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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

August 2012 Issue



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

CNO awarded at IHS Tribal Urban Awards Ceremony

By **LISA REED**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The ninth annual Oklahoma City Area Director's Indian Health Service Tribal Urban Awards Ceremony was held July 19 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Chief Gregory E. Pyle assisted in presenting awards to the recipients from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Thirteen individuals and one group from the Choctaw Nation's service area were recognized for their dedication and contributions to improving the health and well-being of Native Americans.

"I would like to commend all who are here today," said Chief Pyle. "Their hard work and dedication are exemplary. Thanks to our health

services staff, the Choctaw Nation has several new programs aimed at educating us on improving our lifestyles."

Receiving awards were:

- Area Director's National Impact – Mickey Peercy, Choctaw Nation's Executive Director of Health.
- Area Director's Area Impact – Jill Anderson, Clinic Director of the Choctaw Health Clinic in McAlester.
- Area Director's Lifetime Achievement Award – Kelly Mings, Chief Financial Officer for Choctaw Nation Health Services.
- Exceptional Group Performance Award Clinical – Chi Hullo Li, The Choctaw Nation's long-term comprehensive residential treatment program for Native American women

See IHS Page 11

EPA awards tribe \$75K water quality grant

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma \$75,000 to provide continued support for the tribe's water pollution control program. The funds will be used to take water samples to assess surface water quality on tribal lands, compile data that may show changes over time and determine if a more thorough watershed management program is needed. Sampling data will determine whether water quality standards are being met, note any changes in the quality or condition of the Choctaw Nation's water and provide planning tools to improve the function and health of stream ecosystems.

The mission of the EPA is to protect public health and the environment. The EPA supports our nations' tribes in all aspects of the work needed to improve the water quality of tribal land watersheds. This cooperative spirit supports work to protect water quality that ensures the health of watersheds that cross state and tribal boundaries.

Attention readers:

*We are restructuring print
schedules over the next few
months! Look for your next
BISKINIK in October!*

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

Allen named among state's Top 50 Women

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Journal Record named Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Judy Allen as one of 50 nominees for its 2012 Woman of the Year "Making a Difference" award. Allen and her fellow nominees will be honored at the Journal Record's Woman of the Year awards gala, where the Woman of the Year recipient will be named on Oct. 4 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

As the tribe's Executive Director of Public Relations, Allen guides media and marketing, serving as a voice for the Choctaw Nation, while staying mindful of what is in the tribe's best interest.

Allen came to work for the Choctaw Nation in 1984, first serving as the assistant editor for the tribal newspaper before being promoted to editor in 1986. In 1999, Chief

Gregory E. Pyle appointed Allen to her current position as the Executive Director of Public Relations.

"I've known Judy for many years," said Chief Pyle, "and know her to be an outstanding individual in every sense of the word. Her contributions to our community, the Choctaw Nation and to the entire state of Oklahoma have been extraordinary."

Over the last 28 years, she has taken the lead on numerous tribal projects and ventures and takes great pride in knowing the Choctaw Nation is now a household name. Allen is upheld as the gold standard for determination, a positive attitude, ingenuity and initiative. Her leadership and participation in numerous projects throughout the years have helped to develop a sense of pride and identity for the Choctaw Nation.

Her most recent endeavor has been the successful coordination of Choctaw Days, a four-day tribal



Photo by DAVID FITZGERALD
JUDY ALLEN
Public Relations Executive Director,
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

festival held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was the first Native American tribe to hold such an event at the Smithsonian. The inaugural Choctaw Days in 2011 was such a tremendous success that the NMAI has it scheduled as an annual event and has asked other

See ALLEN Page 19

Council meets in July session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session July 14 at Tvshka Homma. New business began with certification of two new teachers of the Choctaw language – Josh Riley and Steven Parish.

Council bills addressed include:

- Application was approved to the U.S. Department of Education for the Promise Neighborhoods Program. The new community and academic support program for children and youth will help to significantly improve educational and developmental outcomes.
- Approval of the funds and budget for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program. The CNO has been awarded a grant by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$449,653 to strengthen our tribe's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergency situations. The grant funds will assist in the development and sustainment of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and

See COUNCIL Page 2

Choctaw Code Talkers from WWI and WWII to be inducted into Military Hall of Fame

Choctaw Code Talkers from World Wars I and II and Choctaw member Maj. Gen. LaRita A. Aragon (Ret.) are among heroes to be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in November. The induction ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at Quail Creek Golf and Country Club, Oklahoma City.

Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and World War II left a lasting legacy for the Choctaw Nation, the state of Oklahoma and the United States of America. They were the very first Native Americans to use their native language on the battlefields against the German Army in World War I and again, briefly, in World War II. Choctaw soldiers pioneered the use of Native American languages as a military code. The nineteen Choctaw Code Talkers who

served in World War I were Albert Billy, Mitchell Bobb, Victor Brown, Ben Carterby, Benjamin Colbert Jr., George Davenport, Joseph Davenport, James Edwards, Tobias Frazier, Ben Hampton, Noel Johnson, Otis Leader, Solomon Louis, Pete Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, Walter Veach and Calvin Wilson, and the four Choctaw Code Talkers who also served in the European Theater during World War II were Schlicht Billy, Andrew Perry, Davis Pickens and Forrester Baker.

Maj. Gen. LaRita A. Aragon, the first female general in the Oklahoma Air National Guard and current Secretary of the Oklahoma Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, also will receive the Maj. Gen. Douglas Dollar Distinguished Service Award for service to the military. Aragon

was born in Shawnee and raised in Dale where she graduated from high school. She attended Evangel College in Springfield, Mo., and Central State College (now University of Central Oklahoma) in Edmond where Aragon earned a BA degree in elementary education and a master's degree in guidance and counseling. Aragon was an elementary school teacher and principal before entering the Oklahoma Air National Guard in 1979 as an Airman Basic in the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron in Oklahoma City. She was commissioned in 1981. She became the first female to command the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

She joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard in 1979 as an Airman Basic in the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron in Oklahoma City. She was commissioned through

the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1981.

Rising through the ranks, she became the first female commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard when she assumed command of the 137th Services Flight and a female Brigadier General. This made her the first female of Native American Ancestry to attain the rank of General Officer. In March 2003, she became the first female to command the Oklahoma Air National Guard. She was promoted to Major General in 2005.

Also being inducted are Capt. John Lee Prichard, Frontiersman Amos Chapman, Capt. Boyd L. Barclay, Col. Charles B. DeBellevue, Maj. Kenneth D. Bailey, Command Sgt. Maj. Everett Bagley Jr., Capt. Vincent A. Kimberlin, and Lt. Col. Orville O. "Bill" Munson.

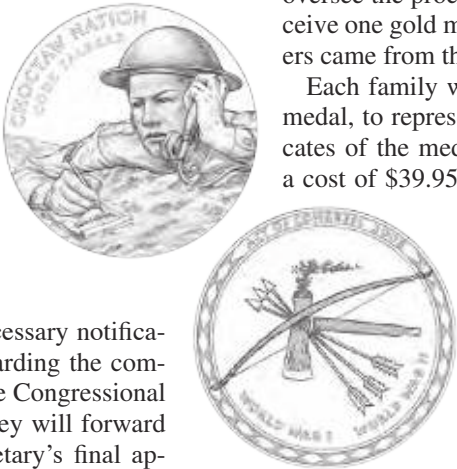
Medal design for Code Talkers ready for U.S. Mint

From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The long overdue recognition for the Choctaw Code Talkers has accomplished a victory over another milestone! In 2008, The Code Talker Recognition Act was passed by Congress, paving the way for a Congressional Medal to be given to Native American Code Talkers. After many months of working with various artists at the United States Mint, the design for the medal has been collectively endorsed by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee!

The U.S. Mint is completing the necessary notifications to the Secretary of Treasury regarding the completed list of tribes and recipients of the Congressional Medals. After this task is complete, they will forward the designs immediately for the Secretary’s final approval.

It has been a delayed and challenging path since beginning the crusade for acknowledgment of the efforts and success of the Native American Code Talkers in our military. I appreciate friends and supporters like Congressman Dan Boren who continued the endeavors in Congress to obtain the medals. Many thanks go to the team at Choctaw Nation who enthusiastically worked on the effort, and to the descendants of the Code Talkers and the Army National Guard generals who walked the halls of Congress with me to lobby the effort! Most of all, thank you to all the Choctaw people who called and wrote your Sena-



tors and members of Congress!

I did not realize it would take such a length of time to get the medals designed and issued, once we had the law passed! The U.S. Mint wants to make sure every single element of the design is exactly perfect, and there are large committees who oversee the process. There are currently 21 tribes who will receive one gold medal each to represent the fact that Code Talkers came from their tribe.

Each family who has a Code Talker will receive one silver medal, to represent the individual Code Talker. Bronze duplicates of the medals are going to be sold by the U.S. Mint at a cost of \$39.95 plus 4.95 shipping and handling. As soon as these are available, we will let you know.

The medal for each tribe is unique. The front of our medal will feature a Choctaw soldier with serious expression, writing a word on a tablet in our language that means “big gun.” The soldier is wearing a World War I uniform and is listening on a field telephone.

The diamond border on the reverse is very important to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and appears as an iconic design on traditional clothing and art as a way to honor our surroundings. The diamonds symbolize the diamondback rattlesnake to show a consciousness for nature and awareness that people must be careful to treat our surroundings with respect, caution, and prudence.

The reverse also has the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation, featuring three arrows representing historic warrior chiefs Apukshunnubbee, Pushmataha and Moshulatubbee, a smoking pipe hatchet that would have been passed in ancient councils of both peace and war, and the bow, which the Choctaws keep



Photo by DAVID FITZGERALD

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Judy Allen discuss the different proofs of the design of the Choctaw Nation Code Talkers Congressional Medal.

unstrung in times of peace, but are known to have “ready to string in an instant, to protect home and family.”

The Choctaw Code Talkers were the original Code Talkers, and their success paved the way for the strategy of using Native American languages as “code” in battlefield messages during World War I and World War II. Thanks to their efforts, many lives were saved, and many battles were won. Yakoke to our telephone warriors!

Choctaw Nation has many places of interest for families to visit

From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Each summer I enjoy seeing the many guests who come to the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. The headquarters building is the former Presbyterian College constructed about the turn of the 20th century and is an historic landmark in Durant, Okla. We have been fortunate to use the beautiful facility for administrative purposes and offices since 1975.

The museum at Tvshka Homma, our tribal Capital Grounds, is about a one and a half hour drive from the Durant headquarters, so many guests from across the United States visit both facilities while on vacation. The Capitol Building was the site of Choctaw Nation legislative action from 1884 to 1905, and currently houses museum exhibits, a gift shop and the Tribal Court.

The Capitol Grounds will host over 50,000 visitors during the Labor Day Festival as Choctaws reunite for our annual “family” gathering and welcome friends and relatives from all over to celebrate with us! It would be an honor to greet you at this year’s event at Tvshka Homma!

Our Choctaw Nation Veteran’s Advocacy program has designed a new war memorial for the entrance to the Capitol Grounds that is absolutely magnificent. It bears the names of the soldiers who were Code Talk-



ers as well as the names of those who gave their lives while serving our country during military action in a major conflict. I am looking forward to walking through the pathway around the new monuments to pay homage to those who have given their lives for this nation and for us.

While traveling southeast Oklahoma, if you are interested in our tribe’s history, a tour of Chief Thomas LeFlore’s House at Swink, Wheelock Academy in Millerton and Skullyville Cemetery in Spiro are three great sites to put on your list. Vacation fun in our area isn’t limited to historic tours. Choctaw Nation is also home to great lakes for families to visit, including Sardis, Eufaula, McGee, Pine Creek, Wister, Broken Bow, Robert S. Kerr and Hugo.

The Choctaw Nation has hotels in Durant and Grant, and we encourage you to visit our places of business when you are in the area. We would love to provide you with tremendous customer service and help make your vacation memorable. Southeast Oklahoma has a lot to offer families on holiday – check us out!



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Steven Parish of McAlester and Josh Riley of Durant receive certification to teach the Choctaw language during the Tribal Council’s Regular Session on July 14. Pictured are Councilmen Joe Coley and Bob Pate, Parish, Dora Wickson of the School of Choctaw Language, Riley with daughter Milena, Councilman Ted Dosh, Council Speaker Delton Cox and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Council

Continued from Page 1

recovery for emergency situations.

- Approval of an application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Elder Abuse Prevention Intervention Program. The program addresses the need to implement, test and measure performance of new approaches for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation and review those risk factors to enhance future prevention efforts.

- Approval of the funds and budget of a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$6,000 to continue to support existing library operations and to maintain core library services. The grant will provide Choctaw Nation staff the ability to attend continuing education courses and training workshops, attend or give presentation at

conferences related to library services, and to hire a consultant for an on-site professional library assessment.

- Approval of an application to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program. The ACA program will help provide high-quality, evidence-based home visiting services to promote outcomes as improvements in maternal and prenatal, infant, and child development outcomes, improve family socio-economic status, and reduce incidence of injuries, crime and domestic violence.

- Approval of an application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Water Resources Management, Planning, and Pre-Development Program. The funds will assist the Choctaw Nation in managing, conserving and utilizing water resources.

- Approval for the Fixed Assets Department to dispose of excess equipment.

Chaplain’s Corner

In the world, but not of it

May God bless our Choctaws and friends. Thank you for your prayers. It is a privilege to share with you Words from the Holy Bible. I look forward to visiting with you during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival in Tvshka Homma. The Lord willing.

Today we are going to look at the word “world” as used in the Bible.

Why? Because there is much confusion concerning the meaning of the word and attitude of Christians towards the world.

Some have said that if the church is to make its impact on our generation it must become more worldly minded.

In a sense that is true, yet in another, Biblical sense, it is false.

The Bible teaches in the New Testament that since we live in the world, we are involved with the world. The Bible says in First John 2:15: “Love not the world, neither the things of the world. If any man love the world, is not in him.”

As we read the New Testament, it is clear that we are not to become entangled with the world. Now, the question we ask is, “What is the world?” There are three meanings to this world word.

First, the Bible says there is a created world. In Acts 17:24 we read: “God that made the world and all things therein...”

Second, there are people living in the world, whom God loves and for whom Christ died, John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Third, there is the world system, which is headed by Satan, based upon self, greed, and pride. This is the world system, which Christians are to hate and stay away from.

The world was such a great danger to our souls that this danger caused Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to go to the cross to deliver us from it.

As we read through the Bible, the lines are definitely drawn between the world of unbelievers and the world of the children of God. We read in scriptures such as James 4:4: “Whosoever therefore will be of the world is the enemy of God.”

In this generation in which we live, it is not easy for the Christian to distinguish between that who is spiritual, and that who is worldly.

In the Scriptures, Satan is called an “angel of light.” In II Corinthians 11:14 we read, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

He is a great imitator, and is not always easy to distinguish between Satan’s world and where God reigns. Jesus said, if it were possible Satan would deceive the very elect. “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and shall show great signs, and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” (Matthew 24:24).

Many Christians are tricked into believing that you cannot enjoy life except you are a member of the worldly crowd.

The happiest people I know are separated followers of Jesus Christ completely dedicated to Him. They are not dependent upon artificial stimulants. They don’t have to resort to dirty jokes. They don’t have to abuse their bodies to relax their minds. The Bible says in Psalm 16:11: “Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

To be a Christian is not a pious pose. It is not a long list of restrictions. It opens the windows to the real joy of living.

The world systems would have us believe that following Jesus Christ is nothing but “thou shalt nots.” The world system would have us believe that Christianity is a killjoy, a kind of life that is not natural.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, said in John



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

10:10: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

And those that have been truly converted to Jesus Christ know the meaning of the abundant living. The Bible teaches that the worldliness is a spirit of the world system that is in opposition and in contradiction to all that is godly and Christian. Its goal is selfish pleasure, material success, and the pride of life. It is ambitious, self-centered. God is not denied. He is just ignored and forgotten.

Christ designated Satan as the prince of this world system

three times. He said in John 14:30: “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”

John 16:11: “Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” Again, he said in John 12:31: “Now is the judgment of this world: Now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

The Bible is clear that the world’s inhabitants are either under the influence of this world system with its deception, and spell; or they are in Christ and under the direction of the Spirit of God. There is no neutral ground. The lines are drawn by the Bible.

But the Christian is not left defenseless in this conflict. God provides the power to give us victory over Satan. Paul said in Romans 8:37: “Nay, all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

We will never overcome by our social concern or by identifying ourselves with resolutions that are taking place in the world. We read in Revelation 12:11: “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

We are involved in a spiritual conflict. This is a battle between the forces of God and the forces of Satan, and we are involved in it. We are asked to choose sides.

The Bible warns about being taken in by the evil of this world system. Satan’s lies are cleverly mixed with truth. Now we are not to get our worlds mixed up. This is where the confusion lies. God meant that we are not to mingle with the world, but we are to witness to the world. We are to love the world of men whom God loves. We are to weep, suffer with those who suffer, and identify ourselves with the poor, the sick, and the needy.

This then is our problem: to associate with and love those who are involved in the world without being influenced or swayed by them.

This distinction can only be achieved by a close walk with Jesus Christ, by contrast prayer, by seeking the Holy Spirit’s leadership every hour of the day.

God has provided us with the power to resist the world and be separated from it, and it is to appropriate that power every hour of our lives.

As Christians we are in the world, but the world is not in us. We come in contact with the world and yet we retain our distinctive kingdom character and refuse to let the world press us into its mold.

And finally Christians look for the end of the world. The Bible teaches that God is going to renovate the world, rid it of its wickedness, and that Satan himself will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. (Revelation 20:10.)

We are in the world but we are not of the world. We are to love those for whom Christ died. We are to pray for them, witness to them, helping worthwhile projects we can. But we are to strive to achieve the most difficult of duty, not to be conformed to the world. This is the Christian’s stand; this is the Christian’s job.

Will you trust Him and rely upon Him for everything?

Pray for America, pray for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our armed forces.

A new era in printing

New full-service commercial printing press means competitive advantage

By **CHRISSY DILL**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

It’s understood that the basics of a successful business include skilled staff, advanced equipment, extensive experience and an effective leader.

Being a family-operated business functioning for over 30 years, Texoma Print Services (TPS) has all the essentials of a profitable company that promises continued growth and exceptional service to its customers.

TPS recently added a new press, the Presstek 75DI, to its facility as well as a new book maker and tools to make sure this newly acquired equipment works smoothly.

The company also moved into a new, much larger facility in January of this year, a helpful resource in its production and growth.

Director of Texoma Print Services Russell Marcum has been head of the company since he graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1984. The company was originally founded by Don Marcum in 1979.

Marcum joined TPS in a managerial and sales capacity, and as a result, the customer base increased, the commercial printing division developed, and by 1997, the business had doubled in growth.

According to Marcum, the new press and book maker will benefit the company a great deal. “Before we got the new press, we were outsourcing about \$1.5 million worth of print that we couldn’t print in-house,” explained Marcum. “Bringing in the new press has allowed us to bring most of that work here.”

With additional hired help as well as the new machines, Marcum expects the company to continue to grow. “I think we’ll see growth in the first year,” he stated. “The major growth we’ll see in the first year may not be in total sales, but in total profit, because we’ll see a lot of that printing that we outsourced come back here and be produced here, which makes it 30 to 40 percent more profitable in the long run.

“We expect to grow between 7 and 10 percent; that’s our goal,” he said.

The new press opens up other sources of revenue for TPS, not only print services, but packaging, said Marcum.

The new book maker allows them to print magazines and newsletters.

“This new equipment is going to allow us to be much more profitable and more timely,” said Marcum. “It enables us to compete with some companies we haven’t been able to compete with in the past.”

The printing industry as a whole has changed drastically since Marcum joined TPS in 1984, with the introduction of the digital age and traditional printing fading.

“The need for speed is one thing that’s huge,” he explained. “One thing that is really good about this press is you can send

me an electronic file of a magazine or a brochure, and I can be on press in 6 minutes with it; that used to take a day to prepare and get the press ready to print.

“In ’84 we had two to three weeks to produce a job, now we have two or three days,” Marcum explained.

Marcum described the difference this new press makes and what he’s observed through the years. “This is a four-color press. You would have to create four different films just to create four different plates, take those plates and hang them,” he explained. “It was just a completely different process back then.”

The new press has altered the type of production for TPS as well. “We’re mostly doing catalogs right now, but we’re making a big push since we’ve gotten the press to get some smaller magazines going,” said Marcum.

With the addition of the press and new tools, the TPS team has added four more employees, giving them 15 employees total.

Years of experience in the printing industry and effective customer relations come with the TPS team of employees. “Our staff gives us a competitive edge,” said Marcum. “I think the people we’ve assembled here, it rivals any other company from Dallas to Oklahoma City when it comes to experience, what we can do and the knowledge we have here.”

Employees Susan Cummins and Kerry Prince have worked for TPS for 24 and 18 years. Aside from the four new hires, the minimum number of years an employee has been with TPS is four years.

Not only has this team of employees gained experience in their time with TPS, several have been working in the printing industry throughout their professional career. Tammy Wagoner, who has been with the company for six years, has 30-plus years of experience, according to Marcum. Prince, production manager, also has 30-plus years of work in the print field, and Robby Syler, who has been with TPS for seven years, has 25 years of experience.

“There’s a lot of experience here,” stated a confident Marcum. “I don’t mind entrusting things to other people here, because I know they’ll get it done. It’s a good crew.”

Marcum said when he first started working for TPS, the company was bringing in about \$900,000 a year, “which was pretty good for a small printing company,” he said.

“After I graduated from Southeastern and started actively marketing the company, we just started seeing it grow from year to year,” Marcum recalled. “From ’84 to ’04, we went from \$900,000 in sales to just over \$3 million in sales. That is when the Choctaw Nation became interested in buying us.”

In 2006, TPS became a profitable part of the family of companies owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

TPS employees pose in front of the new Presstek 75DI press.

According to Marcum, being a part of this family has brought much stability to his company. “As far as financial and employee stability goes, if you’re owned by the Choctaw Nation, it becomes much easier to gain employees and keep employees, because of the benefits that come with it,” he said. Coming with the Choctaw Nation was the ability to attract employees and keep their needs met, therefore increasing productivity and maintaining a successful enterprise.

The tribe has helped TPS grow substantially. “When the Choctaw Nation bought the company, at that time we were bringing in about \$3 million in sales a year,” said Marcum, “and this last year, we were at \$7.5 million in sales.”

Though TPS’ service area ranges from north Dallas, up to Tulsa on to Oklahoma City, the bulk of their work goes to Choctaw Nation programs and businesses.

“Of the \$7.5 million we earned last year, right about half of that was Choctaw related,” stated Marcum. “They’re by far our biggest client.”

TPS sales representative Jerry Hanson has been employed with the company for 25 years and has seen it develop firsthand. “The Choctaw Nation has made the company grow even more to satisfy what needs to be done without us having to go outside of the company,” he said concerning the business’s previous outsourcing endeavors.

“Russell is a good guy and a good salesman,” said Hanson of his director. “He does well for this company. If he tells me he’s going to do something, he will get it done; he’s a good man.”

With the help of the Choctaw Nation, Marcum’s leadership and the experience, skills and knowledge of his team of employees, TPS has become a thriving small business that continues to grow. “We’ve gone from a staff of three to a staff of 15, and gone from 2,500 square feet to about 10,000 square feet,” said a pleased Marcum.

Anyone interested in contributing to TPS’ business, or wanting to learn more about the company can call 580-924-1120 or email sales@texprintone.com.

TPS’ new location is at 2712 Enterprise Blvd. in Durant. Find a brochure of the company’s services at its website, texprintone.com.



Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Tribal Council members and casino staff cut the ribbon at the official grand opening of the new Stigler casino.



Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Tribal Council members and clinic staff hold a ribbon-cutting at the new Choctaw Nation Dental Clinic in Stigler.

New casino and dental clinic open in Stigler

By **LISA REED**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Aug. 10 commemorated the addition of two new Choctaw Nation businesses in Stigler. Tribal and local officials along with several area residents gathered to celebrate the opening of the Choctaw Nation Dental Clinic and Choctaw Nation Casino.

The dental clinic, located at 103 N.W. Ninth, fulfills a vital need in the area for tribal members.

“Before we opened the clinic in Stigler, the closest dental services available to them were in McAlester, Talihina or Poteau,” said Teresa Jackson, facility director of the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. The dental clinic currently offers exams, extractions, some restorative work and walk-in emergency services. A doctor is available three days a week and is scheduled to begin full time next month. The facility will also be adding services such as preventative care for its patients.

The clinic’s hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. That morning there were already eight walk-ins added to the schedule before the 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting.

Councilman Ron Perry noted the tribe’s partnership with Ki-Bois. The building is leased from the community action group and several representatives were on hand for the grand opening.

“We are thankful we could be here today and pleased we are able to expand our health services,” Chief Gregory E. Pyle told the audience. “Our clinics and hospitals are debt-free and it’s good to be able to offer more for the folks in this district.”

The group next joined the festivities at the Choctaw Nation’s newest casino. One of eight casinos operated by the tribe, the 7,800-sq.-ft. center on Stigler’s Main Street began a three-day celebration that included hourly drawings for cash, fun promotional prizes and gifts like caps and T-shirts.

“We’re excited to open the doors of our new casino and celebrate the grand opening with the Stigler community,” said Karen Terrell, general manager of the casino. “With promotional giveaways, and thousands of dollars in cash drawings, we look forward to making a splash in Stigler.” Terrell is a Stigler native and has worked for the tribe for seven years, transferring from Pocola to the casino in her hometown.

Senior Director of Gaming Tammye Gwin extended appreciation to the designers, Childers Architects, and builders Manhattan Construction, and to sign vendor I-5 Designs and slot vendors VGT and GCG who were also involved in the project.

The casino features 200 slot machines and plenty of parking. Councilman Perry stressed what a great opportunity the casino has provided in bringing jobs and adding an economic boost. The casino employs 27 associates from the Haskell County area, projecting an annual payroll of \$700,000. It is open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 4 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Choctaw Nation WIC



WOMEN, INFANTS
and CHILDREN

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

Back to school meal tips

How to keep kids happy and healthy

It is back to school time! This phrase brings up all kinds of thoughts and emotions. Some being: “What are my kids eating at school? Do my kids eat their breakfast and lunch at school? How can I help my kids eat healthy meals when at school?” Schools that serve children breakfast, lunch and snacks have to follow strict dietary guidelines to meet calorie needs and nutritional content of the foods they serve the children in their care.

However, this does not always mean that the children will eat all that is served or even any of it. Be it personal taste, peer pressure or just being homesick sometimes kids will just pick at their food. Packing a lunch from home is always an option, yet not always practical due to time and finances. A combination of school lunch and bag lunch can help to get your kids to eat breakfast and lunch every day while ensuring adequate nutritional intake.

With your child, review the school lunch menu for the next week. Let them decide

what days they want to eat the school meals, asking if they will eat everything offered. Then, on the days they want to bring their own breakfast and/or lunch have ready a list of foods items they can choose to pack a healthy and nutritious meal. By using My Plate your kids can fill the spaces just like a puzzle.

Try this sample list to get started:

- Grilled chicken wraps using multi grain, spinach or tomato basil tortilla wraps with fresh sliced red, yellow and orange bell peppers, fresh baby spinach, cucumber, etc., with fresh berries, mango, plum or kiwi as a nice desert.
- Peanut butter on whole wheat bread, baby carrots, apple sauce and light yogurt (any flavor).
- Mini pizza, using whole grain flat bun, marinara sauce, part skim mozzarella, garden salad and peaches.
- Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, salad and pear.
- Grilled chicken salad with fresh baby spinach, shredded carrots, kiwi, strawberries and wheat thins.

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Assistant Chief

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



NURSERY NEWS

Sloane Johnson-Byington

Sloane Parker Johnson-Byington was born on July 15, 2012, in Torrance, Calif. The very proud parents are Jason and Winter Johnson-Byington. She is the granddaughter of David and Sissel Byington and she makes everyone around her better people.



Kinley Ludlow

Kinley Taloa Grace Ludlow was born on June 3, 2012, at 4:39 a.m., weighing 5 pounds and 10 ounces, measuring 19 inches long. Kinley is the daughter of Elizabeth Baker of Leflore; granddaughter to Rick and Debbie Lloyd of Summerfield; great-granddaughter to Woody Allen and Paula Locke of Indianola; great-great-granddaughter to the late Woody James Locke and Floy Locke of Indianola; and the great-great-granddaughter to Paul and the late Juanita Ratliff of Purcell. A host of loving aunts, uncles and cousins welcomes her. The family would like to thank the staff at Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina for the care to both mother and baby.



Caleb Caldwell

Michael Caldwell and Catherien Clein would like to announce the birth of their son Caleb Allen Caldwell. He was born on Feb. 28, 2012, at 5:38 p.m. in Austin, Texas. He weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. He was born 5.5 weeks early and is doing great!



Jayden Ebert

Jayden “Teddy” Theodore Ebert was welcomed into this world on June 9, 2012, weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces. Proud parents are Ciara (Salmon) Flack and Adam Ebert; grandparents are Richard and Robyn (Salmon) Ebert, and grandpa James Flack. His uncles are Zach and Joe Ebert; aunts are Molly and Hannah Ebert; and great-grandparents are Bill and Gail (Jones) Salmon, and George and Jane (Hansleben) Ebert.



Miles Zaret

Miles Doyle Zaret was born on May 29, 2012, in London, England. He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces. His proud parents are Dan and Selena Zaret of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Los Angeles, respectively. Maternal grandparents are Lonnie and Ruby Corley of Los Angeles; and paternal grandparents are Philip and Barbara Zaret of Ann Arbor.



Make better beverage choices

10 tips to get started

What you drink is as important as what you eat. Many beverages contain added sugars and offer little or no nutrients, while others may provide nutrients but too much fat and too many calories. Here are some tips to help you make better beverage choices.

1. Drink water

Drink water instead of sugary drinks when you're thirsty. Regular soda, energy or sports drinks, and other sweet drinks usually contain a lot of added sugar, which has more calories than needed. To maintain a healthy weight, sip water or other drinks with few or no calories.

2. How much water is enough?

Let your thirst be your guide. Water is an important nutrient for the body, but everyone's needs are different. Most of us get enough water from the foods we eat and the beverages we drink. A healthy body can balance water needs throughout the day. Drink plenty of water if you are very active, live or work in hot conditions, or are an older adult.

3. A thrifty option

Water is usually easy on the wallet. You can save money by drinking water from the tap at home or when eating out.

4. Manage your calories

Drink water with and between your meals. Adults and children take in about 400 calories per day as beverages; drinking water can help you manage calories.

5. Kid-friendly drink zone

Make water, low-fat or fat-free milk, or 100 percent juice an easy option in your home.

Have ready-to-go containers filled with water or healthy drinks available in the refrigerator. Place them in lunch boxes or backpacks for easy access when kids are away from home. Depending on age, children can drink a half to 1 cup, and adults can drink up to 1 cup of 100 percent fruit or vegetable juice* each day.

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS
AND CHILDREN

6. Don't forget your dairy**

When you choose milk or milk alternatives, select low-fat or fat-free milk or fortified soymilk. Each type of milk offers the same key nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, and potassium, but the numbers of calories are very different. Older children, teens, and adults need 3 cups of milk per day, while children 4 to 8 years old need 2.5 cups and children 2 to 3 years old need 2 cups.

7. Enjoy your beverage

When water just won't do — enjoy the beverage of your choice, but just cut back. Remember to check the serving size and the number of servings in the can, bottle, or container to stay within calorie needs. Select smaller cans, cups, or glasses instead of large or supersized options.

8. Water on the go

Water is always convenient. Fill a clean, reusable water bottle and toss it in your bag or brief case to quench your thirst throughout the day. Reusable bottles are also easy on the environment.

9. Check the facts

Use the Nutrition Facts label to choose beverages at the grocery store. The label contains information about total sugars, fats, and calories to help you make better choices.

10. Compare what you drink

Food-A-Pedia, an online feature available at ChooseMyPlate.gov/SuperTracker, can help you compare calories, added sugars and fats in your favorite beverages.

*100 percent juice is part of the Fruit or Vegetable Group. Juice should make up half or less of total recommended fruit or vegetable intake.

** Milk is a part of the Dairy Group. A cup = 1 cup of milk or yogurt, 1.5 ounces of natural cheese, or 2 ounces of processed cheese. For more information, visit choosemyplate.gov.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SEPTEMBER

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Sept. 4-25.
Sept. 5 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Sept. 12: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed Sept. 26-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 10 & 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Sept. 4-25.
Closed Sept. 26-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 4 & 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Sept. 4-25.
Closed Sept. 26-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 6 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Sept. 4-25.
Closed Sept. 26-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 14 & 24, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION OCTOBER

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-26.
Oct. 3 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Oct. 10: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed Oct. 29-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 1 & 12, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Oct. 1-26.
Closed Oct. 29-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 5 & 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-26.
Closed Oct. 29-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 8 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-26.
Closed Oct. 29-31 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 3 & 10, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.
Staff 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

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Recipe of the Month

Basil Chicken Wraps

Recipe from Better Homes and Gardens

Ingredients:

- 8 - 8 or 9 inch plain, tomato or spinach tortillas
- 1/2 cup basil dressing
- 12 oz. thinly sliced chicken or turkey, cut into thin strips
- 1 large red sweet pepper, cut into strips
- Fresh purple or green basil leaves

Directions: Prepare basil dressing and spread onto tortillas. Arrange basil leaves, chicken slices, and sweet pepper on tortillas. Fold up bottoms; roll into cones. **Basil dressing:** Stir together 1/2 cup miracle whip free, 1 tablespoon snipped fresh basil, and 1 small clove garlic, minced. If desired, stir in 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper. Makes about a half cup.

Nutrition Facts: Per serving:
Servings - 4, Calories - 378, Total Fat - 25g, Cholesterol - 23mg, Sodium - 723mg, Carb. - 29g.

For more information contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

Local pregnancy center takes message to Congress

Pregnancy Center of Bryan County has impact on Durant mother

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

“Pregnancy Help Centers are good for America.” This is the message that four members of the Pregnancy Center of Bryan County (PCBC) brought to the nation’s Capitol recently. They, along with associates of pregnancy centers across the United States, were a part of Heartbeat International’s “Babies go to Congress,” an event, held in late July, in which pregnancy centers represent the center and share their moving story with America’s leaders.

The star of PCBC team, Shelly Louis, a mother of three and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, shared her moving testimony with many congressmen and women over the two-day event, where she felt she made a significant impact on views about the importance of pregnancy centers.

“We went to show Congress that this country was built on Biblical principals, that God knows us even in the womb, to let them know we all have a purpose and abortion is not the answer,” declared Shelly as she spoke of her reason for participating in the conference.

Shelly was able to share her story in a personal setting many times – a message that does an excellent job of displaying a pregnancy center at its brightest.

She was six weeks pregnant with her now 1-year-old daughter, Kiree, when she needed the center the most. “Abortion was a very real option for me,” Shelly said. She was unmarried and unsure about finances, a situation that put immeasurable stress on the mother-to-be.

Just a few days before following through with her decision to abort baby Kiree, Shelly felt an overwhelming feeling pushing her to a breakdown. She turned to her instructor at Kiamichi

Technology Center and board member of PCBC, Penny Lovell, who was willing and ready to help Shelly in any way she could.

Penny brought her to PCBC, and as Shelly was counseled, she found support and hope. It brought her back from the brink of despair and gave her courage. She then had a support system and her fears began to subside.

Baby Kiree’s life was saved when Shelly decided to see the pregnancy through. After the birth, the support of PCBC did not stop. They continued to teach and counsel Shelly, showing her how to be the best mother she could be for her children.

Since this experience, she has begun to share the same support that was given to her. She has shared her story to others considering abortion, steering them away from that decision. “I am thankful and blessed that God has used me to continue the work of the pregnancy center beyond its doors,” Shelly declared.

Traveling with Shelly to “Babies go to Congress,” was her daughter, Kiree, Penny and Bridget Youngblood, who had counseled Shelly, and the Executive Director of PCBC, Brenda Williams.

These four women not only brought a message to Capitol Hill, but learned from others as well. “I was just in awe of these young mothers, the things they went through and their courage,” stated Penny.

They were able to meet personally with U.S. Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma and U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, and many others. “I brought home a feeling of gratefulness that these leaders are supporting us,” said Shelly as she described the support shown by the congressional members.

PCBC, located on the corner of Second and Beech in Durant, provides help to anyone who is a crisis pregnancy. The center is not funded by federal dollars because in order to receive govern-



Shelly Louis, Kiree Louis and U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann on the capitol steps.

Photo provided

ment funding it would have to present abortion as an option, a choice PCBC is firmly against.

PCBC is funded by private donations from individuals and organizations such as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. “As a nation, we support the sanctity of human life,” stated Chief Gregory E. Pyle of the Choctaw Nation. This private funding allows them to have prayers with clients, teach Biblical lessons and present all new clients with Bibles.

Anyone who seeks help from PCBC will have access to a wealth of information, many resources that will help along the journey of parenthood. PCBC provides a detailed curriculum taught in classes over the length of the pregnancy and beyond.

Lessons demonstrating how to care for a mother’s body during the term and how

to care for mother and child after the birth, are taught by counselors, as well as providing support systems.

Clients have access to the Mommy Market. This is a place where mothers or expectant mothers can come and use their “mommy bucks” to shop for items such as clothes, strollers, diapers and other baby essentials. Mommy Bucks are earned by participating in the curriculum, which entails discussions, literature and videos provided by PCBC.

Several resources are provided for expecting mothers who are unsure about whether to abort the pregnancy. Diagrams showing what the child looks like within the womb, with toes developing at only 10 weeks, are visible in the office to show that what is inside them isn’t just a blob, but a distinguished human being,

said Penny.

Ultrasounds are also given in emergency cases when a future mother is seriously considering abortion. According to Penny, 90 percent of fathers who see the ultrasound will turn down abortion, and over 80 percent of mothers who see it will also refuse to abort.

“We want them to know exactly what they are doing so they can make an informed decision that they won’t regret,” said Youngblood, as she discussed why PCBC makes sure all who consider abortion know all the facts.

If you are in need of services provided by PCBC or would like more information call (580) 920-2229, or toll-free at (866) 924-2229.

Or contact Pregnancy Center of Bryan County at P.O. Box 1441, 308 N. Second Ave, Durant, OK 74702.

Sky is the limit for the ambitious

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Amon Hayes is not unlike most 19-year-olds just starting out in the world.

He’s a young Choctaw man with big dreams, but there is something about him that sets him apart from his peers. He works full-time at a local restaurant and he spends his spare time dedicated to his hobby. Only his isn’t the run-of-the-mill pastime that comes to mind when thinking of a teenager, such as playing video games or outdoor sports. His hobby is quite unique and requires a great



Hayes performs with a diabolo, a prop consisting of a spool that is spun and tossed on a string tied between two sticks being held in each hand.

Photos by **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

deal of time to perfect.

Hayes is a juggler and a rather dexterous one, at that.

“I started juggling during my senior year of high school,” he says, and he has kept at it for the more than two years ever since.

“I realized it developed my coordination really well and I took to it very fast.”

Though juggling is relatively new to the 2011 Durant High School graduate, it’s one he is committed to becoming more proficient at and one that’s been primarily self-taught.

“I’ve watched professional juggling artists and a lot of videos online,” he says on learning the techniques. “A lot of it, though, was just getting out there and trying it and seeing what’s possible.”

Hayes’ juggling specialties include toss juggling (see photo #1), bounce juggling, rings, devil sticks, diabolo (see photo #2), cigar boxes (see photo #4), and, his favorite style, contact juggling (see photo #3).

“Each style has a different dynamic of accomplishments to offer and new goals to set and reach for myself,” he says. “There’s even more out there I want to learn.”

He says certain performing artists and jugglers influenced him to pick up the

skill, artists such as Michael Moschen, Michael Menes, Eric Bates, Andy Gerpardt and Anthony Gatto. Hayes’ performance name – The Motion Menace – is one he chose in honor of Moschen and Menes.

“Whatever I do, I want to keep working to make myself better and to share it.”

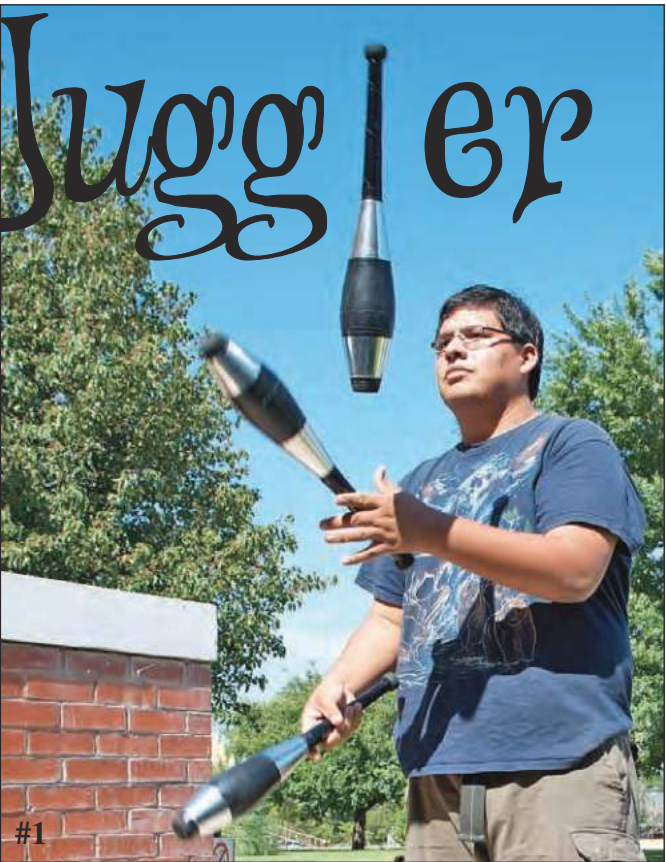
— AMON HAYES

puts it in a creative structure. A lot of jugglers refer to themselves as physical artists and they want to create something. I want to do that. I want to show the ability of human skill.”

Hayes says he hopes to be able to attend a performing arts college soon and eventually make a career out of his hobby.

“My brother, Joe, told me something once that really stuck with me and gave me the mind set to do something good,” explains Hayes on why he works so hard on his juggling skills. “He said, ‘the world deserves better from each of us so we should be better,’ and that’s what I try to do. Whatever I do, I want to keep working to make myself better and to share it.”

“I do this because I love being in front of people and just love performing.”



Amon Hayes demonstrates toss juggling with a set of clubs. Toss juggling is one of the most recognized forms of juggling, where multiple objects are thrown and caught in succession.



Hayes juggles with cigar boxes, a prop commonly used in what is referred to as a “stop-and-start” style of juggling.

Left, contact juggling, a style favored by Hayes, focuses on the movement of objects while maintaining contact with the body.



SPPT supports Choctaw teens during pregnancy

The Choctaw Nation Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Program (SPPT) is designed to help young Native American mothers during pregnancy and the months to follow.

Each client will be able to learn about their pregnancy though an assortment of curriculums. SPPT utilizes the Parents As Teachers (PAT) curriculum the greatest amount. According to Parentsasteachers.org, “PAT develops curricula that support a parent’s role in promoting school readiness and healthy development of children.” This will teach young parents the techniques to give children a bright future.

SPPT also provides Injoy, a type of video education that will give mothers a glimpse at all the upcoming steps to raising her child – from prenatal care though stages after the delivery.

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) is also a learning device used by SPPT. This curriculum teaches Native American mothers how other natives used to care for their children. It demonstrates how to utilize their cultural roots and pass it along to future generations.

SPPT will provide home visits to an eligible client and provide the Injoy, PIP, and PAT curriculums as well as Life Skills Progression in making short and long-term goals. Home visits will either be once or twice per month depending on the need determined by the Life Skills Progression tool, which is used to assess the need of parent and child.

The client will remain in the program for 24 months to ensure that all curriculums are given. Once a month group visits will also be conducted in the area to allow clients to learn parenting skills while networking with other expecting or parenting teens.

The SPPT hopes to aid the client in establishing solid family support and base resources, improve child health, improve client education so the client can eventually improve socio-economic status, and to improve parenting practices related to child development through the implementation of two of PAT and PIP.

In order to be eligible for SPPT, a candidate must be 21 or younger, expecting a Native American baby, of any federally recognized tribe, or have a Native American baby a year old or younger. Potential clients must also be willing to pursue education, either high school or college, and live in the Choctaw Nation service area.

If you are interested and want to know more, visit cnsppt.com, call 800-349-7026 ext. 6869, or email dshumphreys@cnhsa.com.

If you are interested but live outside the 10.5 county service area, Children First is a similar program provided through the Oklahoma State Department of Health for mothers expecting a first child. For more information on Children First, call 405-271-7611.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Douglas birthdays

Happy birthday to the Douglas kids! Corey Douglas was born July 17, 1992, and his sister, Brianna Douglas, was born on July 7, 1995.



Mathias turns 4

Happy fourth birthday to Mathias Mills, from grandparents Debbie and John Williams of Durant. His parents are Mary and Marcus Mills, and he has two younger siblings, Megan (2 years old) and Mace (8 months). His great-grandpa was the late E.J. Johnson of Atoka. Mary and Marcus are from Tushka. Mathias was born June 18, 2008.



Freeman visits the Cubs

Freeman Taylor (left) and Dr. Leonard Rascher (right) were able to cheer on the Chicago Cubs in April at Wrigley Field in Chicago and get some signed baseballs after the game. Both men are residents of Ringold. Freeman was an athlete at Sunset High in Dallas with Rudy Jaramillo (center). Rudy is now the hitting coach for the Cubs after years with the Texas Rangers. “Doc” moved to Oklahoma to work with the Native American Bible Academy after living several decades in the Windy City and cheering on the Cubs with his family.



David turns 80

On March 4, David L. Roebuck of Sweet Home, Ore., celebrated his 80th birthday. David’s seven-plus kids and grandchildren planned his party. David has resided in Sweet Home since 1953. He was the only child of William Sam Roebuck and Melvina (Cochanauer-Blackwell) Roebuck. He was born in Boswell. He had three brothers and one sister. Two of his brothers are still alive, all of his siblings reside in Oklahoma. On Sept. 23, 1950, David married his late wife, Bessie L. Teterick in De Queen, Ark. In 1953, they had their first child, David L. Roebuck Jr. He died at just a few weeks old. All together, David and Bessie had over eight children: Glenda Moore, Danny Roebuck, Donna Barrett, Sandy and husband Randy Pendergraft, William (Billy) Roebuck, Rhonda Curtis and Tannie Manning. All of David’s children and grandchildren reside in Sweet Home except for Donna and her family, who reside in Lea Burg, Ore. Through the years David and Bessie took in several children as foster children. There are over 20 grandchildren, over 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. David and Bessie were married for almost 47 years before she passed away in 1997. David enjoys hobbies such as caring for his cats, Cooter-Bell and Tigger; tinkering on cars and trucks; hunting and fishing when his health allows him; watching the news; and spending time with his family. He enjoys telling stories and watching the “greats” learn new things, such as walking, talking and playing. He enjoys having meals together with family. He always enjoys pestering, teasing and picking at people. He enjoys taking a road trip every couple of years back to his roots in Oklahoma. While he’s there, he usually stocks up on sweet goodies, which the family looks forward to with much anticipation. His next trip to Oklahoma will be sometime in September 2012. While he’s there, he hopes to see all of his family and friends. Pictured is David with his family.

Happy birthday, Lillie

Happy birthday to Lillie Roberts of Durant on Aug. 10. Lillie is pictured with her daughter, Melissa Reich, and granddaughter, Mia Reich.



Brianna receives crown

Congratulations to Brianna Kaylee Douglas, who was crowned as Standing Bear Pow Wow Princess at the annual Standing Bear Pow Wow held in Bakersfield, Calif., on May 27 at the Kern County fairgrounds. Brianna also celebrated her 17th birthday on July 7. Her family wishes her a happy birthday. Brianna’s mother’s granddaughter, Serenity DeWoody, was crowned Little Miss Okla Chahta 2012-13 at an annual gathering in Bakersfield as well. Their family is proud of both of their accomplishments.



James anniversary

Tom and Charlotte James of Bennington celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 8. They were married on June 15, 1962, in Cade. Their children, grandchildren and church family honored the couple with a reception on July 8 at 1 p.m. at the Boswell Assembly of God Church. Friends and family were invited to the celebration. Tom and Charlotte both worked for the Choctaw Nation and are now happily retired.



Happy birthday, Jim

As his family and friends celebrated Jim Lewis’ 90th birthday on Aug. 2, they recognized the accomplishments and contributions he has made in all of their lives. Jim was born and raised in McAlester, the son of John Calvin Lewis, an original enrollee, and great-grandson of Simon E. Lewis. Simon is mentioned on page 272 of Angie Debo’s book, “The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic.” Family legend has it that one of Jim’s great-grandmothers was born under a wagon while en route to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. During World War II, Jim left Oklahoma to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. After his service, he married Mary Francis Lambdin and they raised two boys in Carlsbad, N.M., where Jim worked for International Minerals Corporation, a potash mining and milling operation near there. He retired in 1984. Jim and Mary now reside in Sheridan, Ark. Their sons, James and Ron, along with their families, choose this time to say thank you to Jim for the love, values and pride that he instilled in them over the years. It is important to note that Jim has taught them much, including how to take pride in their country and Choctaw heritage. Happy birthday, Jim! May you celebrate many more in the years to come.



Happy birthday, Alpha

Happy 87th birthday to Alpha Cochnouer Uptegrove on Aug. 27. Alpha is the daughter of Henry Clay Cochnouer, an original enrollee.



Kylee competes in Pitch, Hit and Run

Congratulations to Kylee Sellers of Hugo, daughter of Khristy Wallace Sellers, for being named one of just 24 selected national finalists in the 2012 Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run competition. Kylee completed with the other 23 finalists at the National Finals during MLB All-Star Week in Kansas City, Mo. The competition was held July 9, prior to Gatorade All-Star Workout Day on the field at Kauffman Stadium. More than 685,000 youth participated in over 4,000 competitions that took place across North America. For the third year in a row, a nationwide Girls Softball Division was part of the program, which allowed girls to compete and advance separately from the boys throughout the competition.

Jake receives All-Tourney Honors

Jake Collins, who will be a senior at Latta Schools, represented the gold Oklahoma team in the Junior Sunbelt Classic Series that was held in McAlester and Wilburton June 8-13. He received All-Tourney Honors competing against teams from Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Canada, Georgia, Missouri and Mississippi. Kenneth “Pa-Pa” Battles (pictured with Jake) of Antlers is a proud supporter, as well as Tony Battles of Broken Bow, who was a coach in the series. Jake also plays for the Ambassadors, a team out of Oklahoma City. The website, alifeworthfollowing.org, tells the story of this baseball team. The team traveled to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip the end of July before returning to school. Also, happy birthday to Jake, who celebrated his 18th birthday on July 1.



Choctaw Seniors travel to Grand Canyon

Forty Choctaw Seniors of District 9, Durant, recently returned from their tour of the southwest. The Bradley Museum was on the itinerary as well as the Miraculous Winding Staircase in Santa Fe, N.M., with shopping on the Plaza. In the small town of Chimayo, The Santuario de Chimayo Church is home of the healing dirt, where scoops may be dug into containers, which is claimed to cure illnesses. The group traveled to Williams, Ariz., for the two-hour train ride to the Grand Canyon for a tour. On the return trip, masked riders rode by the train until it stopped and the actors came onboard to “rob” (donations) its passengers. The last night was spent in Amarillo and the group attended the play, “Texas.” The outdoor performance was enjoyed by all at the amphitheater in Palo Dura Canyon. Part of the seniors performed their line dance to the upbeat western band playing in the plaza. At the end of the program, when all stood for America the Beautiful, which was spectacularly played during fireworks, the Choctaw Singers spontaneously performed Indian sign language to the song.



District 7 princesses, Senior Miss Melissa Gueli, Junior Miss Alisha Hardy and Little Miss Kalin Beller, are pictured with Councilman Jack Austin.

Woods celebrate 70th anniversary

Rev. John L. Wood and Priscilla Wood of Broken Arrow celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 20. They were honored with a family luncheon on June 16 in Broken Arrow. The event was hosted by their children. The couple married June 20, 1942, in Stigler. They have seven children: Jo Ward of Broken Arrow, Eddie Wood and wife Barbara of Catoosa, Jackie Nicolas and husband Carl of Ochelata, David Wood and wife Doresa of Sand Springs, Carol Holden and husband Steve of Fair Grove, Mo., Tommy Wood of Tulsa, and the late Philip Wood. They have 19 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. Rev. John, who retired as a jet engine mechanic with American Airlines in 1982, is proud of his Choctaw heritage and of the fact that his mother, Martha Lou Zena (Boatright) Wood, was an original enrollee. Priscilla, a homemaker, taught school at Gingles Mountain near Keota in 1945. She was asked to teach at that time by the local school board members, who were aware that she only had her high school diploma, because all of the other teaching candidates in the area had been drafted to serve in World War II. She considered it her contribution to the war effort. To this day, her family notes that she has always had the personality of a teacher.

Dillon earns awards

Dillon Short of Tyler, Texas, entered a regional competition held in the Tyler Convention Center. He won first, second and third-place ribbons for drafting. He went on to compete in a state-wide competition in Waco, Texas, where he received second and fourth-place medals. Dillon will be a junior at Chapel Hill High School in Tyler. His parents are Shonda Steele of Ada and Scotty Short of Tyler.



Tamaka earns award

Congratulations to Oklahoma Choctaw and magician Tamaka (Bob Bailey), who won the Jefferson Award from the local CBS station in San Francisco. Tamaka earned the award for his magic performances he co-produces for the veterans and veteran homes in California and his fund raising performances for different Native American organizations. Also contributing to his earning the award are his language classes he teaches in San Francisco. Tamaka is the son of Dorothy Durant, who lived in Holly Creek before moving out to California. Tamaka said this is a humbling experience and will be accepting the award on behalf of the community language department of the Choctaw Nation, for without them, this award would not have been won. He said thank you to Richard Adams for believing in him and mentoring him as a teacher.



Jackie receives honorable title

Incoming worshipful master, Claude Neal, presented Jackie Mayo, the outgoing worshipful master, a plaque and medicine bag for being the first Native American to serve this position for a year at Billie Mosse Masonic Lodge in Denison, Texas. Jackie has been a part of the lodge for about five years, and he’s lived in Texas the last 10 years. His hometown is El Reno.



Cousins place in Jim Thorpe Games

Congratulations to Choctaw cousins, Dakota and Roderick Hornbuckle, who participated in the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City. Roderick placed first in the junior high division and Dakota placed second in the high school division.



Congratulations, Justin

Congratulations from his mother, Terrie (Parker) Lane, and stepfather Clint Lane; his brothers, Ty and Dally Warner; and his aunt, Dorothy (Parker) Skeen, all of Cooper, Texas, goes to Justin Warner, who celebrated his 18th birthday on June 1 and graduated from Cooper High School in Cooper, Texas, on June 2. Justin is the grandson of the late William Dixon Parker and great-grandson of the late Harrison and Susan Parker, formerly of Idabel. Justin plans to continue his education at Southeastern State College or Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas.



**DISTRICT 2 SENIOR MISS
VICTORIA BATTIEST**



**DISTRICT 3 SENIOR MISS
JOYCE CUMMINGS**



**DISTRICT 4 SENIOR MISS
CALLIE CURNUTT**



**DISTRICT 5 SENIOR MISS
RACHEL HOGAN**



**DISTRICT 7 SENIOR MISS
MELISSA GUELI**



**DISTRICT 8 SENIOR MISS
SARAH THOMPSON**



**DISTRICT 9 SENIOR MISS
CHEYENNE MURRAY**



**DISTRICT 10 SENIOR MISS
KAYLA MITCHELL**



**DISTRICT 11 SENIOR MISS
CHERISH WILKERSON**



**DISTRICT 12 SENIOR MISS
RAVEN OTT**



**DISTRICT 1 JUNIOR MISS
VANESSA MARTIN**



**DISTRICT 2 JUNIOR MISS
CHEYENNE SHOMO**



**DISTRICT 3 JUNIOR MISS
SCOUT SMITH**



**DISTRICT 4 JUNIOR MISS
BRIANNA BATTIEST**



**DISTRICT 5 JUNIOR MISS
BRANDY SOCKEY**



**DISTRICT 7 JUNIOR MISS
ALISHA HARDY**



**DISTRICT 8 JUNIOR MISS
SARAH JAMES**



**DISTRICT 9 JUNIOR MISS
KAYLEIGH POWELL**



**DISTRICT 10 JUNIOR MISS
DECEMBER PITTMAN**



**DISTRICT 11 JUNIOR MISS
CHEYHOMA DUGGER**



**DISTRICT 12 JUNIOR MISS
NEIATHA HARDY**



**DISTRICT 1 LITTLE MISS
WHITNEY GRIFFITH**



**DISTRICT 2 LITTLE MISS
KALLI BATTIEST**



**DISTRICT 3 LITTLE MISS
MELISSA CONLEY**



**DISTRICT 4 LITTLE MISS
AMBER BATTICE**



**DISTRICT 5 LITTLE MISS
HEAVEN COVEY**



**DISTRICT 6 LITTLE MISS
CHEYENNE HOLMAN**



**DISTRICT 7 LITTLE MISS
KALIN BELLER**



**DISTRICT 8 LITTLE MISS
SAVANNAH HERNDON**



**DISTRICT 9 LITTLE MISS
JOSEPHINE GILMORE**



**DISTRICT 10 LITTLE MISS
LILIANA LEFLORE**



**DISTRICT 11 LITTLE MISS
ALEXIS FUTISCHA**



**DISTRICT 12 LITTLE MISS
CHAYENNE MCCOY**

2012

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Royalty

Senior Miss

District 2

Victoria "Girlie" Battiest of Broken Bow is the daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Battiest. She graduated from Broken Bow High School and will be attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall, majoring in psychology.

District 3

Joyce Cummings of Whitesboro is the daughter of Greg Cummings and Angela Snyder. She graduated from Whitesboro High School in 2011.

District 4

Callie Curnutt, daughter of Bruce and Francine Curnutt, is from Wister and graduated from Wister High School in May. She is now attending Carl Albert State College to gain her bachelor of animal science degree to become a veterinarian.

District 5

Rachel Hogan is the daughter of Johnny Hogan and Debbie Sewel and is a sophomore at Carl Albert State College studying pre-medicine.

District 7

Melissa Gueli of Tuskahoma is the daughter of Clifford and Cathy Ludlow. She graduated from Clayton High School in 2011 and Kiamichi Technology Center to become a home health aide.

District 8

Sarah Thompson of Hugo is the daughter of Perry Thompson Jr. and Tammy Thompson. She is a senior at Hugo High School.

District 9

Cheyenne Murray is the daughter of Belvia Murray of Durant and is currently a freshman at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in nursing with a double minor in Native Studies/Choctaw Language.

District 10

Kayla Mitchell of Atoka is the daughter of Leny Mitchell and Roberta Williams. She

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Princess Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 30 in the amphitheater at Tvshka 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 young ladies have met with judges for interviews, and the judges continue their job on Aug. 30, finalizing their decisions on the young ladies who will represent the Choctaw Nation through the remainder of 2012 and into 2013.

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 the emcee.

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. The band, Ingenuity, will serve as entertainment at the pageant.

graduated from Atoka High School in 2007 and studied culinary arts at Kiamichi Technology Center.

District 11

Cherish Wilkerson is the daughter of Dwight Wilkerson and Christy Cantrell and is from McAlester. She graduated from Crowder High School.

District 12

Raven Ott is the daughter of Mel and Gina Ott of Coalgate. She is a senior at Coalgate High School.

Junior Miss

District 1

Vanessa Martin of Idabel is the daughter of Alfonso and Gwen Martin. She attends ninth grade at Idabel High School.

District 2

Cheyenne Shomo of Broken Bow is the daughter of Billy and Tina Shomo. She attends Broken Bow Middle School and is in the eighth grade.

District 3

Scout Smith, daughter of Ricky Smith and Connie Phillips, is from Smithville and attends Smithville High School in the 10th grade.

District 4

Brianna Battiest of Poteau is the daughter of Michael Rodriguez and Christina Battiest. She attends Poteau-Pansy Kidd Middle School and is in the seventh grade.

District 5

Brandy Sockey is the daughter of Leland and Felicia Sockey of Stigler. She attends Stigler High School and is in the ninth grade.

District 7

Alisha Hardy of Wright City is the daughter of Shirley Hardy and David Trusty. She

attends seventh grade at Wright City Junior High.

District 8

Sarah James, daughter of Tony and Brenda James, is from Hugo and attends Hugo High School in the 11th grade.

District 9

Kayleigh Powell is the daughter of Billy Don Powell and Monica Blaine of Durant. She is a freshman at Durant High School.

District 10

December Pittman of Atoka is the daughter of Brad Pittman and Julie Lambert. She attends Atoka High School in the 10th grade.

District 11

Cheyhoma Dugger is the daughter of Jerry and Michele Dugger of Hartshorne. She attends Haileyville Public Schools and she's in the ninth grade.

District 12

Neiatha Hardy of Coalgate is the daughter of Paula Carney. She is a ninth grader at Coalgate High School.

Little Miss

District 1

Whitney Griffith is the daughter of Jimmy and Paula Griffith of Millerton. She attends Forest Grove Elementary and is in the fifth grade.

District 2

Kalli Battiest, the daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Battiest, is from Broken Bow and attends sixth grade at Rector Johnson Middle School.

District 3

Melissa Conley is the daughter of Patrick and Debbie Conley of Smithville. She attends sixth grade at Smithville.

District 4

Amber Battice of Cameron is the daughter of Stephen and Stephanie Battice. She attends fifth grade at Cameron.

District 5

Heaven Covey is the daughter of Leslie Johnson of Stigler and she attends third grade at Stigler Grade School.

District 6

Cheyenne Holman of Wilburton is the daughter of Crystal Holman and attends Panola Elementary in the fifth grade.

District 7

Kalin Beller is the daughter of Brandon and Crystal Beller of Ft. Towson. She attends Briggs Elementary and is in the third grade.

District 8

Savannah Herndon of Soper is the daughter of Thomas and Angela Herndon. She attends school at Soper Public School and she's in the fourth grade.

District 9

Josephine Gilmore is the daughter of Kenneth and Joyce Gilmore of Calera. She is going into the sixth grade at Durant Intermediate School.

District 10

Liliana Leflore is the daughter of Consetta Leflore of Atoka. She attends school at Atoka Elementary and is in the third grade.

District 11

Alexis Futscha of McAlester is the daughter of Jonathan Futscha and Jacqueline Washington and attends Emerson Elementary in the third grade.

District 12

Chayenne McCoy is the daughter of Thomas and Kelly McCoy of Coalgate. She attends Emerson Elementary and is in the third grade.

EDUCATION

Daniel earns Juris Doctor

Daniel Kirk Zimmer graduated with a Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law in Camden, N.J. He also received the Dean’s Pro Bono Publico Award for over 100 hours of pro bono service and leadership awards from the Criminal Justice Association and the Family Law Society. He is the son of Susan and John Zimmer-Allen of Salisbury and Kirk Zimmer of Birmingham, Ala. His grandfather was the late Honorable Edward Paul Snead Jr., a State District Court Judge in Roswell, N.M. Daniel thanks the Higher Education department for helping him follow in his grandfather’s footsteps.



Elisabeth graduates

The family of Elisabeth Marie Wheeler is proud to announce her graduation from Dr. John D. Horn High School in Mesquite, Texas, on May 26.

During her freshman and sophomore years, she was very active in playing soccer. The last two years of high school were spent on her studies and she is planning to further her education at Richland Jr. College.

Elisabeth is the daughter of Diana and Stephen Woodard, the granddaughter of Claudine and Wendell Wheeler and the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Emiziah Bohanon.



Cooper selected as Teacher of the Year finalist

Congratulations to Kyle Cooper, M.Ed., as he has been selected as one of 12 finalists for the 2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Cooper teaches Pre-Kindergarten at Coweta Public Schools, Central Elementary. He received his B.S. in Early Childhood Education as well as his M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, both from Northeastern State University. He has been in his current teaching position for eight years.

Cooper said he could not have accomplished this without the support of the Choctaw Nation. The scholarships he received during his time at college were very much appreciated, and he is proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.



Congratulations, Ashleigh

Ashleigh Nagy, daughter of Luvenia Nagy of Mesa, Ariz., and student at Rhodes Junior High in Mesa, received academic achievement awards for all four quarters of seventh grade and was on the principal’s honor roll for the year 2011-12. Ashleigh is the granddaughter of Barbara and John Nagy of Durant. Her family would like to wish her congratulations and tell her to keep up the good work in eighth grade.



Megan graduates

Congratulations to Megan Larkin, who graduated from Canton High School in Dearborn, Mich., on June 10. She is the great-great-granddaughter of full-blood Choctaw/Chickasaw Lula Mae Brown Dodd. She plans to major in nursing at Eastern State University in Dearborn.



Anna receives Dean’s Honor Roll

Ann LeFlore of Davis, Calif., is a junior enrolled at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and was named into the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Dean’s Honor Roll for Spring 2012. According to OU’s College of Fine Arts, those students who are recognized on the Dean’s Honor Roll are students in Fine Arts whose talents, achievements and efforts reflect the highest academic and artistic standards.

Anna greatly appreciates the grant assistance afforded her by the Choctaw Nation as she pursues her higher education goals at OU.

Barrett takes second with speech

Barrett Tonubbee Corbin, son of Sherry Tonubbee, participated in the Health Occupation Student Leadership Association Speech Conference in Oklahoma City, as a student of Green County Technology Center and Okmulgee High School, and took second place in the state on his speech, “When the Heart Beats for Another.”

Barrett will be a senior at Okmulgee High School and is the grandson of the late Empson and Lillie Tonubbee of Durant.



Leasa appointed to Associate Head Coach

Congratulations to Leasa Ailshie of Claremore for being named Associate Head Women’s Basketball Coach at Jacksonville College (JC). After serving as a graduate assistant at Sam Houston State University, where she received her master’s degree, Leasa took over in July 2011 as assistant women’s basketball coach at JC. After leading Claremore High School to three Class 5A state titles as a player, she played for Connors State College for two seasons before finishing her collegiate career as a member of the Sam Houston women’s basketball squad. Starting in the fall, Leasa will share with Jacksonville’s head coach, Lynn Nabi, daily duties such as practice, handling discipline, preparing game plans, etc.

Leasa would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the scholarships she’s received through school.

Joshua graduates

Joshua Alexander Abbott Boucher, great-grandson of Ausborn and Margaret (Bell) Boucher, graduated from Bennington College in Vermont with two concentrations: political science and photography. At Bennington, he received a faculty scholarship and studied abroad in Pune, India.

Joshua will attend the University of Missouri this fall to begin a master’s program in photojournalism, where he has received a graduate assistantship and will work in the study abroad office.



Darrin excels academically

Darrin Blackston graduated May 18 from Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City with honors, being third in his class with a GPA of 4.5. Besides his academic success, Darrin also qualified for state competition in tennis, representing his entire school in any sport as a senior. His main focus, however, has been his love of playing video games and his dream of creating them. He plans to pursue a degree in computer science/gaming animation at Oklahoma Christian University this fall.

Proud parents are Keith and Lisa Blackston of Oklahoma City. Darrin is the grandson of Dorothy Turner of Bethany, Lee and Donna Blackston of Godfrey, Ill., and Charles and Sandy Shook of Reno, Nev. He is the great-grandson of the late Dora Tims of Claremore.



To the Youth of the Nation

By: Emily Wolfe, 2nd place, YAB Scholarship 2012

My arms were sore from packing up the boxes of food and my lips were still chapped from the bake sale the day before. It was close to Christmas one afternoon at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, and all of our YAB-sters were hard at work trying to divide the donations for needy families into their correct baskets. As I worked, I kept thinking about all of the hours I spent on this project. I worked harder and put more thought into a Christmas for people I had never met than for my own family. Is this madness? Am I overdoing all of this? We finished packing up the boxes and put them in the van that was to be delivered to the families tomorrow afternoon.

That night I was very anxious to give these families the gifts that the Youth Advisory Board had been working so hard on for weeks. I went over all the things the families would be getting: blankets, food, toiletries, clothes and toys for the children. What if they didn’t like it? What if they are allergic to the food? These are just some of the questions my scatter-brained mind kept asking as I fretted over the coming day. Only a few more hours and I’ll understand why I have spent countless hours for people I don’t even know.

The time had finally come to pass out the laundry baskets overflowing with gifts to our families. The YAB kids loaded up in the van and we made our way to the families. The first house must have only been a few miles away, but it felt like a five-hour drive. I was finally going to be able to put a face to the list of people that only contained their gender, age and clothing sizes. I was finally going to be able to look into the eyes of the people that I had been working for weeks in order to make their gifts perfect.

We arrived at the first house, which was small with an old run-down car in the driveway. The children loved all the gifts and the parents were extremely thankful. This made us all feel very good

about ourselves. We laughed and talked happily on the way to the last house.

As we saw the house, our laughter fell silent. The house was small and dilapidated. Its windows were covered in tin, making it look similar to an abandoned garage. As a matter of fact, if there weren’t children on the rickety, wooden porch, I might have mistaken it for a garage. This was a family of six, according to our paper, including five children and a mother. Three of these children watched us from the porch as if we were aliens while we got out of the van. We did our ritual of unloading the gifts in almost complete silence.

We walked on the porch and the loitering children weren’t wearing shoes and wore short-sleeved shirts. It was the middle of December and none of the young children were wearing a coat. We knocked on the door and the mother answered. She invited us into this tiny, drafty house where the children slept on the floor of the living room. The woman saw all of the gifts and immediately started to cry. She asked us to stay as they opened the gifts. Each child’s face lit up as they were told they had a gift to open. They snacked on some of the food and draped out the blankets on what I assumed was where each slept on the floor. I have never seen this kind of joy in anyone’s face before. These children hugged and thanked us as it was time to leave. We were strangers to these children, but they hugged us like family. It actually kind of made me feel like their family.

When we were on our way out, the mother closed the door behind her and came on the porch with us in tears. She said: “All they were going to get for Christmas this year was one candy bar each. You gave them their first real Christmas. You gave my babies something I never could. I could never thank you enough. God bless all of you. Merry Christmas!”

We then drove away in silence. Some of us had eyes

filled with tears and others just sat in silence. We all didn’t know what to feel. For weeks these people were only genders, ages and clothing sizes, and in a few minutes, we obtained faces, names, personalities and most importantly, stories.

I go into detail about this particular YAB project because, for me, this is where my life took a turn. This is where I stopped looking at people for what they wore, or what they looked like, and focused on who they were. Not only in the needy, but in all aspects of people who weren’t exactly in the “norm.”

This project also taught just exactly how much leadership and hard work can mean. Being one of the older YAB members, I constantly find myself explaining and coaching the other members. This project also inspired me to create my own nonprofit organization, called “We Dream Bigger,” with a few of my friends from other schools and raise money for the Water of Life Project. I then presented the project to YAB, who also raised money.

YAB has played a huge role in my life these past few years, and I have spent countless hours on the many projects and volunteer positions we have obligated ourselves to. The program has made me love to help my community. It has always made me understand the importance of helping others. We have to help each other when times are rough. This world is full of problems, and unless we are willing to do something other than complain about it, nothing is ever going to change.

I plan on going to the University of Central Oklahoma after high school and I will inevitably apply the skills and lessons I have learned in YAB in my college life. I also plan to expand We Dream Bigger and work on more projects that help the community. Like most people, I am unsure of what the future holds, but I will always remember what the past has taught me, and I will never forget what I have learned in YAB.

Courtney to attend leadership program

Courtney Louise Strickland has been awarded an LEDA Scholarship to Princeton University for a seven-week leadership program this summer. She is one of 60 students nationwide to be awarded this scholarship for 2012. LEDA offers high school students the chance to go to top classes that normally the average person would not be able to attend. Courtney, taking advanced classes, has maintained at least a 4.0 GPA throughout high school. Chinese and Cherokee are the two languages she has studied. She is going to be a senior this coming fall at Ft. Gibson High School in Ft. Gibson, Okla. Courtney works, volunteers and is involved in extra-curricular activities in school. She is also involved in the preservation and promotion of the Choctaw horses. She is a very caring person and her dream is to go to Yale University and study architecture. Her mother is Victoria Hicks of Muskogee. Her great-grandmother is the late Mary Jane (Jacob) Hicks of Caddo, an original enrollee.



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 2	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
							1
	2	3	4	5 Talihina by appt.	6	7 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	8
	9	10 Durant 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	11 Antlers by appt.	12 Poteau by appt.	13	14 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	15
	16	17 Crowder by appt.	18	19 McAlester 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	20	21 Wright City by appt.	22
	23 30	24 Durant 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	25	26 Wilburton by appt.	27	28 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	29

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 2	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Durant 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	2 Antlers by appt.	3 Talihina by appt.	4	5 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	6
	7	8 Durant 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	9 Poteau by appt.	10 McAlester 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	11	12 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22 Durant 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	27
	28	29 Wilburton by appt.	30	31 Wright City by appt.			

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

Honoring our legacy, securing our future

By **LARISSA COPELAND**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Chahta Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 2000 with the goal of supporting Choctaws to achieve their full potential and become self-reliant. To achieve this, the Foundation unites with donors to “preserve our rich culture and to advance opportunities for Choctaw people in their communities,” according to its mission statement.

The Chahta Foundation is a separate entity from the Choctaw Nation and is made up of a board of directors. Members of the Chahta Foundation Board of Directors are Chairman Jon Marshall, Chairman Emeritus Delton Cox, Vice-Chair John Jackson, Treasurer Sonya Diggs, Secretary Kathy Carpenter and Board Members Greg Pyle, Gary Batton, Joy Culbreath, Mickey Peercy, and Dana McDaniel Bonham. The Foundation office employees three full-time staff members who run the day-to-day operations – Stacy Shepherd, director, Seth Fairchild, assistant director, and Scott Wesley, scholarship specialist.

“Chahta,” the original, cultural spelling of the name Choctaw, was chosen as the Foundation’s name as a way to emphasize a connection to ancestral tribal roots and to embrace and honor the memory of past generations.

The language, traditions, and ceremonies of Choctaw ancestors are key identifiers to what made them who they were as a people, and the preservation of those Choctaw ways of life secures the legacy of the entire tribe for generations to come.

To ensure this, the Foundation focuses on three key aspects: culture, education and health.

The culture of the tribe is deeply rooted in its people and knowing their stories is key to the preservation of the past. To honor and celebrate the lives of Choctaw people and ensure those stories are never lost, the Chahta Foundation has initiated a storytelling project in which they collect audio recordings from tribal elders.

Oral storytelling is “how our stories have always been passed down by our tribe,” says Fairchild. “The goal is for them to not just tell us about the cultural aspects of their lives, but for them to tell us what it was like and what it meant to live as a Choctaw in their everyday life.”

Foundation staff members coordinate with Choctaw elders and their families to collect audio recordings of their stories and make them available on the Chahta Foundation website, chahtafoundation.com.

“We found a really modern way to capture their history and share those stories with people all over the world,” says Fairchild.

Interesting though, the Foundation staff members do not conduct the interviews themselves. “The family members do the interviewing,” says Shepherd. “Family members are in a room together, and the younger generation is provided a list of ques-

tions to generate the storytelling. The equipment is there with a microphone, but we’re not even in the room. It makes it more private and intimate without a camera, and usually, once they get into it, they forget they are even being recorded.”

According to the Chahta Foundation, “Each story, each voice, shared from one generation to another, is the one thing we can leave that says we existed and that every life matters.”

Anyone interested in the storytelling project can contact the Chahta Foundation to schedule a time to have his or her story recorded. Also, Foundation members are scheduled to travel to each of the community centers every Wednesday until Oct. 3 to make presentations about the storytelling project. “We are hoping to get in contact with some of those elder tribal members and set up times to bring their families together or have them invite us if they are having some kind of traditional gathering and let us record their story,” says Shepherd.

Additionally, the Chahta Foundation will have trailers set up during the Labor Day Festival to record stories for those interested in doing an interview. “They can contact us and schedule a time for their family to be recorded,” says Fairchild. “We can transport people to and from their location at the festival. Signs will also be posted on the grounds.”

Along with preserving the stories of Choctaw elders, the Foundation also emphasizes growth for its youth through education. One way this is achieved is by awarding scholarships. The Foundation currently offers the Apela Ima (Giving Help) Scholarship, a \$2000 scholarship given to three graduating seniors annually.

“We just awarded the scholarship for the first time this past May, and the response to it was amazing,” said Shepherd. “We anticipated that we might get 20 applications, and we ended up with about 70 applicants. That is about one-fifth of the graduating Choctaw seniors [within the 10-½ counties] that applied for this scholarship.”

The recipients of the Apela Ima scholarship are Ashley Carlisle of Broken Bow, Chance Beshear of Harshorne, and MaKayla Henry of Caney.

The Foundation is also developing another scholarship, the Juanita Wilmouth Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Chief Gregory E. Pyle’s mother. The scholarship, which will be awarded in 2013, will “provide nursing scholarships to Choctaw students striving to reach their potential in the medical field and to meet the growing need for quality nurses in the next generation,” according to the Foundation.

More information and eligibility requirements for the scholarships can be found on the Chahta Foundation website.

Another vital focus of the Foundation is the health of the current and future generations of Choctaws because it is “the foundation for all our achievements and aspirations in life,” according to the Chahta Foundation. It focuses on preventative health care as opposed to primary health care and emphasizes exercise and living healthy lifestyles.

Videos, which were produced completely in-house, can be viewed online and depict how the Foundation is working to safeguard the rich heritage of the tribe and promote each facet of the Foundation. Staff members also produced a traditional dance DVD of the Choctaw Nation employee dance troupe, which can be obtained by contacting the Foundation.

“Since the beginning, we said everything we do, from our



logo to anything we take part in, we have to stay true to being Choctaw,” says Fairchild. “And that’s always worked out for us.”

When it came to designing the logo for the foundation, the decision was one made after much research, thought and input from many. “We wanted to merge the old with the new, the traditional with the modern, and still be true to who we are,” continued Fairchild.

The logo is a modern take on an eagle but also represents a hand, which is an old Native American symbol, he says. “The hand is the oldest symbol they’ve found on Choctaw pottery,” says Fairchild, “and it’s an artistic representation of what the hand looks like. What it is believed to represent, according to Ian Thompson [Director of Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation], is the passing of one group into the next life.

“The whole concept of what we’re doing here is legacy planning,” he continues, “having the foresight to set up endowments that will last forever, providing scholarships and cultural endeavors from now until the end of time. And the representation of the bird is meant to be symbolic of the eagle’s swiftness and vision. It’s neat because you can see [the logo] from the perspective of a hand and also the viewpoint of the raptor.”

The logo was chosen from three designs and was overwhelming picked by Choctaws when asked their preference by staff members. “People would say, ‘something about that seems Choctaw to me.’ So we had to go with [the current logo],” says Fairchild. “It seemed to relate so much to our Choctaw culture.”

And finding the absolute perfect logo was significant because the staff wanted something that could stand alone and be instantly identifiable. “We want the logo to get to the point where it’s almost like the Nike symbol, very recognizable, when you see it you just know that it is Chahta,” said Shepherd.

The Foundation is operated completely through donations from both the tribe and generous gifts and contributions from private donors. It also accepts donations of artifacts. “We’ve had big donations, letters from former chiefs, cradle boards, hundreds and hundreds of these really precious artifacts that we store in a modern facility in Dallas,” says Fairchild.

Shepherd expands on this, saying, “The Foundation is capable of accepting donations of artifacts, appraisal, and insuring.

“One thing that we would like to take place in the future is to have our own storage facility where these Choctaw treasures can be preserved in a museum quality storage facility,” continues Shepherd.

Until then, a database is being compiled of all the artifacts being preserved. “We are taking pictures of everything,” she says, “and it is all being put into this database so eventually people will be able to access it, read descriptions, see pictures of all these different things.”

Anyone wishing to make a donation of artifacts or a monetary gift to the Chahta Foundation can contact staff members at 800-522-6170 or access its website to make online contributions. Donations are tax deductible.

“The Foundation was established so that resources can be secured to support tribal members regardless of the economic times,” says Shepherd. “We will pursue donations from private foundations, write for grants, and establish endowments.

“We have donors from the east coast to the west coast, people who just want to give to the tribe in some way and support our mission,” says Shepherd. “Choctaw people want to be connected and help us in honoring our legacy, and in turn, securing our future as Choctaws.”



Photo provided

One example of an artifact donated to the Chahta Foundation is this baby cradle board.



Photo provided

Mary Watson, center, shared her story as part of the foundation’s storytelling project. She is joined by Pam Jefferson, left, and Pat Gray.

News from Jones Academy

Martin named Teacher of the Year

Jones Academy Elementary School teacher Brenda Martin has been chosen as the Hartshorne School District Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012. Ms. Martin who teaches a combined third and fourth grade at Jones Academy was recognized by her colleagues for her dedication to her students and professionalism in the classroom. The devoted teacher has taught seven years at the elementary school. She is known for “running a tight ship” and for drawing out academic excellence from her students.

Ms. Martin is a 1980 graduate of Hartshorne High School. She received her Bachelor’s of Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant and finished her master’s degree at East Central University in Ada. Before coming to Jones Academy, Ms. Martin



Submitted photo

Ms. Martin is congratulated by Brad Spears, administrator of Jones Academy.

taught on the elementary and junior high level in Haileyville.

Ms. Martin is married to Johnnie Dale Martin and has two daughters Krystal and Jennifer, and a grandson, Rowdy. She enjoys horseback riding and has competed nationally on the rodeo circuit. Ms. Martin is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

JA students inducted into Honor Society

Four Jones Academy students were recognized for their academic achievements and citizenship by the Hartshorne Public Schools this past spring. Sophomores Billie Jo Nunn and Holly Andersen and seventh grader Seth Crow were inducted into the Oklahoma Honor Society, and Junior Melissa Sam was inducted into both the National and Oklahoma Honor Societies. The students were honored for their academic excellence, character, and leadership in the classroom. They received the awards at the Hartshorne Honors Banquet in late March. Melissa and Billie Jo are members of the Choctaw Nation. Seth and Holly are members of the Cherokee and Sisseton-Wahpeton tribes, respectively.



Jones Academy students, from left, Billie Jo Nunn, Holly Andersen, and Melissa Sam were all inducted into the Oklahoma Honor Society. Sam was also inducted into the National Honor Society.



Submitted photos

Seth Crow, at left, was inducted into the Oklahoma Honor Society and also made the 2012 Southeastern Oklahoma Band Director’s Association Honor Band. He plays the French horn and was selected to perform in the Seventh Grade Symphonic Band at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

CNO Chahta Inchukka program begins home visitation services for ‘at-risk’ families

Choctaw Nation is very excited to offer our Native American families an opportunity to take advantage of the new home visiting program in which we are now taking applications for services. The Chahta Inchukka program provides services to families or caregivers of children who are pregnant and/or parenting a child under the age of one year and considered to be currently living in an “at-risk” situation. This program can assist primary caregivers including mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunt, uncles,

etc. who reside within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation. The project provides comprehensive and integrated services to improve school readiness of children, health outcomes for mother and infant, increase healthy parenting skills, increase healthy parent/child interaction skills and provide opportunities for assessing each individual needs of each participant and linking them to resources available.

Using the Parents as Teachers curriculum or Home Visiting Specialist provide

information on parenting, child development and referral to community resources through bi-monthly home visits tailored to the needs of each particular child and their family. Parents learn how to help encourage their child and promote healthy development intended to make their child more successful for learning by the time they reach school age. Parents As Teachers is an evidence based home visiting model that was developed more than 25 years ago. Through advocacy and outreach, Parents As

Teachers serves as a voice for early childhood development and champions the critical role of parental involvement and early intervention in the childhood development and education continuum. Well-designed independent research studies support hundreds of thousands of families in all 50 states as well as many other countries through a proven parent education model featuring intimate, in-home visits with parents and children. These studies have consistently confirmed the effectiveness of Parents as

Teachers in improving children’s development across multiple domains by increasing school readiness, improving parents’ knowledge of early childhood development and parenting practices, identifying developmental delays and health issues and preventing child abuse and neglect.

To be eligible, clients must:

- Must be currently pregnant and/or primary caregiver of a child under the age of 1 year.
- Must be parenting a Native American child or expecting a Native American

baby of any federally recognized tribe.

- Must reside within the Choctaw Nation 10.5 county service area

- Must be determined to be in an “at-risk” situation due to low income or poverty, single-parent family, substance abuse, domestic violence, military families, DHS/ICW involvement or previous involvement, etc.

For more information contact: Program Director: Brandi Smallwood at 877-285-6893 or bsmallwood@choctawnation.com

NOTES TO THE NATION

Seeking friend from high school

William H. (Billy) Bailey is seeking information on Todd Keys. Billy is helping some of his fellow classmates from the Durant High School class of 1973 organize a reunion, and they are seeking a way to contact Todd.

If you have any information on Todd or have a way for Billy to contact him, please call Billy at 580-317-3114. Thank you.

Thank you for support

We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for supporting the education of our son, Brandon Cometti. Brandon recently graduated from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston with the degree of Doctor of Medicine with High Honor.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the generosity of the Choctaw Nation in its support of higher education for its members.



Chuck and Debbie Cometti

Appreciative of care package

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for sending my son a care package during his military deployment to Afghanistan. I know he appreciated it, and your thoughtfulness means so much to me.



Sandy Nease

CNYEP Heritage 5K Run a success

The Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment program sponsored the second annual CNYEP Heritage 5K Run and One Mile Walk on May 26 in Clayton. There were 120 participants in this year's event, ranging in age from 6 to 75. The event was timed by Youth Empowerment staff using the Jaguar Cubby Chip Timing System.

The CNYEP would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board members, volunteers from Choctaw Nation Health Services, Tribal Police, the city of Clayton and the employees of the CNYEP for making this year's event a great success. We would also like to give a special thanks to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council for making events like this possible.

Thankful for assistance in time of need

We would like to thank Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton for providing financial assistance when our home sustained significant damage from a storm on July 26. The wind tore the roof from the house and the tribe immediately stepped in to assist us in getting it repaired.

It's hard to put into words to express our gratitude, but we would like to tell them just how very thankful we are for everything.

Jerry and Deborah Buchanan

Searching for missing family member

The Carney family is looking for a missing family member. Tara Cossey has been missing since June 6, 1979, from San Pablo, Calif. Any information would be greatly appreciated and should be directed to Detective Melissa Klawuhn, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, at 925-313-2657. For further information, visit charleyproject.org/cases/c/cossey_tara.html.

The Carney Family

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT FOR CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

The Choctaw Nation Head Start announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals, at no extra charge to the parents. In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, participating institutions are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Procedure for Filing Complaints of Discrimination

1. Right to File a Complaint: Any person alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability has a right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action. Under special circumstances, this time limit may be extended by OMA.
2. Acceptance: All complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant. All complaints shall be accepted by the CACFP institution, Oklahoma State Department of Education (the State Agency), or Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office (FNSRO). The complaints will be forwarded to the FNSRO (as applicable), and then forwarded at once to the CR Division. It is necessary that the information be sufficient to determine the identity of the agency or individual toward which the complaint is directed and to indicate the possibility of a violation. Please see a Civil Rights Complaint Form. The person who has allegedly been discriminated against must complete and sign a Complainant Consent/ Release Form - this form must accompany the Civil Rights Complaint Form.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call toll-free 866- 632- 9992(Voice). Individuals who are hearing-impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800- 877- 8339 or 800- 845- 6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

November 10!

IVY LEAGUE

& Friends!

CHOCTAW STUDENT RECRUITMENT

"...we've seen more and more students applying to the Ivy League schools and highly selective schools, and we've seen more and more get accepted."

-Jo McDaniel, Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program Director

CHOCTAWNATION-SAP.COM

800-522-6170 EXT. 2523

SCHOLARSHIPADVISEMENT@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Tara thankful for help in reaching her goal

Thank you for helping me reach my goal of becoming a nurse. Without the help of Jamie Hamil and the Career Development Center, my goal would never have been reached. Thank you for ensuring my family's life will be financially stable and forever changed. I know my son's life will be so much better due to the education I have been blessed with. I'm proud to say I took the state NCLEX and passed on June 22. Today, I am Tara LeAnne Carr LPN. Thank you so much for everything.

Thank you for scholarships

We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the scholarship support that our daughter, Rebecca Lett, received during her four years at the University of Southern California. Rebecca graduated in May and was chosen as a corps member for Teach for America and will begin teaching this fall in Houston. We couldn't be more proud of her and wanted to let the Choctaw Nation know that those scholarships are helping kids accomplish great goals. Thanks, again!



Laura Lett and family

Friendly family's invitation

We are Matt and Candace Woodroof, and we have just recently moved from Farmer-ville, La., to Moab, Utah, to serve First Assembly of God as senior pastors. Our son, Andrew Woodroof, turned 1 year old on June 29. If any Choctaw families are in Moab, we invite you to join us at church for our worship services!



Seeking friend from past

I was in boot camp with a man named Steve Whalen. My spelling of his name may be incorrect, but he was a great friend of mine. He was a member of the Choctaw Nation. I've long since wondered what has become of him. We were in Company 227 of the Great Lakes Navy boot camp. He ran the 100-yard dash faster than a Mississippi state record holder. His family couldn't make it to our graduation, so he spent it with my family.

If anyone can help me find him, I would be in your debt. My address is 44 Stackhouse Rd., Monticello, NY 12701 and my phone number is 845-665-3532. Thank you.

Rob Piatt

Thank you for help in time of need

The family of Shirley Louise Williams Adair would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its help in their time of need. A special thanks to Councilman Joe Coley, who went out of his way to make sure their paperwork got to the right people in a timely manner, so they could attend the services for their mother in California.

Crystal continues to succeed

Crystal Jensen would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for supporting her educational efforts, specifically with ongoing academic financial scholarships.

She is pleased to share that she is almost finished with all but the dissertation portion of her Doctor of Learning Technologies program at Pepperdine University. She's also recently been honored with several news articles and scholarly experiences and wanted to share her recognition with the Choctaw community.

Crystal is a learning technology consultant whose Native American roots have led her to research and develop methods of incorporating technology in urban and rural areas that will strengthen the capacity of Native American schools and communities. She has traveled the world in an effort to research methods used in other countries and to network with educational leaders in a variety of forums. She is also president and founder of Integrity Technologies and CERCLE, two organizations designed to provide 21st Century capacity building for communities in need, thereby helping bridge the digital divide.



In A Good Way: Homesteading Now and Then event

In A Good Way is excited to announce its first Homestead Event, and caring people volunteering to help will make the event successful. This event will be the introduction of In A Good Way to the community. In A Good Way's event listing can be found on Mother Earth's website by going to motherearthnews.com/homesteadeducation/registration. By clicking on 'location' and choosing 'OK,' In A Good Way will be displayed. Mother Earth magazine will sponsor many other homesteading events, but In A Good Way's is the only one in Oklahoma.

During the Homesteading Now and Then event, diversified demonstrations showing homesteading of yesteryear and today will be presented.

Demonstrations and presentations include hoop house construction, rainwater harvesting and solar panel construction, raising chemical-free bees, food preservation, canning and solar dehydration, alpaca displays and a quilting bee. The Choctaw Cultural Preservation Department will be showcasing pottery making, basket weaving, beading, tool making, story telling, flute making, and dressmaking.

Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

Events

Choctaw Nation Community Center-Durant schedule

The following events are scheduled to take place at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, Durant location.

Mondays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: beading class (to be announced); Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Choctaw language class; Wednesdays: senior luncheons and activities; all day Sundays and Wednesday evenings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Chihowa Okla United Methodist Church meeting.

The community center offers several tribal services to those needing assistance, including two community health representatives on hand, an Outreach Services employee, an employee representing the Vocational Rehab program and three employees working a transit program. The Councilman for this district is Ted Dosh.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Melvis Wilson, field office representative, at 580-924-7810.

Zumba classes now offered at wellness center

The Choctaw Nation Wellness Center in Talihina is now offering Zumba fitness classes. Zumba is a great way to have fun and lose weight, and it doesn't matter your age or fitness level. Classes are located in Talihina at the youth center on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. You can come or bring friends. Remember, every accomplishment starts with the decision to try. Classes are free to anyone willing to participate.

For further information, contact Cara Lowder at cdlowder@cnhsa.com.

Wilson reunion, Smithville

The descendants of Norwood and Taby Wilson will be meeting Sept. 1 at the Smithville community center at 11 a.m. for their annual reunion. A business meeting will start the day with lunch following at 12 p.m. An auction will then take place. All friends and family are encouraged to bring a covered dish and an item for the auction; serving pieces for food as well as drinks will be provided. Plan to attend and join the fun.

Impson family reunion

All descendents of Caleb and Malina Impson are invited to attend the Impson family reunion on Sept. 1-2 at Comanche in the Legion Hut building. For more information, contact Deborah Hunter at 580-475-5239, Rita Hice at 580-439-5643 or Alton Smith at 580-439-6050.

Choctaw Code Talkers Association annual meeting

The Choctaw Code Talkers Association wishes to invite those who are interested in becoming involved with the association or who want to learn more about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and World War II to the 15th annual meeting on Sept. 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma. CCTA president, executive board, membership, fund raising and election committees will be available to answer any questions. Join members of the association as they share the exciting news about the World War I and World War II Choctaw Code Talkers.

Phase II: Choctaw Language Class

The Phase II Choctaw Language Class will begin on Sept. 11 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Durant. Class time is 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday, taught by Ann Kania-tobe.

For more information, contact Richard Adams in the School of Choctaw Language at 580-924-8280 or Ann at 580-916-1819.

OK Tribal Alliance language courses

The Oklahoma City Community School of Choctaw Language will resume on Sept. 11 at the OK Tribal Alliance at 5320 S. Youngs. All phases, language, culture, traditions, hymnal singing and social dancing will be covered.

There will also be a Choctaw language class held at the Shawnee community center located at 804 S. Park on Sept. 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Norris Samuels at 405-672-5653.

Grateful for support

The family of Orble Frank Labor would like to extend a special thank you to Councilman Jack Austin and his staff for the use of the Choctaw community center and the food that was provided during their time of grief. They are extremely grateful for the warm, cordial support, especially on such short notice.

Edward Walker and family



Admission is free to the public over 12 years of age.

The event will take place Sept. 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at In A Good Way Farm, located at 13359 SE 1101 Ave. in Talihina.

A map will be sent to registered participants and the road will be marked with streamers.



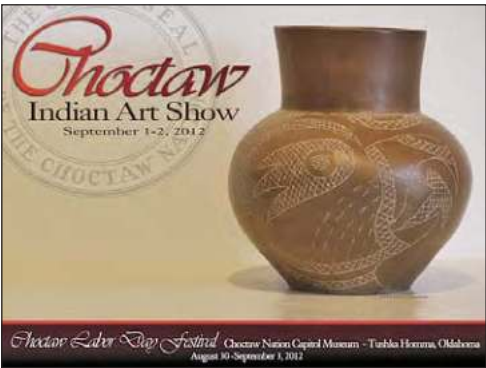
Artists bring culture alive on Labor Day brochures, posters

“It’s Culture...It’s History... It’s Language...It’s Choctaw!” is the theme for the 2012 Choctaw Labor Day Festival. Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom says, “In thinking about our goals with the theme this year, we wanted to highlight the many special things our tribal members are doing. Choosing original art by two of our tribal artists for the brochure and art show poster was one way we could showcase the fine work our artists are creating. Plus, both images highlight special aspects of Choctaw culture.”

When Grandfather Speaks, a painting by Jim Town, Okla., artist Nancy Rhoades, is the focal point of the Labor Day brochure and inspired the design of this year’s event T-shirt. The image portrays a peaceful and colorful landscape with a Choctaw couple looking out over a traditional village. Rhoades comments, “Grandparents often tell stories of their childhood. Their words put you in a frame of mind to visualize the world as they experienced it. The painting is

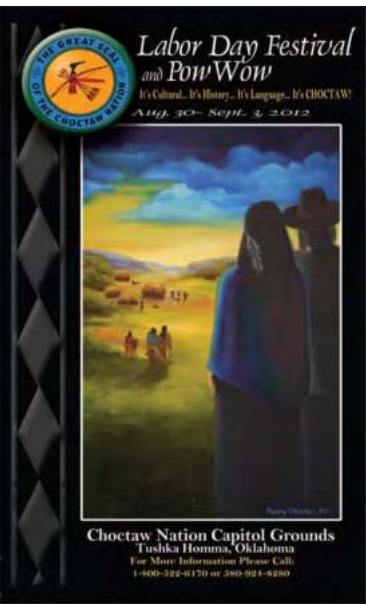
a representation of all those stories...thinking about how things were in the past and the importance of those stories for the future.” Folsom adds, “The colors, content, historic nature of the image and the storytelling aspect convey exactly what we want our guests to experience at the festival. It’s a place to reconnect with people, places, and activities that make you proud to be Choctaw.”

Hawk Water Vessel, a piece of pottery by Atwood, Okla., artist Edmond Perkins, graces the 9th Annual Choctaw Indian Arts Show poster. “I wanted to reproduce, as closely as possible, the AD 1300 vessel I had seen pictures of in the Moundville Ala., collection. The vessel’s thin walls, symmetrical shape and decorative etchings are great examples of the skill and artistic abilities of our ancient Choctaw ancestors,” states Perkins. “Many times people don’t think about pottery as



being art. It is functional, but it is also beautiful and very challenging to make in the traditional way. Pottery was essential to the lives of Choctaw ancestors. Today, we can experience those artistic and creative roots through replica pieces like the Hawk Water Vessel or through taking part in making pottery in the same way they did so many years ago,” says Art Show Coordinator Shelley Tate Garner.

The Choctaw Labor Day Festival will be held at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds in Tyushka Homma Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. The 9th Annual Choctaw Indian Arts



show will be on view inside the Capitol Museum starting at 10 a.m. Sept. 2 to 2 p.m. Sept. 3. “We hope that these art pieces reach out to all of those who get a brochure or see an art show poster. They are a great way to start the conversation about the importance of the past and the excitement of the future for the Choctaw Nation,” concludes Folsom.

To learn more about Choctaw arts and culture, visit the Choctaw Nation Cultural Services Division website at www.choctawnation-culture.com. For details on the Labor Day Festival, visit www.choctawnation.com.

Choctaw Project Youth

Youth across the country are in danger. Youth and young adults are experiencing alarmingly high levels of abuse in their dating relationships. Native youth are at an even greater danger. The statistics are daunting at all levels and ages, but particularly so in Indian country. Native Americans experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States.

Project Youth works with young adults ages 13-24, addressing the problem of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. We will assist these victims in achieving a safe environment and safe relationships. The communities to be served are all those who fall within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation services area. All clients will be selected for participation because of their need for intensive services and their high risk for future victimization.

Choctaw Project Youth compliments many other programs under Randy Hammons, Executive Director of Outreach services and Senior Director Linda Goodwin.

We know we can make a difference in the lives of these young victims, and with the funding from OVW, Choctaw Project Youth is grateful to be out in the communities assisting our young people in achieving a safe environment, full of safe relationships and free from abuse.

Contact Jennifer Woods, Deputy Director at 800-522-6170 or 918-465-9884 for more information.

Choctaw Nation Going Green Poster Contest

Contest Description:

The Choctaw Nation Going Green Team is sponsoring a Water Conservation poster contest. The theme of the contest is practicing and educating others about water conservation by submitting an entry into the poster contest in a way that represents the Nation and the Going Green team. Each division winning poster will be printed as a Christmas card to be used by the Going Green team.

Eligibility:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Members in school, grades Pre-K through the 12th grade.

The following grades will fall into four divisions: **Pre-K thru 2nd grade; 3rd grade thru 5th grade; 6th grade thru 8th grade; and 9th grade thru 12th grade**

You will enter by what grade you are enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year.

Prizes:

Each first place division winner will receive an electronic tablet.

Contest Deadline:

All Entries must be postmarked no later than **September 12, 2012.**

Winners will be announced on October 15, 2012.

Rules:

- All posters must be submitted on 8.5 inch x 11 inches white paper.
- Use only original artwork.
- Do not write name on front of poster.
- Must include copy of Tribal Membership card with entry.
- All posters must have the following, written in PENCIL, on the back of the poster:
 - Student’s first and last name, grade, address, phone number and email.
 - No trademarked, copyrighted materials, computer generated artwork or copy machine aided work can be used.
- Reproducibility of the poster will be a factor in the judges’ decisions.
- Only one entry per tribal member.
- All media are accepted. Chalk, charcoal and pastel entries should be sealed with a fixative spray to prevent smearing. Do not laminate entries.
- Three-dimensional entries will not be accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled, or attached to the artwork in any way.
- Artwork should be done on a flexible material, so it can be rolled for shipping in a mailing tube. Do not fold poster.
- Participants accept all responsibility for late, lost, misdirected or illegible entries.
- Entries sent with insufficient postage will be disqualified. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is not responsible for entries damaged, destroyed or lost during the judging process. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned. All entries submitted become property of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

How to Enter:

Mail entry to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Green Team
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Questions ? ? ?

Email: gogreen@choctawnation.com



IHS

CNO recipients recognized for their dedication and contributions to improving the health and well-being of Native Americans

Continued from Page 1

who suffer from alcohol and other drug use and trauma. Accepting the award for Chi Hullo Li were Krista Fincher, Tiffani McCurtain, Re-

nee Baughman and Tammy Stamps.

• Merit Award – Tribal – Janet Green, a family practice physician at the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in McAlester.

• Peer Recognition Awards – Tiffany Segotta, Radiology Department Supervisor at the Choctaw Clinic in McAlester; Elizabeth Morgan, not pictured, Switchboard Operator Supervisor at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center; Rhonda Harvey, Nursing Supervisor at the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Idabel; Kimberly McKinney, Medical Clinic Nurse at the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Broken Bow; Shawn Sanders, not pictured, Chief Pharma-

cist for the Choctaw Nation Hugo Clinic; Katrina West, Pharmacy Technician at the Choctaw Nation Stigler Clinic; Candice Smith, not pictured, Choctaw Referred Care Specialist at the Choctaw Nation Atoka Clinic; and Joanna Ryan, Radiology Technologist and Assistant Facility Director at the Choctaw Nation Poteau Clinic.

• Length of Service Award – Loyce Wright was recognized for 30 years of service. Loyce is an RN and a Community Health Nurse operating out of the McAlester Clinic.

Instead of plaques, each recipient received a piece of artwork by featured artist Dylan Cavin, a member of the Choctaw Nation.



Submitted photo

Honorees Eddie Woods, Jerry Tomlinson, Joe Coley, Anne Brooks, Anita Risner, Representative R.C. Pruett and Dr. Daniel Boatright gather with Eastern Oklahoma State College President Dr. Steve Smith at the 2012 Sapphire Ball. The event raised approximately \$8,000 for student scholarships.

Eastern Oklahoma State College holds third annual Sapphire Ball

Eastern Oklahoma State College’s third annual Sapphire Ball raised approximately \$8,000 for deserving students while also honoring outstanding employees, alumni and community supporters.

Eastern rolled out the red carpet on April 28 for “An Evening Among the Stars,” a Hollywood-inspired evening that included dinner, entertainment by students and local community members, a live auction, dancing and the awards presentation.

Attended by 170 guests this year, the Sapphire Ball is Eastern’s largest annual scholarship fundraising event. Proceeds from the event will fund Eastern’s Sapphire Scholarship for deserving students.

“We appreciate the support and patronage of our alumni, faculty, staff, local businesses

and other donors,” said Treva Kennedy, director of Institutional Advancement. “Their support of the Sapphire Ball and the Sapphire Scholarship will create opportunities for more students to attend Eastern and realize their dream of earning a college degree.”

Kennedy said students applying for the Sapphire Scholarship will be evaluated on their leadership skills and potential, scholastic achievement, community outreach and/or family responsibilities, credit hour completion and financial need.

Also during the event, Eastern President Dr. Steve Smith honored five individuals and one organization that have been instrumental to the success of the college.

The Choctaw Nation and Representative R.C. Pruett (D-Antlers) received the Community Spirit Award;

Dr. Daniel Boatright of Oklahoma City (Class of 1972) and Anita Risner of Yukon (Class of 1967) received Distinguished Alumnus Awards; Eddie Woods, professor of forestry, received the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award; and Anne Brooks, academic advisor, received the J.C. Hunt Award for staff excellence.

“We’re honored to recognize these very special individuals, which include Eastern employees, community leaders and alumni, for their exceptional service, leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens of southeastern Oklahoma,” Smith said. “It is the total makeup of employees, community and alumni that support Eastern’s mission to educate students of all ages and help them be successful in life.”

Unclaimed funds

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

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, PO Box 1210, Durant OK 74702, Attn: Betty Shoemake, Payroll accountant, or by phone at 580-924-8280 ext. 2167.

Deborah Baker	Michale Holmes
Sara Baugh	Aarom Ogle
Zachary Billy	James Schlote
Taylor Booth	Bradley Scott
Jenna Browne	Whitnie Taylor
Ronnie Edwards	Joshua Townsend
Jeffrey Enriquez	Henry Ward
Erin Gridler	Dianna Workman
Jerald Hillhouse	

Choctaw Properties

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

In Hugo, Idabel, Atoka, Durant, & Poteau is accepting applications for One Bedroom Apartments

Includes:

Stove, Refrigerator, Central Heat & Air
On Site Laundry Room
Safe Room
Community Room
Income Based
HUD section 202 properties serves persons aged 62 years or older

Applications may be obtained online at **choctawhousing.com** under services, supportive housing for the elderly or by calling the Housing Authority

at **1-800-235-3087**

Honoring our veterans

Community centers hold lunches to thank Choctaw veterans

2012



Antlers

Veterans honored at Antlers include Bertram Bobb, John Underwood, Folsom White, Fred Pipping, David Chavez, Victor Eyachabbe, Charles Keeler, Wallen McKnight, Andrew Choate, Roy Earl Jackson, Floyd Peters, Bill Jackson, Harlon Peters, James Buddy Dunlap, Stephen Billy, John Roebuck, Wrightsman Thomas, Roger Wright, Jack Austin Sr., Wayland Carter, Abraham Jones, Raymond Wright, Jack Work, M.T. Greenwood, John Hooser, Bobby Dunlap, Lloyd Luman, Angus Williston, Leo Smallwood, Levi Choate, Hershel Wall, Ted Peters, Carl Oldham, Charles Greenwood, Hank Baker, Joe D. Chavis, Joe Martin, Roger Lessenger, Virgil Blan Jr., and Virgil Silvey.



Atoka

Veterans honored at the Atoka center include Sherman Armstrong, Gary Armstrong, John Burlison, Forrest Calvert, Joe Hayse, Theodore LeFlore, Rayson Nicholas, Snake Norman, Ronnie Scott, Kenneth Wilson, Carl Tucker, James Bates, Anthony Loyd, Bob Dickie, Don Bingamon, Carl McBrayer, Don McBrayer, Raymond Kerr, Donald Price and Roy Byrd.

Veteran photos by LISA REED, LARISSA COPELAND, MACKENZIE DILLS, RUBYE TAYLOR, KAREN JACOB, CHRISSY DILL AND BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Broken Bow/Bethel

Veterans honored at the Broken Bow/ Bethel center include Austin Battiest, Robert Frazier, Randy Jacob, Silas McKinney, Melvin Tom, Raymond Touchstone, Jonah Ward, Teddy Ward, Tom Williams, Louis Battiest, Lyman Choate, Ruby Choate, Sinakin Forbit, Joe James, Willis McKinney, Billy Nelson, Noel Sanders, Jerry Shomo, Sherrill Shomo, Newman Tisho, Gary Tom, Benny Tushka, Randall Watson, Mary Williams, Thomas Williams, Buck Byington, Maurice White and Corky Nelson.



Coalgate

Veterans honored at the Coalgate center include Roger Barnes, Lu Bauer, Reuben Burge, Noah Burris, Carnes Ellis, Thomas Cosper, Louis Daniel, Ernest Dutton, Charlie Echols, Gary Echols, Marvin Hampton, James Harris, Nellie Hunter, Richard Kindig, Lowell Mason, Edward Mayer, Roger McAnally, Arvard McLellan, Bruce Miles, Dwayne Miles, Lyndal Miles, Harold Mitchell, Tommy Morgan, Leamon Morris, Jerry Nanney, Donald Standberry, Billy Stiles, David Styles, Arvard Ward, Bobby Willard, Adrian Wilson and Henry Wilson.



Crowder

Veterans honored at the Crowder center include Eddie Barker, Reece Crabtree, Lloyd Morris, Martin Killingsworth, Neal Trobaugh, Walter Phelps, Troy Smith, Arnold King, Bill Scherman, James Charles, Jerry Feck, Carl Garis, Ed Violet, Eddie R. Smith, David Drancis, Virgil Lewis, Alvie Carney, Matthew Kemp, Larry Ivy and Robin Harry.

"I think there is one higher office than president, and I would call that patriot."

-Gary Hart



Durant

Veterans honored at the Durant center included Carole Ayers, Gordon B. Schulze Jr., Ann Grant, Richard Adams, Roger Scott, Robert Green, Milton W. Brown, Isaac Sexton, Frank Watson, Terry Cole, Joshua Sexton, Gene Loftis, Roy Cooper, Tim Sexton, David Perriman, James Wayne Cotton, Mozelle Shoemake, Paul Price, James W. Cox, Albert Simon, Richard Sidles, Ted Dosh, John Smith, Phillip Smith, Glenn Estes, Lewis Smith, Eudis St. John, Dennis Ferguson, Ralph Smith, Ralph St. John, Howard Frazier, William Smith, Arvel Shults, Michael Folsom, Jackie Martin, William Starnes, Melvin Gaines, Jerry Thompson, Oscar Sutton, Truman Heron, Kenneth Turner, Richard Wade, Homer Issac, Willie Wally, Tommy Wade, William Butch Jackson, Charles Wesley, Jarvis Johnson, Donald White, Troy Keithley, Michael Duckett, Edward Lawrence, Donald Ayers, Jeremiah LeFlore, Joe Beshirs, Alan Perry, Silas Blaine, Joe Peters, Ralph Brady, Chester Pittman, John Henry Choate, Earl Price and Franklin Choate.



Hugo

Veterans honored at the Hugo center include J.D. Carter, Ray Caldwell, R.W. Nored, William Floyd Himonubbe, Dutch Crews, Art Southard, David Hunter, John Harlen, Floyd Rueben, Danny Belvin, Henry Rodriguez, Randy Short, Bud Davis, Timothy Frazier, George Robinson, Lauren Hudson, Ron Springs, Dante Belvin, Iscae Simpson, Guy Bradshaw, Arnold Crain, Carol Parker, Cecil Bell, Bobby Bell, George Webster, R.D. Payne, Phillip Payne, Charles Pence, Larry Battiest, Robert Garrett, Rom Wheelus, David Wilkie, Charles Battiest and Lyndell Finch.



Idabel

Veterans honored at the Idabel center include Leo Jefferson, Harvey Allen, Walker Davis, Ronald Williston, Sammie McGowan, Joel Holt, Melton Baker, Joe Mills, Eval Kelly, William Tonihka, Lawrence Battiest, Truman Jefferson, Nathan Holt, Roy Harley, Ben Williston, Deroy McKinney, Jimmie Paxton, Florence Spalding, Bill Lambert, William Amos, Jack Touchstone, William Jessie, Jimmy Washington, Louis Clark, John Epperson, Edison Elliott, Cornelius Tonihka, Belton Walker, James Kaniatobe, James Haddock, Simon Amos, Sandra Moore, Carlo Wilson, William Denison, Don William, James Long, Ben Franklin, Herbert Jessie, Benny Frazier and Leon Wesley.

Community centers hold lunches to thank Choctaw veterans

2012



McAlester

Veterans honored at the McAlester center include Walter Amos, Jimmie Neal, Thomas Anderson, Charles O'Leary, Curtis Baker, Thurman Pitchlynn, Vincent Dale Baker, Max Quinn, William Billy, David Ranklin, Dale Cantrell, Dennis Sam, Dennis Cantrell, George Scott, Homer Cantrell, Jones Smith, Joseph Clagg, Emanuel Sexton, Tex Cope, Ronnie Silmon, Forest Cross, Cleveland Sweet, Johnnie Cudd, Eugene Sweet, Harlow Cunningham, Lake Wilson, Frank Cuzalina Jr., Trey Ardese, Lannie Ellis, Robert Pate, Louis Ellison, Dewitt Farrell, Norman Frye, Earl Folsom, Billy Gibson, James Green, Stephen LeFlore, Jack Haynes, Homer Cantrell, Thomas Hendrix, Calvin Durant, Joseph Homer, Buck Durant, Elgie Hosay, James Impson, Kenneth Hotubbee, Ronnie Silmon, Larry James, Otis Jefferson, Joseph Clagg, Thomas Jefferson, David Ranklin, Randolph Jefferson, Bob Kanimaya, Chester Johnson, James Kanimaya, Johnny Jones, Zachary Love, Raphael Jones, Ronald Love, William King, James Mordecai, Roy Labor, Windal Muse, Jack Lee, Max Quinn, Charles Lester, Kenneth Major, Frank McMurtrey and Ronnie Meadows.



Poteau

Veterans honored at the Poteau center include Joseph Moore, Jerry Byous, Shirley Mantaghi, Floyd Simmons, Curtis Lloyd, Dave Butler, Ovie Austin, John Campbell, Ray Luman, Bill Luman, Sam Moore, Robert Taylor, Randy Steelman, Odice Luman, Kenneth Ferguson, Phil James, Jack Owen, Floyd Mortinson, Herman Billy, Calvin Billy, Russell Kelly, Marvin Williams, Phillip Steelman, Doug Quals, Lynn White, Wayne White, Mike Logan, John Thornburg, Steve Eagle Mendoza, Don Goiens, Delton Cox, Charles Redden and Abram Castanania.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-John F. Kennedy



Smithville

Veterans honored at the Smithville center include Meg Scott, Bill James, Alvin Moore, Dean Hudson, Margie Watson, Cordell Hudson, Nathan Watson, Greg Hudson, Kenneth Ludlow, Eugene Hudson, Bobby Ludlow, Tommy Blake, Leroy Wilson, Richard Wilson, Eugene Ludlow, Wanda Leet, Con Cusher, Z.B. Anderson, Lowell Nichols and Kenneth Smith.



Spiro

Veterans honored at the Spiro center include Jim Fry, Leon Mize, Malcolm Stephens, Milton Stephens, JB Adams, Clennon Sockey, Jo Randal, William Harris, John Casey, Harold Perry, Tom Pat Swafford, Jan Randall, Paul Perry, Grady Adams, Jessie Northcutt, Alton Gail Chaddwick, Joel Perry, Doug Barkley, Ronnie Parent, Bill Coleman Jr., Bill Coleman Sr., Bobby Coleman, Bill King, David Ashby, George Smith and Harold Bryant.



Stigler

Veterans honored at the Stigler center include Bert Perry, Kenneth R. Harmon, Gerald Perry, Elmer Buckner, Jerry Perry, Danny Hoyt, Eugene Branham, Matthew Kemp, Dixon Lewis Jr., George Davis, Julias Morris, Gary Lewis, Bill Cummings, Solomon Jim Morris, Larry Franklin, Kenneth Spears, Lawrence McCann, David Howard, Joe Wilson, Jerry Scantlen, George Bohanan, Patrick Rose, Donald McAlvain, Donald Busse, Wendell Dennis, Ken Burge, Robert Maxwell Jr., Michael Scantlen, Darryl Colwell, Phillip McCann and Kenneth W. Harmon.



Talihina

Veterans honored at the Talihina center include Virgil Sam, Edward Carter, John Anderson, John Emmert, Cecil Watson, Franch Johnico, Jeral Watson, Harry James, Carl McIntosh, Sylvester Moore, Marion McCurtain, Monty Olsen, Gary Crank, Dallas Seeley, Walter Dye, Allen Dukes, Wilburn Bacon, Marie Waggoner, Everett Wood, Eugene Felker, Don Lanning, Daryl England, Jewett Potts, Vernon Himes, Jack England, Jimmy Miller, Michael Sexton, Cecil Brown, Lloyd James, Russell Transue, Paul Massey, Sherman Ward, Fred Humphreys, Cornelius Winship, Jack Parks, Perry Durant, Thomas Wall, Bob Emmert, Richard Hollenbeck, Ronnie Steward, Don Wolvertoon, Joe Jones, Roy L. McCormick, A.C. Ritter, Bill Johnson, CJ Perera, Ronny Hammer, Olen McRorey, Charles Waggoner, Larry Ross, James Robinson, Curtis Morgan, Jan Richardson, Clarence Mars, Gilbert Brewer and Bob Bacon.



Wilburton

Veterans honored at the Wilburton center include Alfred Harley, Bob White, Marvin Ginn, Ray White, Sequoyah Roberts, Jimmy Labor, Bill Hall, Al Collins, Deroy Pope, Joe Coley, Charles Swaffard, Leo Jack, Cleveland Jefferson, Margaret Rizor, Cornelius Sam, Homer Noley, Eric Newman, Robert Prock Jr., James Noley, Bill McCord, Ronald Woodruff, Ron Phipps, Leonard Draper, Rick Pate, John Hart, CJ Adcock, Wayne Scott, Jerry Cantrell.



Wright City

Veterans honored at the Wright City center include Benny Ray Austin, Cyrus Battiest, Luther Battiest, Presley Battiest, Daniel Herndon, Leila Jefferson, Frank Nahwoosky, David Davis, Cecil Tom, Ernest Snow, Albert Tom Jr., Honathan Wilson, Audie Gibson, Alvis Donaldson, Robert Thompson, Bobby Mussett, Charles Holt, John Shelton, David Keyes, Isaac Jacob, Billy Harkins, Bill Jennings and Bill Guillar.

Choctaw Nation creates scholarships with \$350,000 gift to OSU through Branding Success campaign

“Branding Success” – The campaign for Oklahoma State University has attracted record support to the university with nearly 850 new scholarships created since the campaign began. Now the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) is partnering with OSU to provide even more opportunities for students.

SAP recently donated \$350,000 to endow scholarships and graduate fellowships at OSU. With the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match, the gift will have a total impact of \$1.05 million, allowing more students to afford a quality education. The first SAP scholarships will be awarded in fall 2012.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle says the partnership with OSU and the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match has given the Choctaw Nation an opportunity to provide more higher education opportunities. Pyle believes the endowment ensures current scholars and future generations of students a chance to follow their dreams.

In addition to higher education, the Choctaw Nation supports local charities, churches, nonprofit organizations and public safety agencies. SAP works with high school and college students to provide college preparation and retention services.

“The Choctaw Nation has always been a very giving tribe,” said Shauna Williams, scholarship development specialist for SAP. “We have so many students attending OSU that we wanted to do more.”

SAP’s gift is split into the Anne Jones Slocum Scholarship and the Choctaw Nation Business and Leadership Fellowship. The undergraduate scholarship honors Slocum, a Choctaw Nation member and OSU alumna. The Business and Leadership Fellowship will provide continuing aid to graduate students.

“There is a lot of money for freshmen to get them to the school, but as the students get older, they face more challenges,” Williams said of the fellowship. “We wanted to provide them with additional support in their later college years.”

The gift presents a chance for students to further their education, fulfilling the university’s mission as a land-grant institution and adding to the Branding Success campaign.

“The gift from the Choctaw Nation provides great opportunities,” said Jason Kirksey, OSU’s Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity. “As the leading institution in the country for Native American graduates, OSU is dedicated to supporting anyone who dreams of achieving

a degree.”

The Choctaw Nation and OSU have an established relationship through services for Native American students, including the Native American Student Association, which works to promote Native American heritage through events; Phi Sigma Nu fraternity, which provides a sense of unity among tribes; and Ketchum House, which is used to promote Native American culture among students.

“There are a lot of benefits to the gift, but among them, it brings cultural awareness and engages students,” said Kirksey. “The gift will further diversity on campus and help retain those students who possess skills and qualities to become leaders.”

SAP believes this gift will positively influence its next generation. “These students are the future leaders of our tribe,” said Williams.

Kirksey feels this gift strengthens the tie between the Choctaw Nation and OSU and will create a lasting legacy for the tribe, the university and the students.

“This is all a part of our commitment to excellence and our ability to produce that level of excellence,” said Kirksey. “OSU is excited and honored to receive this gift that will benefit OSU students now and in the future.”



SAP co-hosts Pre-College Workshop for Native American Students at UT

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program and the University of Tulsa co-sponsored a three-day program for Native American college-bound students on June 17-19.

The TU-based pre-college workshop for Native American students was designed to give high school students the tools and knowledge needed to navigate their way through the complex college admission process. Students from Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas represented the Choctaw, Cherokee, Modoc and Pawnee tribes.

Nine Choctaw students were among the 15 Native American students who at-

tended the college preparation event this year.

Planning for college can be an overwhelming task, and starting the process early gives students an advantage. SAP strongly encourages high school students to attend college admission workshops as part of their college preparation and planning process.

There are many great summer programs that assist students in preparing for college, but SAP and TU aspired to create something specifically for Native students, held locally at a selective university and at a price that is affordable for families. SAP sponsored all Choctaw students who attended the program, which enabled them to attend

cost-free.

Students were given instruction covering a wide range of college prep topics, including test preparation, which was lead by Princeton Review, creating a student resume, the application process, how admission decisions are made, scholarship opportunities, researching colleges and more. A tour of the Gilcrease Museum and an awards luncheon wrapped up the program on Tuesday afternoon. All students received certificates of completion of the camp curriculum.

For more opportunities like the Pre-College Workshop for Native American Students, go to the SAP website at choctawnation-sap.com.

Boyd earns title of Texas State Trooper

When asked as a child what he wanted to be when he grew up, Jake Clark Boyd would tell you a Texas State Trooper. Few people get the opportunity to live their dreams, but Boyd, 23, of Durant has been given that chance. He graduated from Durant High School in 2007 and obtained a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 2011.

On June 20, after a strenuous 21 weeks at the Texas Highway Patrol Academy in Austin, Texas, Boyd’s dream had finally come true. In addition to earning the title of State Trooper, he was also elected by his fellow recruits as Vice President of the Academy, and also received the coveted Physical Fitness Award, presented to only one recruit per academy.

Boyd knows there are many people he owes his accomplishments to, but there are a few special people he would like to thank. “As an American Indian, as I walked across the stage to accept my badge, I was proud to represent my chosen field of law enforcement, but also



the great Choctaw Nation. Foremost, I would like to thank God my Lord and Savior. If it weren’t for Him, I would not be the person I am today.

“Second are my family, friends and especially my fiancé, Savannah. Without all of their love, support, encouragement and prayers, there is no way I would have made it.

“Of course much recognition and appreciation goes to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Without assistance with tuitions and scholarships from the tribe, it would have been very difficult for me to achieve my college degree. I would like to send a special thank you to Robin Counce and the entire staff of the Career Development department. Without their time, effort and dedication, I would not have been able to receive the scholarships and many other opportunities I was given.”

Shami earns LPN license, thanks CAB program

Congratulations to Shami Fowler! With the help of Choctaw Career Development, she recently graduated LPN school and obtained her LPN license.

Shami does not plan on stopping with her LPN license, but knows that continuing her education is going to be expensive. Her Choctaw Career Development counselor, Penny James (pictured left), encouraged her to take advantage of the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program while she was still in LPN school.

CAB is an income-based matched savings program that can help Choctaw tribal members who live in Oklahoma or in certain counties in Texas or Arkansas save for a first-time home purchase, education or for a small business.

Shami joined CAB while she was still in LPN school so she would be prepared to pay for RN school. “I knew that I would want to climb the health career ladder past my LPN, and I know that it takes

a lot of money to do that. Before I knew about CAB, all I could think about was how much it was going to cost me in student loans. Once I learned about CAB, I knew that if I waited until I got a job, I probably wouldn’t qualify for the program,” she said.

A CAB requirement is to complete a financial education workshop, in which participants learn budgeting skills and how to manage their finances. “One of the surprising things to me was how much I spend on things. During the training, we had to keep track of our spending. Before I did this, I couldn’t tell you where my money was going,” said Shami. “All I knew was it was coming in. Once I got the proof in black and white, it was much easier to start planning a budget.

“The class was excellent in helping with budgeting. The ideas are simple and very easy to follow,” said Shami.

She would advise tribal members who are thinking about joining CAB to get

started soon. “Join it now. If you think you will have to be out any money in the future on your training, then start putting in immediately. I’ve talked to several people who waited until it was too late to join, and they are kicking themselves! Putting in the minimum each month is much easier than being out those big loans later on, even if you have a job.

“I’m very excited that I have CAB to fall back on with prerequisites that I will be finishing up on this coming year. Thank you, CAB! Thank you Janie and Dawn for all your help!”

Check out choctawcab.com for more information on how CAB can help you with your financial goals, and go to choctawcareers.com to see how Career Development can help you with your career goals.



Labor Day Festival

Sunday gospel lineup

12:00 p.m. Gwenda Taylor 4 His Glory
12:15 p.m. Kenneth Gilmore, Apostle Tommy Roberts
12:30 p.m. Ben Alexander
12:45 p.m. Barbara Battiest Singspiration
1:00 p.m. Johnnie Emartha Family
1:15 p.m. Crosby Family
1:30 p.m. Randy Farmer Southern Gospel
1:45 p.m. Gwenda Taylor, Aaron Williams
2:00 p.m. Paul “Choctaw” Vancil
2:15 p.m. Tommy Owens Mirror’s Image
2:30 p.m. Edward Capers
2:45 p.m. Jose Diaz 7th Day Adventist
3:00 p.m. Kate Baker, Desiree Noah
3:15 p.m. Alan Burris, The Servants
3:30 p.m. Jason Calicoat, Jason and James Band
3:45 p.m. Cynthia Shupert, The Shuperts
4:00 p.m. Ivan Battiest
4:15 p.m. The Stones
4:30 p.m. Dustin Grammar
4:45 p.m. Phillip Harrison, New Creations
5:00 p.m. The Scotts
5:15 p.m. Rebecca Taylor, The Orphan Family
5:30 p.m. Devin Fobb, Master’s Touch
5:45 p.m. Maye Trio
6:00 p.m. Choctaw Hymns
6:15 p.m. Jerry Tims
6:30 p.m. The Johnsons
7:00 p.m. The Kingsmen
8:00 p.m. Britt Nicole
9:00 p.m. Newsboys

2012 Choctaw Princesses – Junior Miss Callie Currutt, Little Miss Summer Moffitt and Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno – had the opportunity to meet country/Western singer Jo Dee Messina at the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Fair.

Bucky Ensey, left, of Community Based Social Work and Anna Hamilton of Choctaw Nation Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens showing off the cash donations collected to go towards helping underprivileged children for the annual Solemates event, organized by the Youth Outreach program. For more information about Youth Outreach, call 580-326-8304 ext. 6064 or 6062.

Come save your spot for Labor Day!

The opportunity to reserve/mark your RV or tent area for the 2012 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma will open on **Aug. 25, 2012**, no sooner. If you have any questions, please call grounds keeper Clifford Ludlow at 918-569-4978.

Labor Day 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 (8/29) 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Thursday (8/30) 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday (8/31) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Saturday (9/1) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sunday (9/2) Noon - 10 p.m.

Memory Clinic conducting research

Healthy Male Research Subjects Needed

We are looking for the following:

- Ages 18-50
- American Indian volunteers w/ CDIB Card
- High school graduate or GED
- Read and speak English fluently
- No history of brain injury, substance abuse or mental illness

Time commitment: One 90-minute session

If you are interested in participating in a research study of computerized tests examining attention, memory and reasoning that will aid men and women in the Armed Forces, please call:

918-448-6796

Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic

Sponsor Institution:
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Study PIs:
C. Munro Cullum Ph.D. and Myron F. Weiner, M.D.

Contact PIs at 214-648-4427

Participants will be compensated for their time upon completion of the study visit with a \$50 gift card to Walmart.

OBITUARIES

Helen Wright

Helen Joyce Wright, 84, of Bethany, passed away on June 23, 2012, at home surrounded by family. She was born on Feb. 3, 1928, in Idabel, to original Choctaw enrollee, Harrison and Ethel Jones.

She married Roy L. Wright Sr. on Jan. 29, 1946. They were married 66 wonderful years. They raised two children, R. Leon Wright Jr., with wife Betty of Yukon, and Angela Helton with husband Phil of Newport, Wash. She was blessed with five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was a seamstress by trade. Her hobbies were sewing and quilting and enjoyed teaching these two crafts to the young and old. She was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She will be dearly missed. She loved to travel. She was fortunate to travel to Hawaii, Key West, the western states of the U.S. and Okinawa, Japan. To her amazement, while in Japan, the Okinawa men would bow to her, being the tradition of locals considering her white hair a sign of wisdom.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Ethel Jones; five brothers, Harrison Jones Jr. of Oklahoma City, Gene Jones of Norman, Richard Jones of Ada, Robert Jones of Del City, and Jack Jones of Shawnee; a sister, Dorothy Mead; two nephews, Clifford Wayne Jones Jr. of Oklahoma City, and Greg Jones of Tuttle; and a niece, Tommie Jean Rangel of Del City.



Aleckton Davis

Aleckton O.Nubby Davis, 84, passed away on July 29, 2012, at his home in Shawnee. He was born at home on Dec. 14, 1927, in Valliant, to parents, Patterson Aleckton Davis and Lizzie Thompson. He was a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many and a respected elder, whose strong Christian faith saw him through hardships and pain as well as happiness in his life. A man who loved his family with all his heart, who inspired us to live our life to the fullest with dignity and grace as he did, in the Choctaw tradition. His journey here is done. The reward for his steadfast faith in Christ is the joy of heaven. There was never any doubt in his heart that he would see Jesus and be reunited with family that passed before him. He was deeply loved by many. Stories about him will be told, so his memory will go on. We will miss him so very much. Goodbye “Gramps”

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Laverne Sadie Ishcomer; second wife of over 50 years, Wanda Proctor; his parents; daughter Bobbie Haney; and son Larry Davis.

He is survived by daughter, Ann Harry of Oklahoma City; granddaughter Stephanie Yazzie of Shawnee; grandsons, Jason and Robin Harry of Oklahoma City; great-granddaughters, Alexis and Shamia Martin of Shawnee, and Brittany Paige Parker of Norfolk, Va.; sister Josephine Gonzales of Albuquerque, N.M.; brothers, Joel Davis of Shawnee, James Davis of Oklahoma City; and many nieces and nephews.



Cornelius Henry

Cornelius Dennis Henry, a Redding resident of 30 years, passed away at home on July 7, 2012. He was the only child of Modie L. Dennis and Alexander Henry. He was born in Latimer County. He moved to California as a young man and lived for many years in Humboldt County where he worked in the timber industry. Before his health began to fail he enjoyed gardening. He had showcase gardens at all of his homes. He also loved hunting and fishing. He had many talents and interests. He was an accomplished artist/painter. He was an excellent cook, specializing in pastries and pies. He did many crafts including Indian beadwork. He had the ability to fix or repair anything. When he worked in the timber industry he invented something to be used on vital logging machinery that helped it operate more efficiently. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and he was a decorated veteran of World War II. He traveled to Oklahoma in November 2011 to take part in a Veteran's Ceremony where he was honored.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Lorene Rose Henry; and his second wife, Helen Short.

He is survived by his daughters, Shirley Henry Dills with husband Charles, and Deloris Henry Henry with her husband Steve; four grandchildren, Angela Dills Williams with husband Roy, Kevin Dills with wife Debbie, Sage T Henry with wife Cecelia, and Vanessa Henry Branstetter with husband John; six great-grandchildren, Sharon Henry, Ryan Dills, Sage K. Henry, Grant and Gabriel Branstetter and Arianna Henry.



Jean Hess

Jean M. Hess, 63, of Corry, Pa., passed away July 18, 2012, at her home. She was born Nov. 28, 1948, in Corry, the daughter of the late Utah and Elizabeth A. Monroe Jackson. Jean was raised and educated in Corry, graduating from Corry Area High School in 1966.

After graduation, she went to beautician school in Erie. She had owned and operated Jean Hess Beauty Shop in Corry for more than 27 years. Later, she began working at Corry Manor as a nurse's aide and took classes in Warren to become a licensed practical nurse. Jean worked at the Corry Manor as an LPN and then at Corry Memorial Hospital, where she stayed until retiring in 2009. Jean enjoyed being with her family and following her grandchildren in their school and sports activities.

In addition to her parents, Jean was preceded in death by her former husband, Charles Hess, and her grandmother, Mamie Reddout of Centrahoma.

Jean is survived by three daughters, Sonya Carlson of Spartansburg, Pa., Candy Hess and Brenda Barnett, both of Corry; son Charles Hess with wife Tonya of North Pole, Alaska; three brothers, John Jackson with wife Nancy of Clifton Forge, Va., Jay Jackson with wife Becky of McMurray, Pa., and Jeffery Jackson with wife, Darlene of Corry; nine grandchildren, Kyle, Sara, Abby, Breanna, Jestine, Erika, Kolin, Timmy and Ashlee; and several nieces and nephews.



Billie Jean Butler

Billie Jean (McLellan) Butler passed away on July 23, 2012, at Healdton. She was born April 11, 1930, at Claypool to the late Frank Black McLellan and Clara Mae (Moore) McLellan. Billie was raised in Claypool attending a school there. She married Kenneth Raymond Butler on May 30, 1949, in Henryetta, Texas. They made their home in Ringling where they enjoyed raising their children. Billie was a devoted homemaker who cooked wonderful pecan pies. She also ironed for the public and could iron some of the stiffest jeans in town. She was baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ in Ringling in 1950. She enjoyed going to church and doing what she could for others. She loved her family very much and adored her grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents; son Derral Ray Butler; daughter-in-law Judy Lynn Butler; and granddaughter Amanda Jean Butler, all of whom died on March 23, 1984; husband Kenneth on July 8, 2003; son Lee Roy Butler on July 23, 2010; and five brothers, Abner David, J.W., George, Roy and Gail.

Survivors include daughter Stephanie Lynn Butler of the home; son Billy Roy Butler with wife Deana of Amarillo, Texas; grandson Roy Lee Butler; sister Mary Collins of Ringling; and numerous nieces and nephews and other family.



Joe Cunningham

Joe Steven Cunningham passed away on July 8, 2012, while paddle boarding with his wife and son on White Rock Lake in Dallas. He was born Feb. 8, 1955, at the U.S. Army Hospital in Sendai, Japan, to Lt. and Mrs. Joe Cunningham. Joe, a descendant of three original enrollees, graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. Ed. and a Master's in Education, Curriculum and Design from the University of Texas, El Paso.

A competitive sportsman, he achieved a 14,411 ft. climb of Mt. Rainier and for several years Joe was a participant in the Bataan Death March commemorative in New Mexico.

Per his wishes, Joe was cremated. Fittingly for a 4-year Navy veteran, his ashes will be scattered in the waters around the Hawaii 'an Islands.

Joe was preceded in death by his father Lt. Col. (Ret) Joe Cunningham and younger brother, Francis Scott Cunningham.

Joe is survived by, to quote him “The best thing that ever happened to me”, his beloved wife Debbie; their son, Joseph Scott; his mother, Angelyn Cunningham; sister Camille, with her husband Bee and daughter Christine; brother Cody with wife Stacy and their children, Caylee and Joe'al; uncle Rayburn Hesse; and aunts, Bonnie Cunningham Woodrow and Pan Cunningham Rockwell; Debbie's mother, Lois; Debbie's two sisters and their families, and her two brothers and their families.

Cynthia Young

Cynthia Cathleen (Haynie) Young, 54, of Centennial, Colo. passed away on July 22, 2012, in Burlingame, Calif. She was born Oct. 3, 1957, in Barstow, Calif. Cindy was an extraordinary seamstress and founder of Designs By Choctaw Moon, a manufacturer of commercial and residential custom built window treatments and bedding. She also founded Ofi's Beds 'N' Stuff, a manufacturer of pet supplies made from recycled materials.

She is preceded in death by her father Lowell.

She is survived by her husband Todd; mother Betty; siblings, Susie and Scott; children, Sarah and Christopher; grandchildren, Xander, Warren, Noah, Cathleen; and numerous cousins.



Vicky Mayfield

Vicky Jo Mayfield, 64, passed away on Aug. 10, 2012, in Durant. She was born July 23, 1948, in Madill, to Cecil and Hyahwahnah (Beames) Ned.

Vicky attended and graduated from Midwest City High School and later married John Lee Mayfield on March 17, 1978, in Norman, and they were blessed with two daughters, Grace and Sara. Vicky was a loving and dedicated daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and friend to many. She was the past president of the Durant Indian Education Association for 12 years and a member of Stone Creek Baptist Church. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, Indian beadwork, cooking and canning.

Vicky was preceded in death by her parents and sister Charley Graham.

Vicky is survived by her loving husband, John Mayfield of the home; daughters, Grace Culbreath with husband Thomas of Conroe, Texas, and Sara Mayfield of the home; grandsons, Hayden and Quentin Culbreath of Conroe; sister Jamie King with husband Martin of Midwest City; brother-in-law Lee Graham of Moore; beloved dog, Gigi; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

Shirley Adair

Shirley Louise Williams Adair passed away on April 6, 2012, in Whittier, Calif.

She was born May 24, 1940, in Talihina.

Shirley was preceded in death by her grandmother, an original enrollee, Caroline James Speers; mother Cora Lee Peniska; father Hurley Eugene Gross; husband Lonnie Williams; brothers, William Gross and Ramsey Lee Thompson Jr.; sister Sharon Christine Gross; and daughter Judith Christine Streeter.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Clayton Edward Adair; daughter Elaine Marie Sam; son-in-law Carlos Ray Sam; daughter Angela Meade Williams; sons, Lonnie Williams Jr., and Charles Eugene Williams; daughter-in-law Betty Williams; son-in-law Steve Streeter; brothers, James Gross and Joel Gross; sisters, Yvonne Thompson Arriola and Evylena Thompson; 13 grandchildren, Jerry Anderson Jr., Sarah Sam, Christine Ramirez, Catherine Sam, Christopher Streeter, Lyle Streeter, David Williams, Joshua Williams, Andrew Williams, Kimberley Williams, Lorin Warner, Thomas Foley and Hubert Terry; 13 great-grand-children; and numerous other relatives, including nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.



Lois Southard

Lois Marie (Battles) Southard, 77, of Red Oak, passed away on July 24, 2012, at home. Lois was born on June 19, 1935, in Battles. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, helpmate, gardener, cook, and house cleaner.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Annie Battles; father and mother-in-law, Walter and Clara Southard; great-grandson Remington Stacy; grandson Joshua Peeples; son-in-law Earl Duncan; brother-in-law Paul Eugene Southard; sisters-in-law, Bea Cates, Ruby Lardi and Christeen Ramsey.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James “Jack” Southard; daughter Leota Southard of Idabel; sons, Charles Southard of Rodgers, Ark., Donald Southard with wife Suzanne of El Reno, and Shermon Southard with wife Mary Nell of Nashoba; grandchildren, Rebecca, Russell, Michelle, Kevin, Andrew, Joseph, Crystal, Michael, Karissa, Jesse, Jacob, James and Amber; 12 great-grandchildren; sister Johnnie Patty of Kiowa; many nieces, nephews; and host of friends and loved ones.

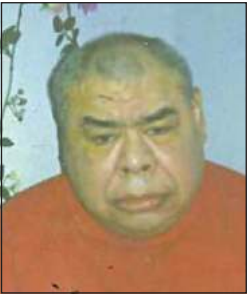


Earl Taylor

Earl Dean Taylor, 64, of Elk City and formerly of Wright City, passed away on June 30, 2012, in Elk City. He was born Jan. 15, 1948, in DeQueen, Ark., to Amos and Effie Ward Taylor. As a teenager, he moved to Enid to receive special care for his health condition. He always received loving support from his family. He lived in Enid until moving to Elk City where he lived until his death.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; paternal grandparents, Phelan and Lincie Tisho Taylor; maternal grandparents, Mose and Elizabeth Hiakunubbi Ward; niece, Cheri Wallace; and a nephew Derek Watkins.

He leaves to cherish his memory his three loving sisters, Marie Watkins with husband Charles, Virginia Wesley with husband Williston Jr., and Susie Reyes, all of Wright City; nieces and nephews, Chris Wallace of Oklahoma City, Damien Jacob of Tulsa, Kimberly Proctor of Tahlequah, Kristen Jacob, Valentina and Victoria Reyes and Hope Tom, all of Wright City.



Jackie Spring

Jackie “Jack” Lynn Spring, beloved husband of 50 years, father of Jackie Spring, Chance, and Baby, went to be with his Heavenly Father on Dec. 2, 2011. Jack was a retired Chief Master Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, retired from Nortel, and a third career as a teacher at Bonham State Jail. His passion in life was teaching young open minds and giving them a new start at life. Jack picked his wife of 50 years from the chow hall line at McChord AFB. He was a strong man and when he made up his mind and his hands went on his hips that was it and you best know it. The baby of a large family, mainly sisters to spoil him, he remained a quiet, peaceful man who enjoyed his home. Anytime you came to call you could find him in his chair with two little dogs, reading and watching a western. Jack was a registered Choctaw, hence his love of westerns. Jack will be missed. Rest in peace my sweet man.

Surviving to greatly miss this sweet, gentle man are his wife, Bonnie Hingle Spring; his forever baby girl, Jackie (Kie) Spring with her boyfriend Lee Jarrett of Sherman Oaks, Calif.; three of eight siblings, Lois Faye Spring Ingram and Margie Nell Spring Williams of Quinlan, Texas, and Susie Spring West of Mena Ark. Also to be included are so many special young people he mentored during his life and a special young family in Commerce he grew to love and think of as his extended family.

Gordon Gamble

Gordon Durward Gamble, 88, of Spiro, passed away on July 26, 2012, in Houston. He was born on Jan. 5, 1924, in Heavener, to the late Ora Gertrude (Smith) and William Roscoe Gamble of Spiro. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. In his early years, Gordon would deliver prescriptions to the residents of Spiro as well as working as a soda jerk at the local drug store. After graduating from high school in 1942, he joined the Navy and was stationed in the Philippines as an aviation mechanic. After returning from the Navy he attended Oklahoma A&M (currently Oklahoma State) in Stillwater. He met his wife, Bobbye, when visiting Fort Smith, Ark., looking for a place to have his watch repaired. After one look at the beautiful girl behind the jewelry store counter he was determined to marry her. Less than a year later on Dec. 25, 1950, Gordon married his dream girl. After teaching and coaching for several years, Gordon went to work for Sinclair Oil Company located in Tulsa. After being promoted with Sinclair Oil, Gordon and his family had the opportunity to move to Houston in 1962. Gordon served as purchasing manager for many years and through many mergers. In 1978, he founded Choctaw Enterprise Inc., an industrial supply company originally catering to the oil field and refinery industries. He not only took pride in his business, but truly relished the friendships he made during his career. His expertise and the company's dependability and reliability led his company to be named the Boeing Company's National Supplier of the Year. Gordon had a passion for building, anything from toy boxes to houses. You could always find Gordon in the garage tinkering with something, where he spent hours engineering his next project. He enjoyed golf and was a longtime member of the Inwood Forest Country Club. He was a member at St. Giles Presbyterian Church of Houston. Gordon was a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was a force for what was just and right in society. Gordon loved the Lord, his family, his family of faith and his country. His faithfulness and responsible attitude toward life was a testimony to his faith and a great example for us all. Even as we miss him, we may rejoice that he has entered into his reward and is safely with our Lord and Savior as we all await the day in which we will be reunited in the Kingdom of God's love, never to be separated again.

Gordon leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Bobbye (Basinger) Gamble; daughter Marion Arrington; son Bret Gamble with wife Kathy; daughter Zoe Roper with husband Daryl; six grandchildren, Jennifer with husband Larry, Ashley, Matthew, Taylor, Kyle and Anthony; three great-grandchildren, Ayden, Ethan and Jace; and many close nieces and nephews.



OBITUARIES

Linda Brooks

Linda Lou Allen Brooks passed away on April 5, 2012. She was born on Nov. 24, 1943 to Henry and Mattie Allen.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Joephine Allen and Aaron Allen.

She is survived by her husband, Charley R. Brooks, of Atoka; daughter Dimitria Jolene Dickson of Tishomingo; grandchildren, William Allen Powell with wife Courtney of Coalgate, Monica Beth Moore and Angela Jolene McElmurry, both of Tishomingo; brother Steven Belvin Allen of Durant; sister Bernice Anderson of Pueblo, Colo.; special aunt, Judith Perry of Boswell; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Morris Amos Jr.

Morris West Amos Jr., 69, passed away on June 13, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

Morris was born on March 20, 1943, in Lawton to Morris Amos Sr. and Minnie (York) Amos. Morris graduated from Belmont High School in Los Angeles in 1961. He lived most of his life in the Oklahoma City area. He worked as a machinist for CMI Large Equipment for several years. Morris enjoyed fishing and playing pool. He loved family gatherings and spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a member of the First Indian Church of the Nazarene.

Morris was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter Aryel Danielle Amos; four brothers, Mitchel, Bobby, Vernon and Roy Amos; niece Charlotte Amos; and nephew, Preston Meely.

Survivors include, two sons, Morris Amos III with wife Jennifer, and William Amos with wife Candy, both of Oklahoma City; three daughters, Alma Grogan with husband Dave of Tuttle, Arlene Longbrake with husband Tom of Norman, and Roberta Vandyke with husband Randy of Oklahoma City; 16 grandchildren; three sisters, Ellen Jones of Bridge Creek, Armetta Looney of Davis, and Arnetta Autaubo of Oklahoma City; along with several nieces and nephews.



Jonathan Hotema

Jonathan Matthew Hotema, 27, of Ada, passed away on June 27, 2012, as the result of an automobile accident. He was born on June 9, 1985, in Dallas, to James Hotema and Deborah (Taylor) Hotema. He grew up in Mill Creek, and attended school there. Afterward, he attended and graduated from the Roadmaster Truck Driving School. Jonathan was working as a commercial truck driver at the time of his death.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Cyrus and Georgine Hotema.

Jonathan is survived by three daughters, Carlee Rene Hotema and Jordan McKenzie Hotema, both of Tulsa, and Akaya Jadlyn Davenport of Ada; his fiancé, Kiri Scroggins of the home, who is expecting their child; his parents, James and Jamie Hotema of Mill Creek; three brothers, James Montana Hotema of Selah, Wash., Thomas Christopher Hotema of Chico, Calif., and Michael Lester Hotema Jr. of Ardmore; and other relatives and friends.



Anthony Clampet

Anthony “Tony” Glade Clampet passed away on June 27, 2012, in Temple, Texas. He was born on Oct. 26, 1942 in Haworth to Lawrence and Isabel (McClure) Clampet. He married Barbara Green on Sept. 4, 1965, in Redland. He was a 9-year veteran of the U.S. Army. Anthony and his wife made their home in Belton in 1972. He was a graduate of the FFA Academy in Oklahoma City and he worked for many years as an electronic technician with civil service at Ft. Hood. He was a member of the Belton Church of Christ, serving as a deacon for a few years.

He is the grandson of the late Alex McClure and Sibbie Byington (McClure) Milam, both original Choctaw enrollees.

He is survived by his wife; mother; son Brian Clampet with wife Melody of Academy; daughters, Stacy Clampet Roberts with husband Mike of Bentonville, Ark., and Stephanie Scott with husband Wes of Plano; brothers, Steve Clampet and Jerry Paul Clampet, both of Haworth; sisters, Sandra Holt of Haworth, and Cheryl Hopkins of Idabel; six grandchildren, Shelby, Bailey, McKenlee, Ransom, Fielder and Blakely; and a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.



Miko Shomo

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” – Luke 18:16.

Miko Shomo entered his heavenly home on July 1, 2012.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Juanita Bell Tonhika; great-grandfather Johnny Ray Ludlow; great-great-grandmother Ruth Hardy; and great-grandmother Linda Sue Billy Willis.

Miko leaves to treasure his life, his mother, Carmalita Ludlow of Broken Bow; father Justin Shomo of Broken Bow; grandparents, Kiamita Ludlow Lopez of Broken Bow, Melvin Noahubbi of Idabel, and Geneva Shomo of Texas; great-grandmother Linda Ludlow of the Oak Hill community; great-great-grandmother Lucy White of Pickens; great-great-grandmother Emma Wilson of Broken Bow; great-great-grandfather John Ludlow of Honobia; brother Justin Max Shomo Jr.; a host of aunts and uncles, Priscilla Tonihka, Rachel Shomo, Shawn Shomo, Sylvia Shomo, Fausto Coyote, Dustin Shomo, Falcon Shomo, Houston Shomo, Tremain Shomo, Ronelius Shomo, Geanetta Tonihka, Cornelius Tonihka, Matthew Ludlow, Sebastian Paredes, Antonio Paredes, Carmen Paredes, Jessica Martinez, Miguel Martinez Jr., Jeffrey Ludlow, Julian Behrens, Cameron Ludlow, Donita Overturf, Lisianna Hall, and Tiamekia Willis.



Clovis Duke

Clovis Lavada Duke, 80, a long time resident of Atoka, passed away on May 17, 2012. She was born on Sept. 10, 1931, to Henry Harrison and Sarah Belvin in Boswell. She attended Boswell Schools. Lavada was a housewife and former WIC specialist with the Choctaw nation. She married Edgel Mitchell Frazier on Aug. 20, 1949, in Grayson County, Texas. He preceded her in death in 1984. She married Fred Duke on Sept. 24, 1988, in Coalgate. He preceded her in death on June 2, 2011. Lavada was an active member, First Elder and Adult Sabbath teacher of the Coalgate Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Lavada was proud of her Choctaw heritage. Her uncle Jimmy (Harry J.W. Belvin) was Chief of the Choctaw Nation for a number of years, and her uncle Frank (Dr. B Frank Belvin) worked tirelessly to nurture the spiritual development of not only his people, but all people. Lavada’s son, James Frazier, is the Choctaw Nation Dist. 12 Councilman and continues to work for the benefit of the Choctaw people. Lavada was also proud of her children and loved them deeply, always praying for them.



Lavada enjoyed gardening, visiting with her family and friends and reading. Most of all, she enjoyed studying the Bible and spending “her” time with the Lord each morning. She was totally committed to Jesus and never missed a Sabbath until she was no longer able to walk or sit. Lavada did as the commandments teach to love God first and other second. She was loving, kind, caring and generous to all. Her guiding thoughts and wisdom will truly be missed and her smile will never be forgotten.

Lavada was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Baby Boy Belvin, Henry “Poochum” Belvin and Vernon Belvin; husbands, Edgel and Fred; daughter Carolyn Hall Ned; and grandson Timothy Pickens.

She is survived by her children, Deloris Lewis with husband Gaylon of Stratford, Pamela Cole with husband Carey of Phillips, James Frazier with wife Vickie of Coalgate, William Frazier with wife Sheila of Atoka, Stephen Frazier with wife Markette of Wardville, and Lucinda Kuykendall with husband Billy of Cartwright; five brothers, Virgil Belvin of Valiant, Dante A. Belvin of Boswell, Johnny Belvin of Boswell, Richard Belvin of Hugo and Solomon Belvin of McCloud; two sisters, Sarah Virginia Rutledge of Millerton and Debra Bacon of Boswell; 17 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Maggie Payne

Maggie Ruth Payne, 85, passed away on June 25, 2012, in Ada. She was born on July 24, 1926, in Pauls Valley to Walter L. and Sylvia K. (Gay) Richardson. Maggie and James Doyle Payne were married on April 22, 1968, in Murray County. He preceded her in death on April 20, 1982.

Others preceding her in death include her parents; two former husbands; six siblings; and granddaughter, Connie Griffith.

Maggie spent her life as a homemaker. She was a very loving mother and grandmother. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. In her spare time Maggie enjoyed crocheting, going to garage sales, taking walks and playing bingo at the Sulphur Senior Center.

Survivors include three daughters, Judy Griffith of Ardmore, Kay Unsicker with husband Frank of Oklahoma City, and Donna Benge with husband Mitch of Yukon; four sons, Leon Autrey of Oklahoma City, Larry Autrey with wife Mary of Yukon, George Autrey with wife Lyndel of Blanchard and Randy Chapmond with wife Angela of Davis; 25 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Leon Bohanan

Leon J. Bohanan, 71, of Watson, passed away on June 11, 2012, at his home. He was born on Jan. 5, 1941, in Talihina, and was a test technician at U.S. Motors for 34 years. He was united in marriage to Jency Willis. Leon was a member of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church and was a certified Lay Preacher and also a member of the Choctaw Agency Evangelism Committee. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his biological parents John and Lottie Dwight Stevens; adoptive parents, Mixton and Katie Bohanan; and special uncle, Willie Bohanan.

He is survived by his wife, Jency Willis Bohanan of Watson; son Edrin Bohanan of Watson; daughter Anita Baker with husband Donald R. of Watson; grandchildren, Casey Don Baker with wife Rebecca of Durant, and Sierra Baker of Watson; sister Janice Bohanan of Lexington, Ken.; half-brother Aaron Hardy of Oklahoma City; half-sister Rowena Hard of Hugo; special sister-in-law, Fran Williams of Battiest; and cousin, Clara Taylor.



John Bradshaw

John (Chic) D. Bradshaw passed away on May 10, 2012. He entered this life June 24, 1931.

Chic graduated from Red Oak High School and spent most of his adult life in the Red Oak area. His military service was in the Army and he served in the Korean War. Chic and Charlene Gallagher were married July 30, 1953, and had four children; Lyle, Glenda, Curtis and Carla.

Chic liked to played his guitar and sing, play softball, ride horses, hunt, fish with quail hunting and crappie fishing being his favorites. He enjoyed his ranch and watching the cattle roam. He was a welder and member of Local 29 Union of Fort Smith, Ark., for 58 years. He was a member of the Red Oak First Baptist Church. He loved spending time with his five grandchildren; Baron and Brase Bradshaw, Dane Evans, Eric and Brandon Vanhook.

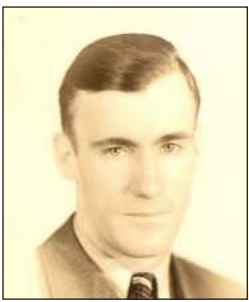
Chic leaves behind his wife of 58 years; children; daughter-in-law Brenda Bradshaw; son-in-law Bill Vanhook; grandchildren; sister, Shari Maxwell and Debbie Willsonsixth; nephews, Homer J. Davidson, Hal Davidson and Scott ward.

A special thank you to Lyle, for the years he cared for his dad; Judy Hilburn his home care aide and Latimer Home Health.

Carroll Dunagan

Carroll Edward Dunagan, 98, of Pueblo, Colo., passed away on July 3, 2012. He was born Aug. 31, 1913, in Pittsburg Co., to Snow B. Dunagan and Elizabeth Juanita Rozell Dunagan. His mother was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His grandfather, Condy Sully Dunagan, served in the Confederate States Army in Company “A,” of Jackman’s Missouri Cavalry during the Civil War and was later a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri and a participant in the 1889 Oklahoma Land Rush. The Dunagan and Rozell families have connections to the Stanton and Brashears families that date back to the original Choctaw homeland in Alabama, and are related by marriage to Choctaw Chief Pushmataha.

Mr. Dunagan enlisted and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was sent to Germany on the Queen Mary, which had been converted into a troop transport ship during the war. After the war ended, he returned to Colorado and settled in Alamosa, where his sister and family resided. He worked on the Narrow Gauge Railroad for a time; assisted his brother-in-law, Lee Burgess, in a business he owned -- the Morning Glory Coal Company. He then put his medical training to use and moved with his wife to Anaheim, Calif., where he worked as a hospital orderly for many years at the Garden Grove Hospital until he retired. Upon his wife’s death, Mr. Dunagan moved back to Pueblo. He was a long-time member of the B.P.O.E. He was a recipient of the Cross of Military Service presented to him by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Mr. Dunagan was preceded in death by his parents; a sister; a brother; and his wife, Goldie Fern Black Dunagan, whom he married in 1942.

He had no biological children, but is survived by a half-sister, Doris Daniels and family of Veneta, Ore.; step-daughter, Rosalie Schiffer and family of Pueblo; niece, Shirley Burgess Vanderbeck of La Verne, Calif.; and nephews, Robert Dunagan of Westminster, Calif., and William Dunagan of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Joseph Dick

Joseph Dick, 94, passed away on June 10, 2012, in San Jose, Calif. He was born to Josephene and Taylor Dick on Aug. 7, 1917 in Coalgate, and was the seventh of eight children. His parents, four brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.

He met and married Jessie Mae Hampton on March 8, 1946. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in March. To this union was born four children; son Billy Wayne and three daughters, Betty Jo, Orvie Jean and Joyce Dean. From these children were born 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren.

Joseph and Jessie moved to Julia, Texas in 1946, and joined the Mediterranean Baptist Church where Joseph was baptized. They moved to San Jose, Calif., in 1976, and joined the Church of the Foot Hills. Joe and Jessie became members of Grace Baptist Church in September of 2002.



Vicky Frye

Vicky Frye, 64, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2012. She was born Aug. 15, 1947, in Hugo, to Gene and Jessie Frazier. She earned and associate degree in business and worked as a judicial clerk for the Napa Court System for 27 years. A 35 year resident of American Canyon, Vicky was most proud of her Choctaw Nation heritage and was a certified teacher of the Choctaw language. Her quick wit and laugh will be missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristina Kalinic; grandchildren, Kara, Joshua and Jacob Dillon, all of Tennessee; brothers, Jesse Frazier of Rhode Island and Gregory Frazier of California; and special life partner, Sam Howell of American Canyon.

Jonathan Jones

Jonathan Wesley Jones, 40, of Huntington, formerly of Oklahoma, went home to be with the Lord on July 3, 2012, in Cabell Huntington Hospital.

He was an employee of Victors Cleaners in Huntington and a former employee of Swiss Cleaners in Oklahoma.

He is preceded in death by his father, Albert Jones; and grandparents, Vernon and Dink Yeaman.

Jonathan is survived by his loving wife, Heather Rinehart Jones; mother Betty Yeaman; son Dalton Jones; sister Beverly Shultz; and brother Jason Ringwald.

Jimmy Taylor

Jimmy Randolph Taylor, 51, of Russellville, Ala., passed away on May 27, 2012, at his home. He was born Dec. 1, 1960, and was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by mother, Sue Loyd; and grandparents, Ruby and Allen Dickens.

Survivors include his son, Mark Taylor; father James Taylor; and sister Debra Handley.

Robert Krebbs

Robert Krebbs of Flora Vista, N.M., was born July 13, 1956. He slipped away into the presence of his Lord on June 27, 2012. Robert was an avid outdoorsman who loved to camp along any stream with a view and enjoyed using the elements of creation as lessons for his family, leaving the great outdoors in better shape than when he enjoyed it.

Robert was employed by PNM at the San Juan Generating Plant for 34 years and developed many endearing friendships there.

Robert was preceded by his father Wayne Krebbs; and nephews, Matthew Garnett and Perry Krebbs.

Robert is survived by his wife of 34 years, Theresa; daughter Bethanie Watson with husband Clay of Bloomfield, N. M.; son Jeremy Krebbs of Harrisburg, Penn.; daughter Rebecca Arnes with husband Trey of Farmington, N.M.; four grandchildren, Abby, Heath, Kailah and Audrey; mother Evelyn Walker; sisters, Tina Saenz and Tammy Garnett, both of Dumas, Texas; brothers, Dr. Ronald Krebbs of Dumas, and Mark Berg of Austin, Texas; brothers-in-law, Randall Derrick, Darrell Derrick and Wendell Derrick with their families; as well as a great and varied extended family and friends.

OBITUARIES

Joan Lane

Joan J “Jody” Lane passed away in her sleep on June 18, 2012, after a year long illness. Jody was born in Weed, N.M., on Sept. 6, 1931, as one of six children born to William and Florence Campbell. In 1942, the Campbell’s moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., where Jody would remain for the majority of her life. She attended local schools including the Harding School and Santa Barbara High School, later working 16 years for Washburn Chevrolet on Chapala Street from 1961 to 1977. She was also a long time member of the Santa Barbara Elks Club. Jody married twice over her years; fist to Loy Meraviglia and later to Clarence Lane. Both of her spouses precede her in death. Jody was a great mother and grandma, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



She leaves behind her siblings, Glibert Campbell, Norma Pressly and Marilyn Pelot; many nieces and nephews spanning from Redding and Sea Beach, Calif., to New York; her son, Charlie with wife Lynda; grandchildren, Charlyna and Austin; stepdaughter Roberta; and long-time friend and companion, Ron Anderson.

Nathan Pierce

Nathan Gene Pierce, 32, of Boswell, passed away on July, 12, 2012, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was born July 27, 1979, in Talihina, OK, the son of Jimmy Pierce and Barbara Pierce Todd and had lived in the Boswell, OK area and Sherman, TX most of his life.



Nathan enjoyed kickboxing and was a member of the Fight Time Club. He also enjoyed weight lifting, fishing, singing and spending time with his nieces. He also liked to hike and run. Nathan was a member of the Cowboy Church in Southmayd, Texas. He will be truly miss by all who knew him.

He is survived by his father, Jimmy Pierce of Boswell; mother Barbara Pierce Todd of Sherman, Texas; stepmom Caroline Harris of Boswell; brother Joe Clay Harris of Boswell; sister Nikki Pierce of Sherman; nieces, Rumor Joe Harris, Chealsey Cox, Makaylah Cox, Alyssa Buell and Cheyenne Buell; along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends from Texas to Oklahoma.

Margie Bell

Margie F. McFarland Bell passed away on July 15, 2012. She was born March 6, 1930, in Hugo, to Rev. Malcolm N. (Brother Mac) and Levena Frances (Aunt Sis) Oakes McFarland. She graduated from Hugo High School in 1948 and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1964. She worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for 15 years until she started teaching elementary school in Denison in 1964. She taught at Peabody and Houston Elementary until she retired in 1990. Her maternal great grandmother, Harriet Everidge, came to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears.



Music was a big part of Margie’s life. She sang in many gospel quartets and loved to attend gospel singings. After retiring Margie enjoyed traveling and most of all babysitting her beloved grandson, Jacob. She also loved to play 42 and never turned down a game when presented with the opportunity.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, David McFarland, Lawrence McFarland, E.L. (Sug) McFarland; and sisters, Irene McFarland and Fairy Wheelus.

She is survived by daughters, Susie Bell Marshall with husband Reed of Arlington, Texas, and Donna Bell of Denison, Texas; grandsons, Jacob Raney of Denison, and Josh Marshall of Arlington; great-grandchildren, Karlie Marshall and Blaze Reed Marshall of Arlington; brother Malcolm McFarland of Placerville, Calif; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A special thanks to the loving staff at Crawford Street Place Assisted Living and to Changing Seasons Home Health for the wonderful care they gave our mother in the last years of her life. We feel truly blessed to have had all of these amazing people to help take care of our mother and she appreciated and loved all of them.

Glenna Detter

Glenna Sue (Speegle) Detter, 82, of Bartlesville, passed away on Feb. 25, 2012, at the Jane Phillips Medical Center.



Mrs. Detter was born in Dewey, on March 12, 1929, the daughter of Lyon Speegle and Lena (Williams) Speegle. She grew up and received her education in Bartlesville, attending Bartlesville schools and graduating from College High School in 1947. She was employed for a time with Phillips Petroleum Company until she was married to Clyde Detter at the First Baptist Church in Bartlesville on August 28, 1949. They made their home in Norman where Mr. Detter was a student at the University of Oklahoma and Mrs. Detter was employed as a secretary in the Petroleum Engineering Department at OU. They returned to Bartlesville to make their home in February of 1952, where she was an active homemaker and stay at home mother. In the early 1970’s she was employed with Rathbone’s Flair Flowers for several years until returning to Phillips Petroleum Company where she retired on Oct. 1, 1985. She was a member of the First Christian Church, Honeybee Quilters, Jubilee Quilters and the Tulsa Heirloom and Smocking Guild. She enjoyed handwork such as smocking and embroidery. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. Her family would like to express their appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for aiding in funeral expenses.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Jacque Fisher.

Mrs. Detter is survived by her husband, Clyde Detter of the home; daughters, Janet Margul with husband Michael of Plano, Texas, and Gay Cooper with husband Lee of Bartlesville; son Michael Detter with wife Alicia of Broken Arrow; brother, L.E. Speegle Jr. of Maumelle, Ark.; six grandchildren, Lisa Margul, Ashley Cooper, Branden Cooper, Kelsey Mackin, Jena Detter and Lena Detter; great-granddaughter, Ella Mackin; and many nieces and nephews.

Gary Bob Wilson

Gary Bob Wilson, 58, of Texarkana, Ark., passed away on July 15, 2012, at Christus St. Michael in Texarkana, Texas. He was born on July 22, 1953, in Talihina, the son of Grant and Jean (Short) Wilson. He lived in McCurtain County most of his life, served his country in the U. S. Marines and was affiliated with the Assemblies of God. He received his B.A. and master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, and was a proud member of Delta Chi Delta Fraternity. Gary Bob had many achievements throughout his basketball coaching career. He had the privilege to coach in Cameron, Battiest, Eagletown, Broken Bow, Checotah, Atoka, Valliant and Arkansas High. During those years he had six state qualifiers in Oklahoma, two state qualifiers in Arkansas, coached seven All-Star games, the Kiamichi Classic, McDonalds All-Americans and Indian All-State to name a few. Gary Bob brought the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to each school he coached, except for Cameron. He started Hog’s for Christ at Arkansas High. He enjoyed coaching his students in the game of basketball, but loved leading them to Christ. Many know of the time he went to Amarillo and ate the 72oz steak and how proud he was. Nothing could compare to his three children and grandson Asher – the pride and joy they gave to his life. Gary Bob loved his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his family and many, many friends.



He was preceded in death by his father, Grant Wilson; two sisters, Tiajuana Morris and Glenda Ferguson; brother-in-law John Westbrook; grandparents, Calvin and Cornelia Wilson, Calvin and Lutie Preas; and adopted grandmother, Maggie Short.

Gary Bob is survived by his mother, Jean Wilson of Bethel; two sons, Cam Wilson and Caleb Wilson, both of Broken Bow; daughter Patience with Jared Graham of Broken Bow; grandson Asher; siblings, Janet with Rev. Grady Smalling of Springfield, Mo., Ellen Westbrook of Broken Arrow, Michael with Audrey Wilson of Bethel, and Stephanie Wilson of Branson, Mo.; and a host of other family and friends.

“If God heals me I win, If he takes me home I win, either way I Win!” – Gary Bob Wilson.

Claude Billy

Claude Billy, 76, of Chicago, passed away on Jan. 28, 2012, in Chicago. He was born on Feb. 8, 1935, in Manning to Minerva (Billy) Fobb. He grew up in the Bennington area until joining the U.S. Navy. After his time in the service, he made his home in Chicago. Claude loved to play the guitar and watching old western shows on TV.



The family would like to express appreciation to the Tribal Membership Department, the Burial Assistance Program, Outreach worker, Connie Courtwright and the Bennington Senior Citizens Center for their help during a time of need.

He was preceded in death by his mother; and brothers, Arnold Bully and Charles Joseph Fobb.

Claude is survived by one brother, James Pamplin of Fort Worth, Texas; sisters, Bernice Williams with husband Olin of Bennington, Verna Mae Peters with husband Paul of Pampa, Texas, Phyllis Knight of Bennington, Eleanor Palmer with husband Edward of Durant, JoAnn Frank with husband Austin of Terrell, Texas, and LouElla Fobb of White Oak, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Orble Labor Jr.

Orble Frank Labor Jr., 66, of Mead, passed away on July 25, 2012, at his home in Mead. Frank was born Aug. 23, 1945, in Durant, to Orble Frank and Helen Winfred (Smith) Labor Sr. Mr. Labor was a member of the VFW. Frank enjoyed farming. He loved his animals, gardening, country music, playing cards and socializing with his family and being with his grandchildren. Frank loved food! He loved to BBQ and loved home cooked meals.



He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, WYNDEL Labor.

Frank is survived by his son, Orble Frank Labor III of Dallas; daughters, Sheron Kelm with husband Seth of Waxahachie, Texas, and Shannon Parker with husband Jim of San Antonio, Texas; sisters, Marqutia Westerman with husband James of Allen, Texas, Juanita Mitchell with husband Jimmy of Plano, Texas, twin sister, Stahr Terrazas with husband Ervin of Blue Ridge, Texas, and Karen White; grandchildren, Danielle, Madelyne, Tristan, Gavin, Ethan and Brody; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Harold E. Cox

Harold E. Cox, 75, of Summerfield, passed away on June 12, 2012, in Summerfield. He was born Aug. 21, 1936, in Summerfield, to John Christopher and Ora (White) Cox. He was a retired glazier from the construction industry.



He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife and mother of his children, Bonnie (Crusha) Cox; four brothers, Orb, Ivan, Dale and J.C. Cox Jr.; and a sister Reba Loyd.

Harold is survived by his wife Doris Marie (McGowen) Cox of the home; sons, Harold Cox Jr. with wife Earlene of Norman, Michael Cox with wife Tracie of Summerfield, Brent Cox with wife Sheila of Noble, Jim Cox with wife Michelle of Ramona, Calif., and Daniel Lloyd with wife Toby of Greenwood, Ark., and Glenn Lloyd with wife Paula of Summerfield; daughters, Gayle Reynolds with husband Raymond of Newalla, Nilas Ellis with husband John of Bengal, Rhonda Steelman with husband Gary of Richert, Sandra Granniman with husband Tom of Krebs, and Lisa Vines with husband Marshall of Hackett, Ark.; brothers, Jim Cox of Bonita Springs, Fla., Sherman Cox of Oklahoma City, and Delton Cox of Pocola; sisters, Freda Barrick of Phoenix, Ariz., and Louise Earls of Ponca City; 30 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; as well as a host of other family members, friends and loved ones.

Melvin Larney

Melvin “Wayne” Larney, 60, of Oklahoma City, passed away on July 14, 2012, in Oklahoma City. He was born March 25, 1952 to Melvin Stevens and Marie Larney in Oklahoma City. Wayne was a self-employed auto mechanic and enjoyed watching all kinds of sports. During his youth, he was an avid fast pitch softball player, playing the position of catcher.



He was preceded in death by his father and brothers, Joe Cunnish and Jimmy Cunnish.

Wayne is survived by LaFreda Whitebuffalo; his mother, Marie Lewis of Oklahoma City; daughter Maurissa Perez with husband Javier of Gainesville, Texas, and her children, Alexandra, Alondra and Maria; son Marcus Larney of Oklahoma City, and his son Christopher; and sister Deloris (Cunnish) Garner of Sulphur.

Ola Maye Draper

Ola Maye Draper, 90, of Wilburton, passed away on July 11, 2012, at the Latimer County General Hospital.



She was born in Howe, on Aug. 20, 1921, a daughter of the late Watson Benton and Sophia (Moore) Billy. She was the wife of the late Edward Draper. They were married on July 3, 1948, in Poteau. Ola was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Wilburton; past Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star; and a member of the Choctaw Senior Citizens. She enjoyed arts and crafts. In 1979, Ola was on an election board to over see the special election of the Choctaw Tribal Council. She was also a member of Latimer Co. Council from 1979 - 80.

She is survived by her sons, Calvin Draper with wife Gail of Fort Worth, Texas, Leonard Draper of Wilburton, and Billy Draper with wife Christine of Casa, Ark.; grandchildren, Lyle Draper, Stacie Draper and Lance Draper, all of Fort Worth, Stephanie Phillips of Nashville, Tenn., Susan Draper of Tahlequah, Christina Clawson and Ada Draper both of Wilburton; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Helen Kyser

Helen Ruth (White) Kyser, 55, of McAlester, passed away on July 13, 2012, at McAlester Regional Health Center. She was born to Richard and Lou (Ford) White on Sept. 10, 1956, in Bartlesville.

She attended McAlester High School. Helen worked for Marilyn’s restaurant and Angel’s Diner as a cook. She enjoyed cooking and baking cakes and pies. As a youth she attended New Hope Free Will Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jimmy Lee Wright.

She is survived by a special friend, Craig Hill of the home; daughters, Gabrielle White of the home, and Ashley Kyser of El Paso, Texas; father Richard White of Talihina; mother Lou Irvin with husband Pete o Seguin, Texas; sibilings, Michael White with wife Linda of McAlester, Ray Irvin with wife Gracie of Seguin, David White with wife Linda, Barbara White and Richard White Jr., all of Oregon, Gloria McClish with husband Jim of Oologah, Frances Eldridge with husband Charlie of Indianola, and Jackie Jones with husband Bill of Alabama; along with numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Sue Warren, 85, of Shawnee, passed away on June 4, 2012, with family at her side. Elizabeth was born on April 22, 1927, in McAlester, to Elmer Horace Gotcher and Frances (Lester) Gotcher Collum. She was raised in Shawnee by her mother and stepfather Rev. Charles Lee Collum. Elizabeth was a homemaker most of her adult life.



She and family lived in many locals, including Midland, Texas; Homer, La., Amarillo, Texas, Littleton, Colo., Evergreen, Colo., and Houston, Texas, before her husband retired in Shawnee. She was quite artistic, and made lovely pottery and baskets, and painted beautiful china pieces. Elizabeth was an avid reader.

She was preceded in death by a granddaughter Jessica Suzanne Olsen; and a sister, Eleanor Ann Griffith of Hebron, Ohio.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Wayne Warren; sons, Robert Wayne Warren of Forest Park, and Charles David (Chuck) with wife Jackie Sabo Warren of Salmon, Idaho; daughter Cynthia Sue with husband Roy McElfresh of Shawnee; grandchildren, James (Jim) Warren Olsen with wife Wendy of Norman, Erik Justen Olsen with wife Sherri of Tecumseh; Kelsea Suzanne McElfresh of Shawnee; Elsbeth with husband Aaron Vance of Idaho, and Hilary with husband CJ McKinney of Idaho; great-grandchildren, Erik Justen Olsen Jr., Rachael Marie Olsen, Matthew Warren Olsen, Jonathan Dakota Olsen, Natalie Elizabeth Olsen, Andrea Murray Weeks, Gabrielle Murray and Shelby Murray; great-great-grandchildren, Brandon Weeks and Abigail Weeks; nieces, Dana Lynn Griffith, Paula Jean Linter of Ohio, and Marsha Townsend of Pa.

Jerry Bray

Jerry Don Bray, 44, of Broken Bow passed away on June 9, 2012, at his home. He was born on Nov. 13, 1967, in DeQueen, Ark., the son of Clarence “Peck” and Gloria Jean Laxton Bray. Jerry Don enjoyed hunting, fishing, collecting guns and target shooting.



He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Robert Allen; and a great-nephew, Hunter Bray.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his fiancé, Tina Bray of the home; his mother, Mavis Bray of Holly Creek; stepsons Craig Chaney of Broken Bow, James Carver of Bennington, and Quentin Takacs of Tulsa; stepdaughter Cara Chaney of Broken Bow; granddaughter Riley Faye Carver; brother James Olen with wife Kathie Bray and their children, Bradley, David and Brittany Bray, all of Athens, Ark.; sister Sandra with husband Shawn Baker and their children, Kristen and Shawn Baker of the Oak Hill Community; special friend David Armer; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Tvshka Homma

Two Oklahoma teams play in annual Mississippi games

Tvshka Homma warriors advance to second round

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

All heads turned as the sound of the drums heralded an historic meeting on the field – two Oklahoma teams were scheduled to play in the World Series of Stickball, and they were to battle each other. The bleachers were packed and families filled the sidelines for the July 7 game between Tvshka Homma and Okla Hannali, or “Six Town.” It wasn’t the first time the two groups have met on a stickball field. It was, however, the first for many of them to participate in the World Series in Choctaw, Miss. Tvshka Homma returned this year for the third time and it was Okla Hannali’s first appearance at the 49-year-old tournament.

“We had some new players and a good group of experienced ones who taught the new ones and gave them advice,” said Tvshka Homma Coach Les Williston. “We were all shooting for one goal – to win. It is more than a game. It’s sacred, it’s traditional.”

Tvshka Homma won its first game in the World Series competition, 7-0, bringing the match to an early end in the fourth quarter because of the “mercy rule.” The points made by Joey Tom, Daman Polk, Clovis Hamilton, Myron McMillan, Luther Amos and the two by Josh Willis were a result of the hard work of all players and coaches. Thirty players are on the field for each team, divided into defense, center and offense. Tvshka Homma’s year of dedicated practice had paid off. Advancing to play Unified in the second round was a challenge they welcomed.

Williston said they know it is an uphill climb to beat a Mississippi team whose members have been playing practically since they learned to walk. The Tvshka Homma defense held Unified during the first quarter of the July 11 game, but was overcome by the much more experienced team, losing 8-0 with the mercy rule ending the third quarter.

“We see improvement with every game we play,” Williston said of the Oklahoma players. “We are focusing on our next games including our tournament at the Labor Day Festival.”

Regular practices are held at Broken Bow and Durant with extra gatherings in Tvshka Homma or Hugo. The team is discussing beginning to open practices in the Atoka and Poteau areas. Williston said he knows the boys are practicing at home, too, because he sees them developing their skills.

Recruitment is important to bring in younger men and to have more available for games. Often, as the men learn, they form their own stickball teams. This means more competition, a lot more games, and helps them all get better.

The Labor Day Festival Tournament will be hosting six teams – Tvshka Homma, Okla Hannali and Chikasha Toli, all from Oklahoma, and Unified, Warriors and Konihata from Mississippi. The first game of the double-elimination tournament will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, at the stickball field north of the carnival on the capitol grounds. There will be four games per night with the finals scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 2.

“We are excited about how we have grown and expect twice as many teams next year,” said Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom. “Several groups have shown an interest – the Coushatta from Alabama and Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaws, and the Seminole and Creek teams want to play but want to have more time to develop their skills.

“Culture is important to us,” she continued, “and stickball is a very important part of that culture.”



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Team Tvshka Homma is pictured at top with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Thomas Williston and Delton Cox prior to the July 7 game at the World Series of Stickball at Choctaw, Miss. Above, Tvshka Homma and Okla Hannali battle on the opening night game and at left, Tvshka Homma players fight Unified for possession of the ball.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2012 Labor Day Festival 2nd Annual Stickball Tournament August 31-September 2



Choctaw Nation GED Classes

North LeFlore County

Beginning date and time:
Aug. 27, 2012
Mondays and Wednesdays
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Family Investment Center
Poteau

Choctaw County

Beginning date and time:
Aug. 28, 2012
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Community Center
408 N. “M” Street
Hugo

Bryan County

Beginning date and time:
Aug. 27, 2012
Mondays and Wednesdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
South building, downstairs
Durant

Latimer County

Beginning date and time:
Aug. 28, 2012
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Community Center
515 Center Point Rd
Wilburton

The class will meet two days each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10-per-day transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2319. Also you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

If you are interested in participating, please fill out following release form and turn in to Cultural Services staff at the tournament.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY READ BEFORE SIGNING

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Labor Day Festival athletic sports program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

- 1) The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
- 2) I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
- 3) I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
- 4) I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma their officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event (“RELEASEES”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

(Participant's Signature)

DATE SIGNED:

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

DATE SIGNED:

Emergency Phone Number: ()

This signed waiver/release should be kept on file by the sports organization for at least 7 years or possibly longer if the player has been involved in a serious injury.

The Choctaw blowgun

On a crisp fall morning, a Choctaw boy glides almost noiselessly through the underbrush, arriving at an oak tree, full of acorns. Leaning against the tree’s trunk in utter stillness, the young hunter’s thoughts creep through his mind about his family at home, who are depending upon his skill to provide them with some fresh meat. Not long after he becomes stationary, the birds resume their singing. Eventually, some squirrels venture back out onto the limbs of the tree above him, collecting acorns for their winter stores. When one of the squirrels moves into an open area on a branch, the hunter begins raising a straightened, hollow piece of river cane. He raises it very slowly; so slowly that an observer wouldn’t even perceive its motion; so slowly that the squirrel would not notice as the cane points at him. The chirping of the birds is momentarily quieted by an almost cough-like sound, as the hunter exhales a short blast of air into the hollow cane, sending a dart rocketing out of the hollow cane and upwards towards the squirrel. There will be meat in the stew tonight!

The blowgun, eloquently dubbed “the breath of death,” by some English speakers, is a weapon that Choctaw hunters have been using to bring down small animals including squirrels, rabbits, and birds since time immemorial. Some, including the author, still hunt with the ancient Choctaw blowgun today.

Blowguns have been developed and used by a number of Indigenous groups around the globe. Generally all of these blowguns, including the Choctaw version, function on the same basic ballistic principles. The blowgun itself is a hollow tube, much like a section of pipe. The blowgun dart consists of some type of hard, pointed shaft with fluffy material wrapped around its base. When the dart is placed in the breach of the hollow blowgun, this material, plugs up the hole. When the hunter blows on the breach end of the blowgun, the dart is forced through the gun and outwards at a high velocity.

The Choctaw term for blowgun is “uski hlumpa” (Byington 1915:360), which literally means “pierced cane.” The cane selected for Choctaw blowguns, is mature, has a large diameter, and is as close as possible to being perfectly round in cross section, even near where the branches attach to the main stalk of the cane.



Fig. 1: A 100-year old Choctaw blowgun (NMAI #018871.000).

Iti Fabussa

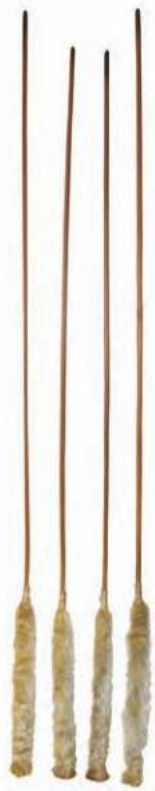


Fig. 2: 100-year old Choctaw blowgun darts, fletcher with thistle down (NMAI cat# NMAI #242285.000)

Functional Choctaw blowguns are usually 6 to 9 feet in length. Shorter blowguns are easier to take through the woods, while longer implements are more powerful, if the hunter has sufficient lung capacity to fill them.

After the cane is cut and the branches removed, the cane must be carefully straightened to form

a good blowgun. This is done by holding each crooked area over hot coals until the heat makes the cane pliable. Each crooked part is individually straightened and held in place until it cools, then the next crooked area is worked on, until the cane is completely straightened. River cane is naturally hollow, except for the solid node areas, spaced at regular intervals down the cane’s length. 100 years ago, Choctaw blowgun makers would punch out the nodes of green cane, using a sharp-pointed skewer, made either from the root end of a long, narrow shoot of cane (Nash 1960:3), or from a hardwood sapling. One such implement can be seen today in the collections of the National Museum of the American Indian (cat. #018889.00). These implements would be forced down the length of the cane, punching out one node after another until the cane was completely hollow down its length. Today, some Choctaw blowgun makers accomplish the same thing by heating up a pointed piece of steel rebar until it glows orange, and burning out the nodes. Then, the rough edges of the rebar are used to sand out any rough areas that may still exist on the interior of the blowgun. After the interior of the blowgun has been hollowed out and smoothed, its ends can be cut off at a node to reduce the chances of them splitting.

Today, a beautiful 100-year-old Choctaw blowgun can be seen in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History (cat. # E304038). Unlike most cane available today, the cane from which this blowgun is made, is perfectly round in cross section, with no flat edges. Even

after 100 years, the blowgun is still absolutely straight.

The Choctaw term for blowgun darts is “shumo holutti” (Byington 1915:335), meaning literally “fletcher with thistle.” As with the Choctaw term for blowgun, this term alludes both to the material and form of the darts. Blowgun darts intended for hunting are usually made from splints or hardwood or yellow pine. These splints are carefully shaved down to have an even, round cross section, and sharp point. Choctaw blowgun darts of a century ago were sometimes more than 20 inches in length (Laubin 1991:164). Fine darts with intricate twists can also be made from flat splints of river cane (Nash 1960:5), although these light-weight implements are usually better for target practice than hunting.

As the Choctaw name for blowgun darts implies, the bases of darts are often fletcher with thistle down (e.g. Bossu 1768:103). To do the fletcher, a thin piece of string is attached to a notch cut in the base of the dart shaft. This string is wrapped around the shaft in a spiraling fashion, binding down tufts of thistle down to the shaft. Pieces of deer hide, cloth (Bushnell 1909:18), and short lengths of cotton thread have also been used to fletcher Choctaw blowgun darts. Today, some



Fig. 3: Tvshkachito with blowgun (Bushnell 1909: plate 20).

blowgun dart makers tease apart cotton balls and use the fibers as fletcher material. To keep the fletcher from extending over the back end of the dart and potentially getting caught in the shooter’s mouth, the ends are sometimes trimmed off. This was traditionally accomplished by sliding a newly made dart into the blowgun, and then using hot coals to burn off the fletcher material that protruded out the base of the blowgun (Nash 1960:5). The Euro-American literature contains no documentation that Choctaw blowgun darts were ever poisoned. In hunting small game, these large darts are more than effective without poison. However, some Choctaw oral historians in Mississippi maintain that far back in the past, Choctaw blowgun darts were tipped with poison, and that they were sometimes used on the battlefield (York 2012:129).

While men did make some use of the blowgun in the past, it was primary a weapon for boys, who are said to have been quite deadly with it out to 20 yards (Romans 1777:77). In shooting, many Choctaw blowgun hunters hold the blowgun with one hand near the mouth, and the other slightly farther down the gun. Darts are fired with a short, very forceful blast of air. In hunting, it is best to use the blowgun at a close enough range that the animal cannot see the dart coming. In the hands of a practiced marksman, a Choctaw blowgun is an extremely accurate and effective weapon that still provides meat for some families.



Fig. 4: Choctaw youth with blowgun and darts (Boisseau 1847).

ALLEN

Judy Allen nominated for Journal Record’s 2012 Woman of the Year ‘Making a Difference’ Award

Continued from Page 1

tribes to replicate the Choctaw festival.

She’s also been a champion for the recognition of the Choctaw Code Talkers, blazing the trail in having the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 passed in U.S. Congress. She never gave up despite the Act’s failure to pass with a two-thirds vote twice in previous years. Her firm leadership and unyielding lobbying ensured the Code Talkers, who were unrecognized during their lifetimes, received the proper acknowledgment and decoration for their vital contributions to our country and our nation’s military during World War I and II. Due in no small part to her dedication and tireless efforts, legislation was finally passed to honor the Choctaw Nation Code Talkers, as well as Code Talkers from 11 other Indian tribes. This was both historical and monumental to the tribe and the families of all the Code Talkers.

She also led the team to begin the first Commemorative Choctaw Trail of Tears in 1992, and the Choctaw Nation Veterans Day ceremony, which are both now annual heritage events attended by thousands of Choctaws.

The Public Relations department, under her strategic leadership, has more than quadrupled in size since she first stepped into the position. She is at the helm of a diverse department that includes public relations, marketing, the tribal newspaper, Biskinik, the circulation department, genealogy, the website and social media, and Texoma Print Services.

In addition to her commitment to her career, Allen devotes her time to personally making a difference in her community, serving on numerous boards and committees. She recently graduated from Class XXV of Leadership Oklahoma and is on the Board of Directors of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, Creative Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Arts Institute. She also serves on committees for Choctaw Nation Natural Resources, Tribal Donations, and Employee Benefits.

Some of her past honors include awards for Preservation of Choctaw Culture from the Okla Chahta Clan in 2000 and the Meritorious Service Award from the DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce in 2009. She was also honored to serve as Faculty in Residence in 2012 for the National Education for Women’s Leadership Initiative at the University of Oklahoma.

She and Ray, her husband of 33 years, reside in Coleman and together have one son, Phillip. They are also grandparents to five beautiful grandchildren.

Both Ray and Phillip have diabetes and often struggle with the complications associated with the disease. Allen has been an advocate for them and all diabetics. She’s also active in her church, and says sharing her trust in God is an extremely important part of her life.

Allen’s philosophy is simple: “Be kind to others,” she says, “say thank you with sincerity, give more than you take and always have a positive attitude.”

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, one of many who nominated Allen for the Woman of the Year Award, stated, “I believe Judy is a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother who excels at balancing those duties with a career as a leader in her tribe, community, and the state of Oklahoma.”

Allen joins a long list of esteemed Woman of the Year nominees representing those who are “making a difference” in a vast and diverse array of backgrounds and career fields throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Trail of Tears Association announces 2012 Conference and Symposium to be held in Norman

The Trail of Tears Association announces the opening of registration for its 17th Annual Conference & Symposium to be held in Norman, Okla. The four-day event will take place Oct. 22 - 25, 2012, at the Riverwind Casino and Hotel. Details, including special hotel room rates and how to register are at the Trail of Tears Association website: www.nationaltota.org.

The Chickasaw Nation is co-hosting the week’s events along with TOTA’s Oklahoma chapter.

The Choctaw Nation is also a major sponsor and is hosting a reception at the evening event at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Participants will be immersed in lively social events and



thoughtful, authoritative presentations delving into the history and modern day implications of the Trail of Tears. Highlights include a tour of the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur and an evening at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The event brings together those interested in the history of American Indians, historic preservation, and those wanting to protect the trail for future generations.

The Trail of Tears Association is a non-profit, membership organization formed in 1993 to support the creation, development, and interpretation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Designated as a national historic trail by Congress in 1987, the Trail commemorates the forced removal of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole people from their homelands in the southeastern United States to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) in the 1800s.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna ◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Vm vlhtaha!

Pronounced:

Ahm ahthl-ta-ha

I’m ready!

Context:

- 1) I’m ready as in I’m ready to go somewhere.
- or
- 2) I have finished or completed a task.

Word Meaning:

vm – I am

vlhtaha – v. n., to be ready; to end; to finish;

Vm vlhtaha tuk!

Pronounced:

Ahm ahthl-ta-ha tuk!

I was ready!

Context:

- 1) I was ready.
- or
- 2) I finished or completed as task.

Vm vlhtaha chi!

Pronounced:

Ahm ahthl-ta-ha chi(n).

I will be ready.

Context:

- 1) I will be ready.
- or
- 2) I will prepare to be in a state of readiness.

The upsilon character, represented with a ‘v’ in this lesson has the sound of a quick ‘ah’.

Entertainment

August 31 through September 2

Free to the public

Friday night

Hankerin' 4 Hank 5:30 p.m.

Hankerin' 4 Hank promises to hold true to the original arrangements and style of Hank Williams Sr. These incredibly talented musicians are taking a step back in time in presenting these tunes in the style that Hank wrote them. You will experience the look and the sound of Hank Williams as he performed in 1951. Hankerin' 4 Hank provides the "Drifting Cowboy" sound that backed Hank, complete with the doghouse bass and honky tonk guitar and steel that so much defined the music of that era.



Sara Evans 7 p.m.

Six years after her first studio album, Sara Evans released "Stronger," her newest record that is filled with the kind of gutsy explorations on life and love that have made her one of the most compelling female vocalists of her generation.

Sara's continually remained a favorite at country radio thanks to such hits as "Born To Fly," "Suds In The Bucket," "I Keep Looking," "Perfect," "No Place That Far" and "A Real Fine Place To Start."

Her newest album's lead single, "Stronger," is just the latest jewel in an already stellar career. Sara has earned numerous accolades, including the Academy of Country Music's Top Female Vocalist honor in 2006 and the Country Music Association's Video of the Year prize for "Born To Fly." Her previous studio albums have been strong sellers. Her sophomore set, "No Place That Far," has been certified Gold; 2001's "Born To Fly" is double-Platinum and 2003's "Real Fine Place To Start" and "Restless" are both Platinum.



Josh Turner 9 p.m.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store presents Josh Turner, with his deep voice and catchy, while meaningful, lyrics.

The singer-songwriter was months away from scheduled recording sessions when he first heard "Why Don't We Just Dance," which became the debut single from his fourth studio album, "Haywire."

Since earning a standing ovation as an unknown singer on the Grand Ole Opry stage in 2001 with his impressive delivery of "Long Black Train," he has established himself as one of the most identifiable male vocalists in country music.

Josh has sold more than 4 million albums, with his debut album was certified platinum for more than one million copies sold, and his sophomore album, "Your Man," was one of only four country albums to reach double-platinum status in 2006. Six years after his Opry debut, he was inducted into the prestigious organization, becoming one of the youngest artists to receive such an honor.



Sunday night



Britt Nicole 8 p.m.

A native of Salisbury, N.C., Britt Nicole has always had a heart for reaching people and has long used music as the vehicle to change lives. She began singing in church at age 3 and by the time she was in high school, she was appearing on her church's daily television program and logged a performance at New York's famed Carnegie Hall with her school's advanced chorus.

Boldness is generally associated with youth and they say wisdom comes with age, but rarely does one person simultaneously possess both in abundance. However, Britt isn't your average twenty-something as she clearly demonstrates on her vibrant sophomore album, "The Lost Get Found."

In listening to Britt's music, it's obvious she possesses wisdom beyond her years and a spiritual maturity not often seen in one so young. Yet she's very much the playful girl next door and those equally intriguing sides of her personality merge seamlessly on "The Lost Get Found."



Saturday night

Ricky Skaggs 7 p.m.

By age 21, Ricky Skaggs was already considered a "recognized master" of one of America's most demanding art forms, but his career took him in other directions, catapulting him to popularity and success in the mainstream of country music. His life's path has taken him to various music genres, from where it all began in bluegrass music, to embarking on new musical journeys, while still leaving his musical roots intact.

2012 marks the 53rd year since Ricky struck his first chords on a mandolin, and this 14-time Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. With 12 consecutive Grammy-nominated classics behind him, all from his own Skaggs Family Records label, the diverse and masterful tones made by the gifted Skaggs come from a life dedicated to playing music that is both fed by the soul and felt by the heart.



Martina McBride 9 p.m.

After two decades in the music business, Martina McBride has made some changes, now signed to Republic Nashville, with new management, a new co-producer and newly spotlighted song-writing skills, having penned over half the songs on "Eleven," her newest album.

"Teenage Daughters," Martina's debut single for Republic Nashville, was released the week after Country Radio Seminar, and fans immediately recognized Martina's personal stamp in the lyrics. Her follow-up single, "I'm Gonna Love You Through It," wasn't penned by the singer, but touched Martina personally.

In a career that has already taken her to breathtaking heights (four Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year trophies, three Academy of Country Music Female Vocalist awards, a Grammy win, numerous national magazine covers and features and appearances on such shows as VH1's "Divas," "Today Show," "20/20," "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars," Martina is ready to take it up a notch with the help of her new label.



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

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

Concerts take place at the amphitheater on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.

If there's one group whose name inspires thoughts of pure, passionate, solid and true music, it's The Kingsmen. They've encouraged and uplifted listeners with their unique style since the conception of the group in 1956. With countless records and compilations sold, Grammy nominations, four Dove Awards and an induction into the "Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame" (class of 2000), "The Christian Music Hall of Fame" (2008), this certainly solidifies The Kingsmen as Christian music's most predominate group. The momentum has not stopped as the group continues to help define the Southern Gospel genre for a whole new generation of music lovers, perhaps more so than any other group.

There aren't too many groups today who can boast the kind of far-reaching legacy that comes with more than a five-decade career as one of gospel music's most influential artists. The Kingsmen emerged in the 1950s with their own distinct style, unleashing music that would solidify them as pioneers in the southern gospel music field. They continue to carry on that legacy today, with their music holding a message of Christ, touring year in and year out to spread their music and that message across the country.

Newsboys 9 p.m.

This Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning band has sold close to 8 million units, has garnered five Gold albums and 28 number-one radio hits. Newsboys released their most recent CD on Nov. 15, 2011 - the highly anticipated project, "God's Not Dead." This rock-driven worship album finds front man Michael Tait and his band mates, who have played together for two decades, with some of today's most widely church-embraced modern worship anthems as well as several original and never-before-released worship songs written by some of today's biggest worship songwriters.

Renown for their heart-pumping live concerts, the tight-knit Newsboys unit continues to headline gigs in the U.S. and around the world.

