the nation itself, the Going Lean Team will be conducting surveys, working with food services/cafeterias to find healthier food options, and encouraging plenty of health activities. Expect to see more Healthy Living articles in the Biskinik, the Healthy Nation Healthy Future magazine as well as educational materials in community centers, head starts and clinics.

The Choctaw Nation recognizes that the future of our people depends upon the health and advancement of our youth. By introducing the Going Lean program now, it is the hope that a new healthier lifestyle will become a natural part of our lives and that we will continue to teach these ways to our future children “unto the seventh generation.” Living a healthier lifestyle depends on us for the generations to come.

# SEASAM

## Southeastern Art Show & Market




In conjunction with

**The Chickasaw Nation 51st Annual Meeting & 23rd Festival**  
**September 29 – October 1, 2011 in beautiful Tishomingo, Oklahoma**

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or email [artistsforchickasaw.net](mailto:artistsforchickasaw.net) [www.chickasaw.net/seesam](http://www.chickasaw.net/seesam)





## Choctaw Nation WIC

### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	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 Wednesday - Friday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Monday - Wednesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday



# GEORGIA

## Last of original enrollees passes away at 106

Continued from Page 1

“I would call to see if she wanted to go shopping or out to eat and she’d always say, ‘I’ll be ready when you get here,’” cousin Betty Key said with a smile. “She was happy to have any chance to go.”

She didn’t wait on people to call her, either. At 101, Georgia was still a familiar face behind the wheel as she drove her car around town. She continued driving until she suffered a stroke and moved into a nursing home in Antlers.

Georgia belonged to a large family. She was one of 10 children born to David and Carrie Fowler Roebuck. Sister Vivian Allen of Antlers is the only surviving sibling. Vivian took Georgia to the beauty shop and on errands when she was no longer able to drive. She would take care of all of her needs including Georgia’s two dogs. She treasured her two canine friends and Vivian watched over them for two years after Georgia moved to the nursing home. A fellow church member has now adopted them.

During early adulthood, Georgia lived with a cousin, Lizzie, in Antlers until a tornado ripped through the small town on April 12, 1945. Lizzie’s home had 13 rooms but when Georgia and Lizzie climbed out of the basement, there was only one room still standing. Although suddenly homeless, the two counted themselves as some of the lucky ones. That devastating tornado killed 55 people in Antlers.

After marrying Chester

Self on Jan. 17, 1948, the couple bought 40 acres in southeast Antlers and he built their home. She spent hours working in her yard and many remember how beautiful her flowers were.

She worked several years for the Court Clerk’s office in Antlers. When the Court Clerk made the decision to retire, Georgia chose to run for the office, won the election and remained court clerk until she retired.

“She would get involved with campaigning,” Betty said, remembering how her son, John Key, would go door to door with her when he was 12. “That was 53 years ago. So many people in Antlers are saying they remember seeing Georgia’s name on their marriage license.”

After retiring, Georgia spent close to a quarter of a century as a “pink lady” at the local hospital. A testament of how much she was cared for and recognition of her years of service, an entire pew at her funeral was filled with fellow volunteers.

Her caring attitude was exemplified in many ways.

“After my dad died in 1975, Georgia would take mother to the doctor and dentist, anywhere she needed to go,” another cousin, June Walker, recalled. “She would come over when it stormed and spend the night with mother, too.”

A longtime member of Antlers’ First United Methodist Church, Georgia was very involved with the church and her church family.

On one of her birthdays, she was asked what she wanted to do and when she replied that she wanted to go to the outlet mall in Stroud, the church van loaded up and off they went.

“Someone slipped around and got her a birthday cake,” Betty said. “They stopped at a roadside park and surprised her with it.”



Georgia Mae on her 104th birthday.

Another surprise party was held at a local restaurant. Believing only two or three were meeting her for lunch, she walked into Able’s Barbecue to find the restaurant full of family and friends to help her celebrate turning 100 years old.

Georgia surrounded herself with things that made her happy.

“She owned a large collection of bells,” cousin Joyce Daniels recalled. “She was thrilled when she was given a new one. She also had a lot of stuffed animals and would just hug them all the time. There was one really old doll that she kept in a chair. My husband made the chair for her. She was so proud of that little chair.”

Georgia liked making ceramics and a former student of Tuskahoma Academy, she enjoyed reading, especially history.

Georgia made many friends during her 106 years and cared deeply for all of her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brothers William Roebuck, Dewey Roebuck and Jesse Roebuck; and sisters Flossie Carter, Elizabeth Carter, Viola Fromme, Beatrice Ringwald and Geneva Carr.

Survivors include her sister, Vivian; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

# Giving wounded warriors a much-needed lift

## Choctaw Nation pilot’s role in Veterans Airlift Command highlighted

Submitted by HAROLD HARMON

Southeastern Oklahoma State University aviation graduate Quentin McLarry (1998) is the Chief Pilot for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a part of the Veterans Airlift Command (VAC).

McLarry graduated from Silo High School in 1994. He participated in athletics (baseball and basketball) and was named an Oklahoma Academic Scholar.

McLarry said, “For as long as I can remember, all I wanted to do is fly. I grew up in Mead and went to school at Silo. Since Southeastern had, and still has, such a great aviation program, going to school there was an easy choice.

“I am proud to say that Southeastern Aviation is where I got my start.”

McLarry is married to the former Ashley Chambers of Durant. They met in high school and were married in August 1996. The two children are Jacob and Randi.

Ashley is the daughter of Randy and Kathy Chambers, Durant. Quentin is the son of Gary and Vicki McLarry of Mead.

McLarry worked for SE as a Flight Instructor and taught classes in the aviation program for a few years. He has also flown cargo and corporate aircraft before starting his flying career with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in 2004, where he flies with Southeastern graduate John Wesley (’99) and Director of Operations Al Cherry.

He served in the United Marine Corps Reserves, along with mixed periods of active duty, from 1995-2003. He attended Officer School in 1996-97 and was recalled in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The VAC provides free air transportation to wounded veterans and their family for



Southeastern Oklahoma State University: DAN HOKE

**Choctaw Nation pilots Quentin McLarry, left, and John Wesley are pictured with one of the tribe’s planes, a Cessna Citation Encore. They also fly a King Air C90. Both planes are owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.**

medical and other compassionate purposes through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots.

Walt Fricke, a wounded veteran who discovered firsthand how difficult it is to be separated from his family, founded the VAC and has watched it grow into a national organization with more than 1,800 pilots and aircraft owners who participate in the program voluntarily.

The VAC makes travel by private plane available at no cost to veterans and family members when it would be nearly impossible to arrange otherwise because of financial and health considerations.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is one of many individuals and organizations involved in the program.

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle said, “The Choctaw people have historically served the United States valiantly in great numbers, especially during wartime, and our tribe has stepped up to the challenge as well.

“We have offered the use of our tribal airplane on the average of once a month through Veterans Airlift Command to be used by wounded warriors of the current war for flights to medical appointments.

“These wounded soldiers are not usually able to use commercial flights for various reasons and this is a tremendous blessing for them and their families, and a greatly appreciated service that we are happy to be able to provide them while our plane is not being used.

“The warriors have sacrificed willingly for us and for our country, and it is an honor to be able to provide

“The support of our warriors must be unyielding.”

– Quentin McLarry

for them. You can learn more about this great effort at their website, veteransairlift.org.”

Dr. David Conway serves as Director of Southeastern’s Aviation Sciences Institute.

“I’ve known Quentin for years,” Conway said. “He is a good example of the product of our aviation program. He is just a stellar person who goes above and beyond and his work with the VAC is a great example.”

McLarry said, “Regardless of what you may think about the wars that our country is involved in, the support of our warriors must be unyielding. I know that Mr. Walt Fricke would agree with me when I say ‘I pray for the day when a service like the one provided by Veteran’s Airlift is no longer required.’

“But until that day comes, I am glad this organization exists and I am honored to be a part of it.”

# Dozier named a top five United Fresh Retail Produce Manager

Submitted by GEORGE HUBKA

“The Final Four” has a distinct meaning for NCAA basketball teams and fans. In the produce industry being in the “Top Twenty five” means, that as a retail produce manager, you are one of the top 25 individuals nominated from throughout the U.S and Canada to be honored with the title “Retail Produce Manager Award”.

Moore resident David Dozier has been selected to be among 25 finalists in the competition for being named as a 2011 United Fresh Retail Produce Manager Award recipient. Dozier currently serves as produce department manager at GFF Foods store in Moore, OK. He is a 20 year veteran with the GFF Foods organization and has worked in the grocery industry since age 15.

The original pool of applicant finalists from whom the 25 winners were selected numbered over 200 individuals.

As a finalist Dozier was awarded a paid trip to the 2011 United Fresh Tradeshow in New Orleans, La., from May 2 to 4. During the Chairman’s Reception and Annual Awards Banquet on May 4 the top five “Grand Prize” winners were each awarded a \$1,000 cash prize. David was one of the top five selected out of the 25 there to be awarded one of the special \$1,000 prizes given out that night at the banquet.

David manages the produce department at the Moore GFF Foods location. His responsibilities there include training new employees and insuring that those employees on duty in his absence have a good knowledge of the produce department’s operation to guarantee that customers are happy, receive the products, quality, and customer service they expect from GFF Foods and A.W.G. from which the store secures produce.

In relation to his department’s customer service, David’s nominator for the award stated, “He has a policy of ‘Never say no to any customer.’”

David makes use of many training courses offered, studying other materials from various suppliers to keep himself abreast of current produce industry trends, food quality and safety issues, and sanitation and has gained certification as a produce manager from A.W.G. During his time at the GFF Foods store David has adjusted marketing and display plans to the ever-changing produce industry.

He cites a current trend by customers of wanting to secure nutritious produce items for use in their meal planning and preparation. To meet that need, David uses various



Submitted photo

**David Dozier, right, is awarded a top five 2011 United Fresh Retail Produce Manager Award at the United Fresh Tradeshow in New Orleans, La.**

tools such as “sampling” to provide items for customers to taste and he provides educational material on the nutritional content of items in his department.

He notes a trend by consumers in being interested in using organically and local produce which he attempts to source locally when products are in season in the area. During the summer months David’s department features Oklahoma grown watermelon and cantaloupe products. In recent years Dozier has won many grand prizes and first place awards in various produce display contests he has entered.

Some of his prize winning produce displays have included: “Sound the alarm! Apples are HOT STUFF,” “Idaho Potatoes Save the Day,” and “Wholly Guacamole! Make that Spicy Play” for which he won a 50 inch flat screen television.

Dozier’s produce display prowess has been cited in many publications in 2010 including: Progressive Grocer, The Produce News, and The Shelby Report of the Southwest. His displays have been featured on websites such as: www.BIGONIONS.com and www.idahopotato.comretail.

In discussing Dozier’s produce department operation, GFF Foods President/General Manager Charlie Bert stated, “When I say Dave is a pro, I mean it. He knows about how produce needs to be presented.”

The Retail Produce Manager Awards Program is sponsored by Ready Pac Foods, Inc., in conjunction with United Fresh, the produce industry’s trade group. The program has honored over 100+ managers since the program’s inception in 2005.



Submitted photo

# Blue named Advocate of the Year

John R. Blue was among recipients of awards during Oklahoma Minority Enterprise Development Week and named “Advocate of the Year.”

The celebration of success was coordinated by the Native American Business Enterprise Center (NABEC) of Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc. (REI).

As director of the Northeast Region of the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center, Blue is a resilient advocate for Oklahoma small businesses with a focus on Native American and minority-owned enterprises. His work and programs are made possible through the SBA, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

Blue focuses his attention on assisting entrepreneurs with business plan development, access to capital, training and education and he assists businesses with certification to allow them to pursue government contracts and expand their markets.

A member of the Choctaw Nation, Blue graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. He is a member of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, serves as chairman of the BRIDGE program in Tulsa and is a member of the American Indian Resource Center.

“John is dedicated to the advancement of Oklahoma’s small businesses,” said James Ray, NABEC coordinator. “Oklahoma entrepreneurs can be proud to call him a friend and strong advocate on their behalf.”

REI opened the NABEC office four years ago through an award from the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce. Since that time, the economic impact from NABEC services is over \$93 million including impact from procurement of government contracts of \$52,002,767.

Through strategic partnerships with leading Oklahoma organizations, NABEC strives to assist minority business owners in reaching the next stage of growth for their companies with a special focus on procurement of government contracts.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## News from the Woodroofs

Congratulations to Matthew and Candace Woodroof, who were both ordained by the Louisiana District of the Assemblies of God in March. They also welcomed Andrew Michael Woodroof to the family on June 29.

Matthew and Candace are youth and children’s pastors at the First Assembly of God in Farmerville, La.



## Simas, Anderson engagement

In the spring of 2011, Tyler Anderson and Jennifer Simas became engaged. They will be married in the spring of 2012. All of the family is happy for the two. Jen is the daughter of Robert and Paula Simas and Jeanne and Darren Trent. Jen’s grandparents, Eugene and Opal Ludlow of Smithville, are proud to make this announcement.



## Prayers for Liam

William “Liam” Elijah Lyon was born at 3:25 a.m. Feb. 18 to Whitney and Brody Lyon in Fort Smith. Although he was about five weeks early, Liam was a perfect size, weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 inches long. However, it was quickly apparent there was a serious problem. Thanks to Dr. Seglem and his diagnostic skills, Liam was quickly diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, or HLHS, a congenital heart defect that is fatal if left untreated. He was transferred that evening by Life Flight to the children’s hospital at St. Francis in Tulsa. The doctors spent a week trying to decide the best course of action and decided he needed a transplant instead of the first three palliative surgeries, and he was transferred to Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock. He and his mother were transported by an Angel One team sent by the hospital. He has been there ever since. The doctors thought he should have the surgeries to try and make his heart work as long as possible, maybe even until he was a teenager. He had the Norwood surgery but it wasn’t working quite right and they had to operate again, and now it is becoming apparent that the palliative surgery is not performing as expected and he has been placed on the heart transplant list.

Liam is receiving prayers from all over the world and they carry the family through. He also gets support from other families with affected children. There are many people who have followed his story and encouraged the family with prayers.

Liam has been given support in many ways. Though he is Choctaw, a member of the Osage tribe, an artist by the name of Gina Gray, has completed a painting entitled “Blessings for Liam” and donated it to the family to raise funds.

You may follow Liam’s journey on Facebook by liking his page, “I love Liam Lyon.”

## Tyson family celebrates birthdays

Joseph Tyson will celebrate his 75th birthday on Aug. 29. His great-grandson, Darius Ables, celebrated his seventh birthday on Aug. 6. Charles Burton, Joseph’s grandson, will celebrate his 16th birthday on Aug. 31, and Charles’ grandma, Billie Smith, will celebrate her birthday on Aug. 25. Happy birthday, everyone!

## Happy birthday, Monett

Happy birthday to Monett Ferguson, daughter of Billy Ferguson of Wyandotte and Carri Cole of Atoka, who celebrated her 17th birthday on July 4. Hope you had a great birthday, Mo Mo, from all your family.

## Meghan writes book

Fourteen-year-old Meghan Louise Byassee is one of only four percent of students chosen out of thousands of entries each year to Tate Publishing and of an even smaller percent of underage authors. Tate Publishing is the 10th largest book publisher nationwide and is also a Christian-based company. Meghan signed her contract with Tate Publishing, LLC in Mustang, Okla., on June 20. Her book is entitled “Fallen Heart” and is a murder mystery.

Meghan’s book will be sold nationwide. Some of her other accomplishments include winning District 1 Little Miss Choctaw Nation twice. She is the daughter of Kip and Debra Byassee of Idabel. She is the granddaughter of Jerry and Betty Byassee of Idabel and the late Timothy Sr. and the late Effie Lou Shomo of Broken Bow.



## Happy birthday, Pauline

Happy 93rd birthday to Pauline Robertson Labor of Bayfield, Colo. Pauline celebrated with two of her children and their spouses, a granddaughter and her family by going to the Bar D Barbeque in Durang, Colo.

Pauline was born July 14, 1918, in Durant to Virgil, an original enrollee, and Pearl Labor.



## Happy birthday, Melody

Melody Rayne Thorne turned 10 years old on July 21 and celebrated with family and friends. She attends Northmoor Elementary School and will be in fifth grade. She also plays softball.

Melody’s grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. Her late great-grandparents are William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



## Happy 50th anniversary

Loyle Coleman of Battiest and Doris Wilson Coleman of Fort Towson will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Aug. 16. Loyle retired from Tinker Air Force Base after 30 years of service, and Doris retired from Brookside Golf Course as assistant pro-shop manager after 20 years of service. They moved to Shawnee Twin Lakes 16 years ago where they enjoy fishing, riding their boat and spending time with their six children and 10 grandchildren.



## Brother and sister celebrate birthdays

Gavin Hunter Barone turned 12 years old on May 4 and Erica Ruth Lang-Seabourn turned 2 on Aug. 14. Big brother Gavin celebrated his birthday at the Oklahoma City Zoo with mom Amie Lang-Seabourn, sister Erica, cousins Gina Lang, Jayden and Jaystin Perry and special aunt and uncle Eric and Tammy Kirkland. Little sister Erica will be celebrating her birthday with a trip to the Jenks Aquarium and a special pond party in Caney. Happy birthday, Gavin and Erica, from mom.



## Happy birthday, Celesity

A happy birthday to Celesity Perry of Paris, Texas, who turned 2 years old on June 9. Celesity celebrated her birthday at the Pattonville Fire Department. She is the daughter of Donny and Linda Perry and the granddaughter of Toby and Katy Wilson of Pattonville. Celesity has two sisters, Chassity and Trinity.



## LeRoy/Choate engagement

Kristie Rose LeRoy of Pawnee will marry Jerold Lance Choate of Pickens on Sept. 10 at the Pawnee Indian Baptist Church.

Kristie is the daughter of Jarvis and Linda Mathews LeRoy of Pawnee. Jerold is the son of Floyd and Patricia “Kaye” Noah Choate of Pickens. Grandparents of the couple are the late Philip and Louise Kent Mathews, the late Henry and Evelyn Snake LeRoy, the late Culbertson and Ora Noah and the late Everett and Edna Choate.

Kristie is a 2001 graduate of Pawnee High School, a 2004 graduate from Northern Oklahoma College with an associate degree in athletic training and a 2009 graduate from Cameron University with a bachelor’s degree in health education. She is the credentialing coordinator for the Pawnee Service Unit-Indian Health Service in Pawnee.

Jerold is a 1999 graduate of Battiest High School and is currently enrolled at ITT Technical Institute in Tulsa. He is employed with the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma-TDC.



## Happy anniversary

Joseph and Callie Tyson of Tulsa celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on Aug. 12. They have three children; two sons, James and Sonny Tyson and one daughter, Josephine Burton. They have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Happy anniversary, Joseph and Callie!



## Happy 10th

Happy 10th birthday to Mandale Tole-free Jr., from his grandmother, Jacqueline Johnson, mother Contance McDonald Lampkin and stepdad Derrick Lampkin. Mandale is the great-grandson of Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore and the late Eulus Johnson of McAlester.



## Idabel Child Care Center recognized

The Choctaw Nation Child Care Administrative offices presented the Idabel Child Care Center with a team recognition award for the highest assessment scores for ECERS and ITERS in 17 counties. Child Development would like to recognize the center team members and let them know how much they appreciate their hard work and dedication. Pictured from right to left are June Osborn, Karen Schmitz, Shelly Osborn and Loretta Hamil.

CONTEST

GOLDEN – 55 & OVER  
(COMBINED)

ADULT – 18-54

1<sup>ST</sup> – \$500  
2<sup>ND</sup> – \$400  
3<sup>RD</sup> – \$300  
4<sup>TH</sup> – \$200  
5<sup>TH</sup> – \$100

MEN  
TRADITIONAL – FANCY  
STRAIGHT – GRASS

WOMEN  
CLOTH – BUCKSKIN  
SHAWL – JINGLE

SR. TEEN – 13-17

1<sup>ST</sup> – \$150  
2<sup>ND</sup> – \$125  
3<sup>RD</sup> – \$100

TEEN BOYS  
TRADITIONAL – FANCY  
STRAIGHT – GRASS

TEEN GIRLS  
CLOTH – BUCKSKIN  
SHAWL – JINGLE

JR. TEEN – 7-12

1<sup>ST</sup> – \$125  
2<sup>ND</sup> – \$100  
3<sup>RD</sup> – \$75

JR. BOYS  
TRADITIONAL – FANCY  
STRAIGHT – GRASS

JR. GIRLS  
CLOTH – BUCKSKIN  
SHAWL – JINGLE

TINY TOTS – 0-6

14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
LABOR DAY  
POW WOW

SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

THE CHOCTAW NATION  
CAPITOL GROUNDS

TUSHKA HOMMA

THE LINE UP

MC – TIM TALLCHIEF  
ARENA DIRECTOR – BILL TAKESHORSE  
HEAD MAN – GEORGE CRICKET SHIELDS  
HEAD WOMAN – LESLIE DEER  
HEAD GOURD – MICHAEL JAMES  
SOUTHERN DRUM – WILD BAND OF COMANCHES  
NORTHERN DRUM – YOUNG BUFFALO HORSE  
COLOR GUARD – CHOCTAW NATION

THE SCHEDULE

2 P.M. GOURD DANCE  
5 P.M. BREAK  
6 P.M. GOURD DANCE  
7 P.M. GRAND ENTRY  
REGISTRATION CLOSES

All contestants must be in Grand Entry and participate in Inter-Tribal dances.  
Must be in regalia to receive prize money.

For more information: Willard Polk 580-924-8280.  
Public welcome, free admission; bring your own pow wow chairs.  
All drums, princesses are invited.  
Call Willard Polk for booth information. Booth fee is \$20.  
NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL WILL BE TOLERATED.

A Salute

Wood graduates  
basic training

Congratulations to Pvt. Joshua Wood, who graduated from Army basic training at Fort Sill in Lawton on July 8 from Bravo Battery, 1-79th Field Artillery. Joshua is the son of Michele Golledge and brother to Jamie Wood of Long Beach, Calif. His grandparents, Carolyn Shoop and George Vuicich, and his aunt Becky of Bullhead City, Ariz., are all proud of him.



# Choctaw Nation Head Start receives perfect review score

Submitted by REBECCA HAWKINS

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start recently had its triennial on-site monitoring review from the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which oversees the Head Start program. The Choctaw Nation system received a perfect score and was one of very few of the 52 American Indian Program Branch Head Starts reviewed last year to achieve that distinction.

Adding TeachSmart and iStartSmart to the Choctaw Nation Head Start classrooms has been very good for the program, especially since Hatch Technologies provided professional development training that allowed the instructors to immediately put the equipment to good use. And knowing how to use the technology also gave the teachers an advantage during the ACF review process. "The report mentioned the technology because they got to see it in action," Education Coordinator Shawn Cress points out. "It's not just there hanging on the wall in the classroom. They saw it in use and were very impressed."

Choctaw Nation Head Start is a longtime Hatch customer and its 13 facilities are filled with technology products. In particular, the facilities at Antlers, Durant, Atoka, Wilburton and McAlester utilize Hatch's TeachSmart and iStartSmart systems.

"It's amazing to watch the teachers utilize TeachSmart," Shawn said. "They open it up during learning center time. They use it for reading stories. They use it to get into the Internet and teach the kids movement and music. They're finding every way they can possibly think of to utilize it. And they're just tapping in."

Patti Rosenthal is one of those teachers. Her class of 16 children at the Durant Head Start contains both a TeachSmart system and four iStartSmart computers, and this combination of the two has been a great benefit to her students. The children use iStartSmart to develop individual skills and advance through different levels.

"They master the skill and it moves them up," said Patty. She's then able to use the real time progress monitoring available through iStartSmart to determine how the children need to be divided up for group activities involving TeachSmart. "For instance, some are ready for sounds and some aren't there yet," she explained.

The results are evident, according to Patti. "I think it's been an incredible aid for us because I've seen the improvements in the children. Without this technology we wouldn't be making the gains that we are."

Cress agrees that the use of Hatch technology has had a profound impact. "It's a new world," he said. "We're changing Head Start."

The children are also fans of the technology, especially iStartSmart. "Children love the computers," Kathleen Wilson said. "We have a lot of 3-year-olds, but the computers are very user friendly, so they're meeting our needs."

Both she and Rosenthal said that one especially useful feature on iStartSmart is a built-in camera that allows each child to have his or her own photograph as their log-in. "The kids know how to get into the site, so they can learn their name faster and where they need to go faster. The young kids have a lot more success getting in there and being able to manipulate it," Kathleen said.

Choctaw Nation Head Start Director Rebecca Hawkins sees the use of such technology as a vital component of Head Start moving forward and feels that having it in place was a key element in their perfect ACF review. "I think us being able to have the Hatch technology available to our children shows that we're trying to advance the knowledge of the kids in every way possible," said Rebecca. "I think it also shows the outside world and the education entities that these children are leaving us and going into, that we are providing the best possible resources available to these children at this point in their lives."

## Congratulations, LPN class of 2011

The Choctaw Nation Career Development Program assisted 24 Licensed Practical Nursing students this year, and 13 of them participated in the nurse application workshop series presented by Career Development. Among these students were five class officers, three National Technical Honor Society members, one recipient of a leadership award, one recipient of an award of excellence, three recipients of an outstanding clinical nurse award, two salutatorians and one valedictorian. Many students graduated at the top of their class and excelled in practical applications and leadership.

## Congrats, Melissa and Edward

Melissa Windham graduated in May with honors and her bachelor of science degree in forensic anthropology from Baylor University in Waco. She was on the dean's honor roll and was a member of Lambda Alpha, the anthropology honor society, and the forensic honor society. Melissa is the daughter of Andrew and Carolyn Windham of Killeen, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Paula Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City and Gary and Hazel Windham of Springdale, Ark. Melissa will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall to pursue a master's degree in forensic toxicology.



Edward Tucker of Oklahoma City is the son of Nasha Tucker. He graduated from Putnam City West High School on May 22 and has been accepted into the fire protection technology program at OSU-OKC for the fall semester. Edward was an active football player and a member of the French club. He is the grandson of Paula Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City, the younger brother to Nancy Tucker and the nephew of Mitch and Victoria Holder of Chickasha and Andrew and Carolyn Windham and Chloe Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City.

## Kai receives award

Congratulations to Kai Stroud, who received the Youth Advocate Award at the 7th Generation Conference in April. This award is presented to a youth, youth leader or organization that has worked to educate and engage the youth in their community in becoming advocates for a commercial tobacco-free community. Kai exemplifies what youth advocacy means within the native community. He has displayed true leadership in combating and addressing the effects commercial tobacco use has on the native youth population. He is a member of the Antlers High School Students Working Against Tobacco and Choctaw Youth Empowerment, Youth Advisory Board and participates in many other activities, hobbies and responsibilities. He has worked on several important issues and environmental changes within his community.



## Keaton furthers her education

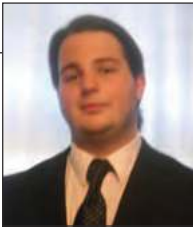
Keaton Jones recently graduated from Northeastern State University with her bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology and graduated magna cum laude. While attending Northeastern, Keaton was active in her sorority, Delta Zeta, where she was philanthropy chairman in 2010. Keaton was also vice president and compliance officer for Northeastern Student Speech Language Hearing Association. She has been honored on the president's honor roll, dean's honor roll, Rho Theta Sigma Honor Society, Betty Kolar Craig Scholarship and Alpha Chi Honor Society. She participated in numerous philanthropy events and community service throughout her three years at NSU. She is looking forward to working on her master's degree in the next two years.



Keaton and her family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the scholarship money and support the last three years and the years to come. She is the daughter of Gary and Kelly Jones of Stigler.

## Blaine graduates

Blaine Christopher Ivie, son of Brenda and Tommy Ivie of Caney, graduated on May 13. Congratulations to Blaine, from his family and friends.



## Kelly earns BA

Kelly R. Blevins of Coalgate graduated from East Central University on May 8 with a BA in science education in kinesiology with a concentration on physical education. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in sports administration.



Kelly is the son of Troy and Diane Blevins and the grandson of Manuel and Janey Ybarra, Andrew Dority and the late Joyce Dority of the home, and the late Melvin "Dick" Blevins. He would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the support and scholarships they provided that helped him attain his goal.

## Graduates in the Parker family

The Parker family had three graduates from two generations this spring. Terrie Lane, daughter of William Parker and granddaughter of Harrison and Susan Parker, graduated from Texas A&M in Commerce. Her son, Ty Warner, grandson of William and great-grandson of Harrison, graduated from Cooper High School in Cooper, Texas. Dally Warner, also grandson and great-grandson of William and Harrison, graduated from junior high. They have another brother, Justin Warner, who will be graduating from high school next spring. Congratulations graduates, from their aunt Dorothy Parker Skeen.

# Choctaw ETS Program awarded federal grant

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program has been awarded a five-year, \$1,150,000 grant by the Department of Education and with it will be able to serve 500 students each year within a seven county area.

ETS Director Linda Powers wrote the successful grant and it received a score of 100 from all three federal readers.

"Almost 1,000 applications were submitted for this highly competitive program," said Powers, "and only half of those received funding, so we feel honored to have been awarded this grant."

The seven counties in the grant are Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha.

The ETS Program is designed to provide outreach services to eligible students ages 11-27 in grades six to 12 who have potential for education at the postsecondary level. The project encourages them to complete secondary school and pursue a program of postsecondary education.

The ETS Program will provide a variety of outreach educational services such as advice and assistance in secondary school course selection and, if applicable, initial postsecondary course selection, assistance in preparing for college entrance exams, assistance in completing college admissions applications, connections to high quality tutoring, information on the full range of federal student financial aid programs and benefits, resources for locating public and private scholarships, personal and career counseling and guidance activities designed to acquaint youth with a range of career options, and exposure to campuses of higher education.

The program also holds financial workshops and provides connections to improve the financial and economic literacy of the participants or their parents and includes financial planning for college.

The ETC program can also provide guidance on reentry into secondary school or alternative education programs for those who didn't complete their secondary school education. This will lead to a regular secondary (high school) diploma or entry into a general education development (GED) program.

For more information or for an application for services, contact the Educational Talent Search office located at the Choctaw Nation complex at 800-522-6170, ext. 2711.

## Congrats, Celina

Celina Y. Ludlow, Choctaw/Laguna Pueblo and an honor graduate of Townview Magnet Center in Dallas, has been accepted to attend the University of North Texas for the 2011-12 school year. She will be majoring in psychology, and her career aspiration is to become a physician's assistant, providing care for those around her. Celina is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollees Marsill and Sarah Wilson Sampson, Silward and Esther Samuel Ludlow. Proud parents are Kevin and Elizabeth Ludlow, grandparents are David and Gerri Ludlow of Dallas and Vincenti and Alice Deloris of Encinal, N.M.



## Walden signs with Bacone

Jeff Walden of Spiro has signed with Bacone College, a NAIA four-year school, with head coach J.T. Severe and Assistant Matt Cooper. Jeff was an outfielder with the Spiro Bulldogs. A four-year starter, he has played on two LeFlore County Tournament Championships and four-time district champs. He was selected All County team twice, played in the Southeastern Coaches Association All Star Team in McAlester and the All Kiamichi All Star Game at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. Jeff and the Spiro Bulldogs finished their 2011 season with a record of 22-11. He is the son of Robert and Jo Ann Walden.

## Cody graduates

Cody Jay Ornelas has graduated with the class of 2011 from Edmond Memorial High School in Edmond. A trumpet player in the award-winning EMHS band, he attended several band competitions throughout high school that were held across the state and nation. He plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and continue his music education while pursuing a degree in either math or science. His mother and stepfather are Jayna and Kenny Fields and his father and stepmother are Kevin and Melanie Ornelas. Cody is the grandson of James and Joyce Noley of Wilburton and Ro and Rolf Ornelas of Edmond. His brother, Christian, will graduate in the class of 2014.



# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER					1	2	3
2011	4	5	6 Antlers by appt. <small>Labor Day (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)</small>	7 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	8	9 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	10
	11	12 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	13 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	14	15	16	17
	18	19 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	20 Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	21 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	22	23 Crowder by appt. <small>Western (Memorial Service)</small>	24
	25	26 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	27 Atoka 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Coalgate 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	28 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	29	30 Wright City by appt.	

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

# Tips to avoid heat-related illness

Record high temperatures this summer raise the need for caution. A person can become seriously ill or die if they do not take the proper cautions while working or playing in high temperatures and humidity. Heat can reduce physical performance, as well as mental alertness, causing more accidents. Heat illness starts as heat exhaustion, and if not treated properly, leads to heat stroke.

### Heat exhaustion symptoms:

- Dizziness
- Light headedness
- Headache
- Feeling weak, fatigued
- Clammy and moist skin

### Heat stroke symptoms:

- Hot, dry, red skin
- Disorientation
- Confusion
- Convulsing
- Unconsciousness

### Tips to help prevent heat exhaustion or heat stroke:

- Keep hydrated or cool while working or playing outside
- Drink water often throughout the day; don't wait until you are thirsty. At least a quart of water per hour is recommended.
- Stay away from soda, coffee, tea and alcoholic drinks
- Avoid large meals before working or playing in the heat
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist to see if any of your medicine could affect you while outside in the heat.
- Wear lightweight fabric, such as cotton, to help keep your body cool
- Take frequent, short breaks in shaded areas to cool down
- Do not take salt tablets, unless recommended by your doctor. Most people receive enough salt in their diet to account for the salt that is lost through sweating.

If you see someone you believe is suffering from a heat-related illness, move them to a cooler, preferably air-conditioned area. Fan the person and have them drink plenty of fluids. Watch the person closely. If they go into convulsions or shows symptoms of heat stroke, call for medical attention immediately and take steps to cool them down such as soaking their clothing in cool water.





Alexis Hart lends a hand to the Scholarship Advisement Program.



Career Development, as well as many other Choctaw services, hand out promotional materials to the young and old alike to spread the word on what the Choctaw Nation has to offer for its members.



Sometimes it's just time to cool off.



Timmy and Ty Yarbrough work on their sand castle skills on a hot July day.

# Outreach @ The Beach 2011

Choctaw Nation Photos: Bret Moss



"The" Outreach Grillmaster, Jimmy Smith.



Choctaw Nation DARE officer Isaac James, lends wise words to those at the talent show.



Tribal employee Waddell Hearn lends a helping hand to talent show contestant.



In the water or on the shore, the children make the most out of their day at the lake.



Above: Teresa Roberts and Juanita Taylor put their hands together for those performing at the talent show.

Right: Catherine Clark and Jayden Tedder keep cool and enjoy the beach.



Above: Scholarship Advisement Program's Blaine Parnell hands out promotional shirts to beachgoers.

Above right: Anna Hamilton and Tonya Bess help beat the heat with a sweet snowcone treat.

Right: In the water or not, Sardis Lake is fun for all.



## Outreach at the Beach talent show winners



Talent show winners for ages 6 to 9: Khayean Byington (L) in third, Logan Dunlap (Mid) in second and Tyler Burt (R) in first place.



Talent show winners in the ages of 10 to 13 include: Cheyenne Shomo (R) in third, Jordan, Kasey and Kaylie Billy as a group (Mid) in second, and Matti Erwin (L) in first place.



Talent show winners from ages 14 and up are Lance Maxey (R) in third, Kelsey and Erica as a group (Mid) in second and Stormy Byington (L) in first place.



# Hugo Wellness Center celebrates first year

## Health, outreach programs geared for all ages

By **BRET MOSS**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

This month, Aug. 23 to be exact, will mark the one-year anniversary of the Choctaw Nation Hugo Wellness Center opening its doors to the Choctaw people.

For some operations, the inaugural year is a slow process, getting the feel for a new location and duties, but not for the Hugo Wellness Center. Facility Manager Chad Arnold and his staff hit the ground running as they took on daily activities, as well as a multitude of outreach programs.

These outreach programs are a good portion of the activity that occurs in the wellness center. Regina Arnold, the Wellness Outreach Coordinator, is in charge of these programs and their cooperation with the center.

The After-School Program is one of the more notable programs for which the center has been utilized. This is a program that is open to all Choctaw children in K-8, from all schools and teaches them healthy ways to live their lives, as well as presents them with cultural knowledge to spark their interest in a variety of categories.

“We want our youth to be healthier, more aware and more educated when it comes to health and nutrition,” stated Chad as he discussed the overall purpose of the program. This is being accomplished via lessons on how to make healthy snacks, a children’s version of the Choctaw workout class, “Chata Fit,” which consists of body weight exercises, and various other instructional tools and demonstrations.

Every day of the week hosts a different age group. The kindergarten and first-

graders visit the center on Mondays, with the second- and third-graders coming in on Tuesdays, followed by the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders on Wednesday and finishing up the week with the fourth and fifth grade children on Thursdays.

All classes begin at 3:30 p.m. and end at 5 with different healthy lessons, fun activities and cultural experts, such as the Choctaw Nation D.A.R.E. Officer and Choctaw Language teachers. In the upcoming year, tutoring will be added to the usual activities of the program as well.

Hugo’s after school program, which has partnered with the Choctaw Nation, will provide transportation

“*This is a really good thing for the Choctaw people ... this is a great thing for my seniors.*”

– Councilman Perry Thompson

for their children.

Along with the in-house activities, Regina, who has a master’s degree in Physical Education, Health and Safety from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, also travels the area for other outreach events such as fitness fairs.

She coordinates with schools to put on programs such as the Biggest Loser, which began in March and finished in mid-April. This six-week program allowed her to spread knowledge of how to live healthier lifestyles, and encourage better health habits to the ones who teach the youth of the Choctaw Nation.

In addition to youth, Choctaw senior citizens are another active group of the Wellness Center. Tuesdays and Thursdays are bustling days in the Wellness Center in terms of senior citizens.

The center offers workout classes to fit people in

any health range for this age group. A beginner class starts at 9 a.m., with an advanced class to following at 9:30 a.m. These classes focus on functional movements that will strengthen muscles and bones, while helping with mobility.

Also, nutrition classes, which are taught by Chad, are offered in an effort to keep the seniors up-to-date on all the ways to keep their lifestyles as healthy as possible. With August being Cancer Prevention Month, much of the class material is focused on that issue for the current time.

With these methods in place, the staff of the Wellness Center strives to meet its goal of caring for elders, helping them live longer and healthier lives, therefore giving them the opportunity to pass along their cultural knowledge to a younger generation.

Though the center presents specialized programs for children and seniors, the average patron seeking to improve their fitness is not taken in without much consideration. The center proudly boasts five fitness counselors and two aerobics instructors, all of which are more than prepared to motivate and challenge anyone who is willing to challenge themselves.

Each day, a staff member will put a customizable workout on a whiteboard. This has proved helpful to those who come into the gym looking to get a good workout, but are not sure where to start. Each workout, a child’s version and adult’s version, is easily modified to fit every person who wishes to partake.

If someone comes to the Wellness Center needing more than just a beginning workout, but a nutrition plan or long-term health plan, “we are ready for them,” said



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

**Keeping the Hugo Wellness Center running smoothly are employees Sarah Thompson (fitness counselor), Tiffany Hamill (lead fitness counselor), Niki Trapp (office manager), Jessica Allen (fitness counselor/child care), Macy Allen (intern), George Webster (maintenance), Regina Arnold and Chad Arnold. Not pictured are Dan O’Grady (Karate instructor), Kyle Billy (fitness counselor), Joseph Reed (fitness counselor), Willistion Maytubbi (maintenance/landscaping) and Elizabeth McDaniel (Tae kwon Do instructor).**

Chad. “It doesn’t matter if they are a novice and never worked out before, or an athlete, we’ve got everything,” he continued.

These efforts to personalize and maximize personal health have not gone unnoticed by the members of the gym. “I love the staff, love the workouts and the Chata Fit... I’m real impressed with it all,” said Angela Sparks, a regular at the Wellness Center.

Though the center is endowed with up-to-date equipment and is equipped with innovative programs, “the greatest asset we have here is our employees,” declared Chad. He is proud of his staff and how they have all done an exceptional job to keep the center clean, running smoothly and making sure everyone

is helped to the full potential.

Chad, who has a bachelor’s degree in Nutrition and Exercise Science from Oklahoma State University, worked at the Durant Wellness Center and became the Assistant Manager at that location. When word came that Hugo would be receiving its own center, Chad was a big part of the planning process, and with his involvement came his promotion to his current position.

In planning the layout of Hugo’s center, Chad made it a point for the facility to be “very functional.” This is a requirement that was met. Though the center is not an exceptionally large building, it boasts a surprising amount of equipment and room to move within its 10,000 sq. ft.

With a half basketball court doubling as an area for free movement workouts such as MMA, Chata Fit, Karate, Taekwondo and various aerobic classes, 15 pieces of cardio equipment, dumbbells ranging from one to 150 pounds, eight machine weight stations that make up a total body workout circuit, along with many other pieces of specialty equipment and a running track around the perimeter, the center is jam packed with opportunities to create a healthier lifestyle.

Among the more interesting of the machines is the “Treadwall”, the rock-climbing version of a treadmill. With adjustable speeds and incline, this small version of a rock wall will go continuously to give the user a unique workout.

Children and adults alike will find the X Arcade area of interest. With four stations, each with a different piece of exercise equipment hooked up to a video game, it provides the fun of an arcade and is combined with the wellness of a gym. From bikes synced with ATV Off-road Fury 4, to Dance-Dance Revolution and a skateboard game, the combination makes for an interesting workout.

The Hugo Wellness Center is an asset that Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson is proud to have located in his district. Before the opening, Thompson, as well as many within the community had been hoping for something like it.

“This is a really good thing for the Choctaw people... This is a great thing for my seniors,” said Thompson as he expressed his pleasure with the facility. He also mentioned a special “thank you,” to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and all others who made it possible.

The Hugo Wellness Center is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. Various classes are offered in the morning and evenings on all days of business. For more information, call 580-326-9422.

# Sarah Belvin’s journey through a true Choctaw life

Choctaw District 8 elder Sarah Belvin was born on March 3, 1914, a quarter mile north of her present home in Boswell. Both her parents were full-blood Choctaws.

Sarah was the second of five children. First was her brother, Simon Belvin, and next was Lillie. She also has two half-brothers, Wilson and Stephen Belvin.

Sarah attended school at Goodland. There were two or three girls to a room and two beds in each room, equipped with coal stoves. There was a building for young girls, junior girls and for high school girls. Each grade took their turn ironing, washing dishes and waiting on tables as well as cleaning their rooms.

Sarah’s mother passed away when she was 9 years old. She continued her schooling at Goodland for another year then went on to live with several relatives in Antlers, Soper and Finley. She stayed with her grandfather, John Frazier, and with uncles and aunts. While living with her grandfather, she studied the Choctaw language with him.

She continued her education at a little country school called Belvin School, which was not named after her family. She met her husband in the Belvin community.

Belvin School was a one-room school where Sarah stayed about two years. She was living with her cousin, Mary Phillips, at that time and would walk three miles to school. When the weather



was bad, they would ride a horse to school together.

Church was an important part of Sarah’s life, which they traveled to by wagon.

Sarah was 17 when she married Henry Belvin. Henry’s brother, Jimmie, was Sarah’s school teacher. Jimmie’s wife, Lucille, worked at the dry goods store in town until 10 p.m. Sarah would walk to town on Saturdays and spend time at the store until Lucille got off work so she would have a ride home.

One night, Lucille and Jimmie didn’t drop Sarah off at her home and took her home with them. That’s where she spent the last of her single days and when she met Henry, who was working in Oklahoma City at the time and coming home on weekends. Later, Jimmie became Chief of the Choctaws and kept the position for 20 years.

Henry and Sarah didn’t court very long and were married Sept. 23, 1930. They

married on Sarah’s father’s allotment land on the porch of a vacant house. Besides Henry and Sarah, those present at the wedding were Bob Phillips, Myrtle Fraizer and her husband Roger, who married Henry and Sarah.

Sarah and Henry lived at Belvin about a half-mile from the school house. They lived with Henry’s father nearly a year, then moved to the allotment land into the house where they were married, and they stayed for several years. Sarah gave birth to their first two children there, Jimmie Lou and Clovis Lavada.

Sarah and her family moved on several occasions. They moved to Ryan then moved in with Henry’s mother, Grandma Mabel. After leaving Grandma Mabel’s home, they built a house on

the Bryan County land, where they had nine more children: Virgil Gene (Buddy), Sarah Virginia, Henry Harrison, Vernon Lee, Dante Arthur, John (Johnnie) Robert, Richard Mark, Solomon and Deborah (Debbie) Elaine. All are still living except for Henry Harrison and Jimmie Lou.

The family stayed at Bryan County for a while, and in 1955 moved to Elgin, Kan. They rented a house in town and lived there about a month. Henry held a job fencing a ranch. They stayed in Elgin for about a year then moved back to Bryan County.

Henry farmed in Bryan County then moved the family to Wheelock, where he worked as a custodian. They stayed at Wheelock for about 13 years. The school was closed when they moved

there, and Henry kept the buildings nice and lawns mowed.

After Sarah’s time at Wheelock, the family lived in Jimmie’s house for a few years. He was living in Durant serving as Chief of the Choctaw Nation. Soon after, the family made their last move to Boswell.

During the depression, it was hard on Sarah’s family, but they survived producing plenty to eat. They had their own milk and butter, chicken and eggs. They supplied their own meat from hogs and cows. They grew corn for the chickens, hay for the cattle and kept a garden for their vegetables.

During this time, Henry traveled to California searching for employment but was unable to find any. He served as the city marshall for Boswell for several years. He enjoyed this job but it kept Sarah worried.

Henry passed away in 1973. After he passed, Sarah learned to drive, making trips to town, church and sometimes Hugo using the back roads.

Sarah has 42 grandchildren, 87 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren. One of her grandsons, James Frazier, serves as a Choctaw Tribal Councilmember for District 12, and one of her granddaughters, Kotasha Belvin, was crowned Miss Choctaw in 1991.

For the past 18 years, Sarah and her family have held a big



Photo provided

**Henry shows Sarah some affection while she laughs all the while.**



# District princesses vie for crowns



DISTRICT 2 SR. MISS  
AMBER TEHAUNO



DISTRICT 4 SR. MISS  
AMBER COLWELL



DISTRICT 7 SR. MISS  
MELISSA GUELI



DISTRICT 8 SR. MISS  
REBECKAH BOYKIN



DISTRICT 9 SR. MISS  
AMANDA PEREZ



DISTRICT 10 SR. MISS  
K'ANNA BILLY

## Pageant kicks off 2011 Labor Day Festival

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Princess Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 in the amphitheater at Tushka Homma. The annual event brings together all of the princesses from the Choctaw Nation's 12 districts to vie for the crowns of Miss Choctaw Nation, Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation and Little Miss Choctaw Nation. The event kicks off this year's Labor Day Festival.

The young ladies met with judges Tana Cleamons, Linda

Skinner and Joe Watkins on July 21 for interviews. The judges continue the task on Sept. 1, finalizing their decisions on the young ladies who will represent the Choctaw Nation through the remainder of 2011 and into 2012.

Little Miss contestants will be judged on personality, beauty/poise, traditional dress and accessories, and on how well they answer an impromptu question asked by emcee Lisa Billy.

The Jr. and Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation princesses compete in the same categories as well as performing a traditional talent and expressing their goals as princess.

Everyone is welcome to attend the pageant and watch as the girls take the stage, wearing beautiful traditional clothing and jewelry. Singer Amber May will be entertaining before and during the pageant.



DISTRICT 1 JR. MISS  
MANDY STEELE



DISTRICT 2 JR. MISS  
MYRAH McKINNEY



DISTRICT 4 JR. MISS  
ADRIANNA CURNUTT



DISTRICT 7 JR. MISS  
ALISHA HARDY



DISTRICT 9 JR. MISS  
KAYLEIGH POWELL



DISTRICT 10 JR. MISS  
JERAI BILLY



DISTRICT 11 JR. MISS  
CHERISH WILKERSON



DISTRICT 12 JR. MISS  
NEIATHA HARDY



DISTRICT 1 LITTLE MISS  
WHITNEY GRIFFITH



DISTRICT 2 LITTLE MISS  
KALLI BATTIEST



DISTRICT 3 LITTLE MISS  
JASMINE SCHOON



DISTRICT 4 LITTLE MISS  
AMBER BATTICE



DISTRICT 7 LITTLE MISS  
ERICA TAYLOR



DISTRICT 8 LITTLE MISS  
SUMMER MOFFITT



DISTRICT 9 LITTLE MISS  
KYRA WILSON



DISTRICT 10 LITTLE MISS  
CALLIE JO ARMSTRONG



DISTRICT 11 LITTLE MISS  
MIKAYA ROGERS



DISTRICT 12 LITTLE MISS  
CHEYENNE MCCOY

### Senior Miss

**District 2**  
Amber Tehauno of Broken Bow is a junior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She previously attended Bacone College and was named 2008-09 Miss Indian Bacone. The daughter of Rodney Tehauno and Camille McKinney, Amber likes sports and enjoys attending pow wows. She is a family oriented person.

**District 4**  
Amber Colwell of Panama majored in business at Carl Albert State College. The daughter of Darryl and Thelma Colwell, she likes hanging out with friends and family. Amber has been named Bandsman of the Year and Outstanding Drum Major.

**District 7**  
Melissa Gueli of Tuska-homa is a graduate of Clayton High School where she was a member of FCCLA and served as vice president of her class. The daughter of Clifford and Cathy Ludlow, she enjoys spending time with family, going to church where she teaches the primary class and sings in the choir, playing sports, and hanging out with friends.

**District 8**  
Rebeckah Pisachubbee Boykin of Hugo is a student at Northeastern A&M College where she was accepted on a women's soccer scholarship. She is also a member of the Native American Student Association and Baptist Collegiate Ministry Intermural softball team. She enjoys traveling with the Choctaw Social Dancers, doing beadwork, learning about her heritage, reading and playing the piano as well as spending time with her family and friends. Rebeckah is the daughter of Robert "Sam"

Boykin and Jana Pisachubbee Boykin.

**District 9**  
Amanda Perez of Durant is a senior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she is majoring in Native American Business Management. She is the daughter of the late Glenda Perez.

**District 10**  
K'anna Billy of Atoka is a graduate of Kiamichi Technology Center where she earned certification in early care education. She was a member of an all-star cast in 2006-07 theater competition. She likes to draw, play basketball with her nieces and nephews and listen to music. K'anna is the daughter of Cleta Billy and the late Winston Billy.

### Jr. Miss

**District 1**  
Mandy Steele of Idabel is a student at Haworth. The daughter of Roger and Shanna Steele, Mandy enjoys running, listening to music and attending church at Chihowa Incukka. She participates in Track and Cross Country competitions and plays basketball.

**District 2**  
Myrah McKinney of Broken Bow is an honor student at Eagletown. The daughter of Donovan and Kimberly McKinney, Myrah enjoys spending time with family and friends and enjoys competitive sports. She also enjoys singing and is active in the youth group and women's society at Kullichito United Methodist Church.

**District 4**  
Adrianna Curnutt of Wister was valedictorian of her eighth grade class. She has earned awards in outstanding public speaking, academic achieve-

ment and goat sportsmanship. She loves to participate in 4-H events and become involved in community service projects. She is the daughter of Edgar "Bruce" and Francine Curnutt.

**District 6**  
Samantha Querubin, not pictured, of Red Oak is the daughter of Rolando and Della Querubin. She attends Red Oak High School where she is an honor student and enjoys playing softball, attending church and spending time with her family.

**District 7**  
Alisha Hardy of Wright City attends Finley-Reese Elementary School. She is a member of the basketball and track teams and the show choir. She has been named Student of the Month and enjoys reading, drawing, singing, writing, attending culture camp, basketball camp and church camp.

**District 9**  
Kayleigh Powell, Durant, is the daughter of Billy Don Powell and Monica Blaine. She is an honor student, earned numerous Girl Scout badges and won superior ratings in choir at a contest in Branson, Mo. She enjoys spending time with her family, swimming, fishing, mudding, camping, singing Choctaw hymns with her grandma and going to church and teaching the younger children in Sunday School.

**District 10**  
Jerai Billy, Atoka, attends McCall Middle School. An honor student, she has perfect attendance. Jerai enjoys basketball, drawing, collecting sea shells, swimming and riding her bike. She is the daughter of Shannon Billy.

**District 11**  
Cherish Wilkerson, McAl-ester, is the daughter of

Christy Cantrell and Dwight Wilkerson. She is in the top 10 percent of her class at Crowder High School and enjoys cheering, softball, dancing, riding horses, spending time with her sisters, helping with junior church and performing Native American dances in local schools.

**District 12**  
Neiatha Hardy of Coalgate is a member of the softball and basketball teams at Coalgate as well as a cheerleader. She has been selected Student of the Month and is an honor student. She is the daughter of Paula Carney. Neiatha likes spending time with friends and family and enjoys attending Choctaw softball and basketball summer camps. She is active in Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

### Little Miss

**District 1**  
Whitney Griffith of Miller-ton attends Lukfata Elementary School. She is an honor student and has perfect attendance. Whitney enjoys playing softball, arts and crafts, riding her 4-wheeler, playing with her nephew and spending time with friends. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Paula Griffith.

**District 2**  
Kalli Battiest of Broken Bow, the daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Battiest, attends Bennett Elementary. She enjoys playing sports, swimming, beading, social dancing and attending pow wows. Kalli is an active member of First Baptist Church of Broken Bow. She won first place on a beaded collar in the 2010 Indian Art Show and first and best of show for her rain stick in the 2009 Indian Art Show.

**District 3**  
Jasmine Schoon, Talihina, is the daughter of Angela Snyder and attends Talihina Elementary. She has earned several awards for her musical skill with a trombone. She is a Girl Scout, enjoys softball, learning the Choctaw language and pottery and is a member of her church's choir. Jasmine also enjoys attending Choctaw stomp dances.

**District 4**  
Amber Battice of Cameron is an honor student, has perfect attendance and has won several JOM awards. She enjoys sports, riding her bike and spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys learning new Choctaw words from her Nana.

**District 6**  
Raven Noriega, not pictured, is the daughter of Raymond Noriega Jr. and Crystal Kinley. She attends Russell Elementary and enjoys playing coach pitch, karate, riding her bike and playing with her sister. She attends Choctaw Nation summer camps, Cedar Indian Baptist Church and Falls Creek Church Camp.

**District 7**  
Erica Taylor of Fort Towson, the daughter of Hobie Taylor and Martha Taylor, attends Rattan Elementary. She was runner-up in the Princess Pageant in 2005-06, placed third in 2006-07 and runner-up in 2007-08. She has earned awards in both reading and math in school. Erica likes to play basketball and softball, swimming, talking on the phone and singing. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and going to singings with her cousin, Matilda.

**District 8**  
Summer Moffitt, Hugo, the

daughter of Johnny and Barbara Moffitt, attends Goodland School. Summer has earned a CASA pin for donations to the court-appointed special advocates for children and has been nominated for the People to People Award by her teachers. She enjoys playing with her puppy, attending Choctaw language class and events, and singing.

**District 9**  
Kyra Wilson, Durant, is the daughter of Kevin Wilson. She attends Robert E. Lee Elementary where she is an honor student, Kiwanis Kid, and on the Safe School committee. Kyra enjoys playing sports, spending time with her family, watching movies, reading and participating in church activities.

**District 10**  
Callie Jo Armstrong of Caney is an honor student and a member of the COPS program. She enjoys reading, playing sports, riding 4-wheelers and spending time with family and friends. Callie is the daughter of Mike Armstrong and Mandy Lawson.

**District 11**  
Mikaya Rogers of Savanna, the daughter of Shaun Rogers and Kendice Weeks, is an honor student and has won awards in basketball and reading. She enjoys reading, singing, spending time with family, going to church and working in the garden with Papoo Kevin.

**District 12**  
Cheyenne McCoy of Coalgate, daughter of Thomas and Kelly McCoy, enjoys going to church, taking Choctaw classes and taking care of her animals.







# OBITUARIES

## Alma Atkins

Alma Jean Cowden Shelton Atkins, 91, of Strong City, Kan., passed away on June 4, 2011, at Morris County Hospital in Council Grove, Kan.

The daughter of Charles and Alma Knapenburger Cowden, Alma Jean was born May 25, 1920, in Lawton. She graduated from high school and attended one year of college. She married B.P. Shelton in Madill. They later separated and she and Kenneth Atkins were married Nov. 2, 1946, in Dubuque, Iowa. Kenneth passed away in 1986.

Alma Jean was proud of her American Indian background as a member of the Choctaw Nation. Her family moved to Chase County in 1974. She was a homemaker and washed dishes at the Flint Hills truck stop in Strong City when it was open 24 hours a day. She was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She enjoyed playing Yahtzee, watching Jeopardy and working crossword puzzles. She enjoyed her collection of porcelain dolls, bells and wind-up music boxes. She had a true love for Jesus Christ and everyone she met she considered a friend.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; a son, John Atkins; two sisters, Maxine Maynor and Betty Jo Waley; a grandson, Robert Michael Shelton; a granddaughter, Lori Dannatt; and a great-grandson, Jacob Shelton.

Alma Jean is survived by a son, David Shelton of Strong City; two daughters, April Pike of Ventura, Calif., and Gloria Skaggs of Prescott Valley, Ariz.; a special grandson, Michael David Skaggs of Porum; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



## Thomas Wilson

Thomas A. Wilson passed away at home on June 3, 2011, surrounded by family. Tom was born on Feb. 12, 1925, in Tupelo. He moved to California with his family as a 9-year-old child. Toni married Gladys M. Farner on Nov. 22, 1947. He served honorably in the Navy in World War II. He retired from Southern California Gas Company after almost 38 years of service. Tom was very proud of his family's Choctaw Native American Heritage. Tom enjoyed square dancing, round dancing, watching sports, especially ballgames. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by parents, Simon H. Wilson and Lorena M. Wilson (Harkins) and six of his brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Gladys; daughters, Gail Paynter, Susan Bullock with husband Daris; son Thomas Wilson with wife Kristlin; grandchildren, Michael Paynter with wife Staci, Tainara Richards with husband Jeff, Joshua McRell with wife Davenport; two step-grandchildren, Michael and Carrie; two great-grandchildren, Zachariah and Elijah; brothers, Simon and Willie Wilson; and sister, Betty Marquez

Tom was a model of strength, optimism and integrity to his family and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



## Jerry Cacy

Jerry Cacy passed away on July 3, 2011. He was born March 2, 1942, in McAlester to the Rev. Homer Everett Cacy and Gelia Sirmans Cacy. He graduated from McAlester High School in 1960 and East Central University in 1965.

He married Loyleta Butler on March 11, 1963, in McAlester. Mr. Cacy was a Loan Loss Controller at the State National Bank in Heavener. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Heavener and the Heavener Chamber of Commerce where he served as past president and board member. He was a member of the Heavener Kiwanis Club where he served as past president, board member and was a lifetime member. He was a sales representative for A.C. Neilsen Marketing Retail, Champlin Petroleum Company and the former owner and manager of Sonic Drive-In in Heavener. He served in the U.S. Army from 1960 until being honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1966.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Homer Everett Cacy Jr. and Daniel Willis Cacy; and two sisters, Betty Curtis and Frieda Cothran.

Survivors include his wife, Loyleta Cacy, of the home; two daughters, Kellye Griffith with her husband Donald of Ada, and Leah Thurman with husband, Lt. Col. (retired) Clifford V. Thurman of Lansing, Kan.; a son, Mica King Cacy with wife Tiffany D. of Tahlequah; seven grandchildren, Kristen Clubb, Curtis Thurman, A.J. Thurman, Cacy Alexandra Thurman, Zachary Cacy, Abigail Cacy and Matthew Cacy; three sisters, Mary McWaters and Anna Polk with her husband Clifford, both of McAlester, and Sue March of Howe, Texas; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



## Eddie Sampson

Eddie Ray Sampson, 52, passed away on July 10, 2011, in Ardmore. Eddie was born Dec. 15, 1958, in Talihina to Edward Sampson and Irene (Thomas Sampson) Mose. He was a member of the Durwood Missionary Baptist Church. He enjoyed watching movies and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson Zachary Preston; nephew Brandon Henry; and niece Kara Sampson.

Eddie is survived by his two sons, Jessie Sampson with wife Rose of Vicenza, Italy, and Jordon Thomas of Ardmore; two daughters, Sarah Sampson of Ardmore, and Sierra Preston with husband Chaz of Dickson; four grandchildren, Daylin Arneecheer, Peyton Sampson, Ashton Sampson and Logan Preston; siblings, Dale Sampson of Dickson, Barbara Shoemaker with husband Junior of Ardmore, Dennis Sampson with wife Kathy of Lone Grove, Johnny Sampson with wife Joyce of Ardmore, Quenna Sampson with fiancé Keith Martin of Del City, and Steven Mose of Madill; he is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and a host of extended family.



## Carrie Bohanan

Carrie Belle Tonihka Bohanan, 97, of Eagletown, passed away May 2, 2011, at her home. The daughter of John Silas and Betsy (Hotubbi) Tonihka, Carrie was born Feb. 22, 1914, in Eagletown.

Carrie was a member of the Mt. Fork Presbyterian Church in Eagletown and a lifetime citizen of McCurtain County. She was an outgoing individual who accomplished much in her 97 years. She enjoyed painting, Native American arts and crafts, playing the piano and traveling. She will be remembered by those she met for her "smile and shiny eyes." She enjoyed nature, especially the birds and flowers, and at one time had a radio talk show, "Smoke Signals," on KBEL.

Carrie was always helpful to others. A motivator, she was instrumental in building the current Mt. Fork Presbyterian Church and getting the first van for the Choctaw Women's Work. She was a very caring person who took children in need into her home.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, the Rev. John Bohanan; two sons, Preston Bohanan and Lyndon Earl Bohanan; two brothers, Ray and Johnny Tonihka; two nieces, Daisy Willmon and Theda Jefferson; two nephews, John Joshua Tonihka and Larry W. McCoy; and a grandson-in-law, James Hart.

She is survived by her daughter, Toka Lee Horse of Eagletown; two daughters-in-law, Loretha Bohanan of Eagletown and Annette Maness with husband Harold of Hillsborough, Ore.; 10 grandchildren, Lisa Bohanan, Russell and Sharon Bohanan, Jimmy and Barbie Bohanan, Tracey and Robby Risner, Tim Bohanan, Tom Bohanan, Tamara and Bob Hyde, Teresa Hart, Sharon and Dale Fitzsimmons, Lt. Col. T. Jay Hunting Horse with wife Christi; eight great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; several nieces, nephews, a special friend, Laura Carney of Smithville, and a host of friends.



## Peggy Tipps

Peggy "Nana" Tipps, 79, of Moore passed away June 10, 2011. Peggy was born on Aug. 25, 1931, in McAlester to Olga and Frank McCoy.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Robert McCoy of Tulsa. Peggy is survived by her brother, Frank McCoy Jr. with wife, Iku-ko, of Broken Arrow; daughter Tyla Moore of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Jillian Moore with fiancé Matt Vandaveer of Tulsa, and grandson Mark Moore with wife, Rachel, of Oklahoma City.



## Sandra Leese

Sandra Bea Leese passed away Jan. 16, 2011, in Edmond. She was born Aug. 16, 1930, in Sayre, to Jack and Francis (Sanders) Guthery. She attended the University of Oklahoma and was a dental hygienist. Sandra married C.E. Leese in November of 1960, recently celebrating 50 wonderful years of marriage.

She was preceded in death by her son, Larry Gray; siblings, Charley Guthery and Joe Guthery.

She is survived by her husband; sons, Ronnie Gray and Carol Leese II; siblings, Lynn Orpeza and Butch Guthrey; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



## David Powell

David "Duck" Powell, 56, passed away on, July 6, 2011, in Ardmore. David was born Jan. 10, 1955, in Talihina to Elmer Powell and Leola Mae (John) Powell.

Duck attended Ardmore schools. He then took a position with Carter Seminary and also worked in various nursing homes in the area. In his youth, Duck loved to hunt and fish, as well as play dominoes and cook for his friends and family. He played pool on local pool leagues in the area and represented Ardmore in Las Vegas from 1989 to 2006 in national tournaments. Spending time with family was very important to him, and he always felt his greatest accomplishment in life were his three children.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

David is survived by one son, Sgt. David Alexander Powell-Cavener with his wife Shydelle of Alaska, and their children Nichole and Nathan; two daughters; Leah (Powell-Cavener) Mull with husband Dan of Konawa, and their children Xavier and Kimberlie, and Brittany Powell of Ardmore; brothers, Jerry Lane of Wilson, Sammy Powell of Springer, and Vincent Maris of Ardmore; and one sister, Yolanda Thompson of Ardmore.



## Douglas Jones

Douglas Frank Jones, 51, passed away on June 24, 2011, in Norman. He was born on March 9, 1960, in Norman to Alfred and Vivian (Slawson) Jones.

Doug was a chef for 30 years, working in various restaurants and nursing homes. He was a caring and sharing person. When at the nursing homes, he spent time visiting with the residents, sharing stories and jokes and cooking their favorite meals. Doug was never too busy to take time to listen. He would arrange his work, often coming in before scheduled to be able to spend time listening to the residents. He was an avid reader, enjoyed playing chess and cards. He enjoyed music and was a member of the chorus when attending high school. He shared what he had, showing compassion.

Doug is survived by his parents; son Tyrel Jones; daughter Jessica Crawford with husband Kevin; brother Richard Jones with wife Shelly; sister Valerie Asbury with husband Don; granddaughter Emily Grace Crawford; former wife, Patricia Weigl; nieces, Aubrey and Sadie Jones; nephews, Luke and Benjamin Jones; and very good friends, Jack Chappell and Jimmy Dean Howell.



## Jeffie Gibson

Jeffie Marie Gibson, 84, passed away on June 5, 2011, in Antlers. She was born Aug. 26, 1926, in Corinne to John and Ida (Wesley) Taylor.

Jeffie was a lifetime resident of Goodwater. She was God's servant who attended the Goodwater United Methodist Church and enjoyed gardening, quilting, sewing, home canning, picking wild onions and digging snakeroots. She especially loved caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jeffie was preceded in death by her husband, Angelo Gibson; three sons, Haskell Thomas, Ted Thomas and Robert Thomas; two grandsons, Michael and Collin Baker; a granddaughter, Megan James; parents, John and Ida Taylor; one sister, Ruby Taylor Billy; and one brother, Alton Taylor.

She is survived by children, the Rev. Rosa Baker with husband Melton of Idabel, Lora Tom with husband Albert of Sobol, Susie Roberts with husband Sammy of Goodwater, Elma Lamb of Little Okla, and Jerry Thomas with wife Kelly of Corinne; 24 grandchildren; 59 great-grandchildren; 24 great-great grandchildren; two brothers, Wilson Taylor and Edgar Taylor, both of Sobol; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many other relatives and friends.



## Joe Lee Wilson

Joe Lee Wilson, 75, passed away on July 17, 2011. He was born on a farm in Bristow on Dec. 22, 1935. Wilson grew up hearing the music of Louis Jordan, Nat King Cole and Dinah Washington on the radio. At the age of 15, he moved to Los Angeles to live with his brothers. He began his musical career in the early 1950s after hearing Eddie Jefferson, who later became one of his good friends.

Wilson studied classical singing at a classical conservatory in Los Angeles, but after two years transferred to a city college to study jazz. He played his first professional gig with Fletcher Henderson's alto saxophonist Roscoe Weathers, who told him: "As a musician sometimes you're gonna starve. You gotta learn to make your own work." Taking that advice, he embarked on a tour of the West Coast, where he frequently sat in with vocalist Sarah Vaughn. Wilson moved to New York in 1962: there he worked with Sonny Rollins, Lee Morgan, Miles Davis, Pharoah Sanders and Jackie McLean in the '60s, and recorded with Eddie Jefferson, Freddie Hubbard and Kenny Dorham.

During the 1970s, he helped to populate the New York jazz performance loft scene when he operated a loft called the Ladies' Fort at 2 Bond Street, close to the famous Rivbea loft. In 1972 he recorded a live radio program at Columbia University, which was released as the album Livin' High Off Nickels and Dimes on the short-lived Oblivion Records label. He also appeared at the 1973 Newport in New York and 1975 Live Loft festivals.

In 1977, he moved to England with his wife, Jill Christopher, to continue his career in Europe. There, he toured in the UK and continued to record with local musicians, alongside American pianist Kirk Lightsey. Wilson's strong baritone voice spanned an impressive three-octave range, with a strident tone heavily influenced by blues and gospel. English saxophonist Peter King praised the singer in the notes for Wilson's 2000 album Feelin' Good: "He is a beautiful musician and a beautiful human being. Joe Lee has a heart and a soul of pure gold."

Wilson's most recent album was I Believe, recorded in 2008 with the Renato Sellani Trio. He lived in France until his death.

"Music is a healing force," jazz singer Joe Lee Wilson said in a 2001 interview. The Oklahoma bluesman's swinging style brought the healing power of music to an international audience.

## Jerry Hodges

Jerry Thomas Hodges, 84, passed away on July 9, 2011, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. He was born on Feb. 11, 1923, in Stigler to Roy K and Nicie (Lane) Hodges.

Jerry grew up in Muskogee and was proud to be part Choctaw from that area. He served our country with the 2nd Marine Division, 6th Regiment, 3rd Battalion Headquarters during World War II, with service in Saipan and the occupation of Nagasaki, Japan, in late August 1945, and was discharged in 1946. He then went into the Air Force with the 125th Fighter Squadron during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force and then spent the rest of his life involved in veteran's organizations such as American Legion, AMVETS and VFW, as a volunteer and club manager. He was also a charter member of the Moose Lodge #1999, Kansas City, Kan., an AMVETS National Life Member, a member of the American Legion Post #299, Muncie, the Marine Corps League in Muncie, member of the VFW Overland Park, Kan., and the Rosedale FOE #1100. He had been looking forward to a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the World War II Memorial.

Jerry lived in the Kansas City area for over 20 years, six years in Sacramento, Calif., and approximately 19 years in Muncie, Ind. He was the Bingo king. He came to Muncie in 1992 when Bingo became legal in Indiana, working for Village Bingo for 14 years. He helped lobby for some changes in the law and helped bars to get pull-tabs in 2008. He and his wife, Mary Jo, partnered to publish a Bingo info magazine, managing Bingo locally and had been involved in Bingo for 40 years or more. Jerry was happy to be able to work with "his" Mary Jo during the last 15 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Louise Merritt, Mary Hodges and Helen Ferguson; and two brothers, Roy and John Hodges.

Survivors include his wife of 12 years, Mary Jo Hodges of Muncie, Ind.; seven children, Dr. Kenneth Hodges with wife Cookie of Telluride, Colo., Tony Hodges of Tempe, Ariz., David Hodges of Telluride, Nicie Jean Akers with husband Chuck of Muncie, Robin Blocher with husband Mike of Nashville, Tenn., Terry Terrell of Muncie, and Christina Terrell of Nashville; two brothers, Dr. Bruce Hodges with wife Cathy of Olathe, Kan., and Galen Hodges with wife Monty of Sapulpa; 13 grandchildren, Jeff, Shoni, Nicie Beth, Robin, Jennifer, Brady, Amos, Tristan, Miranda, Marissa, Alex, Andrew and Abigail; and three great-grandchildren.





# Cole receives distinguished award for service to Native Americans

## U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar honors Choctaw Nation’s Historic Preservation Director

By **BRET MOSS**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, like many native tribes across the United States, is a nation rich in cultural history. With such an abundance of culture and background, the members of the Choctaw Nation feel it is their duty to preserve the artifacts and ways that link them to their ancestors.

One man in particular has been recently recognized with a prestigious award for his work in preserving the essence of the Choctaw people. Leading the Choctaw Nation’s Office of Historic Preservation, Terry Cole, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, has won a Secretary of the Interior Historic Preservation Award from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar who gives awards in four categories of public service.

“Their skill, dedication and professionalism are ensuring that the story of America continues to be passed down to future generations,” mentions Salazar in his news release discussing the recipients of the awards. He goes on to tell that the award is based on the accomplishments of the individual, not on programs or projects.

For those that know of Cole and his contributions, not only to the Choctaw Nation, but also to Native American tribes across the country, it would come as no surprise that he received this award. He has become a pioneer of government-to-government relations during his dealing with the federal government, paving the way for better understanding and relationship between the U.S. government and tribes across the country.

As a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Cole must constantly address issues concerning the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which provides a process for dealing with human remains and reuniting them with their original burial sites.

He also tends to Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMPs), which are plans established by the Department of Defense that map out protocol to follow in the event that native remains are unearthed by accident. Cole’s hand in the ICRMP is to lend the Department of Defense a tribal perspective on the matter.

Dealing with these, as well as numerous other issues are only part of the reason Cole was chosen as recipient of the award. Among the notable accomplishments within Cole’s career, one that shines brighter than most is his hand in the genesis of the annual To Bridge A Gap (TBAG) conferences.

Most recently, the Chickasaw Nation hosted the 10th annual gathering this spring as TBAG provided a well-constructed forum for federal, state, local, tribal and academic entities to discuss discrepancies, flaws in laws, problems and possible solutions. The TBAG conference has become so successful over the years that it has received the National Office of Tribal Relations Award for Partnerships in Tribal Relations from the USDA National Forest Service.

“This was a vision I had 10 years ago,” declared Cole. Shortly after taking over the position of tribal historic preservation officer he realized that there were serious gaps in the understandings of the federal government and tribal governments. “They did not understand our views,” mentions Cole.

“They are stewards of land that used to be ours,” said Cole as he began to describe the problems he encountered. The national government was taking actions on Choctaw, as well as tribal land all over the country, that tribes did not deem appropriate. This was not done out of malice, but misunderstanding. Seeing these misunderstandings made Cole think of something that had been needed in his field for quite some time.

Cole knew that these agencies needed a tribal perspective on

matters to eliminate confusion and friction between the entities. He wanted to have a large meeting that would allow everything to be openly discussed.

He called the high officials of government agencies and inquired how to make an event such as this possible. Once he knew how to make it happen, he took their advice and the first TBAG conference was held. The first conference was just between the Choctaw Nation, Caddo Nation, Chickasaw Nation and the National Forest Service, the government agency with which Cole dealt with most.

During the first meeting it was strictly business. Cole knew that trust had to be built, and he did well to start a foundation of trust with the meeting. “Building a relationship is the key to working with these federal agencies,” Cole made clear.

The beginning TBAG was a success, so another was scheduled. “Today, 10 years later, it has really improved. We have built the relationship with the federal agencies, we have built trust with the federal agencies.”

What started as just a meeting meant to clear the air over some discrepancies in policy between a few entities has grown to become a large-scale learning and problem-solving experience. Over 400 people attend TBAG on an annual basis. Four hundred people who not only solve problems that currently exist, but learn how to avoid them in the future and build networks and relationships that allow communication to flow and sustain progress.

TBAG now has workshops, breakout sessions and other activities that allow tribes and government agencies to meet and



A coalition had been attempted years ago, but with no one who could lead them, that attempt failed. When Cole caught wind of this idea, “I grabbed it and took off running with it,” said Cole. He did much research on the subject and asked many questions that gave him the knowledge on how to bring about such a band of tribes.

With the formation of OCoT and TBAG on his resumé, Cole has plenty of credentials to deserve the award he has earned. Impressively enough, these are not the only reasons he was dealt this honor. Among his other achievements are being the past chair of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes Heritage and Cultural Committee, receiving the International Award of Excellence for sponsoring 16 archaeological students from England to study historical and archaeological sites of the Choctaw people, being a trustee on the Gulf Shore Restoration Project, being appointed to the board of directors for NATHPO and being instrumental in the Choctaw sponsorship of the 11th annual meeting of NATPHO in Durant.

From the beginning of his work for the Choctaw Nation in the early ’90s, having little experience with federal/tribal relations, Cole has made incredible strides not only for himself and the Choctaw people, but also for Native Americans all throughout Indian Country.

Cole began his employment for Choctaw Nation in the Housing Authority and found himself in need of an archaeologist to do surveys on land on which he was required to do his environmental review work. With a great workload, the usual archaeologist was too busy to come to Cole, so Cole decided he could do the work himself.

He inquired about how to begin and the archaeologist told him to attend a workshop to become a heritage resource technician, which would qualify him to do archaeological surveys. Eventually, while doing the surveys, he ran across human remains, a discovery that introduced him to NAGPRA and his first taste in tribal/federal relations.

Once he became versed in NAGPRA, in the fall of 1998, he was called to the Choctaw tribal headquarters and was asked to begin the Historic Preservation Office. He accepted and became the first-ever tribal historic preservation officer of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

After a few years, he realized he would need to expand, both in staff and funding. So he applied for 101D2 status, which allowed him to take over the duties of the State Historic Preservation Office on tribal lands and receive funds from the National Park Service.

He was awarded this official status after two years of work; the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation office was awarded the official 101D2 status. Today, that office consists of 11 talented employees who are well-versed in the history of the Choctaw Nation, and federal laws and regulations pertaining to historic preservation.

In a time with considerable friction between tribal and national government, Cole has stood out as one of the pioneers of that relationship, opening new doors for the ones who succeed him. Because of the work Cole and those like him have done, American Indian tribes will now be better equipped to communicate with government officials, allowing quick and considerable progress to be made.

Through all of his hard work for the Choctaw Nation, Cole has much more than awards to show for his efforts. He has traveled all over the country, met and influenced many important people and been named Elder of the Year in District 9 of the Choctaw Nation in 2009.

“This isn’t an overnight deal... it has taken many years,” said Cole as he humbly told of his career. With all of his success, Cole does not plan to hang up his hat anytime soon. He knows there is still much work to be done for tribal members all over Indian Country. “My job is no where near complete,” said Cole as he prepared to get back to work for the Choctaw people.

“ **Their skill, dedication and professionalism are ensuring that the story of America continues to be passed down to future generations.** ”

– Sec. of Interior Ken Salazar

National Park Service ... the president of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) ... and that makes for building a better relationship,” said Cole.

Every year, TBAG presents one individual with an Award of Honor. This year, Cole was given that award, “in recognition of his valuable contributions and efforts towards the success of TBAG,” as stated on the award.

TBAG is a milestone in Cole’s professional career, but it is not the only notable success in this Choctaw’s professional life. The formation of the Oklahoma Coalition of Tribes (OCoT) is another monumental success for which Cole is able to boast.

When he ran into obstacles while trying to make the Choctaw voice heard on Capitol Hill, he knew he had to do something about it. “It’s hard for one tribe to go to Washington and be heard ... I’ve tried it,” said Cole. So he realized that if he gathered many of the Oklahoma tribes, he would have a much louder voice and be heard by lawmakers.

OCoT was formed in October of 2010 with 19 tribes and more coming on board, with Cole as the president. “Now when I go to Washington, I represent 19 tribes,” exclaimed Cole. With over 800,000 tribal members behind him, Cole’s voice in Washington is now sure to be heard.

OCoT, which now meets every other month, was formed out of an annual event, the third Native American Repatriation Summit (NARS III) where many tribes would accumulate to discuss NAGPRA issues. During this summit, the tribes agreed to band together on more than just NAGPRA laws, but on all types of concerns tribal governments may have.

## Five Tribes Story Conference set for Sept. 16-17 in Muskogee

Join some of America’s top authors, poets, artists, scholars and historians at the Five Tribes Story Conference on Sept. 16-17 in Muskogee. Make your reservation to meet 13 of Indian Country’s top presenters from the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Tribes.

The Five Tribes Story Conference is sponsored by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum and will be held at historic Bacone College. Enjoy two days of exciting presentations and workshops designed to help preserve a culture through the art of storytelling, visual arts, music and the written word.

Throughout the two days, tribal historians and native speakers will discuss a wide range of topics, from the Trail of Tears to boarding school experiences, encouraging audience questions and discussion.

Choctaw novelist and scholar LeAnne Howe will deliver the opening keynote address. Recently returned from a trip to Jordan as a Fulbright scholar, LeAnne has received many national awards for her work, including the American Book Award in 2002 for her novel

“Shell Shaker.”

Joy Harjo, an electrifying oral performer, will give readings of her work and offer workshops for all levels of writers. A Muscogee Creek, Harjo is internationally acclaimed as a poet, writer and jazz musician. Her books are studied at universities across America and abroad.

In addition to LeAnne and Joy, 11 more exciting presenters will be featured. Presenters for the 2011 conference include, Tim Tingle (Choctaw), co-host, Greg Rodgers (Choctaw), co-host, Robert Lewis (Cherokee), Stella Long (Choctaw), Lynn Moroney (Chickasaw), Diane Glancy (Cherokee), Dr. Les Hannah (Cherokee), Dr. Phillip Morgan (Chickasaw/Choctaw), Dr. Jerry Linceum, Virginia Stroud (Cherokee/Muscogee) and Kim Poppolo (Cherokee/Choctaw/Muscogee).

The Five Tribes Story Conference serves as an inspirational springboard for working and future writers, poets, film-makers, painters and musicians. In addition to enjoying the visual arts, attendees will hear a multitude of “stories-behind-the-stories,” told by modern heroes of the Indian world.

Storytelling concerts will be held each evening during the conference. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Space is limited and reservations will be on first-come basis. A small registration fee of \$15 per day is required to attend the daytime events. Lunch and snacks will be provided during the day. The traditional dinner will cost \$10 and is separate from the registration fee. Reservations for the dinner may be made separately.

This program is funded in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of OGHC or NEH.

Additional funds are provided by the Greater Muskogee Chamber of Commerce, the Muskogee Foundation and Martha Griffin, MGW Enterprises.

For information on the Five Tribes Story Conference visit [www.fivetribestory.org](http://www.fivetribestory.org), [www.fivetribes.org](http://www.fivetribes.org), call 918-683-1701 or write to 1101 Honor Heights Drive, Muskogee, OK 74401.

### Wellness Centers now open to military members

Beginning Aug. 15 the CNO Wellness Centers in Durant and Hugo will be open free of charge to all active duty military, reservist and National Guard members and their dependents. Service members do not have to be Native American to take advantage of this offer.

To join the Wellness Center, the service member or his/her dependent will need to present a valid military or dependent ID card in order to be issued an access card to the facility. The only cost the member will incur is a one-time \$10 fee when issued the access card.

Anyone with questions can contact the CNO Wellness Center in Durant at 580-931-8643.



### Help Wanted

Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Oklahoma is seeking the following Part-Time positions:

**Hotel Staff:** Front Desk Clerks, Housekeepers and Floor Care Specialists  
**Casino Environmental Services Staff**  
**Valet Attendants and Cashiers**

**Part Time Associate Benefits include:** Free Membership to Choctaw Wellness Center for Associate and Spouse, Cigna Employee Assistance Program, Up to five paid holidays per year and meal discounts.

Additional Benefits for Part-Time Associates upon completion of 1 year of service are: Tuition Reimbursement, 401k, Life Insurance and Health Insurance (Medical, Dental, Vision, Prescription, Wellness and Dependant Benefits).

**\*\*\*We are looking to increase our Choctaw applicants' database for multiple Full - Time and Part -Time positions; Apply today so we will have your application on file when new positions become available\*\*\***

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act. Please attach copy of CDIB Card if applicable.

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office, 4216 Hwy 69/75, Durant, OK.

### Choctaw Nation to 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 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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







Photos provided

Students play on race car simulator during Family Day.

## Family Day at Jones Academy

Approximately 250 to 300 parents, relatives, friends, alumni and students attended the annual Family Day festivities at Jones Academy on May 14. Families and friends visited the students at Jones Academy and spent a day of fun and food with their loved ones.

Children as well as children-at-heart participated in several exciting indoor and outdoor activities. Attendees enjoyed the Tiki Rock Climb, a race car simulator, Dance Dance Revolution, the Fun Flush, a giant inflatable obstacle course and various other games. Family portraits were also done during the festivities.

Some families and friends traveled from as far away as New Mexico and Mississippi while others from Oklahoma utilized transportation provided by Jones Academy. Two meals and refreshments were also provided for the families throughout the day. The weather cooperated beautifully and everyone appeared to have a great time.



Family Day shuttle service provided by staff member Morris Sam.



Photos provided

Brandon Anderson exhibits the First Place Class III Chester Barrow and Reserve Breed Champion Chester overall at the Oklahoma Youth Expo.



Cheyenne Neal shows the First Place Class VIII Hampshire Barrow at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. Reserve Champion Division I Hampshire.

## Students successful at Oklahoma Youth Expo

Brandon Anderson, a ninth-grader from the Jones Academy 4-H Club, exhibited the First Place Class III Chester Barrow and Reserve Breed Champion Chester overall at the Oklahoma Youth Expo, March 16-21 in Oklahoma City. Brandon's Chester Barrow was the overall champion out of 250 Chester Barrows competing at the OYE.

This event is the world's largest junior livestock show with over 2,400 market barrows participating. A total of only 65 market barrows qualified for premium sale honors. Brandon and his barrow, "Second Chance," were among the very elite group selected for this honor. This barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Brandon is a member of the Choctaw Nation and is from Camp Verde, Ariz.

Cheyenne Neal, a sophomore from the Jones Academy 4-H Club, showed the First Place Class VIII Hampshire Barrow at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. Cheyenne won first place competing against 46 other exhibitors throughout the state in her weight class. Her entry was selected as Reserve Champion

Division I Hampshire. Cheyenne and her barrow, "Warrior," went on to qualify for the premium sale. Warrior was named the eighth Hampshire Barrow overall. There were 16 weight classes of Hampshires, and more than 750 Hampshire barrows competing at this event. Only 16 Hampshire Barrows were selected for the premium sale honors. Warrior was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Cheyenne, Mississippi Choctaw, is from Davis. She is a member of the Hartshorne Miner Cheerleading team, enjoys raising and showing her swine projects, and riding horses at Jones Academy.

Other Jones Academy 4-H students participating in the Oklahoma Youth Expo were Tyler Dressman and Billie Jo Nunn. Tyler exhibited a Second Place Class III Yorkshire Barrow. Billie Jo showed both a ninth place and a seventh place Hampshire Barrow.

Jones Academy 4-H students appreciate Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support at livestock premium sales.

## JA Student attends Medicine, Health Sciences Workshop

Holly Andersen, a ninth grade student at Jones Academy, has been selected to attend the Indians into Medicine Program (INMED) this summer at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, N.D.



The six-week summer workshop is a comprehensive education program designed to assist Native American students who are preparing for health careers. According to INMED's website, the program enrolls students interested in nursing, clinical psychology and various other health specialties. "As of 2005, the program has graduated 163 medical doctors," it says. This is the second year that Holly has been selected for the program. The institute's coordinator, Thelma Martin, expressed excitement about having her back this summer. Holly is an academic overachiever and diligent about her studies at Hartshorne Junior High. She also made the Oklahoma Honor Society.

Holly is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe from Agency Village, S.D.



Photo provided

Jones Academy students "bust thru meth."

## March Against Meth

Students of Jones Academy participated in a March Against Meth Walk earlier this year in an effort to address the devastating effects that methamphetamine has on a community. The month of March was Meth Awareness Month. Students from the Jones Academy Alternative Center along with the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board and the Learn and Serve Program joined in the event to educate the Jones Academy elementary school students about the consequences of doing meth.

The team came together to pass out information about the negative influences of substance abuse and to persuade students to remain drug-free. The group also gave away lime green rubber bracelets that bore the message, "March Against Meth."

The older students performed a puppet show for the first through fourth grade classes as well as a skit for the fifth and sixth grade classes. Both presentations had anti-drug messages.

The day ended with the students signing a banner to "bust thru meth." The students then participated in a walk, ran through the banner and signed a pledge to be leaders against meth and remain drug-free.

This collaborative effort was sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Wind Horse program and coordinated by Amber Hearn, a Methamphetamine/Suicide Prevention Initiative specialist.



Photo provided

Stigler Youth Advisory Board teaches the YAB dance.

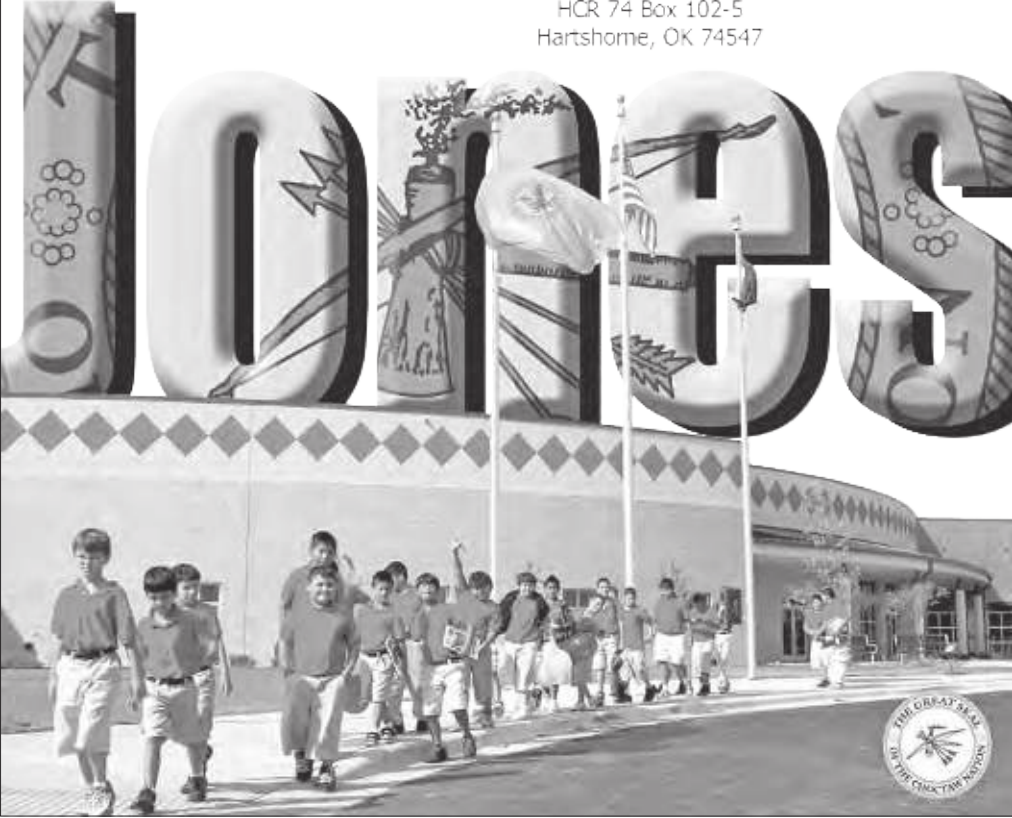
## Join us at Jones Academy

We are accepting applications for the 2011 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

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



Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access [www.jonesacademy.org](http://www.jonesacademy.org) or write to:  
Jones Academy  
HCR 74 Box 102-5  
Hartshorne, OK 74547



## YAB help out at back-to-school bash

The Stigler Youth Advisory Board had a lot of fun teaching the YAB dance to children at the Back to School Bash on July 22. The "YABbers" also helped stuff bags and hand out flyers. Volunteers included Isabella Barrios, Lorenzo Gonzalez and DJ Sustaita.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is a program for youth from eighth through 12th grades who live within the 10 1/2 counties of Choctaw Nation. A CDIB is not required to join, just a desire to help others and to make a difference in your community.

To become a member, youth must attend two consecutive meetings and participate in two projects.

Currently there are 16 chapters and 408 members in CNYAB. For more information, please contact Martina Hawkins 918-569-7535 or Melissa Cress 580-345-2230.



Photo provided

## Jones Academy names Super Students

Congratulations to Jones Academy's last nine weeks Super Students. They are, from left, Shianne Myers, fifth grade; Mariella Chatkehoodle, sixth grade; Truvon Willis, fourth grade; Gavin Smith, senior at Campus Alternative School; Odalys Lujano, third grade; Zander Thomas, second grade; McGavayne Lone Elk, fifth grade; Madison Cheek, second grade; and Bryan Hawkins, sixth grade.



# CHOCTAW DAYS

We would like to thank all the participants, including those who traveled to Washington, D.C., and the many who without their support and assistance, the first Choctaw Days would not have been possible.



Amy & Ian Thompson



Shannon McDaniel & Connie Courtwright



Les Williston



Kay Jackson, Sue Folsom, Regina Green, Melinda Steve, Kanda Jackson and Valarie Robison.



Judy Allen



Back row, Ronston McKinney, Lyndon McKinney Jr., Stephanie McKinney, Steven McKinney, Alethia McKinney, Madison McKinney, Micah Frazier, Jonathan McKinney, Valerie Wolfe, Heather Watson. In front, Janice McKinney, Karl McKinney and Ron McKinney.



Presley Byington



Tim Tingle



Elaine Thomson, Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation Nikki Amos, Little Miss Choctaw Nation Mahala Battiest, Miss Choctaw Nation Kristi McGuire and Faye Self



Gwen Coleman Lester & Rod Lester



Lillie Roberts & Jim Parrish



Moses Johnson, Lena Scott, Bubba Johnson



Shirley Barboan



Roger Amerman, Brad Joe, Marcus Amerman



Vonna Shults, left



Olin Williams



Tracy Horst



Choctaw Nation  
photos by  
Judy Allen,  
Lisa Reed,  
Chrissy Dill,  
Brad Joe

Oneida  
Winship



Lisa Reed  
& Chrissy Dill



Greg Rodgers



Paul King



Lana Sleeper & Alethia McKinney



Eveline Battiest



Labor Day Festival 2011

Concerts

September 2  
through  
September 4



Jamey Johnson



38 Special



Third Day



Clay Walker



Gary Allan



Neal McCoy



Ronnie Milsap

Don't miss any of the great activities beginning September 1 and running through September 5 on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds near Tuskahoma, Oklahoma.

Concerts are free!

Bring your quilts and lawn chairs and enjoy the Choctaw Nation's exciting lineup this year!

Friday, Sept. 2	Saturday, Sept. 3	Sunday, Sept. 4
6:00 p.m. Neal McCoy	6:00 p.m. Ronnie Milsap	7:00 p.m. The Kingsmen
8:00 p.m. 38 Special	8:00 p.m. Jamey Johnson	9:00 p.m. Third Day
10:00 p.m. Clay Walker	10:00 p.m. Gary Allan	

Schedule is subject to change. No drugs or alcoholic beverages allowed on tribal grounds.

Labor Day Schedule 2011

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

7:00 PM Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant, Amphitheater  
Entertainer: Amber May before and during the pageant

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum open  
Noon – 8:00 PM Photo ID/CDIB booth open  
10:00 AM Arts & Crafts exhibits open  
Noon – 8:00 PM Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers  
Noon – 5:00 PM Quilt entries @ Information Center  
2:00 PM Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn  
5:00 PM Registration for Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers Lawn  
6:00 PM Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers Lawn, youth ages 8 -18  
6:00 PM Concerts @ Amphitheater  
7:00 PM Inter-Tribal Pow Wow Grand Entry on Capitol lawn  
7:00 PM Fast Pitch Tournament at Red Warrior Park

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

6:30 - 7:45 AM 5k Registration at Hwy. 271  
8:00 AM 5k Race begins at Hwy. 271  
8:00 AM Fast Pitch Tournament continues  
8:00 AM 3 on 3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Registration  
8:00 AM Horseshoe Tournament Registration  
8 AM – 8 PM Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Youth Advisory Board Offers Crafts for youth @ playground  
9:00 AM Playground Supervised  
9:00 AM Horseshoe Tournament  
9:00 AM Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament  
9:00 AM Quilt Show @ Information Center  
9:00 AM 3 on 3 Basketball at Basketball Courts  
10:00 - 12:00 PM Buffalo Tours, load bus @ Museum  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum open  
10:00 AM 8th Annual Choctaw Art Show, 2nd floor of Museum  
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Photo ID Booth open  
2:00 PM Terrapin Races, Playground  
5:00 PM Children's Drama, Choctaw Village Amphitheater (bring lawn chairs)  
4:00 PM Free-Throw Contest @ Basketball Courts  
4:30 PM Tough, Tough Choctaw Registration, Council Chambers  
5:00 PM 3-Point Contest @ Basketball Courts  
5:30 PM Tough, Tough Contest, Council Chambers lawn  
6:00 PM Concerts @ Amphitheater

Stickball Tournament, Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings in Village area.

Check-in times for RVs and Tents will be as follows. Please make arrangements to arrive and check in at your respective gate during one of these times.

RVs:	Tents:
Wednesday (8-31)	7 AM – 10 PM
Thursday (9-1)	8 AM – 12 midnight
Friday (9-2)	8 AM – 12 midnight
Saturday (9-3)	8 AM – 12 midnight
Sunday (9-4)	8 AM – 10 PM
Wednesday (8-31)	7 AM – 10 PM
Thursday (9-1)	8 AM – 12 midnight
Friday (9-2)	8 AM – 12 midnight
Saturday (9-3)	Locked
Sunday (9-4)	Locked

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

8:00 AM Fast Pitch Tournament continues  
8:30 AM Golf Tournament @ Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton  
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM Youth Advisory Board Offers Crafts for youth @ playground  
10:00 AM Worship Services, tent behind amphitheater  
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum open  
Noon Gospel Singing @ Amphitheater  
Noon Domino and Checker Tournament Registration, Cafeteria  
Noon – 7:00 PM Photo ID/CDIB Booth open  
1:00 PM Domino and Checker Tournament in Cafeteria  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers  
1:30 PM Golf Tournament @ Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton  
1:30 – 3:00 PM Choctaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers  
2:00-4:00 PM Buffalo Tours, load bus @ Museum  
4:00 PM Choctaw Dancers, Capitol Lawn  
5:00 PM Stickball Exhibition, Capitol Lawn  
7:00 PM Concerts @ Amphitheater

No RVs or tents at RV Park until Aug. 27.

Choctaw Horses at Village each day - demonstration times at Tribal information building and BISKINIK building.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Photo ID/CDIB Booth open  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum open  
10:00 AM Labor Day Official Ceremonies, Amphitheater  
Posting of Flags - Choctaw Color Guard  
The National Anthem - Sarah de Herrera  
The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language  
Storyteller Tim Tingle  
Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges  
State of the Nation Address by Chief Gregory E. Pyle  
Oath of Office administered to elected officials  
Door Prize Drawings  
Free Meal for Everyone, Cafeteria  
Pick up Quilts from Quilt Show

MUSEUM HOURS

Friday, open 9 AM  
Saturday, open 10 AM  
Sunday, open 10 AM  
Monday, open 9 AM

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Carnival Rides Free, courtesy of Chief and Tribal Council  
Specialty Acts, including Magician Russell Turner, Robinson's Racing Pigs, Superplay, Rock Climbing, Mechanical Bull, Pony Rides and Inca Flute Players.

CHOCTAW VILLAGE SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday, September 3, 2011</b>		1:45	Storytelling
10:00 AM	Choctaw Dancing	Children's Activities	
10:30 AM	Stickball Skills	2:15 PM	Corn Game
11:00 AM	Banaha Making	2:40 PM	Pottery
11:30 AM	Storytelling		
Children's Activities			
1:00 PM	Stickball		
1:30 PM	Language		
1:45 PM	Arts & Crafts		
2:15 PM	Choctaw Dancing		
<b>Sunday, September 4, 2011</b>			
1:00 PM	Flint Napping		
1:15	Silver Smithing		
1:30	Primitive Weapons		

**PLEASE HELP US RECYCLE**

Collect and empty as many aluminum cans and plastic bottles as you can find during the festival! Bring them to the GOING GREEN booth to redeem them for prizes!

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