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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

August 2013 Issue

CNO honored at Beacon Awards



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh

2013 Council election results

Incumbents Delton Cox and Ted Dosh won the council elections for their respective districts in the July 13 council election.

The election results are:

District 4
Delton Cox – 572 (79.78%)
Richard Box – 145 (20.22%)
District 9
Ted Dosh 1,262 (55.35%)
Berdie Williams 1,018 (44.65%)

Incumbent councilpersons in Districts 6, 7, 10 and 12 will retain their seats as none received a challenger in this election.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was one of 28 organizations in Oklahoma honored for its philanthropic efforts at the Journal Record's sixth annual Beacon Awards event on July 11 in downtown Oklahoma City.

Those recognized in the philanthropic impact categories have made a significant charitable contribution to a nonprofit organization working to meet specific needs in the community.

The Choctaw Nation was recognized for its contributions to the community, which have an impact on not only those within its tribal boundaries but on citizens throughout the state as well.

The Choctaw Nation gives to the community in several ways including making numerous donations, such as contributions of \$1 million each to the Dean McGee Eye Institute and Peggy and Charles Stephenson Oklahoma Cancer Center. Also the tribe has constructed three fire stations throughout its districts and regularly donates the use of its tribal airplanes in support of the Veterans Airlift Command, an organization that arranges flights for our military's wounded warriors at no cost to them. The Choctaw Nation also supports the Boys and Girls Club through volunteers and donations.

For several years, the Choctaw Nation has served as a contributor and sponsor to Leadership Oklahoma, a program that brings together leaders to address critical challenges facing the state, in an



Photo provided

Chief Pyle accepts the Choctaw Nation's award at the sixth annual Beacon Awards event on July 11 in Oklahoma City. Presenting the award is John Gladden, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Oklahoma; Journal Record Publisher Mary Mélon and Cliff Hudson, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Sonic Corp.

effort to work together to move the state forward. The goal is to develop solutions for positive change to benefit all Oklahomans.

Organizations at the event were recognized in large, medium and small divisions for their contributions to the nonprofit community in two categories – charitable influence and philanthropic

impact.

The Choctaw Nation joined other organizations being honored including BancFirst, Crescent Cos, Dell Inc., Farmers Insurance, Halliburton, and Nordam.

"The Oklahoma standard for giving is recognized worldwide and the business community drives that spirit," said Mary Mélon, publisher

of The Journal Record. "The Journal Record Beacon Awards allow us to honor the businesses and organizations who provide generous financial support and a culture of volunteerism and service. Both are critically important for our state's nonprofits to continue providing valuable and much-needed services."

OK Military Hall of Fame to induct Choctaw soldier

The only member of Oklahoma's Choctaw Nation to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, Sgt. 1st Class Tony K. Burris, is among 10 Oklahomans being inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in November. This year's banquet will be held Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Jim Thorpe Museum's Event Center, 4040 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City.

Sgt. 1st Class Tony K. Burris was born May 30, 1929, in Blanchard and died Oct. 9, 1951, on Heartbreak Ridge in Korea where his heroic action resulted in Burris being

awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Burris also was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He was a member of Co. L, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. He distinguished himself on Oct. 8, 1951, when his company encountered intense fire from the enemy. Burris charged forward alone throwing hand grenades into the position, killing 15 of the enemy.

On Oct. 9, 1951, he was wounded by machine gun fire but continued

assaulting an enemy position. He rose to his feet and charged with hand grenades, destroying two more enemy positions before being mortally wounded by enemy fire.

Also being inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame are 1st Lt. Frederick F. Henry, Major Gen. Nicholas S. Krawciw, Gen. Edwin H. Burba Jr., Lt. Col. William R. Schwertfeger, Maj. Frederick J. Ransbottom, Lt. Col. Michael E. Sloniker, Cpt. Robert J. Kelsey, Lt. Col. Dudley J. Britton, and Lt. Col. Jerry P. Orr.



File photo

Sgt. 1st Class Tony K. Burris



Photo provided

A computer generated image shows the planned outcome of the expansion at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.

Choctaw Casino Resort plans expansion

Construction on a large expansion project will begin this month at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant. The expansion will bring with it more jobs to the Durant community, bolstering the Oklahoma economy.

While official details have not been released casino officials have confirmed the expansion will include an expanded, renovated gaming floor, additional hotel rooms, new event and conference spaces, an expansion to the Oasis pool, a bowling alley, a movie theater, a new spa, more retail space and additional food and beverage outlets.

Teams are ready to play

Sports a large part of Choctaw way of life

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Nation's capitol grounds will be transformed in just a few weeks. The annual Labor Day Festival kicks off Thursday, Aug. 29, with the princess pageant, and activities continue through Monday, Sept. 2, and the State of the Nation address. It's a great weekend for families and friends and I hope you have made plans to join us. If you've never been to our festival, it's an opportunity to enjoy games, entertainment, art, food and to learn more about the Choctaw Nation.

Sports tournaments bring in groups from all over Oklahoma and other states. Choctaws have historically been ready to play and ready to compete. This is our third year to hold a stickball tournament during the festival. Our newest tournament features the Choctaws' oldest sport and we have teams from Oklahoma and Mississippi on the schedule. The action begins on Friday night at the Tvshka Homma Stickball field and picks up again Saturday. On Sunday, there will be children's and women's exhibition games held before the championship between the final two men's teams. Bring your lawn chairs and get comfortable – stickball is one of the most exciting games you will watch. Its history is centuries old, and as the players battle it's easy to visualize our ancestors running swiftly for miles with their sticks trying to claim and protect the leather-covered ball.

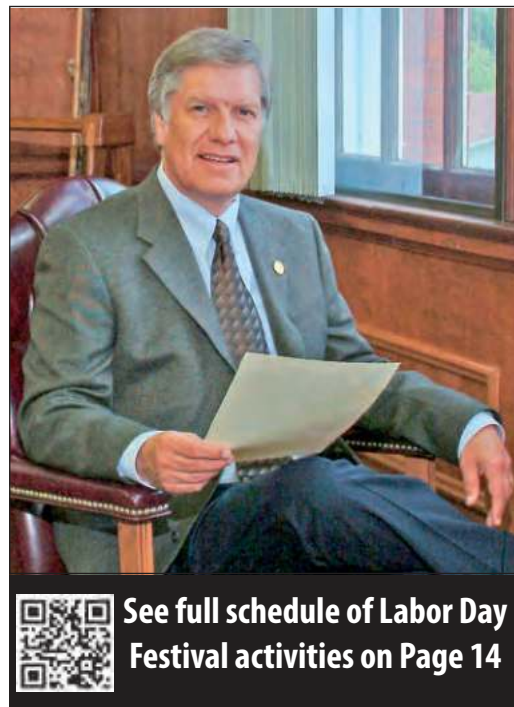
Fastpitch softball games also begin on Friday. Many of the teams are made up of family members or a group from the same community. There are players who have returned to the Labor Day fastpitch tournament for at least 20 or 30 years and some can say they have played at Tvshka Homma for 40 years or more. It's a family tradition. They are among the most dedicated players and fans I have ever seen. There are usually 50 teams signed up for the tournament with two or three generations on one of the four diamonds at the same time. Dads watch their sons slide home, granddaughters see their

grandmothers hit line drives. The teams will be playing past midnight Friday, Saturday and Sunday to determine who will be this year's women's and men's fastpitch champions.

The south end of the Red Warrior Sports Complex will be packed on Saturday with a day of volleyball, horseshoes and basketball drawing more spectators. A lot of these players, too, have been participating for decades. Nearby, at the Sycamore Springs Golf Course in Wilburton, will be the 11th annual golf tournament. It's good to see all ages participating in activities they enjoy, sometimes entering more than one tournament during the weekend. Most of the athletes are busy year-round at home, playing or practicing their favorite sports. An energetic lifestyle produces long-term health benefits.

The tournaments are only one way to stay active at the festival. There is also the Youth Fitness Challenge, the Tough, Tough Choctaw contest, a 5k Run, corn games and playground fun for the kids.

What once begun as a one-day gathering in 1948 is still very much a large reunion. Whether you join in the competitions or watch, visit with old friends or make new ones, the festival is at the heart of Choctaw members everywhere.



Tribal Council meets in regular July session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met for its regular session July 13 in Tvshka Homma. The minutes of the June 8 session were approved. Committee reports were addressed and the council members approved several items of new business:

- disposal of surplus equipment
- two hay baling permits
- an oil and gas lease
- funds and budget for bus and bus facilities livability initiative
- application for the Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Program

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the council house in Tvshka Homma.

Chaplain's Corner

The Spirit of God

The 2013 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival marks another great weekend of family activities and the fellowship of families and friends. May our Choctaw Nation continue to grow.

We are reminded that a nation can rise no higher, can be no stronger, and be no better than the individuals which compose that nation. And today I share with you a challenge from the Book of Galatians 5:22-26. I believe it is impossible to understand the Bible, or Christian living without understanding something of the person and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that God is in three persons. God is One, but He is manifested in three Persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is coequal with the God the Father and coequal with God the Son. The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person. He is never to be referred to as "it." He is not just an agent. He is not just an influence. He is a Mighty Person, the Holy Spirit of God.

The Bible tells us that He is Omnipotent – that means that He has all power; that He is Omnipresent – that means that He is everywhere at the same time; that He is Omniscient – that means that He has all knowledge. He knows everything that you do – He watches you.

He hears the lies that you tell. He knows the thoughts and intents of your heart. He knows what is in your mind, the things you think, the intents of your soul. He knows all about it. He knows everything. The Bible teaches that He writes down in a book everything that you do and someday it shall be brought out as evidence at the Great Judgment of God.

The Bible tells us something of the work of the Holy Spirit. What does He do? We are told in the Gospel of John 16:8 that He convicts men of sin: "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." It is the Holy Spirit who convicts you of your sin. He makes you feel uncomfortable, He pricks your conscience. He makes you acknowledge and admit to yourself that you are a sinner, and then He gives you the strength and the power to turn from your sins. You cannot come to Jesus Christ unless the Holy Spirit convicts you, and you must repent of your sins.

Then the Bible teaches that when the Holy Spirit has convicted you of sin, when you are willing to give yourself to Christ, and when you come to Christ, He gives new life. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. The moment that you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit of God comes in and regenerates.

The Bible also teaches that you are dead in trespasses and sins. Now this doesn't mean your body is dead. It's your soul that is dead. Your soul that lives in your body is going to live forever – that part of you is dead toward God. It is called "spiritual death." The moment you come to Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God brings



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

the life of God into you and you begin to live. The soul that rejects the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in a place prepared for the devil and his angels.

The Spirit of God has given to you the very life of God – and God is an eternal God – that means you will live as long as God lives and that is for eternity.

The Bible also teaches that the Spirit of God produces the fruit of the Spirit: "but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance." (Galatians 5:22-23)

Now these nine things are to characterize the life of every born again child of God. We are to be filled with

love, we are to have joy, we are to have peace, we are to have longsuffering or patience, we are to be gentle and kind, we are to be filled with goodness, we are to have faith, there is to be meekness, and we are to have temperance. But what do we find? We find in the average so-called Christian today the very opposite.

Everyone before he comes to Jesus Christ is dominated by one nature, the "old man," which is called the flesh. The flesh, the world, and the devil control your life. You are controlled by your ego. You are controlled by yourself. The moment you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, that self is put down and Christ is put on the throne in your life and the Spirit of God dominates your life.

One thing we remember – self is still there, sometimes hidden, sometimes quiet – waiting his opportunity and his chance to take control again.

As a Christian, you have the power, you have the will to yield either to the flesh and live a fleshly carnal life, or you have the power to yield to the Spirit, to live a Spirit-filled life. Which are you living? Are you living a life on the human plane, a fleshly carnal life in which there is little Bible reading, little prayer? You may go to a church, but there is no daily walk with Christ. There is no joy that you know a Christian should have. Your life is an up and down experience. God never meant it to be that way. God meant the Christian life to be on the highest possible plane at all times, bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

When you come to Jesus Christ by faith – He gives you the Holy Spirit who produces the fruit of the Spirit. After the Holy Spirit is in you, you must yield to Him so He controls your life. It is then that sin shall not rule over you.

The Bible says "... greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." I John 4:4) If this is what you have been looking for, you must by an act of faith receive Jesus Christ. You must give Him your whole life. You can do this today!

We do pray for precious souls around the world as we are reminded in Matthew 7:13, "... broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there by which go in thereat."

Pray for the leaders of the United States and our Indian Nation. Pray for our Choctaw Chief, Assistant Chief, members of the Tribal Council and the spiritual leaders among us. May the Lord bless you!

Guiding steps help youth on their path to adulthood

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation develops and promotes programs to give youth the best advantages possible. Two of these programs – Solemates and Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens (SPPT) – are at the forefront.

Youth Outreach's Solemates initiated its fourth drive on July 26 with a goal of 287 pairs of shoes to buy. Volunteers were available at all of the Nation's travel plazas for 12 hours on the 26th. They will continue to hold fundraisers at different locations and accept donations through this month to make sure children in the Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach program can hold their heads high as they walk to class.

For the last three years, there have been enough donations to extend the generosity to kids in other Choctaw Nation programs and communities. It's a cause that brings us all together. The boys and girls have a new pair of shoes for the school year and they know there are people who cared enough to give.

Outreach staff also helped Soles4Souls provide enough shoes to meet the needs of more than 400 people during the non-profit organization's visit to Broken Bow July 22. The afternoon kicked off Sole4Souls' Barefoot Week as they traveled to different sites.

Youth Outreach will dive straight into a coat drive for the kids after Solemates is concluded. There will be dropoff sites at the hospital in Talihina and at the headquarters building in Durant. They will also be accepting donations during the always-fun OU/Texas tailgate party sponsored by the Nation every year at the west travel plaza in Durant as fans travel south.

Another Outreach program, SPPT, undeniably gives a better start for babies whose parents are still kids themselves. SPPT has just received the news of \$3.9 million in funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. The staff will begin developing a six-month planning and training period so they can continue to educate young parents.

Teen caregivers are taken step-by-step through what to expect during pregnancy and the months following delivery. Parents as Teachers Curriculum is provided through home visitations twice a month.

This curriculum is designed to develop



strong relationships through parent and child interaction as just one of the components of the project. Parents learn the importance of child development and reaching childhood milestones which promote school readiness. SPPT is excited about bringing a fatherhood coordinator to work specifically with fathers to increase collaborative efforts and communication between both parents. SPPT is building a support network of young families and fulfilling the Nation's vision of a better future.

The SPPT program also teaches aspects of the Choctaw heritage through home visitation services as well as monthly group interaction. This will assist our teen population to embrace enriched traditions as they are developing their own parenting style.

For more information on donating to the Choctaw Nation Solemates or coat drive, please call Youth Outreach Director Paul Roberts at 877-285-6893, ext. 6063, 6061 or 6068.

To be eligible for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens services teens must be expecting or have a Native American child under the age of 1, living in the Choctaw Nation 10 1/2 counties of the tribal jurisdiction, and must be 21 years of age or younger pursuing higher education. If interested in SPPT Program please contact Rebecca Morris, director of SPPT, at 580-326-8304, ext. 6057.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Anita Worthington adds to the Solemates donation jar and is rewarded with a ticket from Paul Roberts for a free 20 oz. drink from any Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza.

Sustaining a vision

District 1 Councilman stays busy – and loves it

Thomas Williston follows values he learned during 25 years in law enforcement

By **CHRISSEY SHEPARD**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Though stating his job is busy, tiring and “like no other,” District 1 Choctaw Nation Councilman Thomas Williston says he hasn’t ever had a bad day in his position as councilman in the two years and 10 months he’s been elected and he can’t imagine doing anything else.

Before being elected into the Choctaw Nation Council in 2010, Williston worked in law enforcement for 25 years at and around Idabel, the town where he grew up and still resides.

“I loved law enforcement,” he said. “It was all I knew and all I wanted to do. I remember the first time I applied for a policeman position, I had long hair. When I was hired I didn’t tell anyone. I cut my hair and put on the police uniform going out for my first shift, which was the night shift. My father’s eyes got big as saucers and he asked where was my gun. I said I didn’t have one. I had to get my first pay check first then I would get one.”

“Being in law enforcement himself, my father got up and went to his room and brought out his old duty belt and gun – a ‘western style,’ hand-tooled leather with .38 pistol,” Williston remembered. “It was big but I was proud to have it and I could tell he was even more proud. I went through the police academy with it and I still have it.”

Williston said during his years working in law enforcement, he had many memorable experiences that taught him values he applies to his position as a Choctaw Nation Councilman today. “I’ve brought a lot of what I’ve learned to this job,” he said. “Law enforcement was not only carrying a gun and badge; the biggest part was having compassion for your fellow man, having honesty and integrity.”

He continued, discussing the differences between the rewards in law and serving as a councilman.

“Early in my law enforcement career I found that rewards weren’t there, but every so often someone would say ‘thank you’ and that made it all worth while,” Williston said. “It was motivation for me. Quickly I learned the dramatic social differences of people, which lead me to learn different ways of approach and how to relate to a victim or suspect. That made me effective as an investigator, and is an attribute that

Editor’s Note: We hope Biskinik readers enjoy the new series we are beginning this month. Staff will be traveling to each district of the Choctaw Nation to visit with Council members and give you a chance to learn more about each of them. District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston was sworn into office on Nov. 29, 2010. He has served as Tribal Council Secretary for two years. Thomas and wife Lagena live in Idabel.

I rely on as councilman.”

However, he said being a councilman has been different in that aspect. “In this job, the thank yous are quite often, and I like that,” mentioning having an attitude with understanding and compassion is important in order to help people.

“My rewards are unlike anyone else’s rewards. Knowing that I helped somebody through their hard times, helped them with their problems. It rewards me, that I feel like I’ve steered them in the right direction and they took my advice and utilized the programs the Nation has; that’s fulfilling to me,” he stated.

Williston has always stayed busy with his daily work and career life. “For the last 25 years, I’ve kept two jobs, law enforcement and carpenter work,” he said. “I’ve always been busy, constantly, but I love it.”

Since Williston enjoys a busy and sometimes demanding job, serving as a council member is perfect for him. He said it is common for his phone to begin ringing at 7 a.m. and not ceasing until maybe 10 p.m. “I can get anywhere from 20 to 30 calls a day. I carry two phones. At some times both are quiet then one rings and, by golly, the other one rings too,” he said. “A lot of times I am traveling to or from our program meetings and reception is sometimes non-existent due to the terrain but, I do my best to answer my calls or return them. Everyone has problems, and it’s pleasing to me to know that I may be able to help so they can focus more on their family than what’s got them down at that particular time.”

It’s no doubt Williston possesses the right mind-set for the requirements of a Choctaw

Nation Council member. “I get up every morning with a smile, knowing that hopefully I’ll do something good for somebody,” he said. “I knew this was going to be a demanding job, and I was up for it, and I still am.”

Williston said some of his senior citizens at the center, who he loves to laugh, visit and joke with, have told him he needs to slow down. “This job is two, sometimes three, jobs rolled into one; it’s constant,” he said. “But I don’t think it’s a challenge, it’s fun to me. I like staying busy.”

Williston said right after he was sworn in, the Christmas holiday was arriving, bringing with it the Choctaw community center’s Christmas programs and dinners, both for the youth and seniors. He credits the employees at the community center for helping him a lot that first year. “Thank goodness for them,” he said. “I had never organized that before, but with their guidance, it was easy.”

He said he hasn’t been overwhelmed as councilman yet. “I have not come across a situation I couldn’t handle as of yet. With the help of the center staff and with what I’ve learned, I know what program I need to call or I know the contact person or particular person I need to contact to help people.”

When it comes to helping people who come to him with problems, Williston said he relies on understanding. “I’d like to think that I have a good understanding of a lot of people, not only our Choctaw people, but people in general,” he explained, “because that was my job back in the day,” referring to law enforcement.

He continued, saying some people would rather do without than to ask him for help, even if the needs were a great necessity, but he is familiar with the programs and funds the Choctaw Nation offers to its members, so he is able to help them as much as he can.

“I ask them why, why do you need this assistance, what can I do to help?” Williston described.

He said he has been able to help some of his district members find jobs throughout the county and state, saying he’s gotten them in contact with the Vo-Tech, enrolled in nursing classes or involved with whatever job training they may need. “I’ve gotten some of our guys jobs in the city through our programs,” he continued. “I’ve gone to businesses myself and asked if they would work with us to get them jobs; I’ve

refund offset program;

- Establishment of an ad hoc committee for food, nutrition and agriculture;
- Creation of a task force to work collectively regarding natural gas technologies;
- Commendation of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama for the executive order creating the White House Council on Native American Affairs;
- Support of Keith Harper as an outstanding nominee for ambassador;
- Support of renaming the Washington “Redskins;”
- Opposition of the sale of any items currently in the possession of the Creek Council House Museum Association that were sold, loaned or donated to the museum;
- Support of Richard Chisroe’s appointment to the National Indian Gaming Commission; and,
- Establishment of an ad hoc committee for violence against women.

The next meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council will be hosted in October by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Inter-tribal Council holds quarterly meeting

The Chickasaw Nation hosted the quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes July 12 at its new Artesian Hotel in Sulphur. The leaders of the five tribes addressed the audience, giving progress updates and expressing their appreciation for the dedication shown during the reinstatement of ITC.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle commended the U.S. Supreme Court for its unanimous support in Oklahoma’s efforts to protect state resources. “It is a big win for Oklahoma. We are always trying to look forward and this is saving our water, our resources for future generations,” Chief Pyle said.

The first resolution addressed by the council was to urge Congress to continue federal funding for Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., during the sequestration.

Other resolutions presented and approved included:

- Support for tribal child support programs having direct access to the federal parent locator service and federal income tax



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Councilman Thomas Williston, left, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony June 21, 2012, at Arlington National Cemetery.



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSEY SHEPARD

Reading to the kids at the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center in Idabel is fun for Councilman Thomas Williston and the boys and girls.

done that numerous times.”

With every job comes frustrations, and Williston said sometimes people have reluctance to do their part. “I feel like it’s my job to get them motivated, one way or another, and it’s not always easy,” he said. “Not every adolescent or youth will follow the same path, but my duty is to help them not get too far off the path.”

Williston said there are many things that are important to him as a council member, but one of the main things is assisting people with their needs and helping make them independent. “I like to cater to the youth and see that they grow up happy and be there for them when their needs change as they grow and show them the right path. I have seen so many of our youth addicted to drugs in jail, eventually end up in prison and that’s sad not only for our community but for their families.”

Keeping our culture and traditions alive is utmost, too. “I often think of the Trail of Tears and imagine how our ancestors were forced to walk, what conditions were like, the pain and suffering they had to endure, and the loss of loved ones. At times I ask people to imagine what it was like. After all, it is because of them we are where we are now.”

“A lot of our people today still carry on some of the traditions of our culture but a lot has been lost. I strongly agree with the Choctaw Nation today reviving a lot of the culture, through our tribal events, reviving

“I get up every morning with a smile, knowing that hopefully I’ll do something good for somebody.”

– Thomas Williston

councilman, Williston was able to experience an act he will never forget, which took place in Washington, D.C. “Probably one of the most memorable things I’ve done is the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” he stated. “We were there to represent our fallen Choctaw service men and women, then and now. We were there representing all Choctaw people and hopefully making them proud.”

Assistant Chief Gary Batton laid the wreath with Williston in a small ceremony at the tomb. “That was a big honor for me and one of the most memorable and moving moments of this job.”

He was also able to participate in a game of stickball on the lawn right in front of the United States Capitol building, another fun memory as a councilman.

With his job, Williston said he has the opportunity to work with some great men. “I look at things two different ways,” he explained. “I was around when Idabel, District 1, only had an Indian clinic and we had a commodity truck. That’s all the Choctaw people had in terms of government assistance, in the ‘60s and ‘70s, just before the Choctaw Nation is what it is today.”

“Now, under Chief Pyle’s administration, even before I became a councilman, I could see the Choctaw Nation getting bigger, more programs coming in to help people, and I could see that was good.”

“Now that I’m in this position,” continued Williston, “I can basically see things from a different point of view. I can see where Chief [Pyle] comes from, and I agree with the vision that he has: sustainability for the Choctaw Nation.”

Williston said the Choctaw Council, with the leadership of Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton, has one main goal: helping people. “Not everyone is going to see eye to eye, but the bottom line is what is going to benefit the Choctaw people, either right now or in the long run,” he said. “There’s always that vision of benefiting people, and that’s what I like.”

our Choctaw way of dance, traditional dress, language classes, stickball games, our foods – mmmmm our foods!,” he smiled big. “I still enjoy our foods like it was when I was growing up and a lot of Choctaw people still carry on the traditional foods especially at church gatherings and at home.

“Choctaw hymns – there can’t be enough said about those,” Williston stressed. “I have always loved them, to listen, to sing along. We sing some hymns at our senior dinner and everyone enjoys them, too. It has been said that ‘Choctaw Hymn 116 Death Welcome’ was our Choctaw Warrior song, that our Choctaw boys in the World Wars sang it. I believe they possibly did, because in those days, it was common to see hundreds of Choctaws at church gatherings. I saw this as a youngster, and today the big church gatherings are not as big as they used to be.”

“Choctaw Hymn 112 is said to have been sung during the Trail of Tears,” he said, though he doesn’t know for sure but believes it is enlightening that it could have.

One of his favorite activities as a councilman is integrating with the seniors, going around before community dinners and making an effort to speak to each one of them, and all visitors with whom he comes into contact. “I try not to meet a stranger,” he said. “I enjoy laughing with them and making them laugh with jokes and practical jokes. I really like it when I see they are happy.”

With his position as a

Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid and how it affects you

By COURTNEY PETTY

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation staff will be visiting each Choctaw Nation Community Center to discuss the most up-to-date information regarding Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act also known as Health Care Reform.

The schedule provides dates and locations for these valuable and informative presentations on the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid. We hope to see you at one of the many community centers this fall. Presentations will begin 30 minutes prior to your meal time at each community center.

Watch the individual community center fliers advertising the above special presentations posted within the centers to see if the Choctaw Community Health nurses will be on site to begin administration of the flu shots and take advantage of receiving a blood pressure screening.

For more information please join us Labor Day weekend in the air-conditioned Healthy Lifestyle tent for a short presentation that is sure to educate you and your family. Presentations are Sunday and will begin at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4:15 p.m.

There are more than 50 million Americans in the United States that do not have any form of insurance and tens of millions of Americans that are under-insured. Due to this dilemma, in March 2010 President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act. It mandates that every American have health insurance coverage or face a new health tax penalty for not obtaining insurance beginning Jan. 1, 2014. There are exemptions within the law that would allow some to be exempt from the mandatory insurance requirement/health tax penalty. The first exemptions include individuals that already have health insurance coverage such as: employer-sponsored coverage, Medicare and/or Medicaid, Veterans health benefits and/or TRICARE. The next types of exemptions are for individuals who cannot afford insurance coverage based on federally determined poverty level calculations; those incarcerated; or members of recognized religious sects. The last exemption is very important to know and understand for OUR tribal members; members of federally recognized Indian tribes. In order to be federally recognized, you and all members of your family MUST obtain a CBID card as well a tribal membership card prior to January 1, 2014. Some Native Americans (those without a federally recognized tribal membership and only possess a CDIB card) will have to request a hardship waiver as "proof" of Native American ancestry in order to be

Balancing meals for a better summer

Ah, summer time, after a long hot day in the sun what better way to relax in the evening with colorful and flavorful foods of the season. During this wonderful time of year there is a wonderful array of fresh foods to enjoy. Having balanced meals with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat or fat free dairy and lean meats helps to keep blood sugar more stable. This in turn helps to prevent and control diabetes. Also, having balanced meals that are full of a variety of colors is beneficial in helping the body to fight cancers. Adding flavor to the foods prepared using citrus fruits and spices such as garlic, cumin, cinnamon, etc. can enhance the flavor of many meals prepared at home and will do so without adding salt, fats or sugar. So, enjoy the summer fair for the sights, smells, tastes and health benefits. This month's recipe can be enjoyed with some tomato, corn and black bean salsa over a cool, crisp refreshing salad or served in multi grain tortilla with sliced avocado and mango.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Sept. 3-26, except for:
Sept. 11 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Sept. 18: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed Sept. 2 for holiday and 27-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 23, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays Sept. 3-26, except for:
Closed Sept. 2 for holiday and 27-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Sept. 3-26, except for:
Closed Sept. 2 for holiday and 27-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Sept. 3-26, except for:
Closed Sept. 2 for holiday and 27-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Sept. 19, 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

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

considered exempt from the mandatory insurance requirement and prevent future health tax penalties on future income tax returns.

The Affordable Care Act will provide many services to include the following:

- Creates the Health Insurance Marketplace, a new way for individuals, families, and small businesses to get health coverage.
 - Requires insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing health conditions,
 - Holds insurance companies accountable for rate increases,
 - Makes it illegal for health insurance companies to arbitrarily cancel your health insurance just because you get sick,
 - Protects your choice of doctors,
 - Covers young adults under 26,
 - Provides free preventive care,
 - Ends lifetime and yearly dollar limits on coverage of essential health benefits,
 - Guarantees your right to appeal.
- When you get health insurance coverage in the Marketplace, you may be able to get lower costs on monthly premiums. This depends on your income and family size. Enrollment will begin October 2013 and ends March 2014. The Marketplace Exchange can be very beneficial as it can give tribal members a safety net back-up plan for services Choctaw Nation Health Services are

unable to provide to include certain surgeries or medications. The best part is that certain tribal members who purchase health insurance through the Marketplace Exchange do not have to pay co-pays or other cost-sharing if their income is under 300 percent of the federal poverty level, which is roughly \$66,000 for a family of four (83,000 in Alaska).

For those who choose not to enroll or provide membership of a federally recognized tribe will face tax penalties that in 2014 will be \$95 per family member and by 2016 will be \$695 per family member. Do not delay so you will not have to pay unnecessary tax penalties.

Recipe of the Month

Choctaw Hunter's Stew

Recipe provided by Food For Thought with Claire Thomas

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds flank or skirt steak
 - Olive oil
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ##### For the Marinade:
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced (optional)
 - 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1 large handful fresh cilantro, leaves and stems, finely chopped
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 3 limes, juiced
 - 1 teaspoon brown sugar
 - ½ cup olive oil
- ##### Directions:
- Lay the flank steak in a large glass baking dish. Combine marinade ingredients and pour the marinade over the steak. Make sure each piece is well coated. Cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1-4 hours. Preheat your grill over medium-high flame (a cast iron grill pan on high heat for stove-top). Brush the grates with a little oil to prevent

the meat from sticking. Remove the steak from the marinade. If you are cooking indoors, you may want to brush off excess marinade as the bits may burn and smoke on the hot pan. Season both sides of the steak with salt and pepper. Grill the steak for a few minutes only, on each side, depending on how thin the cut, until medium rare to well done. Remove the steak to a cutting board and let rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice the steak across the grain on a diagonal. For tacos, cut them into bite sized cubes.

Nutrition Facts:

Makes 10 servings
 Calories: 265, Sodium: 51mg, Total Fat: 17.6g, Total Carb: 0.6g, Saturated Fat: 4.6g, Dietary Fiber: 0g, Cholesterol: 50mg, Protein: 25.3g
 For more information contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

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

NURSERY NEWS

Henry Anderson



Kristen (Wright) and David Pounds of Tulsa are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, a son, Henry "Hap" Anderson Pounds was born at 11:47 a.m. on June 24, 2013, at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He was welcomed home by big sister, Saxon Quinn Pounds, 6.

Maternal grandparents are Sherri and Kevin Lefler of Owasso; and Mike and Betsy Wright of Claremore. Paternal grandparents are Mike and Jeanie Pounds of Owasso. Maternal great-grandparents are Willadean "Dean" (Anderson) Brannon and Bud McAfee of Owasso and the late Henry Brannon; Norma and Lanny Nellis of Norman and the late Calvin Wright; and Alice and the late Bill Farbro of Claremore. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Gene and Jenalea Belz and the late Fred and Emma Sue Pounds.

Stiles Ensey



Stiles Cole Ensey is welcomed to this world by his sister, Embery Faith. Stiles was born June 17, 2013, in Durant. He is the son of Hailey and Steven Ensey, and grandson of Bonnie Ensey and the late Roy Ensey, as well as Jim and Ann Minyard.

Importance of breast feeding

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Aug. 1-7 was World Breast Feeding Week and Choctaw Nation WIC would like to invite everyone to show their support for breast feeding mothers.

Breast feeding provides infants with all the nutrients that they need and builds a special bond between babies and their mothers. Choctaw Nation WIC encourages all mothers to breast feed their babies as was the tradition in the early days of our people. Follow these tips to allow the most nutrition for your child.

- Frequent feeds, not formula.**
The more often you feed, the more milk you make. If you give formula, your body will make less milk.
- All you need is breast milk!**
The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that your baby have a diet of purely breast milk for the first six months – no other food or drink is needed.
- Feed early and often.**
Feed at the earliest signs of hunger: if baby's awake, sucking on hands, moving his mouth or eyes, or stretching.
- If he didn't swallow, he didn't eat.**
Looking and listening for signs of swallowing will help you know that your baby's getting enough.
- Say 'No' to pacifiers and bottles,**
at least in the first four weeks. Pacifiers may hide the signs of hunger. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that you should not use a pacifier for the first month if you are breastfeeding. If your baby has problems sucking, check with a lactation specialist about how to feed him without using a bottle.
- Sleep near your baby and nurse lying down.**
You can rest while you feed your baby!
- Have baby's mouth open wide like a shout, with lips flipped out.**
Help your baby open his mouth as wide as possible. He should be directly facing you: "belly to belly, chest to chest, and his chin should touch the breast." Proper positioning keeps you both comfortable. If you're having trouble with latch, get help promptly.
- Watch the baby, not the clock.**
Feed your baby when she's hungry, and switch sides when swallowing slows down or she takes herself off the breast.
- Go everywhere!**
Plan to take your newborn everywhere with you for the first several weeks.
- Don't wait to ask for help if you need it.**
If you wait too long to get the help you need, it may be harder to breastfeed. Stick with it – it's worth it!

For more information about breast feeding, please call: Erin James, IBCLC at 800-522-6170 extension 2507, Ami Richards, CBE, CLC, at 580-380-2518, or Sandra Dupire, CBE, at 580-380-3911.

Free help

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

1 800 QUIT NOW

784-8669 OKhelpline.com

Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans.

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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

NOTES TO THE NATION



Seeking owner of photograph

I am trying to return the above photo to its owner. I believe it is the 1941 school band at Meridian, Okla., Roger Mills County. If you know of this photo, please contact me at P.O. Box 52 Gore, OK 74435 or 918-489-5568.

Ed and Mary Goodman

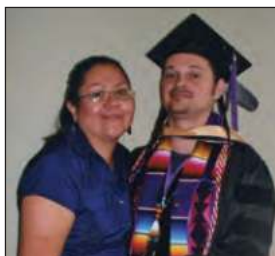
Help with education from several Choctaw Nation programs

My name is Laura Long, and my friends and I would like to say a special thank you to the Choctaw Nation for the financial support during college. Pictured from left are Christina Garland, Katelyn Collins and myself. We just graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing on May 11 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, so we are all registered nurses. We received financial support from the Choctaw Nation with either the CAB program, Higher Education, Career Development, or all three. We are all proud to call ourselves Choctaw. It would have been very difficult to pay for college if it were not for these programs. Two of us will be working in southwestern Oklahoma and one will be working in central Oklahoma.



Brandon earns law degree, thanks Nation

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, the Higher Education department and Career Development for all the financial aid and support I received in my journey to get my law degree and for helping with Bar Exam expenses. I received my Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law on May 11, along with my Native American Law Certificate. Along the way on my journey, I received an A.A.S. from Western Oklahoma State College, majoring in criminal justice, an A.S. from the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal College and a B.A. from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, majoring in criminal justice. I recently completed the BarBri Bar Review course and the Bar Exam. I look forward to using the skills I have learned over the past several years to help our people.



Brandon Norris

Thankful for assistance with college education

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, Chief Pyle and the Higher Education department staff along with all members of the Choctaw Nation who made my scholarship possible. The fact that the Choctaw Nation is willing to invest in my education and future makes me proud. No one in my family has ever received a college degree, and I know this makes my mother proud that you are willing to help me achieve this education.

At 40 years old, I am not your average college student. My first semester, I took 16 hours and earned a 3.5 GPA with near perfect attendance.

I promise that this investment will not be wasted, as I will continue to give 100 percent dedication into receiving a college degree.

Chuck A. Bradshaw

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
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.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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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.



BISKINIK 2013

Thankful for support in time of loss

We want to thank all the nursing staff, hospitality house and all others from the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center that provided wonderful care to our family and our mother during her illness. We are very appreciative for all the visits from friends, family and church pastors. A special thanks to the church family of our mother, who came and sang Choctaw hymns to her, prepared the church for services and the meals. Also, thanks to the Outreach employees who were there to give their support and for those who assisted with serving meals to our family. Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for the food that was provided and all those who took time to prepare and bring food to the house. We are all very appreciative for those that came and were there for us during our loss. It was a comfort to know so many people cared. God bless all of you.

The family of Emeline Bohanon

Phyllis seeking past classmates, enjoys campus tour

In early March, two of my children took me to visit my high school Alma Mater, Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan., where I graduated in 1956. The time spent there was a bittersweet three days. It is now Haskell Indian Nation University, but is still very cold and snowy in March, like I remembered. Our guide for the campus tour was Manny King, an office administrator.



After 50-plus years, I had to reacquaint myself with the campus streets, sidewalks and trails. A lot has changed over the years with only six of the original structures remaining: Tecumseh Hall (boys gym), Hiawatha Hall (girls gym), Pocahontas (Poky) Dormitory, the auditorium, football stadium and bandstand.

Sadly, neither the "shack" nor "case lane" exists today. Anyone having attended during those years will remember the shack as the student hangout, where we went to get Cokes and burgers and to listen to the jukebox. That is if anyone had any money. Case lane was a trail or park where we walked with our date to Pocahontas Dorm after a campus event and got in before 10 p.m. curfew without getting caught by the matron.

Before leaving campus, my daughter and I purchased numerous Haskell Institute goodies from the school souvenir shop. I would love to hear from anyone that attended Haskell during the years 1952-1956. My address is 3708 South Douglas Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73109 and my cell phone number is 256-483-5666.

Pictured is campus tour guide Manny King (left) showing Phyllis and son Sammy Dean the university.

Phyllis Murphy

Thankful for support

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all the help it has provided me and my family. We have had a rough time this past couple of years due to illness in my family. I would just like to thank the Nation for all its support during this time of great need. Thanks for being there. I'm very proud to be a part of such a great Nation!

Joe Gage

EVENTS

Jones family reunion

Descendants of Cephus Jones, Betty Jones Thompson, Reba Jones Meashintubby and Wilburn Jones will hold the annual Jones family reunion at the city park in Talihina on Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information or directions, call Kathy Leach at 214-440-1455 or Joyce Purser at 972-424-7477.

Breast cancer screenings

The Oklahoma Breast Care Center will be holding breast cancer screenings for Choctaw members at various locations within the next several months: Aug. 1 at Grant Casino (morning appointments); Sept. 4 at Durant Tribal Headquarters (limited appointments still available, morning and afternoon); Dec. 3-4 at Durant Casino (morning and afternoon both days); Dec. 9 at McAlester Choctaw Nation Community Center (limited appointments still available, afternoon); and Dec. 13 at Poteau Clinic (morning appointments).

Call Melissa Galbraith at 580-924-9706 or email mgalbraith@cnhsa.com for an appointment.

Everyone should bring a photocopy of driver's license, doctor's name, mailing address and phone number. Allow 15 minutes for your appointment. If you are under 35, you need a doctor referral.

The Oklahoma Breast Center is accredited by the American College of Radiology and approved by the FDA for your assurance of the highest standards, quality and expertise.

OKCIC thanks Choctaw Nation

The purpose of this letter is to express on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic (OKCIC) our gratitude for the support provided by the Choctaw Nation for our Mark Harmon Celebrity Weekend event.

We take very seriously all donations to our program, ensuring that the funds received go directly to individual programs, in this case support for our Harmon-y Pediatrics Clinic. We are currently in the process of expanding this clinic. We now have two board certified pediatricians and a certified nurse practitioner. We plan to add another pediatrician shortly.

We take great pride in providing services, especially to members of our tribal partners, and view our efforts as complementing and expanding those of the various tribal programs throughout the state.

Everett R. Rhoades, MD
President, Board of Directors

Researching photos

I was hoping someone could help me identify these photos. It is supposed to be a photo of Reuben Freeny (bottom) and wife Martha A. Laxton (top), my great-grandparents, but since Martha was not a Native American, as this woman looks to be, I am wondering if it might be Sarah Ellis Freeny, wife of Robert Clay Freeny. The woman in the picture looks to have some sort of Native American dress and headpiece on.

Reuben, son of Robert Clay Freeny, and Martha "Mattie" A. Laxton had 12 children: Robert, Mary, Reuben Jr., Belle, Pearl, Choc, Chick, Leota, Tokowa, Estella, India and Lee Freeny.

I would appreciate any help. Please contact me at 1234 Lakegrove Loop Midlothian, TX 76065 or email at bdbpj@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.



Patricia Brown

Choctaw Housing Authority

Affordable Rental Housing

Bokoshe, Red Oak and Quinton are accepting applications for: one, two, three and four bedroom income based apartments.

- Applicant must have a CDIB Card
- Applicant household must meet income guidelines
- Household members age 18 and over must pass OSBI criminal background check
- Household members age 18 and over must pass local background check
- Applicant must provide two previous landlord references including telephone numbers and addresses
- Applicant must have an income.

Elder Residential Housing

Hartshorne is accepting applications for income based one bedroom apartments which include: stove, refrigerator, central heat/air, washer and dryer

- These units are designed for a single person or a person and their spouse.
- Each applicant must be able to live independently.
- Applicants must be at least 55 years of age.
- Age 62 and older receive preference.
- Tenant must be able to pay 15% of their gross adjusted income towards rent.

All applications may be obtained online at choctawhousing.com under services, Affordable Rental Housing or by calling Tracy Archey at 580-372-4091

Affordable Housing is housing that is affordable to lower income households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. Tenant rent in the Affordable Housing Program is based on 15% of the gross adjusted income for the household. The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation has 146 affordable rental units located within the Choctaw Nation boundaries.

Please join the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
in celebrating the dedication
of 55 miles of Highway 3
in honor of the

WORLD WAR I CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

10 a.m.
September 6
Antlers, Oklahoma

The dedication will be held at the intersection of Hwy. 3 and the Indian Nation Turnpike. Please park at the Cross Timbers Church, Hwy. 3 West. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 400 SW "O" St.

THEY SERVED. THEY SACRIFICED.

Photo Credit: Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Indiana University

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Owa-Chito royalty crowned

Congratulations to the winners of the Owa-Chito Pageant, Senior Miss Karen Crosby of Wright City, Junior Miss Savannah Herndon of Soper and Little Miss Ariana Byington of McAlester. The pageant is held annually during the Owa-Chito Festival in June at Beavers Bend.



Broken Bow and Bethel District 2 Choctaw seniors worked together to prepare authentic native food at the annual Owa Chito Festival in Beavers Bend. Foods that were offered were banana, Indian tacos, fresh hog meat, fried pies and more.

Sydney places at Red Earth



The Red Earth Festival was held in Oklahoma City on June 7-9. Sydney Anderson-Cullum won first place on her water color painting, first place on her clay pot and placed second on her beaded necklace. Congratulations, Sydney, your family is proud of you!



Alexis receives honor

Alexis Futischa attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention in Oklahoma City on July 5-7 as a representative for Coalgate's Unit 242 of the fourth district. Certificates were earned by Alexis from the American Legion Auxiliary for the following programs: Children and Youth, Junior Activities and Junior Americanism. She earned honorable mention for her Poppy Book. Alexis's Junior Group was awarded Best Junior Americanism Program, Winner-Class 1 for the Americanism Essay Contest for Alexis's essay, entitled "What Freedom I Enjoy Most," first place for Junior Press Book for the Public Relations Program and National Plaque Citation for Best Junior Activities Report.

In addition to these citations, Alexis received a special honor and earned the prestigious title of Junior Member of the Year for 2012-13. Alexis accumulated her volunteer hours by serving her veterans, the community, school and church. She worked diligently with senior members at each event the American Legion Auxiliary hosted as well as joining other organizations, such as Girl Scouts and Girls in Action, to serve her community. She is a 10-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, eligible for membership through her maternal great-grandfather, Jack Taylor of the Army, maternal great-great-grandfather, Cecil Taylor of the Navy, paternal grandfather, Roy Futischa of the Air Force and her stepfather, Curt Washington of the Army.

Alexis has been the Department of Oklahoma Poppy Princess for the last three consecutive years and held the title of 2012-2013 District 11 Little Miss Choctaw. She is currently a junior girl scout and member of the Christian club, Girls in Action.

Alexis is the 10-year-old daughter of Curt and Jacqueline Washington of McAlester and Jonathan Futischa of Ada. She attends McAlester Public School where she is an honor roll student.

Choctaw family wins in tennis division at Jim Thorpe Games



The Jim Thorpe Native American Games were recently held in Oklahoma City. More than 1,700 athletes representing 70 different tribes from across the United States competed in 10 different sports. They were all in honor of the spirit of the "World's Greatest Athlete" and Native American legend, Jim Thorpe.

Winners in the Jim Thorpe tennis division, representing the Choctaw tribe, is a family from Norman (left to right) Steve, Lisa and Brian Bajema. Brothers Steve and Brian teamed up to win the men's doubles division. Lisa and son Brian won the mixed doubles event. Lisa also won the consolation bracket in the ladies doubles with Diane Cline, also of Norman.



Happy birthday, Tori

Happy 16th birthday to Miss Okla Chahta Tori Archuleta. Tori attends Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif., and is a varsity cheerleader. Her Mom, Taylor, Kelsie, Uncle Mike, Aunt Arlene, Grandma, Papa and family wish her a happy birthday and she makes them proud.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association visits memorial wall

In October 2012, the North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (NCVHPA) (pictured) joined the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Cherokee, N.C., for a solemn week honoring the fallen heroes of the Vietnam War. Five helicopters (H model, Charlie model and Mike model Hueys, OH-6 and OH-58) furnished by the NCVHPA provided a moving backdrop at the Acquoni Expo Center (former Cherokee High School) for viewing by the entire reservation.

Warren Dupree, at the request of and under the direction of Steve Youngdeer, Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee (1983-1987), American Legion Post 143 Commander, orchestrated a moving display of the wall.

The event, held in conjunction with the Cherokee Indian Fair, began Oct. 2 with an escort of the wall by the Patriot Guard, Brothers in the Wind and the Christian Motorcyclists Association from Franklin, N.C., to Cherokee, and then a parade on through the reservation with a great turnout of spectators honoring the attending veterans and the fallen heroes.



and talks offered by the pilots of the NCVHPA. No detail was too small for Dupree's attention. Few ceremonies attended by the NCVHPA were as moving and as thoroughly coordinated. It was a great honor for the NCVHPA to be in attendance.

Jerry Seago, NCVHPA events coordinator, is married to Barbara Mitchell Seago, great-granddaughter of Rhoda Tolbert McCurley, original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation, granddaughter of Arizona McCurley (Curley) Mitchell, original enrollee, and her son, Willard Mitchell, deceased.

On Oct. 4, there was a laying of a wreath at the wall by Chief Hicks and a blessing of the wall by Jerry Wolf. On Oct. 5, a moving memorial service was held in the Acquoni Expo Center with Dupree presiding. With Nat Henry, Vietnam POW from Franklin, N.C., a sounding of the bell occurred at the reading of the name of each Vietnam soldier killed in action from Western North Carolina, after which Quilts of Valor were given to many who worked to make the week an honoring of Vietnam veterans.

On Friday, children from the reservation schools were bussed in for educational viewing



District 7 veterans honored

The veterans of District 7 were honored June 19 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Antlers. Pictured are (back row) Steven Watson Billy Jr., Wallan McKnight, Donald Rosson, Victor Eyachabbe, Virgil Blan Jr., (middle row) Abraham Jones, Jack Austin Sr., Jack Work, Andy Choate, Wrightsman Thomas, John Underwood, Joseph Morris, (front row) Bertram Bobb, Raymond Wright and Lloyd Loman.

Happy 54th anniversary to the Tysons of Tuskahoma



Joseph and Callie Tyson of Tuskahoma celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on Aug. 12. With their union, they had three children: two sons, James and Sonny Tyson, and one daughter, Josephine Burton. They also have two loving daughters-in-law, Beverly Tyson and Faye Tyson, and one son-in-law, Charles Burton. They are grandparents to six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Joseph and Callie, all of your family and friends wish you nothing but happiness in the years to come.

Joseph is also turning 77 years old on Aug. 29. He is the pastor of the Cole Spur Church of God in Christ. Along with his three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he is blessed with a loving brother, Howard Tyson, sisters, Bessie Dillard and Versie Taylor, and an aunt, Caroline Thompson, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. They all wish him a happy birthday.

Joseph is also turning 77 years old on Aug. 29. He is the pastor of the Cole Spur Church of God in Christ. Along with his three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he is blessed with a loving brother, Howard Tyson, sisters, Bessie Dillard and Versie Taylor, and an aunt, Caroline Thompson, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. They all wish him a happy birthday.



Happy birthday, Charles

Charles Marquett Burton Jr. will turn 18 years old on Aug. 31. He is the son of Charles and Josephine

Burton, the brother of Briana Burton of Oklahoma City, and the grandson of Billie Jean Smith of Broken Bow and Joseph and Callie Tyson of Tuskahoma. Charles will be attending the University of Oklahoma in August, where he will major in biology in order to pursue a medical degree.

Charles graduated from Northeast Academy for Health Science and Engineering in Oklahoma City on May 21 with a 4.23 GPA.

He was a four-year member of the JROTC program where he served as Battalion Commander. He was also a four-year defensive starter on the football team with 296 tackles.



Beams family attends Okla Chahta Gathering

The Beams clan was happy to meet Chief Greg Pyle at the Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield. They enjoyed their day at the cultural event. Pictured is Bob Champion with his grandkids, Madisyn and Scott Jr., visiting with Chief Pyle.



Taylor succeeds in basketball

Congratulations to Taylor Noel Roof of Highland Village, Texas, who will be participating all summer in basketball training camps, having

traveled to New Orleans in July, where scouts watched youth from many schools play for a chance to be recruited to college teams.

Taylor attends Marcus High School and has received several basketball awards as well as academic achievements throughout her time in school. Her family is proud of her integrity and her accomplishments in both sports and academics.

Museum closing for new exhibit

The Choctaw Nation Museum located in Tvshka Homma, Okla., will be closed Aug. 19-23. It will be under construction for a new "Code Talker Theater Exhibit." The temporary closure is for the safety of the public and staff as well.

There could possibly be other closings during August. You are encouraged to call 918-569-4465 in advance to ensure that the museum will be open. Museum staff apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Choctaw seniors gather in Broken Bow

On May 8, District 2 Choctaw seniors in Broken Bow honored mothers and fathers with a special meal at a local restaurant in Idabel. Chairman Ivan Battiest of the activities and regulation committee was pleased with the good turnout of about 50 members in attendance.

USDA accepting FSA member nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that USDA has accepted nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma. The nomination period was June 17 - Aug. 1, 2013. Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age could be nominated as a candidate. Tribal members are considered landowners if their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA. Voting takes place between Nov. 4 and Dec. 2, 2013.

For more information about the election or to obtain an election map, you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Holdenville, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, or you can contact the Bryan County FSA Office in Durant at 580-924-4131 ext. 2, which serves as the local FSA contact office for the Choctaw Nation.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

EDUCATION

Haley graduates with honors



Haley Dawn Krebs earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences-Sonography from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center during the May commencement ceremony. She graduated with special distinction and a cumulative GPA of 3.87. She was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, OU American Indian Student Association and the OUHSC Native American Student Association.

Haley is employed as a sonographer in the radiology department at Texas Health Presbyterian-WNJ. She is the daughter of Lynn and Janet Krebs of Sherman and the granddaughter of the late Ernest and Jewel Young and the late Kenneth and Ima Jean Krebs. Haley and her family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its financial assistance and the Higher Education and Career Development departments for all their support and encouragement. Their value of education is greatly appreciated.

Former Jones Academy student earns degree



Former Jones Academy student Christen Voice earned an Associate of Science degree in Natural Resources this past spring at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. Christen was also accepted into the Indigenous and American Indian Studies-Environmental Justice program at HINU. The 2010 Jones Academy graduate was active on the cheerleading squad and a member of the women's university softball team.

Christen is working this summer as an intern with the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas, Texas. She is also on the Jones Academy scholarship program.

Chelsea graduates from Yale



Congratulations to Chelsea Wells, a graduate of Hugo High School, for recently earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from Yale University. Throughout her time attending Yale, Chelsea traveled abroad, living in Nepal and Argentina, backpacking through Spain, Italy and France.

Chelsea has been accepted into Teach for America, an organization that places high-achieving recent college graduates into low-income communities to teach for at least two years. She has been placed into the Tulsa School District and has already begun teaching summer school. Through the organization, she plans on obtaining a master's degree in education from the University of Oklahoma.

Chelsea is the daughter of Brad and Joyce Wells of Hugo and the granddaughter of Houston and Joyce Wells of Stephenville, Texas, and the late Odell and Gleades Goodwin of Boswell.

Tuba solo earns scholarship in competition

Contributed by:
News @ UW-Eau Claire



When he was in sixth grade, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire sophomore Nicholas Liebl decided he wanted to play the tuba. He recalled it was a tall order – because the instrument was bigger than he was.

"I played a huge white sousaphone," Liebl said. "I had to sit on about four or five large textbooks just to reach the instrument."

Liebl, a music major from Owatonna, Minn., grew, and so did his talent as a musician. Those years of practice paid off when he was named one of three recipients of an instrumental scholarship during the 38th annual Glenn Miller Festival, held June 13-16 in Clarinda, Iowa. Liebl, one of 10 finalists, placed third with his tuba solo, earning him a \$1,000 scholarship from the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society.

Liebl said it was his mother and a missed deadline that led him to enter the festival competition.

"I was preparing for the Leonard Falcone Young Artist Tuba division preliminaries and cut my recording too late, so I couldn't enter," Liebl said. "A day or two later, my mom sent me a link to the Glenn Miller Scholarship website. I had a couple recordings lying around, so I threw them into an envelope and sent it off. A couple months later, I was surprised by an email telling me I had become a finalist."

Dr. Jerry Young, professor emeritus of music, said while it is unusual for a person at Liebl's stage of development to place in a national event such as the Glenn Miller Festival, Liebl's natural ability and hard work paid off.

"He often can be found at the Haas Fine Arts Center at 6 a.m. to start his practice day," Young said. "His dedication to his professional goals and his academic work make his success at a competition such as this one no surprise at all to me."

Liebl credits more than hard work for his success. He said Young has made a difference in both his tuba playing and his life.

"The sole reason I came to UW-Eau Claire was to have the privilege and honor of studying with Dr. Young," said Liebl. "Working with him is incredible. He is the most genuine person I have ever met, and I have learned just as much about life in general as I have about tuba."

Liebl called the scholarship an amazing reward for all his hard work.

"Aside from the cash award, placing at the competition really means many things for me," he said. "It's proof that the endless hours, early mornings and late nights of practice really do pay off."

Winning a scholarship at the Glenn Miller Festival, an event celebrating America's musical past, means a more promising future for Liebl.

"In the future, I want to keep pursuing music at the highest level," he said. "After meeting so many new and different people and being exposed to so much opportunity, I know I want to continue as a music major and spread my passion for music anywhere I can."

Tyler named All-American Scholar



The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Tyler Cole Smith of Durant has been named an All-American Scholar.

The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher GPA. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsor are accepted.

Tyler, who attends Victory Life Academy, was nominated for this honor by Crystal Maynard. Tyler will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, students recognized as All-American Scholars should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

Tyler is the son of Ambre Smith and Rhett Roberson from Granbury, Texas, and Arlington, Texas. The grandparents are Rick and Karla Roberson of Mingus, Texas, and Deborah Blakley Smith of Durant and Monty Smith of Irving, Texas.

Ashlyn named National Honor Student



The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Ashlyn Donaho of Wister has been recognized for academic achievement as a United States National Honor Student Award winner. Ashlyn, who attends Wister High School, will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy. The USAA National Honor Student Awards provide honor students with many benefits and services and is a great tribute to a student's dedication, talent and ability.

Ashlyn is the daughter of Eric Donaho and Lynn Puhmann of Wister. The grandparents are Bob and Freda Puhmann of Bokoshe and Dennis Donaho of Wister.

The staff of Choctaw Nation's STAR Program would like to remind all parents with children in second through 12th grades that the deadline for submission of documents is approaching. The final deadline for students



to be awarded for the Spring semester is Oct. 1, but awards are processed as soon as all documents are received.

Requirements for all eligibility and incentives given are listed: Students must have Choctaw tribal membership, all A's (\$25 Walmart gift card), all A's and/or B's (\$10 Walmart gift card), perfect attendance (\$25 Walmart gift card), and all students receiving an incentive will also receive a Choctaw STAR Student vehicle decal or certificate.

Required STAR documents are available online and are listed here: STAR application (one-time application), grade and attendance verification form (to be completed by a school official and returned once per semester), and copy of the semester report card. All of these documents may be submitted via mail, email or fax. For more information about the STAR Program, please visit star.choctawnation.com or call 800-522-6170 ext. 2787. You may also visit the STAR Program's Facebook, at facebook.com/choctawnationstar.



JA sixth grade holds Rite of Passage



On May 6, the sixth-grade girls at Jones Academy began the annual Rite of Passage, signifying the end of their years in the elementary girls' dormitory and their transition into the "big" girls side. Dressed in their passage shirts, each student gave a personal presentation about herself and the tribes they represent. Bidding a fond farewell to the girls, Billie Jean Morgan, elementary girls' supervisor, introduced them to Joanna Baker, supervisor of the big girls' dorm and the waiting big sisters.

After lighting a path to the door connecting the elementary to the big boys dorm, Bonnie Smelser, elementary boys' supervisor, guided the sixth-grade boys into the TV room. Sabian Hawkins began with a tribute to his father and a description of his tribe. He was followed by the rest of the sixth-grade boys with their personal presentations. Each student carried a painted shield depicting something of importance in their lives. After the boys were finished, the door to the big boys' side was unlocked and they were welcomed to the big boys' dormitory.

All the sixth-graders were feted at a supper held at the Cornerstone Baptist Church after the ceremonies.

Pictured are girls Jasmine Waldon, Cherokee; Olivia Gaffney, Choctaw; Erin Willis, Cheyenne-Arapaho; Desma Valdez, Kickapoo; Samantha Lopez, Choctaw; and Lena Goodbear, Cheyenne-Arapaho. Pictured are boys Corey Whitecalf, Oglalla Sioux; Kyle Miller, Kickapoo; Sabian Hawkins, Pawnee; Christian Sockey and Truvon Willis, Mississippi Choctaw.

Help Wanted
Seeking Choctaw CDIB Members!

Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant is looking for Choctaw applicants for the following Full-Time & Part Time positions

Full-Time
Hotel Shift Manager
Maintenance - must be HVAC Certified
EVS Deep Clean Staff

Part-Time
Call Center Representative
Hotel Front Desk Clerk
Hotel Housekeeping
RV Park
EVS Staff

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

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office.
4216 Hwy 69/75, Durant or online @ <http://careers.choctawnation.com> for jobs with any of our Choctaw Casinos.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER	1	2 <small>Labor Day (U.S., Canada)</small>	3	4 <small>Rosh Hashanah begins (Jewish New Year)</small>	5	6 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	7
	8 <small>National Grandparents Day</small>	9 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	10 Antlers by appt.	11 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m. <small>Patriot Day</small>	12	13 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt. <small>Yom Kippur</small>	14
	15	16 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	17 Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	18 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	19	20 Wright City by appt.	21
	22	23 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. <small>Autumn (Autumnal Equinox)</small>	24 Crowder by appt.	25 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	26	27 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	28
	29	30					

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

IMAGINE

the possibilities...

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Educational Talent Search
and
Scholarship Advisement Program
are co-hosting an

ACT Prep Workshop

High school students, grades 9-12, are welcome to attend

September 20, 2013
Hugo Vo-Tech Center
107 S 15th St, Hugo, OK 74743
Registration begins at 8:00 AM, Workshop from 8:30 till 12:30

ETC, SAP and Choctaw students are admitted free of charge.
Please bring a copy of your membership card.
Non-ETS students should call 800-522-6170, ext. 2711, to request an application.
ACT materials, mid-morning snacks, drinks and lunch will be provided.

Educational Talent Search is federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education

Bridge named in honor of fallen warrior

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The bridge over Hickory Creek on Highway 77 near Overbrook, Okla., was renamed on Wednesday, July 24, in honor of the late Marine Lance Cpl. Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby, who was killed in action on May 14, 2006, in Iraq.

A reception to commemorate the newly named bridge was held at the Greenville Elementary School, the school Hatak Yearby attended as a child before going on to graduate from Marietta High School in 2003.

Senator Frank Simpson, Representative Tommy Hardin, and Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle all addressed the large gathering of family and friends, speaking on Hatak's accomplishments and service to the nation and expressing their appreciation to his family.

Chief Pyle spoke of the sacrifices of all who have served the country in the armed forces. "To all the veterans and their families, we appreciate so much all that you have done and all that you continue to do. To the Yearby family, this is especially true with Hatak having made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I'm honored to be able to stand among you as we recognize him today."

Justin and Mary Yearby spoke about their son and expressed their gratitude for all in attendance, including three of Hatak's friends and fellow Marines that he served with overseas, all who flew in for the occasion. His family presented Pendleton blankets to the three men, Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Roman of Chicago, Ill., Cpl. Will Torres of Hemet, Calif., and Lance Cpl. John Amador of San Diego, Calif. His father said as he introduced them, "These men were his friends, they were with him [in Iraq] and were close to him. They are now a part of us."

Love County also declared July 24 "Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby Day." The Choctaw Nation Color Guard also stood by at attention at the reception as the proclamation was read aloud by Love County Commissioner Herschel "Bub" Peery, which states:

Whereas, Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby had a concept of nation and thereafter aspired and struggled for the nation's freedom, and

Whereas, Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby defined and contributed to a system of life of freedom and order for a nation, and

Whereas, Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby contributed to the quality of life and destiny of a nation by his faithful and loyal devotion to duties and made the ultimate sacrifice in service.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Love County, on behalf of all its citizens, as a show of deepest appreciation for everything Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby did for Love County and the United States of America, does hereby declare July 24, 2013, "Lance Corporal Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby Day" throughout Love County.

After a presentation to the family of a replica of the new bridge sign, everyone moved out in a large vehicle convoy, led by the Patriot Guard Riders, to Hickory Creek to witness the unveiling of the two new signs at each end of the bridge along Highway 77.

"This is very special," Justin said of the occasion. "It's hard to express how thankful we are for all the support from the county, state and tribe for all that went into making this happen. It means a lot to our family."

He went on to describe his son and the path that led him to a life of service. "Everyone who knew him would say he was fun, he was a prankster, a joker, always having a good time," he said.

"But being in the service was something he always wanted to do," he continued.

Hatak, whose heritage included Choctaw, Creek and Seminole, was a pow wow dancer all his life. "He grew up in the pow wow arena and grew up seeing and knowing the respect our culture gives to our warriors. He witnessed this his whole life. And that was solidified when his older sister joined the Marines.

"As his father, I had misgivings about him joining, of course. But he reminded me of something. He reminded me that I've always told him as he grew up that it takes a village, and no matter how big or small the gathering, wherever we are at any given time, that is our village. And he told me, 'It's my time to lead my own village,' and I respected that. He had a warrior's mentality."

When asked what he thought Hatak would think about the event, his father smiled and replied with what he said was Hatak's favorite word – "Sweetee!"

Rep. Hardin sponsored the bill to name the bridge after Hatak after being contacted by Laquita Ladner of Burneyville, a former substitute teacher where Hatak attended school. Hardin began the process in the



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

Pictured at the sign unveiling are Love County Commissioner Herschel "Bub" Peery, Rep. Tommy Hardin, Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Hatak's mother, Mary Yearby of Overbrook, wife Lindsey Yearby of Durant, father Justin Yearby of Overbrook, Laquita Ladner of Burneyville, and Sen. Frank Simpson. Standing in back are fellow Marines and friends of Hatak's, Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Roman of Chicago, Ill., Cpl. Will Torres of Hemet, Calif., and Lance Cpl. John Amador of San Diego, Calif.

House, and Sen. Simpson ushered it through the State Senate.

Section 2 of Oklahoma House Bill 1759, approved by Governor Mary Fallin on May 14, 2013, reads: "The bridge over Hickory Creek on U.S. Highway 77 between Oswalt Road and Campbell Road in Love County

shall be designated the 'LCpl Hatak-Yuka-Keyu Martin Yearby USMC Memorial Bridge.' Pursuant to the provisions of Title 69 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Department of Transportation shall cause suitable permanent markers to be placed upon the bridge bearing that name."

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 Stickball Labor Day Tournament, related events, and activities, the undersigned understands 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 understand that the activities of Stickball are physically and mentally intense. 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.

5) I understand and agree that this Release of Liability Agreement covers each and every stickball activity/event in which I participate.

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.

DATE SIGNED: _____
(Participant's Signature)

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. I give my permission for said participant to travel with the organization, even out of state. I also allow releasees to seek Medical attention/treatment if necessary and assume responsibility for any follow up care.

DATE SIGNED: _____
(Participant's Signature)

Emergency Phone Number: (_____) _____

Stickball tournament in its third year

The Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament will be held this year for the third time on the grounds at Tvshka Homma. New faces are coming in to practice and learn the sport as community involvement grows.

The double-elimination men's tournament begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30. The games continue on Saturday at 8 p.m. A children's exhibition game begins at 7 p.m. Sunday followed by a women's exhibition at 8 and the men's championship at 9.

The Cultural Services department is adding a new press box, score board and sound system for better coverage and if you are there on the final evening of the tournament, you will have the opportunity to win a prize.

Three smaller teams have developed in the Choctaw Nation and the players join the official Choctaw Nation team, Tvshka Homma, as they travel to larger tournaments and to the World Series in Mississippi. Southeast Thunder is based in the Broken Bow and Idabel area, Koi Chito in Talihina, and Sintullo Lakna includes players in the Durant and Atoka area. Another Oklahoma team, Okla Hannali, is comprised of players from Broken Bow, Ardmore, Oklahoma City and Stillwater. Both Tvshka Homma and Okla Hannali are entered in the Labor Day Festival tournament.

Several practice fields are now available for organized practices or just a quick half-hour of running and shooting to hone skills. There are stickball fields at the capitol grounds, Broken Bow, Hugo, Idabel, Durant, Atoka, Antlers and Talihina where players meet.

Walk-ons are allowed at the Labor Day stickball tournament. Each player must be at least 16 years old and must turn in a completed and signed waiver. Those under 18 are required to have a parent or guardian sign the waiver. A copy of the waiver is included at left and can also be printed from choctawnationculture.com. Waivers can be turned in to coaches beforehand or at a special meeting for coaches and players from 2 to 4:30 p.m. before Friday's games. They may also be mailed to Billy Eagle Road III, Choctaw Nation Cultural Services, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702.

Stickball is the Choctaw national sport, known as "kapucha" or "ishtaboli." Other tribes also play stickball and it is the precursor of lacrosse. The object of the game is to keep possession of the stickball or "towa," only touching the ball with cupped sticks that are made to fit the left and right hands. The size of the field is comparable to the size of a football field. Each team has 30 players divided into 10 offense, 10 center and 10 defense positions. The team to score the most by hitting the opposition's goal post with the ball wins. Play is broken up into four 15-minute quarters with players switching ends at halftime.

There are very few rules in stickball. The ball can't be touched by a player's hands, can't head butt, can't intentionally hit another player with the sticks and can't tackle below the knees.

The game of stickball is older than any written historical accounts and as it is taught to the youth today, its legacy will continue for thousands of years to come.



Labor Day Festival T-shirts & Souvenirs

Order Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

To order, send payment (No Personal Checks) with completed form to: Labor Day T-shirts, PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

✓	Item	Quantity	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	A – polypropylene string backpack, can be worn as a backpack or carried – \$10.00	Green	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	B – Labor Day Cap – \$12.00	Tan	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	C – Labor Day Cap – \$12.00	Black	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	D – Labor Day T-shirt – \$15.00	Size _____ Tan	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	E – Labor Day T-shirt – \$15.00	Size _____ Green	_____

T-shirt sizes available are: Children XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16)
Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

(Adult shirts will be \$12 and children's are \$10 at the festival. Mail-outs are \$15 to cover shipping.)

Summer Camps engage youth

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Summer break is winding down and school will be starting back soon for most kids. For a lot of the area Choctaw youth, their summer break was spent attending the many sports and cultural camps offered by the Choctaw Nation.

Twenty-three camps, which are organized and operated by the Choctaw Nation Cultural Services Department, were held in numerous locations across southeastern Oklahoma beginning early this summer.

"We've been going since May 28 and just finished up our last camp on July 26, with different camps every week," said Director of Summer Camps Kevin Gwin.

The two-day camps included cultural enrichment, stickball, baseball, softball, football, basketball, and golf.

"When it first started 18 years ago," said Sue Folsom, Cultural Services executive director, "we had baseball only and it grew into what we do now."

The sports offered at the camps today were chosen by what is popular in this area, Gwin said.

All the camps were day camps open to children between the ages of 8 and 18, except golf camp, which was open to those ages 10 to 18. Approximately 2,500 Choctaw youth turned out for at least one of the camps, though many of them attended several, all at no cost to the children or their families.

"It's good for the kids because I think some of them wouldn't be able to afford to go to a camp otherwise," said Gwin. "If you were to go to a basketball camp that charges to attend you might be looking at \$45-50 or more per kid, but these [Choctaw] camps are free. They are with us all day and they all go home with sports gear too."

"That's the best thing, I think, that the kids get the benefit of a professionally ran camp for free and they also get something to take home, which is a benefit because they can use the items when they go back to school or when they're playing in summer leagues."

The free giveaways for each attendee to take home included items such as a basketball and bag at the basketball camps, a set of golf clubs at the golf camp, a baseball glove, and a football at the football camps, and more.

The camps are a great way to keep children engaged during the summer, Gwin says.

"The kids get to come and learn, and get

to interact with other kids," he says. "This gives them something to do and look forward to."

According to Folsom, the camps align with the tribe's vision of growing with pride, hope and success by giving Choctaw youth every opportunity to experience through the camps their identity of who they are as Choctaws.

"The pride of their heritage, the hope of courage, the success to persevere, and to sustain their family values," says Folsom. "This is what makes them Choctaw."

The focus differs for each camp, bringing exciting new learning experiences for the youth. The cultural enrichment camp provides an opportunity for the kids to learn more about the Choctaw heritage and culture, emphasizing archery, arts and crafts, storytelling and the Choctaw language.

Leading high school and college-level coaches from the area were brought in to instruct the kids at the sports camps on basic fundamentals of the respective sporting activities, plus provide each camper the proper instruction to help improve their level of play and decrease his or her potential for injuries.

Countless hours were required to put on these camps by not only the Cultural Services staff and the coaches, but also by volunteers, according to Gwin.

"In addition to my staff, the Outreach Services department, Choctaw [Community Health Representatives] and counselors have been a huge part of the camps," he says. "If it weren't for them we couldn't do it. They've really helped us, especially with the bussing schedules, being chaperones and helping out at the camps."

Gwin says the kids tell him they appreciate the opportunities the tribe provides by hosting the camps. "I think that the kids see that the tribe is doing this for them," he says. "When they get older that's when they'll really understand what a benefit this was to them."

The camps were held in towns across the Choctaw Nation including Durant, Tushka Homma, Canadian, Kingston, Idabel, Spiro, Rattan, Tushka, Coalgate, McAlester, Soper, Wilburton, and Poteau.

"We've been welcomed everywhere we've held a camp," he says.

It's a rewarding job, according to Gwin.

"I enjoy working with the kids," he says. "We have a lot of fun. It's nice to get to know them all. We see a lot of kids return year to year so I feel like I get to see them grow up," Gwin says.



Photos by BRET MOSS, CHRISSY SHEPARD, KAREN JACOB and LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Summer Youth Camps, were made up of, going clockwise, baseball, softball, basketball, football, cultural enrichment, stickball, and golf.

Choctaw Community Language Program Teachers and Locations

Community Teacher	Fall Class Starting	Class Location
Anderson, Rhoda Betty Thomas	September 12th Thursday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Community Center 1636 South George Nigh Expressway McAlester, OK
Bailey, Robert	September 14th Saturday 10am - noon	Friendship House 56 Julian Avenue San Francisco, CA
Battiest, Barbara	August 5th Monday 6 - 8pm	Family Investment Center 210 Chahta Road Broken Bow, OK
Billy, Lou R.	Children's Class September 9th Monday 4:30 - 5:30pm	Choctaw Community Center 400 SW Quest Antlers, OK
Billy, Steven	August 12th Monday 6 - 8pm	Old Community Center 105 W. 10th Street Wright City, OK
Boston, Helena Marendia	August 15th Thursday 5:30 - 7:30pm	Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital 500 N Highland Avenue Sherman, TX
Carlile, Anna M Carol Roberts	no start date at this time	Talhina Community Center 100 Railroad Talhina, OK
Carney, Paula	Children & Teen Class September 9th Monday 7 - 9pm	Choctaw Community Center 103 East California Coalgate, OK
Cooper, Roy F	September 9th Monday 7 - 9pm	Chickasaw Community Center 401 E. Oklahoma Sulphur, OK
Espinoza, Virginia	October 3rd 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Archiving Hunter Road Boswell, OK
Frazier, Abe W	no start date at this time	Fife Indian Methodist Church 1100 Eufaula Muskogee, OK
Gibson, Berie	September 9th Monday 7 - 9pm	Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center 8611 S. Union Avenue Tulsa, OK
Hancock, Ruth Okemah	September 3rd Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Christ Chapel Indian UMC 317 South Davis Claremore, OK
Hickman, Colina	Children's Class September 11 Wednesday 6 - 7pm	Choctaw Community Center 2750 Big Lots Parkway Durant, OK
Hicks, Elsie	August 22nd Thursday 7 - 9pm	Mitchell Memorial UMC 221 West 7th Street Ada, OK
Johnson, Margaret B	August 13th Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Christ Chapel Indian UMC 317 South Davis Claremore, OK
Kaniatobe, Ann	September 10th Tuesday 7 - 9pm	Choctaw Community Center 2750 Big Lots Parkway Durant, OK
Lewis JR, Dixon	September 3rd Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Stigler Community Center 2208 East Main Stigler, OK
Murphy, Ruby R	Children's Class September 7th Saturday 10am - noon	Oklahoma Choctaw Alliance Center 5320 S. Youngs Blvd Oklahoma City, OK
Parish, Steven	August 19th Mondays 6-8 pm	Wilburton Community Center
Riley, Josh	August 14th Wednesday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Language Building 3588 Tom Smith Road Durant, OK
Samuels, Deloris	August 12th Monday 6 - 8pm	Bethel Community Center 144 County Road Bethel, OK
Samuels, Norris	September 10th Tuesday 7 - 9pm	Oklahoma Choctaw Alliance Center 5320 S. Youngs Blvd Oklahoma City, OK
Scott, Ronald C.	August 20th Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Community Center 1410 South Gin Road Atoka
Scott, Ronald C.	August 21st Wednesday 2 - 4pm	Choctaw Community Center 1410 South Gin Road Atoka
Sealy JR, Leroy J	September 3rd Tuesday 7 - 9pm	First Indian Baptist Church 2610 South Broadway Moore, OK
Struwe, Theresa P	September 7th Saturday 10am - noon	Southgate Church 9817 California Road Southgate, CA
Tobey, Juanita Ann	August 15th Thursday 6 - 8pm	Edgewood United Methodist Church 104 Wyandotte Hartshorne, OK
Vaughn, Lillian D	On-going class, meets on Monday nights from 6-8pm	Ardmore Public Library 320 E. Street NW Ardmore, OK
Wade, Catherine N	September 3rd Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30pm	Oklahoma Choctaw Alliance Center 5320 S. Youngs Blvd Oklahoma City, OK
Westbrook, Michelle	September 9th Monday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Community Center 1636 South George Nigh Expressway McAlester, OK
White, Anthony P	August 13th Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Christ Chapel Indian UMC 317 South Davis Claremore, OK
Wickson, Dora	August 12th Monday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Community Center 400 SW Quest Antlers, OK
Wickson, Dora	August 13th Tuesday 6 - 8pm	Choctaw Community Center 408 North M Road Hugo, OK
York, Billy Joe	August 15th Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm	Chickasaw Community Center Marlow, OK

Tribe assumes operation of travel information center in Colbert

The Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma have reached an agreement in which the Choctaw Nation has assumed operation of the state's tourism information center located in Colbert, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department has announced. The center is located off Highway 69/75, just north of the Oklahoma-Texas border. The Choctaw Nation retains operation of the facility under a 5-year contract the tribe signed with the state.

"We are appreciative to the Choctaw Nation for their enthusiasm to partner with the state of Oklahoma," said OTRD Executive Director Deby Snodgrass. "This partnership allows us to focus additional resources towards promoting Oklahoma as a tourism destination."

It is estimated that OTRD will save approximately \$200,000 annually for the agency with the transfer of the center's operation. Employees of the Colbert Tourism Information Center have accepted positions with the Choctaw Nation and will remain in their current jobs. The center will continue to offer the same services and promote the state as a travel and tourism destination.

"The Choctaw Nation looks forward to welcoming visitors to southeast Oklahoma at the Colbert Tourism Information Center," Chief Gregory E. Pyle said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to share the rich culture and heritage of this region. We also want to show travelers the fun tourism projects that Oklahoma has to offer. The information center at Colbert will continue to have the amazing guest services it is known for and will also feature a gift shop with Choctaw and Oklahoma items."

The tourism information center offers numerous maps, brochures and tourism information about Oklahoma. The center operates daily with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas.



The Information Center is located on Highway 69/75, approximately two miles north of the Red River in Colbert.



Over 18 years old?

Don't forget to update your membership card!

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

For more information please contact:
Choctaw Nation Language Department
800-522-6170 ext. 2102
or on choctawschool.com

OBITUARIES

Isaac Simpson

Isaac "Ike" Simpson, 88, passed away on July 22, 2012. He was born on Aug. 24, 1923, in Hugo, the son of John I. Simpson and Mattie (Williams) Simpson. He was a long-time resident of Hugo. Ike married Bobbie Hatton on Oct. 25, 1946, in Paris, Texas. He was a World War II veteran who served in the Sicily and Italian campaigns with the 45th division. His family viewed him as a true "Tushka Homma" (red warrior). Ike also retired from Choctaw Electric after 42 years. He loved to golf, fish and follow his sons and grandchildren's athletic careers. Ike was also a member of the First United Methodist Church in Hugo since 1930.

Ike was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers and a sister.

Survivors include his wife Bobbie Simpson of Hugo; sons, Alan Simpson of Ada, and Mike Simpson of Yukon; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; as well as many other family and friends.



Cecelia Stephens

Cecelia "CeCe" R. Stephens, 65, passed away on May 21, 2013. She was born in Muskogee, and she enjoyed working in the Food Service Industry for over 32 years. She was a very kind and caring individual, who never met a stranger. She supported her community, her church and animals and those that were less fortunate. She was an example to all of us of what it means to serve others in whatever capacity that you can. Cecelia will be missed by her family and friends.

Willie Easter

Willie Virginia (Kymes) Easter, 86, passed away on May 29, 2013. She was born in Muskogee, and she enjoyed working in the Chickasaw Medical Center in Ada. She was born Feb. 16, 1927, in Wewoka, to George Harrison Kymes and Roena Estell (Wall) Kymes.

She is survived by her son, Jerry Wayne Easter, and daughter-in-law Mary E. Easter of Ada.

Her late husband, Gerald A. Easter preceded her in death in 1977.

Lowell Mason

Lowell Alton Mason, 94, passed away on June 28, 2013, at his home in Coalgate. Lowell was born on Sept. 3, 1918, in Valiant, to William Alton and Rhoda Wollery Mason. He married Doris Jane Newman in Wichita, Kan. He was a World War II veteran.

Lowell was preceded in death by his wife Doris; and sisters, Lois Sanders and Nancy Hertzog, both of California.

He is survived by his daughters, Sandy Dumestre of Walker, La., and Catherine Mason of Hennessey; son Eddie Mason of Coalgate; four grandchildren, Nicholas Moery with wife Tara of Hennessey, Julie Jacobsen with husband Andy, Jeffrey Dumestre and Michael Dumestre; and four great-grandchildren, Nicholas Moery, Eli Moery, Ava Moery and Sarah Jacobsen.

Ronald Karr

Ronald Steven Karr, 60, of Banning, Calif., passed away on May 29, 2013. He was born in Santa Ana, Calif., on Aug. 1, 1952, to Marvin and Marie Karr. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was employed at the Cabazon Band of Mission Indian Police. He was a former Banning Police Officer who worked for Southern Pacific Railroad Police, U.S. Marine.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Mary Eloise and Jeannie; and brother Leon Karr.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Karr; sons, Ronald S. Karr Jr. and Michael A. Karr of Banning; daughter Cassandra M. Karr of Banning; stepdaughter Renee Jahr of Cherry Valley, Calif.; stepson Kenneth Atherley of Banning; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Mary Cornelison

Mary Elizabeth Hayes Cornelison, 69, of Mesquite, Texas, passed away on June 29, 2013, after a long battle with COPD. She was born on June 1, 1944, in Mesquite.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Mitchell and Zora Hayes; sister Frances Lowery; and brother Roy Hayes.

She is survived by her children, Zona Coulston with husband Bobby, Jeff Cornelison with wife Tami Dannette Cornelison, Tammy Cornelison, Jeanna Hatley with husband David, and Daniel Cornelison; siblings, Mitchell Hayes with wife Evelyn, and Tim Hayes with wife Linda; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Iva Jones

Iva Jo (Cantrell) Jones, 56, passed away on July 18, 2013, in Ardmore. She was born on Oct. 13, 1956, in Fort Hood, Texas, to Louis Cantrell and Josephine (Sewell) Cantrell.

Iva Jo attended Dickson Schools. She worked as a waitress at Hamburger Inn and Parson's Corner Café. She had a CDL and was the only female driver in the Department of Transportation at that time. In 2001, she received her CNA and CMA licenses and worked at Brookside Nursing Home in Madill, and in 2007 began working for the Ardmore Veteran's Center until her health forced her to retire. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and she will be remembered for her housekeeping and cooking.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Tony Cantrell and Lenny Cantrell; sister Nettie Diane Newman; grandson Brawley Bell; niece Jessica Bean; and nephew Adam Brawley Waltz.

Iva Jo is survived by her daughter, Audra Oxford of Lone Grove; son Dustin Keith of Lone Grove;

Grandchildren, Larah Jo Collins and Kobi Allen Bell, both of Lone Grove, and Lottie Diane King of Ardmore; brother Eddie Cantrell with wife Mary Kay of Ardmore; sisters, Tanda Duncan with husband Danny of Madill, and Camille Bean of Ardmore; and a host of family and friends.



Henrietta Burkham

Henrietta Anne Burkham (Everidge), 86, passed away on June 16, 2013, at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento. Henrietta fought a courageous battle with esophageal cancer and congestive heart failure. Henrietta was born on Jan. 5, 1927, in Shoals. She was very proud of her Choctaw people.

Henrietta was preceded in death by her father, David Monroe Haylie Everidge; mother Argentine Ennis Everidge; husband Glen Dale Burkham; brothers, Lealon, Robert, Monroe and James Everidge; sisters, Edith Dobson and Daisy Stolz; sons, Harvey Rice Jr. and James McLaughlin; and daughters, Catherine Wascom and Vickie Johannsen.

Henrietta is survived by her sister, Rosemary Bertrand; son Leslie Burkham; daughters, Patricia Bublitz, Mary Street, Glenna Rhoby, Carol and Pamela McLaughlin; several nieces and nephews; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Leslie Renfro

Leslie Gail Renfro, 38, passed away on July 6, 2013. Leslie was born June 26, 1975, in Paris, Texas, the daughter of Larry and Mary Sue (Burriss) Joplin. She had lived in the Hugo and Goodland area all of her life before moving to Panama. She married Chad Aaron Renfro on Feb. 12, 2007, in Texarkana, Ark. She was attending Carl Albert State College to pursue a degree in nursing. Leslie loved learning and photography. She also dearly loved her dogs, Jake and Bo.

She was preceded in death by mother, Mary Sue (Burriss) Wilson; sister Kelly (Joplin) Collins; and brother Brian Joplin.

Leslie is survived by her husband, Chad Renfro of Panama; sons, Gage and David Renfro, both of Panama; daughter Anna Renfro of Panama; beloved niece, Stormi Joplin, whom she thought of as her daughter; father and stepmother, Larry and Cheri Joplin of Amarillo, Texas; brothers, Michael Marzek and Amanda of Hugo, and Larry Gene Joplin Jr., with wife Jamie of Caddo; sister Tammy Joplin of Amarillo; and a host of cousins, aunts and uncles.



Earl Harris Sr.

Earl L. Harris Sr., 82, of Canadian, passed away on July 10, 2013, in Muskogee at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center.

Earl was born on Sept., 10, 1930, in McAlester, to Benjamin H. and Minnie Mae (Pusley) Harris. He attended McAlester Schools before serving in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper during World War II. Earl married JoAnn James, and she preceded him in death in 1976. He worked as a carpenter, working with wood and glass and made furniture. Earl retired from Underground Utilities in Longview, Texas, where he worked as a truck driver. Earl enjoyed wood working and working with leather. Earl married Tommie Bilberry on Sept. 13, 1996, in McAlester. He attended the Canadian Shores Free Will Baptist Church.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; wife JoAnn Harris; daughter Katherine Ann Phillips; son-in-law Shannon Phillips; grandchildren, Timothy and Tiffanie Phillips; brother Kenneth E. Harris; stepdaughters, Linda Luman and Sandra K. Hale; and brother-in-law Pete Autrey.

He is survived by his wife, Tommie Harris of the home; daughters, Helen "Sissy" Wichert with husband Greg of Fairview, and Tommye "Snookie" of Canadian Shores; sons, David E. Harris with wife Debbie of Fair Hope, Ala., and Benjamin "Benji" Harris and Earl "Buster" Harris Jr., both of McAlester; grandchildren, Josh Harris, Jordan Harris, Michael Nazworth, Michelle Simms, Sherri Copeland, Kerri Copeland, Crystal Brown, Chris Short, Melissa and Terri, and Harley Harris; numerous great-grandchildren; six stepchildren; numerous step-grandchildren; sisters, Margaret Autrey, and Helen Crafts with husband Doyle; and other family members and friends.



Vincent Ardese

Vincent "Vince" Buster Ardese, 58, of McAlester, passed away on July 15, 2013, at McAlester Regional Health Care Center.

Vince was born Oct. 10, 1954, in Tahlequah. He grew up in Wilburton and graduated from Panola High School with the Class of 1973. He also attended Eastern Oklahoma State College. He married Jan Fisher on Sept. 12, 1997, in Fort Smith, Ark. He worked for the City of Wilburton, Latimer County Sheriff's Department, and then at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary as a Correctional Officer. He retired in 1999 as a sergeant. He enjoyed baseball and basketball and was a member of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Jan of the home; daughters, Tori Ardese of the home, Angela Hawkins with husband Asa of McAlester, and Samantha Pinley with husband Bobby of Buffalo Valley; sons, Buster Ardese with wife Joelene of Wilburton, and David Welch with Ravenelle of McAlester; grandchildren, Jacob, Alex, Axel, Angelo, Natalie, Garrett, Brandon and Cooper; brothers, Mike Griffiths with wife Lisa of Moore, Anthony Ardese with wife Janie of Excelsior Springs, Mo., and Elmer Ardese of Tuskahoma; sister Rosalie Ardese and Tuskahoma; aunt, Katie Young of Ray Town, Mo.; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Timothy Hayes

Timothy Mitchell Hayes, 34, of Thackerville, passed away on Sept. 13, 2011, at his home at Thackerville. He was born July 6, 1977, in Altus, the son of Timothy Mark and Linda Diane Hooper Hayes.

A resident of Thackerville for three years, Mr. Hayes had previously made his home in Gainesville. He graduated from Washington High School in 1996, and received a certification in welding from the Wayne Vo-Tech in 1997. Mr. Hayes was presently employed as a welder. He was a wonderful music sound tech and enjoyed playing the guitar and bass. Mr. Hayes was a member of the Crosspoint Baptist Church.

Preceding him in death were his paternal and maternal grandparents; an aunt and an uncle.

He is survived by his parents, of the home; sisters and brothers-in-law, Elizabeth and Joe Rickwa, and Rebecca and Mark Beattie, all of Thackerville; nephews, Johnny, Lucas and Ethan; and niece Emily.



Anna Crow

Anna Jo "Jodie" Crow, 81, of Salisaw, formerly of Sand Springs, passed from this life on July 3, 2013. Jodie was born in Beachton, on June 17, 1932, to John Harpending Cusher and Maxie Lavine (Hendricks) Cusher. Whenever possible, Jodie enjoyed traveling, working in her flower gardens, and reading. Spending time with her beloved family was very special to her. The babies (dogs)

Tiffany, Scooter, and Doodlebug, were always at her side. Over the years of traveling and shopping, Jodie collected anything Mickey Mouse and Coca Cola. Her home became a museum for both items. On March 8, 1986, Jodie was married to Billy Gene Crow, in Corpus Christi, Texas. The family and friends of Jodie will miss her wonderful smile and beautiful attitude.

Jodie was preceded in death by her parents; daughters, Bobbie Gail Smith and LaQueeta Ann Bjork; son Bo Robinson; and sister Johnnie Hamlin.

She is survived by her husband Billy of the home; son Wayne Crow of Tulsa; daughters, JoAnn Bradley with husband Mike of Seabrook, Texas, Sharon Kaye Herrington with husband William of Wister, Peggy Watkins with husband Larry, and Brenda Giles with husband David, all of Sand Springs; sister Pat Starbuck of Talihina; brother Butch Cusher with wife Gloria of Durant; grandchildren, Nicole Whitney Kelley, Tammy Renee Kelley and Joseph Daniel Kelley; along with many other grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, relatives and a host of friends.



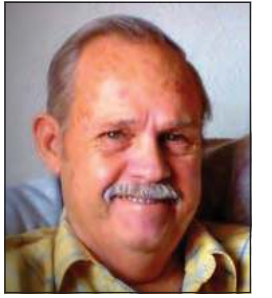
Travis Hanks

Travis Leo Hanks passed away on May 31, 2012, with family at his bedside. He was born on July 1, 1940. Leo held a lifetime career of welding with the majority being with EPI. He had a special love for the great outdoors and was an amazing horseman from breaking to trail riding.

Leo was married to his wife Sharon for 51 wonderful years and loved her dearly.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank many of the people who sent prayers, provided meals and visited Leo during such a devastating time. Also recognized by the family is the CICU at Kootenai Medical Center for the outstanding patient care Leo received, it was deeply appreciated.

Leo is survived by Sharon; daughters, Renee Lund with husband Christian, Tina Turbin with husband Greg; son Scott Hanks with wife Karen; grandchildren, Katie with husband Pat, Christopher, Alex, Becca and Travis; great-grandson Gabe; brothers, Rolland and Cletus; and many extended family.



Julienne Patton

Julienne Elaine Patton, 70, of Rancho Cordova, Calif., passed away on July 5, 2013, in Orangevale, Calif.

She was born Jan. 12, 1943, to Julian (Pat) and Ramona Patton in Auburn, Calif. Julienne had a full and interesting life. She was a graduate of La Sierra High School in Carmichael, Calif., and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of San Francisco, studying Human Relations and Organizational Behavior.

One of her proudest accomplishments was being among the early groups of females sworn in as deputies with the Placer County Sheriff's Office in the early 70s. She eventually left law enforcement to pursue a successful career in collegiate admissions and articulation, including positions with Sierra College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sacramento State University, Fresno State University, and the California Articulation Number System. She was an avid supporter of Christian missions throughout the world. After retirement she focused on her passions: travel and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both parents; a brother and a sister.

Julienne is survived by her children, Lee Anne, Carole and Ed; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters; and two brothers.



Carol Warford

Carol Lynn Warford passed away on June 15, 2013. She was born on Aug. 5, 1965. She lived in Norman and worked at Raising Canes Chicken in Norman. She had three sons, Micheal Quinn, Cody McDonald, Jonathan Glen Warford; two sisters, Carrie Allen, Rosetta Layton; and a brother, Allen Warford.



Robert Harkins

Robert F. Harkins, 99, passed away on June 21, 2013, in Portland, Ore. He was born Dec. 18, 1913, in Tupelo, to WJ and Ella Harkins.

He was proud of his Choctaw heritage. He worked for the Norwalk-La Mirada school district in La Mirada, Calif., as a supervisor of plant operations for over 30 years. He won lots of awards for the beautiful grounds of the schools. He retired in 1976 and finished his years in Oregon, winning awards for his beautiful yards and gardens. He was a devoted member of the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham, Ore. His life can be summed up with the words that describe the life of Enoch in Genesis 5:24 "He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life..."

His departure for heaven was preceded by his loving wife, Charlene W. Harkins; parents; brother George Harkins; and sisters, Tilly Parker, Agnes Hobgood and Verna Mae Harkins.

He is survived by his daughters, LoRaine Alderson and Lynda Jann; four grandchildren, Misty Dvorak with husband Roger, Lynette Hudak with husband Todd, Paul Alderson, and Jeremy Buffington; six great-grandchildren, Brenton, Madison, Ashlyn and Katie Hudak and Gabriella and Dason Dvorak; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Chahta Amptoba: Choctaw Traditional Pottery (Part 3)

This article is the third in a four-part series on Choctaw traditional pottery and its revitalization by Choctaw people. The two previous articles discussed the importance of pottery in Choctaw traditional culture and described the raw materials and pottery-making techniques used by Choctaw traditional potters. This article will present the traditional firing process, which magically transforms dried mud into finished, functional pottery.

It's mid-summer, and the hot sun is drying up and hardening the soil across much of Oklahoma. With enough sun and summer heat, clay soils can literally dry out as hard as bricks. But no matter how hard the soil gets this summer, when the rains wash over it this fall, it will again become soft and squishy. The same thing is true for traditional pottery made from native clay. No matter how carefully the potter builds the pot, and no matter how long the pot air-dries, as soon as it comes in contact with water it will turn right back into slick mud. For a pot to be useable, it must first be passed through a fire so hot that the clay is forever changed into a hard stone-like material that does not dissolve in water.

Choctaw people have traditionally paid very high reverence to fire. One of the ancient names for it is "luak hvstahli itichapa," meaning "fire the friend of God." This name captures the connection that Choctaw people perceived between fire on earth and the sun in the sky, which itself was conceived of as the eye of God watching the earth. Each Choctaw village maintained its own sacred fire, extinguished and rekindled every year during the Green Corn Ceremony, or "Luak Mosholi." All of the households within a village obtained their own fires from this sacred fire. Fires were treated respectfully, and certain things were never done to them, or spoken around them. The process of pottery firing was and still is approached reverently.

Today's Choctaw potters fire their pottery on dry days, preferably in the evening, when the wind is at its calmest. The process (see photos) begins in the afternoon, when the earth on the spot where the firing is to take place is churned over with a shovel to a depth of about 6 inches. Then, a fire of hardwood is built on top and allowed to burn down to coals. These coals are churned into the loose soil, and another fire is built on top and allowed to burn to coals. This process is repeated until the heat has completely dried the soil.

Once the heated ground is dry, the remaining coals are pushed out into a ring around the dry earth. Dry, broken pieces of fired pottery are laid on the hot earth and allowed to heat up, and then to start cooling down. Pots that have been air drying for at least two weeks are set on this layer of broken pottery, where they are allowed to slowly and evenly warm. Before the coals die down, more wood is added. Slowly a small fire is built around the pots, but not allowed to touch them directly.



Iti Fabussa

Pottery firing is a tricky process. If the pots are not heated very slowly and very evenly, they will break in the fire. Our ancestors had no temperature gauges to monitor the process of the firing, but they knew how to judge the temperature by paying close attention to the fire and the pottery. As the pottery heats up in a wood fire, it will turn a dark color from absorbing smoke. Once the pottery becomes dark, it is safe to build the fire in closer so that the flames begin to touch it. As the pots are engulfed in flames and continue to heat up, they will turn a light color. This is because the clay has become hot enough that the carbon from the smoke has burned out of it. The fire continues to be slowly and evenly built up and around the pottery. As the wood burns and the pottery gets covered with coals, the clay will start to glow a dull red color. This point is usually reached about three hours after the pottery is first put into the fire.

When the pottery glows red it is at roughly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and is functionally fired. Chemical reactions have taken place in the clay that drive off the water that was ionically bonded to the clay particles. Also, the clay particles themselves have begun to melt together. These changes make the clay hard and forever impervious to water.

The final color of a pot is a result of the fire's interaction on the specific minerals in the clay. A light-colored pot can be attained by using wood that produces little smoke (such as dry cedar limbs without needles) in the later stages of the firing. Pots can be made a black color by pulling them out of the fire while they are still fairly hot, and burying them in a pile of leaves to smolder. Pots left in the coals to cool in place will usually have fire clouds of light and dark on their surfaces.

Once fired, the pots are fully functional. Eating bowls can be used immediately. Cooking pots must first be seasoned with oil, then they can be set right in the hot coals and used just like cast iron.

The pottery making process developed by our ancestors is a pretty impressive technology. Today, when western-trained potters see our Choctaw potters digging native clay out of the ground or firing pottery in an open wood fire, or cooking right on the fire in traditional clay pottery, their jaws usually hit the ground in amazement. What our Choctaw potters do every day is something that many western potters think is simply impossible until they see it being done. Clearly, the Choctaw pottery process was originally developed by skilled and intelligent people. Today this same process is being revitalized by their descendants. Next month, some of these traditional artists who are bringing Choctaw traditional pottery back to life will be the focus of the fourth and final part of this series.



Firing sequence described in text. Steps proceed from left to right and top to bottom.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma & Five Civilized Tribes Museum Short Story Contest

The Choctaw Nation is encouraging young authors to share their talents as writers and storytellers. Through a partnership with the Five Civilized Tribes Museum a story competition has been developed in conjunction with the annual Five Tribes Story Conference. The winners of the competition will be notified prior to the conference and announced with a special presentation at the event. The fictional short story must relate to the Choctaw Nation in a historical, cultural or family related way.

Categories: • Middle School/High School • College

Judging: Stories will be judged on style, content, grammar, and the originality with which the student approaches the topic. Judges will look for clear, concise writing that is entertaining, original, articulate, logically organized, and well-supported. The winning submission must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, its history and culture.

Winner in each category receives:

- \$100 prize
- Cost of attendance, roundtrip travel to, 2-nights lodging during and meals during Five Tribes Story Conference Oct. 18-19 in Muskogee, Okla.
- Choice of reading or selecting someone to read their work at the Five Tribes Story Conference.
- Judges will award extra points for short stories using elements of the Choctaw language.

Rules:

- Must be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma residing in the United States.
- Stories are to be fiction – 1,500-2,100 words or less, double-spaced.
- E-mail submissions only – biskinik@choctawnation.com. All stories must be emailed no later than Sept. 20, 2013.
- Must include entrant's name at the bottom of each page.
- All submissions must be the original sole work of the entrant.
- Submissions cannot have been published previously, though it could have been a class assignment.
- Winners will be notified by Oct. 1, 2013.

Cover letter guidelines:

All entries must be submitted with a cover letter that includes the following:

- Date
- Student's name
- Student's address, email and telephone number
- Student's grade and school
- Copy of CDIB and Tribal Membership

Announcement will be made during the Five Tribes Story Conference, Oct. 18, and through media following the conference.

For more information, please contact one of the following:

Tim Tingle, Choctaw author and storyteller
timtingle@hotmail.com or 830-832-4288

Lisa Reed, Media Director, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
lisareed@choctawnation.com or 800-522-6170, ext. 2245

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Ninakash katimma ish ia tuk?

Pronounced:
Ne-nahk-ash ka-tim-ma ish e-ya tuk?

Where did you go last night?

Word Meaning:
ninakash – last night
ish – you
katimma - where
tuk – past tense
ia – go

Ninakash ak nuso tuk.

Pronounced:
Ne-nahk-ash ahk noh-soh tuk.

I didn't sleep last night.

ninakash – last night
nuso – sleep, not
tuk – past tense
ak – I, not (precedes a verb in the negative form)

The 'ik - o' form wraps around a verb to show negation.

(ik + verb + o)

Affirmative statements:

Impa li. I am eating
Nusi li I am sleeping

Negative statements:

Ak impo. I haven't eaten Ak impo tuk. I didn't eat.
Ak nuso. I haven't slept. Ak nuso tuk. I didn't sleep.

Onnakma holisso apisa ia la chi.

Pronounced:
Ohn-nahk-ma ho-lis-so ah-pisa e-ya la chi(nh).

I will go to school tomorrow.

Word Meaning:
onnakma – tomorrow
ia – go, to go
holisso apisa - school
la – I (changes from li to la and follows a verb
achi – future tense – the 'a' is in the preceding word 'la'.

Onnakma chi pisa la chike!

Pronounced:
Ohn-nahk-ma che peh(n)-sa la che-ke!

I will see you tomorrow.

onnakma – tomorrow
chi – you
pisa – to see, be seeing
la – I (changed from li to la for future tense)
chike – it will be so

Choctaws in the Northwest

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Portland / Tacoma Cultural Meetings

Cultural meetings in the northwest drew more than 300 people to each of the two events in July – first in Portland, Ore., and next in Tacoma, Wash. Tribal members welcomed the chance to connect with their tribe and with each other.

The gatherings featured traditional clothing, dancing, art, crafts, jewelry, pottery, singing, lessons in the language, and information on traditional weaponry, tools, flutes, stickball and the Code Talkers.

Choctaw Cultural Services' beading classes were full of families learning to create earrings. Executive Director Sue Folsom said the two pieces usually take an experienced beader 30 minutes to create. "We are helping them learn the basic process and each time they do it, it will get easier and easier," she said.

In Portland on July 19, Rachel Knight Smith remarked that her mom registered Rachel and her children, Tyler and Madison, for the class. Smith was glad she did. They enjoyed every minute of it.

The meeting also gave Smith the opportunity to register 12-year-old Madison for her tribal membership card. "I registered Tyler when he was a baby," she said, "and registered Madi today." Applications for CDIBs and photo IDs were taken at both meetings for Choctaws of all ages.

One of the guests in Tacoma, Ruth Frazier McMillan, is the daughter of World War I Code Talker Tobias Frazier. Ruth's efforts helped push legislation on federal recognition of the Code Talkers. She has traveled extensively to educate others about the importance of the first group to ever use their language as a code.

Kent, Wash., resident Leslie Menke met McMillan and spent most of her time at the meeting getting to know her. She said being there with other Choctaws helped her relate more to her heritage.

"Our families who live outside of Oklahoma rarely get a chance to see the traditions," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "We feel far away to them. We enjoy being able to bring them as much of our history as we can. It is the heart of the Nation to give back."



Tribal member Jenn Nashoba-Brown creates northwest style frame drums and offers drum making instruction.



Kanda Jackson signs the Lord's Prayer as Brad Joe sings the words in the Choctaw language. Also pictured on stage are Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Chief Greg Pyle and Language Instructor Lillie Roberts.



Ramona Laster and Teresa Ellis show off their progress.

Photos by LISA REED & BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Brad Joe walks into the crowd to hug Ruth McMillan as he sings Amazing Grace in honor of her father, Tobias Frazier, a World War I Code Talker, at the Tacoma gathering.



Dane Hoyt Wood and Assistant Chief Gary Batton are smiling big for the cameras.



Michael Ott and sons Champ and Micah – the boys are wearing the T-shirt they were given at the meeting.



Arriving for the cultural meeting in Tacoma, Wash., Maurice Wesley and family Kelly Kiser, Jeromey Kiser, Diana Kiser, Alaina Kiser and Alyssa Kiser.



The Wedding Dance is performed.



Tyler and Madison and Smith watch as Sue Folsom demonstrates beading an earring.



Logan Dhonau visits with Olin and Bernice Williams while he examines a walking stick. Olin explains the different types of weaponry and tools used by the Choctaw.



Dave Hoyopatubbi talks with Chief Greg Pyle.

Don't miss this year's great entertainment lineup!



THE BAND PERRY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

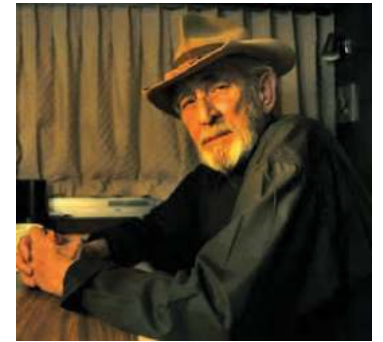
7:30 p.m.
Neal McCoy

9:30 p.m.
Ronnie Dunn

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

7:30 p.m.
Don Williams

9:30 p.m.
The Band Perry



DON WILLIAMS

The Choctaw Nation provides all concerts free to the public.

**AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2
TVSHKA HOMMA, OKLAHOMA**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Gospel Lineup

- 12 noon 4 His Glory
- 12:15 p.m. The Apostle Tommy Roberts
- 12:30 p.m. Matthew Gillis
- 12:45 p.m. Ronald Brandi
- 1:00 p.m. The Emartha Family
- 1:15 p.m. 6.4 Him
- 1:30 p.m. Spirit Cry
- 1:45 p.m. Kenneth and Ann Crosby
- 2:00 p.m. Paul "Choctaw" Vancil
- 2:15 p.m. The Carpitchers
- 2:30 p.m. Edward Capers
- 2:45 p.m. 7th Day Adventist Singers
- 3:00 p.m. Desiree Noah
- 3:30 p.m. (Soundcheck for Gold City)
- 4:00 p.m. The Shuperters
- 4:15 p.m. Red River Reunion
- 4:30 p.m. Ivan Battiest
- 4:45 p.m. The Stones
- 5:00 p.m. Dustin Grammer
- 5:15 p.m. New Creations
- 5:30 p.m. The Scotts
- 5:45 p.m. The Orphan Family
- 6:00 p.m. Master's Touch
- 6:15 p.m. Maye Trio
- 6:30 p.m. Choctaw Hymns
- 7:00 p.m. Jerry Tims Band
- 7:15 p.m. Glen Bonham
- 7:30 p.m. The Johnsons
- 8:00 p.m. Gold City
- 9:30 p.m. Jeremy Camp

CHOCTAW NATION LABOR DAY ANNUAL POWWOW
AUGUST 30, 2013
TUSKAHOMA, OK

STAFF
HEAD MAN - CORTNEY YARHOLAR
HEAD WOMAN - T'ATA ROBERTS
MC - TIM TALLCHIEF
HEAD GOURD - BILL TAKES HORSE
AD - RANDY FRAZIER
SOUTHERN DRUM - OTTER TRAIL/AL SANTOS
NORTHERN DRUM - WAR CHILD/EVERT MOORE
COLOR GUARD - CHOCTAW NATION

RESERVED PARKING

FOR STAFF, DANCERS & DRUM GROUPS
Across the road in the Village Parking

- **ADULT MEN AND ADULT WOMEN 19 - 49 YRS**
GOLDEN AGE 50 - OVER
MEN - STRAIGHT - TRADITIONAL - FANCY DANCE - GRASS
WOMEN - CLOTH - BUCKSKIN - JINGLE DRESS - FANCY SHAWL
1st \$500 - 2nd \$400 - 3rd \$300 - 4th \$200 - 5th \$100
- **SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS 13 - 18 YRS**
SR BOYS - STRAIGHT - TRADITIONAL - FANCY DANCE - GRASS
SR GIRLS - CLOTH - BUCKSKIN - JINGLE DRESS - FANCY SHAWL
1st \$150 - 2nd \$125 - 3rd \$100
- **JR BOYS AND GIRLS 7-12 YRS**
JR BOYS - STRAIGHT - TRADITIONAL - FANCY DANCE - GRASS
JR GIRLS - CLOTH - BUCKSKIN - JINGLE DRESS - FANCY SHAWL
1st \$150 - 2nd \$100 - 3rd \$75
- **TINY TOTS 0-6**

•• SCHEDULE ••

2:00 - 5:00 GOURD DANCE
5:00 - 6:00 BREAK
6:00 - GOURD DANCE
7:00 - GRAND ENTRY

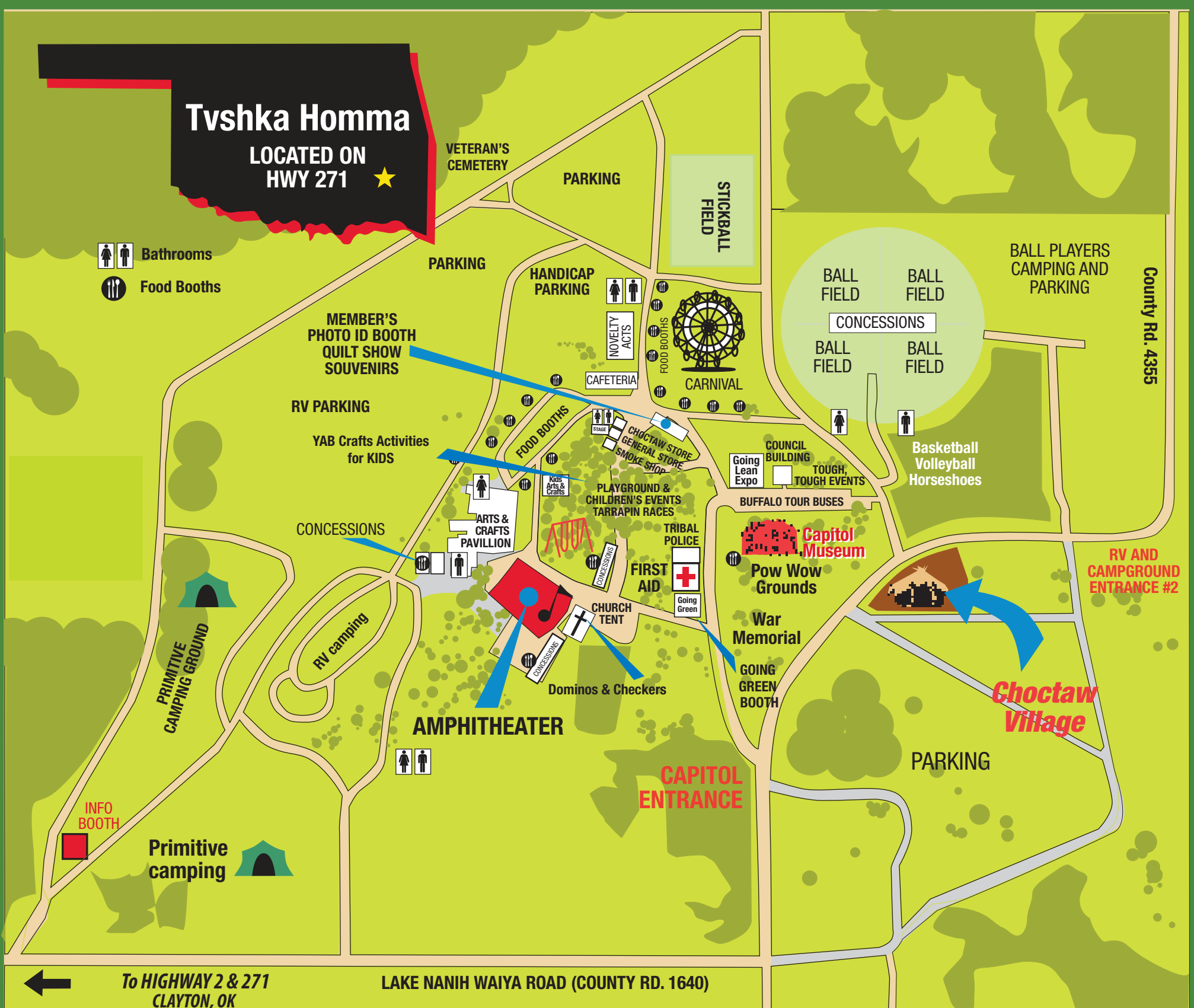
CALL WILLARD POLK or SUE FOLSOM @ 580.924.8280 FOR INFORMATION. CALL FOR BOOTH FEE INFORMATION. POWWOW IS FREE, BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS, DRUMS WELCOME, PRINCESSES ARE INVITED. *** ALCOHOL/DRUGS ARE NOT TOLERATED -- NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR ACCIDENTS ***

Bow Shoot in the village

The Choctaw Nation Bow Shoot will be 8 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1, at Tvshka Homma's Choctaw Village. Everyone is invited to participate and try their skill at hitting the 3D animal-shaped targets. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place in all age groups. Divisions are:

- 5 and under co-ed
- 6 to 8 co-ed
- 9 to 13 co-ed
- 14-16 boys
- 14-16 girls
- 17-19 boys
- 17-19 girls
- 20 and over men
- 20 and over women

Long bows, recurve bows, self-bows, and handmade bows are allowed. No compound bows can be used. For more information, please contact Pam Waugh at 580-775-7862 or 918-413-8914.



Clip and save!

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant, amphitheater

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Capitol Museum open
 10:00 a.m. Arts and Crafts exhibits open
 Choctaw social dance classes on capitol lawn
 Noon-5:00 p.m. Quilt entries at Information Center
 Noon-6:00 p.m. Tribal Membership/CDIB booth open
 Noon-8:00 p.m. Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers
 2:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn
 5:00 p.m. Registration for Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers lawn
 6:00 p.m. Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers lawn
 6:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn
 6:45 p.m. Sculpture unveiling in front of Capitol
 7:00 p.m. Stickball Tournament at field north of carnival
 7:00 p.m. Pow Wow Grand Entry on Capitol lawn
 7:00 p.m. Fast-Pitch Tournament at Red Warrior Park
 7:30 p.m. Neal McCoy in concert at the amphitheater
 9:30 p.m. Ronnie Dunn in concert at the amphitheater

SATURDAY

6:30-7:45 a.m. 5k registration, corner of Hwy 2 and E1630 Road
 8:00 a.m. 5k Race begins at corner of Hwy 2 and E1630 Road
 8:00 a.m. Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
 8:00 a.m. 3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball registration
 8:00 a.m. Horse shoe Tournament registration
 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers
 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Youth Advisory Board - Crafts for youth at playground
 9:00 a.m. Playground supervised
 9:00 a.m. Horse shoe Tournament
 9:00 a.m. Co-ed Volleyball Tournament
 9:00 a.m. Quilt Show at Information Center
 9:00 a.m. 3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Tournament
 10:00 a.m. 10th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show opens, second floor of Capitol Museum
 10:00 a.m.-Noon Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
 10:00 a.m.-2:15 pm Choctaw Village activities
 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Capitol Museum open
 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Tribal Membership/CDIB booth open
 2:00 p.m. Trapin Races, playground
 4:00 p.m. Tough, Tough Choctaw registration, Council Chambers lawn
 5:00 p.m. Tough, Tough Choctaw contest, Council Chambers lawn
 7:30 p.m. Don Williams in concert at amphitheater
 8:00 p.m. Stickball Tournament at field north of carnival
 9:30 p.m. The Band Perry in concert at the amphitheater

SUNDAY

7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Choctaw National Day of Prayer and Worship at the War Memorial
 8:00 a.m. Bow Shoot, Choctaw village
 8:00 a.m. Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
 8:30 a.m. Golf Tournament at Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton
 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Youth Advisory Board - Crafts for youth at playground
 10:00 a.m. Worship Services, tent behind amphitheater
 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Capitol Museum open
 Noon Gospel Singing begins at amphitheater
 Noon Domino/Checker Tournament registration
 Noon-6:00 p.m. Tribal Membership/CDIB booth open
 1:00 p.m. Domino/Checker Tournament
 1 pm-2:15 pm Choctaw Village activities
 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Going Lean Expo, next to Council Chambers
 1:30 p.m. Golf Tournament at Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton
 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Choctaw Code Talker Association Board Meeting, Council Chambers
 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
 4:00 p.m. Choctaw Dancers, Capitol lawn
 5:00 p.m. Stickball exhibition, Capitol lawn
 7:00 p.m. Children's stickball exhibition, stickball field
 8:00 p.m. Women's stickball exhibition, stickball field
 8:00 p.m. Gold City in concert at amphitheater
 9:00 p.m. Championship stickball game, stickball field
 9:30 p.m. Jeremy Camp in concert at amphitheater

MONDAY

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tribal Membership/CDIB booth open
 9:00 a.m.-Noon Capitol Museum open
 10:00 a.m. Labor Day official ceremonies, amphitheater
 Posting of Flags - Choctaw Nation Color Guard
 The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language - Princesses
 Storyteller Tim Tingle
 Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges
 Sweating-in ceremony of Tribal Council
 State of the Nation Address by Chief Pyle
 Door Prize Drawings
 11:30 a.m. Free lunch for everyone, cafeteria
 Noon Pick up quilts from Quilt Show

Clip and save!



Your Land, Our Land.
CHOCTAWS Going Green!

Labor Day Festival & Pow Wow

Aug. 29 -
 Sept. 2

Tvshka Homma is located off Hwys. 2 and 271 near Tuskahoma, Oklahoma



Concerts are FREE of charge. No alcohol or drugs allowed on Choctaw Sacred Grounds
 • Register at the Information Booth for door prizes to be given away on Monday, Sept. 2, immediately following the State of the Nation Address. Must be present, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and 18 or over to be eligible to win.

Carnival rides free, courtesy of Chief, Assistant Chief and Tribal Council
 Carnival times:
 Friday Noon-10p
 Sat. 9a-10p
 Sun. 1p-10p
 Mon. noon-5p

Festival RV/Tent Check-In Times

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

RVs:
Wednesday (8/28/13)
 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday (8/29/13)
 8 a.m.-12 midnight
Friday (8/30/13)
 8 a.m.-12 midnight
Saturday (8/31/13)
 8 a.m.-12 midnight
Sunday (9/1/13)
 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

TENTS:
Wednesday (8/28/13)
 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday (8/29/13)
 8 a.m.-12 midnight
Friday (8/30/13)
 8 a.m.-12 midnight
Saturday (8/31/13) locked
Sunday (9/1/13) locked

CHOCTAW VILLAGE

Saturday
 10:00 a.m. Choctaw Dancing
 10:30 a.m. Stickball Skills
 Choctaw Hymns
 11:00 a.m. Banana Making
 11:30 a.m. Storytelling
Children's Activities:
 1:00 p.m. Stickball
 1:30 p.m. Language
 1:45 p.m. Arts & Crafts
 2:15 p.m. Choctaw Dancing

Sunday
 1:00 p.m. Flint Knapping
 1:15 p.m. Silver Smithing
 1:30 p.m. Primitive Weapons
 1:45 p.m. Storytelling
Children's Activities:
 2:15 p.m. Com Game

Ongoing activities: Choctaw dancing, stickball sticks, banana making, flint napping, stickball making, basketry, beadwork, pottery, storytelling, arts and crafts, language, bow making.

Events throughout the festival:
 Specialty acts including
 Magician Tamaka,
 Robinson's Racing Pigs,
 Superplay,
 rock climbing,
 mechanical bull,
 pony rides and
 Inca flute players

Choctaw Horses at Village
 Saturday 10-5
 Sunday 11-5

Schedule subject to change