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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

August 2014 Issue

Tribal Council  
holds regular  
session

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met for its regular session on July 12 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted to approve the following measures:

- Approval of an easement with PSO on Choctaw tribal land in Pittsburg County.
- Approval of the Jones Academy Student/Parent and Employee Handbooks for the residential program and elementary school for 2014-15.
- Disposal of surplus equipment.
- Five grant applications to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and IHS (for a regional health center); U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Grant, Vision 21 Tribal Community Wellness Centers and Second Chance Act; and Indian Community Development Block Grant.
- Approval of \$18,150 in grant funds from First Nations Development Institute for Native Youth and Culture Fund.
- Approval of budget and re-contracting for Choctaw Nation Head Start for 2014-15.
- Authorization for Choctaw Transportation to submit a grant application to Federal Transportation Administration for the Bus Facilities Program Ladders of Opportunities Grant in the amount of \$6.4 million.

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

What's inside

Columns .....	2
Nursery News .....	4
Food Distribution .....	4
Notes to the Nation .....	5
People You Know .....	6
Education .....	7
Obituaries .....	8-9
Iti Fabvssa .....	11

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Nation of Oklahoma

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MOA signed for Clinic transfer in October

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton and Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby signed a memorandum of agreement to transfer full operation of the health clinic in Durant to the Choctaw Nation.

"This is very historic and is something we have wanted for some time," Delton Cox, Speaker of the Choctaw Tribal Council, said during the ceremony held at Choctaw Nation headquarters.

Currently, the Choctaw Nation owns the building, but the clinic is staffed by the Chickasaw Nation. The clinic's operation will be entirely managed by the Choctaw Nation beginning Oct. 1, leaders of both tribes announced.

"I have the deepest respect for governor, not only for what he does for his people, but for the person that he is," Chief Batton said. "The governor has always been for the citizens of the Chickasaw Nation as well as the Choctaws."

Gov. Anoatubby said the goal of the agreement is to provide the highest quality health care services possible.

"We know in the future we will be able to have better health care," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Because it will be right here in the Choctaw Nation, with the Choctaw Nation running Choctaw Nation facilities, and now with the Choctaw Nation funding it."

"We're brothers and sisters," Gov. Anoatubby said of the two tribes. "We have a long, long relationship—a good one—and this is another step toward the Choctaw Nation



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Chief Gary Batton and Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby formally sign a memorandum of agreement June 11 transferring operation of the medical clinic in Durant over to the Choctaw Nation.**

operating the clinic and continuing to improve health care here."

With the clinic being operated by the Choctaw Nation, we are looking forward to taking care of the needs of Choctaws in our service area," Teresa Jackson, Senior Executive Officer for the Division of Health for the Choctaw Nation, said.

"We are working very hard with Chickasaw health care leadership to make this as seamless a transition as possible," Jackson said.

"We worked almost a year on the process and have had representation

from the Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw Nation on all of the committees to make sure the transfer is complete."

Of the 21 Chickasaw Nation employees working at the clinic, 18 will now work for the Choctaw Nation, Jackson said. Additionally, a staff pharmacist has worked for both tribes previously and "knows both protocols" so patients' medicine and prescriptions will not be an issue, she added.

According to Jackson, the current clinic will remain in use, but work is being done to build a new facility in

Durant. "It will be located just outside of Durant alongside all of the new construction that is going on," Jackson said. "We have already hired the architect and engineer firm to start on the design of the clinic and are looking for maybe holding a groundbreaking after the first of the year."

"This is a great partnership that we've had, and we are going to continue that," Chief Batton said. "No matter how many clinics and hospitals we build there will also be the need for access to care."

Chapel set to open during festival at Tvshka Homma



Photo by Stacy Shepherd

**The Choctaw Nation Chapel at Tvshka Homma as seen under construction in late July. It is set to open during Labor Day weekend.**

By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

The new interdenominational chapel at Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds in Tvshka Homma will be dedicated at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 29.

Located south of the village site, the placement is no coincidence. The chapel will be the first thing people see when they come into Tvshka Homma from the main southern entrance.

"Choctaw people are very spiritual," said Sue Folsom, Executive Director of Cultural Events. "In order to show more respect to our spiritual side, we decided to build this chapel. It's been a dream for a while."

The chapel will seat 150 people and includes design elements from traditional native churches. Folsom said this included a simple design as well as a steeple, common aspects of traditional native churches throughout the Choctaw Nation.

There will be no on-site minister but the chapel will be available for singings, weddings, funerals, and similar events. Details will be made available after the chapel officially opens.

Church services will be held at 10 a.m. August 31, and gospel singing with Choctaw hymns that evening.

The chapel replaces a large tent behind the amphitheater previously housing Sunday worship services.

Choctaw Nation receives Innovation Award from REI

By STEPHENIE OCHOA  
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was given the "Innovation Award" during the Oklahoma Minority Enterprise Development (MED) banquet coordinated by the REI Native American Business Centers.

REI Native American Business Centers deliver technical assistance and training programs in an effort to build successful Native American and minority-owned businesses. Companies utilizing the Centers receive specialized assistance with bids, contracting and procurement opportunities, training and business counseling, access to capital, and more.

With the recent nomination of the Promise Zone, the Choctaw Nation is expected to be an even bigger part of the growth of new businesses and services throughout the southeastern Oklahoma areas. As an incubator for many minority owned small businesses, utilizing its servant leadership role, business growth is anticipated.

James Ray, MBDA Business Center Project Director said, "The progressive work of the Choctaw Nation continues to open the doors of development within the communities its people live."

For additional information about the Choctaw Nation and business development, visit the Choctaw Nation website at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com).



Photo Provided

**MBDA Business Center Project Director, James Ray, Executive Director of Tribal Policy, Brian McClain, and REI Oklahoma President and CEO, Scott Dewald.**



# FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

## Choctaw Pride Unity, the Choctaw way of life

There is one thing I like to see in the Choctaw Nation – family unity.

Life is just busy and the more successful the tribe becomes, the more there is to do. It seems life everywhere has ramped up. There are more than 100 programs for tribal members and I am proud to see more are focusing on youth and young families.

This focus encourages them to be independent and strive to be the best they can be for themselves and their families. Choctaw Nation businesses make it possible to provide programs and provide much-needed jobs that also help young parents do well. They have a financial future potentially greater than their parents or grandparents.

In 1979, only 35 years ago, the Choctaw Nation had seven employees and about 20,000 members. We now have 6,200 employees and 200,000 tribal members.

I remember when we used to go to the old hospital in Talihina, we would go into the “dungeon” for dental work and our prescriptions were handed to us through a little square hole without us ever seeing anyone. The new hospital and clinics are very different because of our success. We are able to provide more specialized care in beautiful facilities that are full of light.

As we enjoy our success, we need to remember our grass roots values and remember where we have been. I speak a lot

about going back to basics and listening to our elders. I believe we need to listen to what they are saying to us.

As we hurry about, we have lost that art of listening. I see the struggles between having time for work and a home life. We can build stronger family units when we stay positive and create a balance.

Our families become unified when we have good moral values, the ability to listen and learn, and the respect for our elders and all they know and have seen. As we stop and reflect, we understand.

We are strong because of our culture, our history, our past. We aren’t proud because of our successes. We are proud because we are Choctaw.



From the Desk of Chief Gary Batton

## The Giver of Life Honoring Choctaw women

The Labor Day Festival has grown so much over the years. I can remember when Saturday was the main day with lots of softball, horse-shoes and good food. I played and worked hard with friends and family and have some great memories.

This is my first year to attend the festival as the Assistant Chief. I am excited! I look at the schedule and every familiar event has new meaning. It will be a privilege to help crown the new royalty at the Princess Pageant on the festival’s opening night. I’m just glad I’m not one of the judges. Choosing the winners between our beautiful district princesses will be hard decisions.

Another event that we are all anticipating is the ribbon cutting of the chapel on Friday morning. It is across the road from the capitol building and south of the village with a range of hills behind it. I walked across one day and snapped a picture from inside the village fence. It is a beautiful area, and felt tranquil even with the chapel still under construction. I look forward to the first church service to be held there.

This year’s sculpture will be unveiled Friday night right before the pow wow. The statue has been created in the likeness of former Council-member Charlotte Jackson. Charlotte was very

special to many people and a perfect example of “Honoring the Giver of Life,” the theme of this year’s festival. She was a humble individual and graciously gave honor to others. She loved people. I will never forget her laugh, her sense of humor, or her commitment to her family and tribal members, many also considered family.

I hope all you daughters, mothers and grandmothers will gather with us in front of the capitol for the unveiling ceremony in honor of all Choctaw women.

The festival is packed with things to do. I pray for everyone’s safe travels during the holiday and hope you have a chance to join us for this celebration of family and culture.



From the Desk of Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

See full schedule of Labor Day Festival activities on Page 16.

### Chaplain’s Corner

## The Revelation of God to Man

The 2014 Choctaw Nation Festival is here. We are grateful and thank the Lord for how He blesses and directs as we trust Him. I look forward to seeing and visiting with you soon. May God bless you.

Today we are reviewing what Christians believe. Someone has called the Holy Bible “the Divine Library.” We think of the Bible as one book. It is made up of 66 books.

It begins with Genesis and ends with Revelation, divided into two sections. Section one has 39 books and is called the Old Testament. The second section is the New Testament and has 27 books.

From the human standpoint, not less than 40 authors wrote the Bible over a period of 1,600 years. These writers wrote under the control of God. God guided them in writing every word. This is what we mean by inspiration.

This is what the Bible teaches: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” – II Peter 1:21

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” – II Timothy 3:16-17

Thus the Bible is the Word of God. It is not enough to say that the Bible contains the Word of God. This might imply that parts of it are inspired and parts are not. Every part of the Bible is inspired. II Timothy 3:16 reads, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”

Another important point to remember is that the Bible is the only written revelation that God has given to man. In the last chapter of the Bible, God warns men against adding to the Bible or taking away from it.

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” – Revelation 22:18-19

What is the subject of the Bible? The Bible is made of 66 books, yet it has one main subject. Jesus Christ is the grand theme of Scripture.

The Old Testament contains many predictions, or prophecies, concerning Jesus Christ. The New Testament tells of His coming.

The Bible is the record of the world from the beginning of time until the future when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

Genesis tells of the creation of the world, the entrance of sin, the flood, and the beginning of the nation of Israel.

From Exodus to Esther we have the history of Israel up to about 400 years before the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The books from Job to the Song of Solomon contain wonderful poetry and wisdom. The rest of the Old Testament, from Isaiah to Malachi, is prophetic – that is, these books contain messages from God to Israel concerning its present condition and its future destiny.

The New Testament opens with four Gospels, each of which presents the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The book of Acts tells the story of the Christian movement in its infancy and the life of the great Apostle Paul.

From Romans to Jude, we find letters to churches and individuals concerning the great truths of the Christian faith and practical instruction concerning the Christian life.

Revelation gives us a glimpse into the future – to the events that will yet take place in heaven, on earth, and in hell.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the fate of sinners and the happiness of believers. Read to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy.

It is the Book of Books – God’s Book – the revelation of God to man.

Pray for America. Pray for the brave men and women in our armed services.



Photo by Zach Maxwell

Joy Culbreath with husband Alton Culbreath.

By PAYTON GUTHRIE  
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation has changed immensely over the last twenty-one years with Joy Culbreath leading the way into the future of Choctaw education. Culbreath joined the Choctaw Nation in 1993, when there were few programs to help tribal members with goals for higher education. Twenty-one years later, the Choctaw Nation is helping students across the globe reach their goals.

Culbreath’s family moved from Boggy Depot, to Lubbock, Texas, in 1942 at the age of three to find work as many families did in southeastern Oklahoma. Joy lived in Lubbock until 1957 when she graduated from Lubbock High just a year after Rock-n-Roll legend Buddy Holly. During her time in Lubbock, Joy “danced with Elvis at the Cotton Club.”

Joy met Alton Culbreath during summer trips to Durant to visit her sister. Shortly after graduating high school she married Culbreath and then moved to Durant.

Education was also important to Culbreath as she made several sacrifices to pursue her goals of a higher education.

### Spotlight on Elders With Joy Culbreath

“We had to figure it out,” Joy said “we grew a big garden, raised our own beef, and I made all our children’s clothes. We did everything we could to save money so I could go to school.”

Joy graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1967 receiving her Bachelor’s in Business Education and Elementary Education. She later earned a Master of Behavioral Studies and a Master of Administration.

Culbreath worked at Southeastern in the Trio Program and with federal programs for the next 30 years becoming the Director of Upward Bound. In 1993, she retired from Southeastern “on a Friday and on Monday morning began working for the Choctaw Nation.”

The next twenty-one years Culbreath spent as the Executive Director of Education for the Choctaw Nation was a time of growth and expansion. A number of new programs and scholarships were created to help Choctaw tribal members under Joy’s watch.

“It’s taken total dedication,” Joy said about the growth, “I’m a visionary. I’ve always tried to plan and look for what we can do to help children a generation from now.”

Now, Choctaw children have the needed programs and opportunity for education. One of these new programs sees the Choctaw Nation teaming up with schools in the Choctaw Nation to form a summer school program.

“I can see by us partnering with all eighty-five schools in the Choctaw Nation that summer schools are going to change education in southeastern Oklahoma.”

With the Choctaw Nation in good hands, Culbreath announced her retirement although she said she would still be involved with the Nation through several projects including a historical book and various educational programs.

### “America’s Original Code Talkers” documentary to air Aug. 19 on OETA.



The Choctaw Code Talkers documentary is set to air on OETA at 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19.

“Choctaw Code Talkers” is a documentary that examines the pivotal role that Choctaw soldiers played in helping shape an earlier end of World War I.

In 1918, not yet citizens of the United States, Choctaw members of the American Expeditionary Forces were asked by the government to use their native language as a powerful tool against the German forces in World War I, setting a precedent for code talking as an effective military weapon and establishing them as “America’s Original Code Talkers.” More information about the documentary can be found at [www.nativetimes.com](http://www.nativetimes.com).

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The application can be found online at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com) or by contacting the Tribal Membership office at (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280.



# Beyond the Nation, Through the Nation

*Choctaw Defense expanding capabilities, contracts, talent, and services*

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Defense is expanding its capabilities by seeking and fulfilling contracts for engineering, building and remodeling structures.

As the U.S. war machine slowly returns home following a decade of action in the Middle East, support service providers such as Choctaw Defense are diversifying their portfolios to include civilian enterprises.

“You’ve got to be entrepreneurial,” said Stephen Benefield, President and CEO of Choctaw Defense. “What we’ve got to do as the Choctaw Nation is build more sustainable businesses. Chief Gary Batton completely understands that. It’s our biggest priority right now.”

There are numerous recent examples of Choctaw Defense moving into civilian contracts and other opportunities. The recently acquired company Architects in Partnerships Enterprises, a Moore-based “design-build” firm adds a commercial design and construction capabilities to the Choctaw Defense portfolio.

“We’re off to a rip-roaring start,” Benefield says, explaining that the company has already grown to over \$4 million under contract currently, with the latest being a new contract with the Federal Aviation Administration to refurbish

aircraft hangars at the FAA Center in Oklahoma City.

Another job will take Choctaw Defense to an FAA project at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport while yet another has them designing and building a \$1 million elder living center in Stigler for the Choctaw Nation.

“This is the product of the dedication of a lot of hard-working, smart people,” Benefield said. “All of the profits from Choctaw Defense go right back into the tribe.”

Choctaw Defense also recently took over the contracts of a Tulsa-based information technology firm, hiring all 35 people from the firm with the expectation of rapidly expanding the “structured cabling” business. One of its first projects is providing all the security, communication, and computer cabling at the Tulsa International Airport ongoing remodeling effort, but the project “has the potential to expand into some very large operations.” Benefield said Choctaw Defense has set its sights on a \$300 million contract with the Air Force to provide a variety of maintenance-level services at military installations. The winner of that contract should be announced later this year. Choctaw Defense is a business totally owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Choctaw Defense employee Justin Yearby in front of MTVR trailers.

Photo Provided

## MTVR contract renewal for Choctaw Defense

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Defense has announced a \$15 million contract renewal for Marine Tactical Vehicle Replacement Trailers.

“This is a continuation of a contract we’ve had for seven years,” said Stephen Benefield, President and CEO of Choctaw Defense. “We expect to be in the contract for several more years.”

The MTVR Trailer, is the

most capable off road trailer in the Marines Corps fleet. It is designed to work under extreme off road conditions matching the capability of the MTVR Prime Mover tow vehicle. This next generation trailer will replace the current fleet of trailers not capable of handling the demands of the newest generation of combat vehicles and is designed and manu-

factured at Choctaw Defense facilities in McAlester and Hugo. Choctaw Defense has approximately 150 employees in both locations combined.

The MTVR is one of several tactical vehicle contracts awarded to Choctaw Defense. They have also partnered with the U.S. Navy “Seabees,” the combat construction division of the Navy, to convert certain

trucks into “field service units.”

The first of 12 units were delivered this year. Choctaw Defense crews outfit the trucks to include onboard generators and in-the-field fluid replacement capability for heavy equipment such as cranes and dozers.

Choctaw Defense is a subsidiary of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

## Choctaw Nation and Save the Children Organization prepare for disasters



Left: Debbie Dalpoas looks through supplies to help build a child friendly space, a place to look after children in disaster shelters.

Photos by Brandon Frye

Right: Attendees are prepared to train other volunteers if a disaster occurs.



By BRANDON FRYE

Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation partnered with the Save the Children Organization to supply training to employees and local organizations in aiding families, especially children, who are experiencing a localized emergency.

Twelve people attended the Child Friendly Spaces Training July 14 at the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant, where they learned how to care for children

in an emergency or disaster situation and set up a space for temporary respite care.

“A lot of times, children get overlooked during disasters because we are trying to help the parents,” Jeff Hansen, Emergency Manager for the Choctaw Nation, said. “And by having these types of spaces the kids can go to in the shelter, it frees up the parents so that they can attend recovery meetings.”

Hansen said the biggest threat in this area is ice storms. When power goes out, com-

munity centers open up for local families. He said last year, two shelters were opened during ice storms to supply safety for up to 15 people for overnight stays, and the likelihood of such shelters being needed in the future is very high.

“This type of training will allow us to meet the needs of the kids that come in with their parents, because it’s a tough environment when you’re living in a shelter,” Hansen said. “Nothing about it is normal. So, we want to try to make it as

normal as we can for folks.”

For this training, the majority of attendees were employees from the Choctaw Nation, from various backgrounds. There were representatives from Head Start, Foster Care and Healthcare, among others. Local churches and organizations such as Red Cross were also involved.

“I came to see what would be needed if we were in an emergency situation, how we could utilize that training to set up a day care for getting our staff to come back in to work and know

that their kids are safe,” Debbie Dalpoas, Emergency Management Officer for Choctaw Nation Health Services, said.

The event was lead by Paul Myers, Director of Emergency Preparedness for Save the Children, and Tim Lovell, Executive Director of Tulsa Partners, an Oklahoma-based nonprofit organization.

Myers said he thinks one of the biggest issues is, in disasters, people can treat children as miniature adults, when they have their own unique physical,

psychological and emotional needs. He also said supplies in a disaster shelter tend to not have enough age appropriate supplies for children; items such as cribs, formula and even toys.

“The Choctaw Nation really came out for this training today, I would say three quarters were from the Choctaw Nation,” Lovell said. “We have essentially trained these representatives of the Choctaw Nation how to create this child friendly space and how to train volunteers to participate.”

## Inter-tribal Council holds quarterly meeting

The Chickasaw Nation hosted July’s meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) of the Five Civilized Tribes July 10-11 at Winstar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville.

The day long Thursday schedule included 24 work-group meetings including programs and services such as health, housing, governance, environment, culture, education, roads and transportation, children and family services, and social services.

The general session of ITC opened at 9 a.m. Friday, July 11, with the posting of the colors by the Chickasaw Nation Color Guard. President George Tiger, Chief of the Muscogee/Creek Nation, welcomed the council, tribal members and staff to this year’s third quarterly meeting

and introduced each tribal leader who provided a brief report on their Nations.

Chief Gary Batton stood at the council podium for the first time as chief. He spoke of the Choctaw Nation’s return to grass roots. He described his inspirational visits with tribal members and highlighted steps the Choctaw Nation is taking to make their lives better.

“The storm shelter program has been opened to Choctaw Nation tribal members age 55 and older living in the tornado-prone states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri,” Batton said.

Projects for Durant Casino Resort expansion, new wellness centers in McAlester and Wilburton, and enlarging the

Poteau clinic top the Choctaw Nation’s construction list.

“We have also partnered with Chickasaw Nation on an MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) to assume operations of the Durant clinic as of Oct. 1,” Chief Batton announced. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations are working together to ensure patients have a smooth transition.

Each Nation has four ITC delegates. Representing the Choctaw Nation are the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Council Speaker Delton Cox, District 11 Councilman Bob Pate and Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom.

Seven resolutions were presented to the council for approval:

- Requesting support for

the Native Contract and Rate Expenditure Act, HR 843, to improve access to health-care for Native Americans.

- In support of maintaining Oklahoma Medicaid Services to Indian Health and exempting Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribal Facilities and Urban Indian Facilities (I/T/U) services from reductions.
- Establishing a judicial committee to address common concerns of the Five Civilized Tribes’ Tribal Courts.
- Requesting federal acknowledgement consultations in Oklahoma, more geographically convenient for the 39 federally recognized tribes in the state.
- In support of a Foster Care Recruitment Campaign
- In support of the U.S.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker, Seminole Nation Chief Leonard Harjo, Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton, and Muscogee-Creek Nation Chief George Tiger.

Marshalls Museum’s offer for the Inter-Tribal Council to erect a monument commemorating their historic connection, and

- A proclamation declaring the first Saturday of Novem-

ber “National Day of Prayer” and urge active participation of all tribal citizens in unifying for this special day.

The Choctaw Nation will host the next quarterly meeting Oct. 9 to 10 in Durant.



# Vaccines, have you been shot?

## Tdap and Pneumovax - Who needs them

What is whooping cough and Tdap?

Whooping cough—or pertussis—is a very serious respiratory (in the lungs and breathing tubes) infection caused by the pertussis bacteria. It causes violent coughing you can't stop. Whooping cough is most harmful for young babies and can be deadly. Tdap is a vaccine that immunizes against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (pertussis).

Everyone around a baby needs a whooping cough vaccine. Anyone who comes in close contact with a baby, from older siblings and cousins to grandparents and caregivers, should be up to date with whooping cough vaccination. CDC recommends only one

dose of Tdap for most people 11 years and older. Currently, the only group that CDC recommends get more than one dose of this vaccine is pregnant women, who should get the vaccine each time they are pregnant.

The recommended time to get Tdap is at 11 or 12 years of age. Teens who didn't get Tdap as a preteen should get one dose the next time they visit their doctor. CDC recommends that all adults 19 years of age and older who didn't get Tdap as a preteen or teen should also get one dose of Tdap.

If you aren't up to date with Tdap vaccine, getting vaccinated at least two weeks before coming into close contact with a baby is especially important. These two weeks give your body enough time to build up protection against

whooping cough. You can get Tdap no matter when you got your last tetanus shot.

Who needs Pneumovax? Pneumococcal disease is caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria. It is a leading cause of vaccine preventable illness and death in the United States.

Anyone can get pneumococcal disease, but some people are at greater risk than others: Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) protects against 23 types of pneumococcal bacteria, including those most likely to cause serious disease.

- People 65 years and older
- Smokers
- People with certain health problems- ie: heart or lung

disease, sickle cell disease, diabetes, asthma, alcoholism, cirrhosis

- People with a weakened immune system
- HIV/AIDS

Pneumococcal disease can lead to serious infections of the:

- Lungs (pneumonia),
- Blood (bacteremia), and
- Covering of the brain (meningitis).

Pneumococcal pneumonia kills about 1 out of 20 people who get it. Bacteremia kills about 1 person in 5, and meningitis about 3 people in 10.

For further information, you may contact Erin Adams with the RD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

# Vaccines offered at Caring Van during Labor Day Festival



**Choctaw Nation Community Health Nurses will be offering both vaccines at the 2014 Labor Day Festival.**

**Look for the Caring Van behind the Healthy Living Tent!**

# NURSERY NEWS

Finn Oliver Clarke

Christopher Clarke and Haleigh Bridgan proudly announce the birth of their son Finn Oliver Clarke. He was born June 14th at 4:40 p.m. at St. Joseph hospital in Tacoma WA. He weighed 7lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Tracy and Patricia (Tom) Clarke of Puyallup, WA and Kristen Brown of Anderson Island WA. Great grandparents are Donald Clarke and Jewell Lewis. Finn is the great-great grandson of the late Simon Tom of Lawton.



# Choctaw Nation WIC program honors World Breastfeeding Week



Choctaw Nation WIC staff showing their informative poster for World Breastfeeding Week (Aug. 1-7) include (left to right) Claudene Williams, Erin James (Breastfeeding manager for the WIC program), Shelly Rector, Linda Woolbright, Kim Shannon, Peggy Carlton and Ashley Tutt.

The Choctaw Nation WIC Program honored World Breastfeeding Week Aug. 1-7. Every year, the WIC program celebrates by honoring mothers who choose to breastfeed.

This year, we focused on supporting a mother's choice to breastfeed her baby with confidence regardless of her location. Our world is a busy place and babies get hungry no matter where they happen to be. Did you know: In Oklahoma, mothers have the right to breastfeed anywhere?

**WIC**  
WOMEN, INFANTS  
AND CHILDREN

Whether in the comfort of home or out in public, breastfeeding mothers need support as they provide their infants with all the nutrients they need to grow and thrive.

Each mother who chooses to breastfeed their babies can be proud that she is carrying on the traditions of our ancestors. As Choctaws, we honor those mothers who give life to our descendants by nourishing them with breastmilk. For more information about breastfeeding, call (800) 522-6170, ext. 2507.

# CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

**WAREHOUSES & MARKETS**

**Antlers:** 306 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443  
**Durant:** 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773  
**McAlester:** 1212 S. Main St., (918) 420-5716  
**Poteau:** 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES**

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

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ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Sept. 2-26, except for: <b>Sept. 3:</b> Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12:30 - 3 p.m. (market open) <b>Sept. 10:</b> Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open) <b>Closed:</b> Sept. 29-30 for inventory. <b>Cooking with Carmen:</b> Sept. 16, 10-2
DURANT
Market open weekdays Sept. 2-26, except for: <b>Closed:</b> Sept. 29-30 for inventory. <b>Cooking with Carmen:</b> Sept. 3
McALESTER
Market open weekdays Sept. 2-26, except for: <b>Closed:</b> Sept. 29-30 for inventory. <b>Cooking with Carmen:</b> Sept. 18, 10-2
POTEAU
Market open weekdays Sept. 2-26, except for: <b>Closed:</b> Sept. 29-30 for inventory. <b>Cooking with Carmen:</b> Sept. 8, 10-2

# Choctaw Nation WIC



SITE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers (580) 298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tues.
Atoka (580) 889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Bethel (580) 241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st Tues.
Boswell (580) 380-5264	8:30-4:00	Every Fri.
Broken Bow (580) 584-2746	8:00-4:30	Daily, except 1st Tues. & 2nd Thurs.
Coalgate (580) 927-3641	8:00-4:30	Every Wed.
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 Thur.
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 Thur.



Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

**1 800 QUIT NOW**

Free help 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 10.5-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the:

**Choctaw Nation Community Center**  
1636 S. George Nigh Expy • McAlester  
August 18  
9-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.



United States Department of Agriculture

**10 tips**  
Nutrition  
Education Series

save more at the  
grocery store



# 10 MyPlate tips to stretch your food dollar

Using coupons and looking for the best price are great ways to save money at the grocery store. Knowing how to find them is the first step to cutting costs on food. Use the MyPlate coupon tips to stretch your budget.

- 1 find deals right under your nose**  
Look for coupons with your receipt, as peel-offs on items, and on signs along aisle shelves.
- 2 search for coupons**  
Many stores still send ads and coupons for promotion, so don't overlook that so-called "junk mail." You can also do a Web search for "coupons." Go through your coupons at least once a month and toss out any expired ones.
- 3 look for savings in newspaper**  
Brand name coupons are found as inserts in the paper every Sunday—except on holiday weekends. Some stores will double the value of brand name coupons on certain days.
- 4 join your store's loyalty program**  
Signup is usually free and you can receive savings and electronic coupons when you provide your email address.
- 5 buy when foods are on sale**  
Maximize your savings by using coupons on sale items. You may find huge deals such as "buy one get one free."



- 6 find out if the store will match competitors' coupons**  
Many stores will accept coupons, as long as they are for the same item. Check with the customer service desk for further details.
- 7 stay organized so coupons are easy to find**  
Sort your coupons either by item or in alphabetical order. Develop a system that's easiest for you and make finding coupons quick and hassle-free. Ideas for coupon storage include 3-ring binders, accordion-style organizers, or plain envelopes.
- 8 find a coupon buddy**  
Swap coupons you won't use with a friend. You can get rid of clutter and discover additional discounts.
- 9 compare brands**  
Store brands can be less expensive than some of the name brand foods. Compare the items to find better prices.
- 10 stick to the list**  
Make a shopping list for all the items you need. Keep a running list on your phone, on the refrigerator, or in a wallet. When you're in the store, do your best to buy only the items on your list.





EVENTS

Monthly Gospel Singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. September 5 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127.

Tent reservations

Reservations for tent space in the primitive campground area will begin Saturday, August 23 at 12:01 a.m. For additional information, please contact Labor Day Festival staff at (800) 522-6170.

Tulsa language classes

The Choctaw Nation Language Community classes for the Tulsa area are held every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center 8611 South Union Ave. For additional information, contact Pat or Bill Hoover at (918) 645-2299. A certified Choctaw language instructor, Berie Gibson, teaches the classes.

Jones family reunion

Family reunion of the descendents of Harrison Earmond Jones, parents of Earmond Jones and Sophia Kincaid, and Ethel Ealo Asher, parents Oliver Tillman Asher and Cora Mae Smith. The reunion will be Sunday, September 28 at Wild Horse Park, 1201 N. Mustang Rd, Mustang, OK from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring a dish and drinks. If you're related to anyone listed above, come and meet the rest of the family tree. For additional information call Sandy Jones (405) 919-0797.

Annual Jones family reunion

Descendents 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, OK, on Saturday, September 20, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For information or directions, call Kathy Leach, (214) 715-1283, or Joyce Purser, (972) 424-7477.

Walker/Crank/Hampton family reunion

The Walker/Crank/Hampton family reunion will be held at the Talihina Community Center on Saturday, August 30th from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For additional information, please contact Phyllis Essert at (918) 850-9148 or Sonny Essert at (918) 933-8334.

Poteau youth stickball team

Poteau is forming a youth stickball team to participate in the Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball League next year. It is open to youths age 8-17. Practices will be held on Aug. 12, 14, 19, 21 and 27. All practices will be held at the field across from Choctaw Nation Community Center at 5:30 p.m. Stickball sticks will be provided. For more information contact coaches Dewayne Hornbuckle (918) 721-1294, Melissa Feters Hornbuckle (918) 326-1501 or Jennifer Roberts (918) 658-8012.

Sanders/Fobb/Wood family reunion

Family reunion for Sanders/Fobb/Wood will be held Friday into Sunday August 22-24 at Sulphur Springs United Methodist in Bennington starting at 6 p.m. For additional information call Lorene Blaine (580) 924-9411 or Jeanie (Cole Rich) (580) 239-8618 or Patricia (Wood) Blagg (580) 579-2695.

Youth of the Nation

Crystal Tate, YAB member

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory board (CNYAB) program has educated me on the importance of community service and the giving of myself to my community. I have experienced many great things throughout my service in CNYAB. However, none can compare to the immense sense of pride and joy that is felt when I know that no matter how big or small, I have made a difference in the lives of the people in my community and the community itself. I have had the honor of participating in multiple service projects while in CNYAB. Some of the projects include domestic violence awareness programs, helping with food drives, buying and filling Christmas stockings for the less fortunate children of my community, and various other projects. By far, the most rewarding project I have been involved with would be the fundraisers we sponsor that benefit the Toys for Tots campaign. The fundraisers for Toys for Tots bring my community together in ways that I never thought possible. You will see people of all ages and backgrounds coming together as a team in order to help out others in need. One of the main events we routinely host is our summer car washes. This event brings together over 15 teenage volunteers willing to give of their time and effort in order to positively impact others. The feeling of teamwork and the confidence in knowing you have made a difference in someone else's life is overwhelming. Although, I have given countless hours of my time and effort in order to help others throughout my life and community, I truly believe I am the recipient of the most precious gift. I have received the gift of knowing that even the smallest act of kindness or expression of encouragement can have a tremendous impact on someone's life. I cherish this gift for both the impact it has had on my life as well as the opportunities it has led me to make a difference in the lives around me. Life is full of lessons to be learned. Through CNYAB I have learned lessons that will continue to benefit me as I enter college and move on with my life. I have gained confidence in myself and my abilities. I have also learned the importance of standing up for my beliefs as well as looking out for others. With the knowledge gained through CNYAB, I will continue to reach out to my community and strive to make a difference in other people's lives. I cannot think of a better way to explain the impact that the community service projects I have participated in throughout my involvement with CNYAB have had on my life except through the words of Andrew Shue, member of the Board of Directors, of the Do Something organization. "Community service has taught me all kinds of skills and increased my confidence. You go out there and think on your feet, work with others and create something from nothing. That's what life's all about".

NOTES TO THE NATION

Safe with shelter

I am a member of the Choctaw Nation living in the OKC area, and I am so thankful for the services provided by our tribe. First of all, many of my nine grandchildren have benefited from the school grants for college. Recently with the tornado threats we applied for a tornado shelter from the tribe. We were able to purchase a shelter that seemed impossible without your help. Of course, our prayer is that we never have to use it, but it is a secure feeling that we have it here if needed.

Virginia Colleen and Bob Henning

Help with success



The family of April Matheson would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their participation in her success. Enrolled in Kiamichi Technology Center's nursing program, April was inducted into the National Honor Society on April 24. During commencement ceremonies on June 12, April was announced class Valedictorian also receiving awards for highest score on Nursing Predictor Test and completion of a Certificate of Intravenous Therapy. April's future plans as an LPN include continuing her employment at Southern Point Living Center as charge nurse of the Memory Unit and continuing her education through Murray State to achieve her RN license.

The Matheson Family

Thanks for believing in me

I am proud that your program helped me to gain a Magna Cum Laude GPS. Thank you very much for your assistance and believing in me. I am Choctaw and love my people. I will return your investment in me back to the Great Choctaw Nation. Yakoke, Yakoke!

Stephen Joe Gaines

With deepest gratitude

My family and I would like to take the time to thank the Choctaw Nation for all the assistance they have given to us at the time of our loss. We recently suffered an unexpected loss of Sandra Louise Berry. She was our daughter, sister, wife, and mother. She was much loved and will be missed greatly. There are no words in the English language to express the deep gratitude we feel. We are proud to be tribal members of the Great Choctaw Nation.

Ellen C. Billy Eikenberry and family

Thankful for assistance

I would like to express my gratitude to the Choctaw Nation which has provided scholarship assistance to me since my freshman year of college. I am a 2014 graduate of Dodge College School of Film in Orange, California where I graduated Magna Cum Laude. I am proud of my Choctaw heritage and appreciate the Choctaw Nation for helping me to further my education.

Jon T. Buchanan

Thankful for helpers

I was at the West side travel plaza with a flat tire. Two guys, Tristan Johnston and Jordan Boyer helped us put the spare on. If it weren't for their help, we wouldn't have made it home.

Wanda Jacoway

*Gary Batton*  
*Chief*

*Jack Austin Jr.*  
*Assistant Chief*

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

Honors with help



I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial help I received. I recently graduated from Pima Medical Institute with top honors as a Medical Assistant. I had a 4.0 GPA and Outstanding Student Award. I could not have done this without your help.

Kati Covel

Educational and personal support



I am writing to express my appreciation for the financial and personal support I have received from the Choctaw Nation and Community during the last 7 years of my educational journey. I received my Bachelors of Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. in 2012, and this past May I earned my Masters of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education, also from CSU. Throughout my time at CSU, I received financial aid from the tribe every year, and that support helped lighten my financial burden and allowed me to focus entirely on my studies in order to be successful in school and graduate. I am the great-granddaughter of NovaBell Kelly who was an original enrollee, the granddaughter of Eual and Gail Kelly of Idabel and the daughter of Mike and Denise Kelly of Limon Colo. This past year, my grandfather had the honor to be recognized as the Outstanding Choctaw Elder of District 1, Idabel. It is because of the support and mentorship of my family that has guided me throughout my entire life, and I owe many of my accomplishments to my family and community. I am thankful for the opportunity to gain an education, and am excited to use my education to give back to the Native American community at Colorado State University and throughout the country. After graduation, I was offered a position as the Assistant Director of the Native American Cultural Center here at CSU, where I will serve and support our Native American students as they seek their educational goals. I am thankful for all of the support I received to help me graduate, and now it is my turn to be a role model and help serve our communities. Again, my educational, personal, professional goals would not have been possible if not for all of the support I received from the Choctaw Nation, and I am forever grateful for the opportunities the tribe helped provide for me.

Yakoke!

Tiffani N. Kelly

Grateful Gardners



I, Gavon Saif Gardner, great grandson of Harve M. Gardner and great-great grandson of an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation, Morgan McKinley Gardner, would like to send a huge "Yakoke" to the Choctaw Nation for assisting in my academic efforts. Your continued support, encouragement, and reward for working hard to excel academically has helped me form a great foundation for a bright and promising future. It is such an honor, privilege, and blessing to be a member of the Choctaw Nation. It's hard to believe my Senior year has come and gone. I am proud to share that along with numerous awards and honors. I was named Salutatorian in Meadow High School, class of 2014. Yakoke, Choctaw Nation, for supporting me along the way. I will be attending Baylor University in the Fall of 2014, majoring in mechanical engineering. Again, I cannot express enough gratitude for all the Choctaw Nation has done, not only to support and encourage my future endeavors, but for its people as a whole. On behalf of the entire Gardner family, we would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for taking the time to come and visit those of us who are Choctaw members that live in and around Lubbock, Texas. Chi pisa la chike! Yakoke!

The Gardner Family



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Mr. and Mrs. Scott renew vows

Donald and Bobbie Scott, of Idabel, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 1. They renewed their wedding vows with a church wedding and reception March 8. Their two daughters, Linda Williams and Sharon Davis, along with their grandchildren Jennifer Williams, Lane Williams, Jeffrey Davis, and Jera Davis helped host the event.



## Williams celebrates 21st birthday

Jennifer Lynne Williams, from Idabel, celebrated her 21st birthday on May 14. She is the daughter of Barry and Linda Williams, of Idabel. Her grandparents are the late Arvel and Pauline Williams, of Summerfield as well as Donald and Bobbie Scott, of Idabel.



## Hale wins Girl Scout Gold Award

Hannah Marie Hale, 18, was given the highest Girl Scout Award, the Gold Award, on May 3. The Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma recognized Hale as one of only seven in the area to receive the award. She is a member of Ardmore's Troop 623. The project which won Hale the Gold Award addressed a healthier alternative to today's unhealthy eating habits. She planned and oversaw a community garden, instructed younger Girl Scouts in the importance of eating health foods, helped prepare nutritious meals at the Fall Service Team Campout and attended the Healthy Living Expo. Hannah Hale is the daughter of Larry and Christy Hale of Ardmore. She graduated from Dickson High School on May 16. She will be attending East Central University in the fall to pursue a degree in legal studies.



## Star Student visits White House

Second grader Avery Dodson of Tulsa Holland Hall, age 7, visited the White House Science Fair where she and her teammates presented their design of a flood proof bridge. Dodson showcased her invention and had the opportunity to meet with President Barack Obama as well as many other senior staffers during the fair.



## Sisters qualify for Junior Olympics

Allie and Lillie-Faye McWhorter were selected to participate in the 2014 Junior Olympics as members of the TEAM Ark. swim team. In order to be selected as Junior Olympian, swimmers must qualify on standard national times and/or event finishes. Both recently qualified on times at the 2014 Amateur Athletic Union All-Star Meet in El Dorado, Ark. Lillie was high point winner for the eight and under bracket. The 2014 Junior Olympics will be held July 30 through Aug. 2 in Des Moines, Iowa. Allie and Lillie-Faye attend school at Woodlawn Elementary in Rison, Ark. Allie is 10 years old and Lillie is 7 years old. They are the daughters of Charles and Gayla McWhorter, the granddaughters of Charlie and Loretta Tadlock of Grannis, Ark., and the great-granddaughters of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson of Smithville.



## Scott Finds Aerial Student Success

Blake Scott, of Ponca City, was accepted into the 2014 Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Camp in Oshkosh, Wis. He is one of only 56 students selected from the U.S. and surrounding countries. The EEA Air Academy offers young people the opportunity to meet and work with aviation professionals, while living and learning the arts, sciences and lore of aviation. While at the Academy, Scott will have access to flight experience, workshops, and classroom study. He is the son of Fred and Shasta Scott of Ponca City and is enrolled to begin college in the fall to study professional aviation.



## Cotton achieves Eagle Scout

Alexander Dean Cotton of Allen, Texas, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He joined Cub Scouts in 2002 and joined Boy Scout Troop 328 in 2007. He has held the following leadership positions: Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Den Chief. He was elected by his fellow Scouts to be a member of the Scouting honor society, the Order of the Arrow. His Eagle Scout project was to design and build a storage unit for his church, First United Methodist Church of Allen, Texas. He attended the Florida Sea Base Adventure Camp in 2013 and several other long-term camps during his Scouting career. Alex recently graduated from Allen High School, where he excelled in Chamber Orchestra as a violinist. He also plays viola, piano, guitar, and ocarina and enjoys origami. In the fall, Alex will attend TWU in Denton, Texas, where he will study Music Therapy.



## Happy 100th Birthday

The family of Easter Fernandis Beal Gammon celebrated her 100th birthday with a party and potluck lunch in Bentley, where she lived her whole life. Gammon was born June 28, 1914, the second of eight children. She married Lewis Gammon. Her children are Roy Wilson Gammon of Tulsa and Troy William Gammon of Bentley. She was a cook with Bentley schools until her retirement.



## Happy 90th Birthday

The family of Juanita Marie Cooper McDaniel wishes her a very happy 90th birthday. Juanita was born on July 19, 1924 in Kinta. She is the daughter of Henry E. Cooper, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation, and Elsie M. Cooper. She has four grandchildren, nine grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

## Littlebull mother and daughter earn awards

Kathy Littlebull was presented with the Direct Patient Care award by the Indian Health Services on June 13 in Portland, Ore. Littlebull is a Registered Nurse with the Yakama Indian Health Service Unit. She was part of the Yakama Ambulatory Care Nursing Team which received a group award for support in the delivery of health care. Her father is the late Truman Thompson, and her mother is Lyda Ann Thompson. Littlebull's grandparents are the late Simon J. and Sammy K. Peters.



Brianna Littlebull was given an award for being on Student Council in the fourth grade. She held the position of Student Body Vice President at Camas Elementary in Wapato, Wash. Her parents are LeRoy and Kathy Littlebull of Wapato, Wash. Her grandparents are the late Truman Thompson and Lyda Ann Thompson of Wapato, Wash.



## Carshall family finishes school year with many honors

The Carshall family ended their 2013-1014 school year with many school awards from Briggs School in Tahlequah. The youngest, Xaxton Carshall, graduated from kindergarten and Xarra received certificates of achievement in language arts, spelling, mathematics and reading. Second grader Xarra also received a certificate



of recognition for reading 30 accelerated reader books and was student of the month for August. Fourth grader Xaden Carshall made the Principal's Honor Roll for the entire year, received the book worm certificate for reading 6 accelerated books and was student of the month for December. Fifth grader Zoey received most improved for the school year, a certificated of achievement in language arts and was student of the month for May for outstanding achievement in leadership. Proud parents are Sara and Jason Carshall, and the granddaughter of Pam and Jon Lamb, Sterling and Kathy Woodrum and James and Barbara Morrison.



### A reminder to drive safely

"It's time to crack down on drunk drivers," according to the Durant police department. The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over National Campaign is Aug. 15 - Sept. 1, and the Durant Police Department and Choctaw Nation want to offer a reminder.



- Get a designated driver.
- Do NOT drink and drive.

# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

## September 2014

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

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



EDUCATION

An unstoppable attitude

By BRET MOSS  
Choctaw Nation

A conversation with Army National Guardsman Sgt. Kisha Makerney is a motivating experience. In the face of seemingly detrimental odds, she has not only thrived, but accomplished more in a few years than many will in a lifetime.

As a Choctaw who grew up in Fort Towson, Okla., Makerney excitedly began her military service with the Army National Guard at the age of 17 and subsequently embarked on her first tour at age 18, where she was stationed in Iraq.

Returning from her inaugural tour of duty, Makerney was in a motor-cycle accident that claimed her left leg at the age of 20. Due to her accident not occurring during service, Makerney was responsible for her rehabilitation.

Fresh out of her teens and full of vigor, she was determined to return to active military service. She was taught basic physical therapy and fitted with her first prosthetic limb in October of 2005. "I pretty much had to teach myself how to walk, run and march... All the stuff that was needed to remain a soldier," Makerney stated as she recalled the first steps to overcoming her adverse situation.

In 2007 she returned to Iraq as the first female amputee soldier in a combat zone where she trained Iraqi correctional officers for the prison system. Her love for service aided in overcoming the obstacles created by the loss of her leg.

That dedication stemmed from a strong family history of service and early admiration for soldiers. "I have been drawn to the military my whole life," stated Makerney. "I just feel like I was made for it. I just know it."

Having both grandfathers serve in the military sparked a young Makerney's interests. She recalls the captivating stories as a girl that inspired her to pursue a military career. These recollections of history and her natural zest drew her to

where the action would likely be found.

Returning to Iraq in 2007 for a second tour, various physical ailments associated with the accident continually beset Makerney. Upon returning stateside, she sought assistance in caring for those issues. She learned that the Center for the Intrepid (CFI), located in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, had recently opened its doors to assist servicemen and women and sought CFI's assistance in improving herself.

Upon arriving at CFI, Makerney was ecstatic to have ample resources available as well as the ability to connect with other soldiers who had similar experiences and situations. Spending approximately 18 months at CFI, she improved all her physical abilities, became increasingly motivated as she met fellow amputee soldiers and was fitted with upgraded prosthetics.

"You tell them anything you want to do and they will probably teach you," Makerney stated as she praised CFI for their assistance.

The "anything" she mentioned turned out to be many things. Since her time at CFI, she has accomplished numerous notable feats. From skydiving to scuba diving with manta rays in Hawaii, Makerney is never left without an interesting contribution to a conversation.

Following her time at CFI, Makerney earned a position in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit while competing in the 2010 Warrior Games hosted at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. She continued service as a member of the U.S. Army for a year, where she made the U.S. Shooting Team.

After her year with the U.S. Army, Makerney returned to the National Guard and remained on the shooting team where she competed in the Olympic Trials. After a couple years of service, she returned to CFI to be fitted for an updated prosthesis in 2013.

While there, her physical therapist Mark Heniser, who was an instructor for her past scuba adventures, had recently been asked to journey to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. Knowing the challenge of climbing a mountain would pique Makerney's interest; Heniser encouraged her to join the hiking team, The Kilimanjaro Warriors. This group consisted of six soldiers who would use prosthetics to conquer the quest and five "Wing-men," to accompany the hiking party.

"Physically, it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life," stated Makerney. Telling of the journey, she recalled bouts of altitude sickness, complications with her prosthetics and other difficulties. As the trek became harsh, Makerney did what she had learned to do in every

**"You can reach down and you can find God and He can give you the strength to overcome anything."**

strength to overcome anything," Makerney stated as she remembered how she found faith through the struggles of not only Kilimanjaro, but of the many other mountains she had to conquer in her life. "I didn't lose my leg in the war, and because of that, I kind of fell in the cracks and was on my own."

In the time following her amputation, Makerney recalls a depressed state. "I fell into that pit and didn't know how to get out of it," she stated.

In her distress she turned to God, learning what it really meant to have true faith. She spoke of always believing in God since childhood, but finding real, life-changing faith in the face of her trials.

Since finding that faith, she has gone on to accomplish the aforementioned feats, as well as countless others.

In Makerney's eyes, her ascension

tough situation – lean on her faith.

"You can reach down and you can find God and He can give you the



Photo Provided

Kisha and her brother, SPC Tommy Makerney at Camp Copper, Iraq in 2008.

of Kilimanjaro was not for herself, but was a testament to all soldiers who have lost something, telling them that there is still hope for a full life. "We need more hope in the world," declared Makerney.

Following her excursion, she entered the "Where Have Your Legs Taken You?" promotion hosted by Nair, in which participants were asked to submit a picture of a notable life accomplishment along with a short essay about the experience. Her photo atop Kilimanjaro and strong support from Makerney's family, friends and fellow soldiers allowed her to clinch the \$10,000 prize. "They came together and helped me win. I wouldn't of even came close to winning if it weren't for them.

This award, meant to assist the recipient in reaching future life goals, will help fund Makerney's current endeavor of becoming a pilot. Presently, she is enrolled in the aviation program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla. The award from Nair,

accompanied by her involvement with Choctaw Nation programs such as the Higher Education and Career Development Programs are making it possible for her to attain an aviation degree.

With this flight education, Makerney hopes to apply the skill to either a military or emergency response career. This decision falls in line with her adventurous personality. "I am an adrenaline junk," stated Makerney as she recalled her past experiences and love for anything that gets her blood pumping.

As she pursues her degree from Southeastern, she is still active in the National Guard with the 3120th Engineer Support Company based in Muskogee where she is a heavy equipment operator. She spends her leisure in the outdoors hunting, fishing and camping, and attends Believers Church in Durant. She aspires to be a continual motivation to those around her as she seeks to overcome new and exciting challenges.

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# OBITUARIES

## Nancy Lee Ard

Nancy Lee Ard, 61, a lifelong resident of Atoka, passed away on June 4 in Tulsa.

She was born on Feb. 18, 1953, to Robert William and Myrtle Virginia (Peters) Mitchell, at Lane. She attended Lane Elementary School and Atoka High School. Nancy was a homemaker. Nancy was of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed spending time with her family and making people laugh. She loved to cook for her family. Nancy enjoyed gardening, music, and painting her nails; especially painting them red.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert William and Myrtle Virginia (Peters) Mitchell; brother, Lee Ray Mitchell; and sisters, Sue Ann Lee and Shirley Ann Munoz.

Nancy is survived by her daughters, Teresa Herrera and boyfriend Jason May of Durant, Nancy Sanchez and husband Jose of Atoka, Sylvia Morales and husband Vicente of Tushka; son, Adolph Menjivar and fiancé Shelley Hernandez of Dallas, Texas; sister, Vera Mitchell of Durant; brother, Lee Roy Mitchell of Lane; 14 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

## Mildred Reid Purkiss

Mildred Reid Purkiss went to be with the Lord peacefully on March 7.

She was a Christian, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Mildred was a descendant of original Choctaw enrollee Elizabeth Butler Jones, and can trace her heritage through Zachariah Jones and his father Reason Jones of Company E of the First Choctaw Rifles. Mildred was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Mildred was known for providing Christmas to the neighborhood children in need so they could have a Christmas and not be left out.

Mildred spent her childhood years in Oklahoma on a cattle ranch after the death of her mother Gracie May, and had to regularly ride in a horse-drawn wagon to attend school. In her later years she moved to Texas and spent many years in the Irving and Lancaster areas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton and Gracie Mae Butler Reid; her husband of 34 years, Robert Purkiss Sr.; her first husband William McCarty; sister, Claudia Lynn; brother, James Reid; grandson, Andrew McCarty; and a step-daughter, Bitsy Thelin.

Millie is survived by her step-brother, Donald Reid; sons, David McCarty (wife, Alice) and Mark McCarty; daughter, Dianne Bristow and husband, John; Dr. Mary Alavi and husband Mo; step-daughter, Sue Purkiss; step-son, Russell Purkiss and wife, Sonia; Robert Purkiss and wife, Chris. She was grandmother to 24 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 21 great-grandchildren. She was an outstanding woman and will be missed by all.

## Patricia Ann ‘Pat’ Smith

Patricia Ann “Pat” Smith, 85, passed away April 6. Pat was born Feb. 11, 1929, in Garland to James Elbert and Zadah Melvina (Garland) Jones. Pat married Troy Smith on Oct. 1, 1949, in Van Buren, Arkansas. Pat was a caring person who enjoyed helping others. She was an amazing cook and enjoyed preparing luscious meals and desserts for her family.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents; son, Gary; daughter, Betty; three brothers and two sisters.

Pat is survived by her husband Troy of the home; and son, Terry Smith and wife Debbie of Skiatook. She was blessed with four grandsons, two granddaughters, two step-granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

## Josephine Murphy

Josephine Murphy, 75, passed away on June 20. She was born the daughter of Osborne Roberts and Agnes Barcus on Jan. 6, 1939, in Bentley.

Josephine learned a life of hard work, gardening, sewing, quilting and many other native traits. She attended all levels of school in Bentley and founded her Christianity at Choctaw Baptist Church, where she met her husband, James Lee Murphy. They married on Jan. 6, 1954.

Josephine immediately became a stepmother to three children; she mothered nine children of her own. They later relocated to Dallas, Texas, in 1959 where they attended First Indian Baptist Church. Josephine obtained a career in the printing industry until the time of her retirement. Her hobbies were traveling, fishing, socializing at bingo halls, and enjoying the family gatherings.

Josephine was preceded in death by her husband, James Lee Murphy; and sons, Norman Lee Murphy and Myron Lance Murphy.

She leaves her legacy to her children, Patricia Moreno of Reston, Virginia, Leonard Murphy, Norma Murphy, Phyllis Davis, Don Murphy, Patrick Murphy and Mary Murphy of Irving, Texas; three stepchildren, Larry Murphy, James R. Taumby and Wanda Jo Burke of Tulsa; sister, Gladys Barcus of Hartshorne; brother-in-law, Jimmy Murphy of Oklahoma City; among numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Josephine’s final resting place is Round Lake Cemetery in Coalgate.

## Gary Hudson

Gary Hudson, 64, passed away on June 10, at his home in Idabel. He was born on Nov. 21, 1949, in Kingfisher.

Gary was a retired plumbing contractor. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting. Gary was very talented with his hands and did wood carving. He was raised in the Idabel area and had moved back from Dallas, Texas, about 13 years ago.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Doris “Dottie” Brown; and a brother, Johnny Hudson.

Gary leaves to cherish his memory his daughters and son-in-law, Shauna Hudson of Burbank, Calif., and Laura and James Hawkins of Dallas; his father, Max Hudson of Shawnee; grandchildren, Caitlin Hawkins and David Hawkins both of Dallas; mother of his children, Sharon Hudson of Dallas; several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.



## Louise ‘Lou’ Parks

Louise “Lou” Parks, 77, passed away on March 5 at her home in Idabel.

She was born on Nov. 13, 1936, in Garvin, the daughter of James and Myrtle Bushers John. Louise managed Kentucky Fried Chicken in Idabel for over 31 years. She made many friends down through the years working there. Louise was affiliated with the Baptist faith and was a lifetime resident of the Idabel area. Louise was a dedicated mother and grandmother and her family was the most important thing in her life. She enjoyed preparing meals for the whole family. Louise was affectionately known as “Indian Mommy” to many.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a grandson, Glen Don Burnett.

Louise leaves to cherish her memory her sons and daughters-in-law, Larry Hargis of Idabel, Michael and Lisa Hargis of Idabel and Terry and Sue Hargis of Horatio, Arkansas.; a daughter, Barbara Jean Glass of Idabel; brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Mary John of Fremont, California and Buck and Edith John of Idabel; sisters and brother-in-law, Bobbie and Don Scott of Idabel, Geraldine Garrison of Idabel and Doris Ross of Hugo; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Interment was at Canfield Cemetery.

## Norene Ann Crow

Norene Ann Crow, 68, a life long Lane resident, passed away June 9 at her residence in Atoka.

She was born on June 16, 1945, to Ellis and Edna Mae (Peters) Jackson, at Talihina. She attended Lane Elementary School and graduated from Atoka High School in 1964. Norene was a housewife. She married Virgil Lee Crow on August 18, 1967, in Atoka. Norene attended Black Jack Church. She loved sewing and fishing. Norene was an active participant with the Choctaw Senior Citizens Group and at one time held the position of president of the group.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ellis and Edna Mae (Peters) Jackson.

Norene is survived by her husband, Virgil Crow of Lane; sons, Perry Michael Crow of Lane and “Virgil” Lynn Crow and wife Krista of Mustang; daughter, Mechelle Crow of Lane; sister, Veronica McDaniel and husband Chock of Black Jack; grandchildren, Easton Hunter Crow of Lane, Kylee Shaddoe Crow of Lane, Ginna Leeanne Crow of Mustang, Carah Lynn Crow of Mustang and Vance Luke Crow of Mustang; special niece, Jenifer Wagoner and husband Alvis of Lane; great-niece, Maci Wagoner of Lane; great-nephews, Haley Wagoner of Lane and Logan Wagoner of Lane; brothers and sisters-in-law, Christine, Carolyn, Delinda, Mary, Frances, Barbara, Glen, Robert, John Henry, Ralph, Jerry, Douglas, and Jimmy; she is also survived by other relatives and many dear friends.

Interment was at Double Springs Cemetery in Lane.

## Rayson Roy Nicholas

Rayson Roy Nicholas, age 86, a longtime Atoka resident, passed away on June 28 at Atoka County Memorial Hospital in Atoka.

He was born on Jan. 3, 1928, to Willis and Winey Mae (Williams) Nicholas, at Boswell. He attended school at Jones Academy and received a Bachelor’s Degree in teaching from SOSU in Durant. Rayson retired from the Air Force after serving his country for 20 years and he was also a retired teacher from Atoka and Antlers Schools. Rayson proudly served his country in the Air Force during WWII and the Korean War.

He married Juanita (Smith) on Feb. 14, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church in Atoka.

Rayson attended the First United Methodist Church in Atoka. He enjoyed tinkering on antique cars, photography, and was an avid reader. Rayson was a musician who enjoyed playing the guitar and keyboard at gospel gatherings.

Rayson was preceded in death by his parents, Willis Nicholas and Winey Mae Brewer; the mother of his children, Nellie Lucille Strickland; son, Jonathan David Nicholas; infant son, Rayson Roy Nicholas Jr.; sisters, Alberta Smith and Betty Ivers; infant brother, James Nicholas; infant sister, Wynona Belvin; adopted brother, Harold Dean Gibson; step-sons, Harold Darcy McConnell and Jimmy Dennis McConnell; and a step-daughter, Theresa McClain.

Rayson is survived by his wife, Juanita Nicholas of the home in Atoka; daughters, Cynthia Rakhshan of Irving, Texas, Phyllis Nicholas of Euleuss, Texas, Rose Mary Nicholas of Irving, Texas, Janet Ringwald and husband Robert of Blossom, Texas, Anne Marie Wilson and husband James of Irving, Texas; sons, Roy Nicholas of Lane, Andrew Nicholas and his special daughter-in-law Rosanna of Atoka; step-children, Eddie J. McConnell of Buffalo Valley and Cynthia Diane McNeil of Waycross, Georgia; sisters, Theda Carnes of Lane and Wylene Wadley of Okmulgee; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; numerous relatives and many dear friends.

Interment was at Boggy Depot Cemetery.

## John A. McCurtain

John A. McCurtain, 87, passed away on May 17 at Veteran’s Hospital in Oklahoma City. John was born in Hodges on Feb. 4, 1927.

John was a member for 47 years at Knob Hill Baptist Church where he worked very hard to meet the needs of his fellow church members, working as a deacon, and also providing physical and spiritual support for seniors. John was a “Beloved Man” at the OKC Choctaw Alliance and a member of Uriah Lodge No. 227, Wheatland. John’s major missions in life were his wife, nurturing his family, being a good friend, catching fish and most importantly his love for God. At the age of 17 John served in the Marine Corps during WWII. John lived in OKC since 1949 where he was a route salesman for Wonder Bread for 33 years on the south side of OKC.

John was preceded in death by his parents, GE McCurtain and Nancy McCurtain (McAfee); two brothers, Edmond and Loren; his oldest daughter, Paula; grandson, Ryne; and great-grandson, Kevin.

John is survived by his wife of 66 years, Doris Pauline McCurtain (Brewster); big sister, Sally Walker; two sons, John Jr. and Mike; daughter, Susan Ward (McCurtain); daughters-in-law, Tarna and Connie; and son-in-law, Gregg; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Burial was at Wheatland Cemetery.



## Samuel David Sinclair

Samuel David Sinclair, 66, passed away May 8 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada.

He was born Dec. 8, 1947, in Oklahoma City to Phillip and Vera (Wilson) Sinclair. He was raised in California.

Mr. Sinclair served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a salesman and later worked five years in security for the Chickasaw Nation. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Vera Sinclair; and a brother, Douglas Hughes.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of the home; a step-daughter, Francine Parchcorn with husband, Buddy; a step-granddaughter, Courtney Parchcorn; and many friends.

He was always willing to help others and he will be missed by many. Funeral services were held at the Choctaw Veterans Cemetery in Tvshka Homma.



## Vera Mae Davidson

Graveside services for Vera Mae Davidson were held on March 11 in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hugo. Vera was sent to heaven with her family by her side on March 9 in Hugo at the age of 76. Vera Mae Davidson was born May 7, 1937, in Hugo, raised by her grandparents, William N. and Pearl (Thomas) Oakes. She married Jerry E. “Cotton” Davidson Sr. in Grant on Oct. 27, 1953. Vera was a homemaker and lived in this area since 2005 after moving here from California.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry “Cotton” Davidson Sr.; and daughter, Robyn Hope Davidson-Bias.

Vera is survived by sons, Jerry E. Davidson Jr. and Richard C. Davidson both of California, and her sons will continue to live in and care for the family home in Hugo; daughter, Kathy Ryan of Morgan Hill, California; grandchildren, Heather Ryan of Santa Rosa, California, Kelli Ryan of Campbell, California, Aaron Ryan of Dallas, Texas, Ashley Ahle, Robert Bias Jr., Stephanie Bias all of Pochontas, Arkansas, and Megan Davidson of Hugo; two great-grandchildren, Alexander Sean Ahle and Jasmine Rayne Ahle of Pochontas, Arkansas.



## Iva Mae Tubbs

Iva Mae Tubbs, 83, departed this life on June 30. She was born in Albion to William F. and Laura (Potts) Logan, an original Choctaw enrollee. She was a loving wife, devoted mother, loyal sister, and doting grandmother who will be deeply missed.

Iva was preceded in death by parents, William F. and Laura (Potts) Logan; sons, Durand (Randy) Essman and Bill (Tommy Jack) Lawson; brothers, Raymond Logan, Charles (Buck) Logan and John Logan; sisters, Lucille Keeney, Jewell Edens, Erma Hammond, F. Susan White, Joyce Logan (stillborn), and Virginia Thomas.

She is survived by husband, Buddy Tubbs of Oklahoma City; son Benny Lawson and wife of Anchorage, Alaska; brother William Logan and wife Estelle of Poteau; sister, Eva Lanning of McAlester; sister, Glenna Creasy and husband Frank Creasy of Toledo, Oregon, eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, great and great, great nieces/nephews and friends.

## Betty Delvenia Buttram

Betty Delvenia Buttram, 80, of Springfield, Missouri, passed away May 18 in her home after a long illness.

She was born Dec. 17, 1933, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Elvin and Leona (Butler) Dodson. She was a member for many years of the Assembly of God Church. She was thrilled to have met Chief Pyle and was very impressed when he visited her brother shortly before his death. She enjoyed playing the harmonica, singing, piano playing, traveling, family, and enjoyed many crafts.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Wanda Sue and Patsy; and one brother, John Dodson.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Daniel Buttram; two daughters, Beverly Claussen, Kathryn D. Zlab with husband Victor; a son, Timothy Buttram with wife Darla; 11 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ethel Schuler, Letha Teague; and one brother, Elvin Clifton Dodson Jr.



## Vera Lavada Brooks Hammond

Vera Lavada Brooks Hammond, 84, passed away June 13. A longtime resident of Houston, she was born Oct. 25, 1929 in Ulan to Bryan and Ella Brooks.

She was preceded in death by one of her children, Gail Nolan.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Daly P. Hammond; children, Carol Collier, Nancy Guillory, Ronald Hammond, Terry Hammond-Hurtig, and Karen Torgerson; grandchildren, Tim Collier, Mark Collier, Melinda Dobson, Matt Collier, Michelle Guillory, Josh Hammond, Samantha Hammond, Shane Stoewer, Sarah Girard, Lucas Dinkins, Logan Dinkins, and CJ Torgerson; and many beloved great-grandchildren.



## Ambrose Gene Parr

Ambrose Gene Parr, 76, of Ponder, Texas, passed away on July 2. He was born on Jan. 3, 1938 in Oswalt to Arthur Parr and Pauline Loard Parr. He married Mary Elizabeth Bullard in Oklahoma on March 3, 1957. He was a Little League Baseball coach, Ponder ISD School Board President, and a member of the Plumbing Union in Fort Worth 146 Local.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Gene is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Mike, Jay, and Sam Parr; sister, Patricia Stewart; brother, Charles Parr; seven grandchildren, Chris, Aaron, Jordan, Joseph, Kara, Kobie, and Kassie; and three great-grandchildren, Brooklynn, Bryonna, and Brian.

Graveside services were held at Sanger Cemetery in Sanger, Texas.





# OBITUARIES

## Lenora Jean Leese Munsey

Lenora Jean Leese Munsey, 83, went home to be with the Lord on July 8 at her son's home in Oklahoma City. She was born on April 1, 1931 in Pauls Valley to Pete and Vivian Leese. Commonly known as Lee, she considered Springfield, Mo. her home since locating there in the early 60's.

Lee put her trust in God and her Savior Jesus Christ on Aug. 28, 1954. She was a member of the Broadway Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her husband Roy; her father Pete Leese; her mother Vivian Beal Leese; and two sisters, Ruth Ellen Marsh and Johnnie Plummer.

She is survived by her son, Ronnie of Oklahoma City; sister, Doris Elmore of Norman; brother, C.E. Leese of Edmond; half brother, Paul Rotenbury of Comanche; three grandchildren, Stephanie Andreatta, Rhonda Hanna and Darren Munsey; and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at Greenlawn Cemetery in Springfield, Mo.

## Theresa Louise Green

Theresa Louise Green, 67, of Rattan, passed away on July 19 in Paris, Texas.

Louise was born March 29, 1947 in Cloudy, the daughter of Frankie Leflore and Betty (Dickson) Leflore and had lived all of her life in the Rattan area. She married Ruble Coy "Pete" Green on June 22, 1972.

Louise spent the majority of her life as a homemaker and healthcare provider. She was an easygoing lady who loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She liked to fish but didn't like worms. Louise enjoyed watching Atlanta Braves baseball and liked cooking and shelling peas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Elizabeth Green; also three brothers, Robert Leflore, Larry Leflore and Roy Gene Leflore.

Survivors include her husband, Bro. Pete Green; three sons, Michael Green, Tim Green and Matthew Green all of Rattan; one brother, Wayne Leflore of Cloudy; sisters, Alice Darling of Coalgate, Carolyn Hulbert of Cloudy, Margie Oulette of Antlers, and Linda Brine also of Antlers; eight grandchildren, Coy, Michele, Zachary, Tyler, Buck, Timothy "Prowler," Matt, and Nathaniel "Peanut" along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held in Belzoni Cemetery in Rattan.

## Mary Katheryn (Terry) Madrid

Mary Katheryn (Terry) Madrid, 81, passed away on July 20.

Mary was born Nov. 19, 1932. Mary was the daughter of Louie (Chili) Terry and Kate Terry of the Terry Hill fame in Hugo. Mary grew up in Hugo and married Poly Madrid.

Mary and Poly were married in Hugo on Jan. 24, 1953, for over 61 years. Since Poly was in the Army, Mary had to move to various locations in the USA and spent most of their time on this earth in Albuquerque, N.M. and Grant.

Mary will now join her daughter Doris, grandson Daniel, son-in-law Greg, her parents and brother in a spiritual place. Mary was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Mary was survived by her husband, Poly Madrid; daughters, Brenda and Nancy Madrid; son, Paul and daughter-in-law Debbie Madrid; son, Billy Madrid; granddaughters Nichole Dykes and Lori Mugg; grandsons, Paul and Shawn Madrid; and great grandson, Paul Madrid.

## Barbara Jean Stephenson

Barbara Jean Stephenson, 76, died July 27 at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte, Colo.

Barbara was born to Joe Hamilton Dillard and Gladys May Mead Dillard on Jan. 19, 1938 in Phoenix, Ariz. She married her husband of 61 years, Kenneth Stephenson on July 14, 1953 in Hastings, Neb. Barbara worked for many years with her husband Ken in their insurance business as an office manager.

Barbara was baptized on April 29, 1959 in Colorado Springs as a Jehovah's Witness. She was active in the Kingdom Hall as well as the ministry and enjoyed sharing the kingdom hope with others. She was a devoted, loving, classy and nurturing mother and grandmother. She loved her grandchildren dearly. In her spare time she enjoyed painting, quilting, embroidery and playing card games, especially pinochle. Barbara was well known for her hospitality. Her grandfather was a Choctaw Original Enrollee on the Dawes Rolls.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her grandson Kevin Gates and her great-grandson Landon Hatcher.

Barbara is survived by her husband Kenneth Stephenson of Del Norte, Colo.; her children Brenda Gates and husband Steve of Del Norte, Colo., Cynthia Cline and husband Richard, David Stephenson and wife Tammy of Palisade, Colo., James Stephenson and wife Linda of Monte Vista, Colo., Melissa Romero of Alamosa, Colo., and Melinda Chavez and husband Steve of Alamosa, Colo.; sisters, Joan Schmidt and husband Willis of Montana and Sherra Dawn Owens of New Mexico; as well as 13 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

## Bertha G. (White) Lewis

Bertha G. (White) Lewis, 80, went on to claim her Heavenly reward May 22.

She was born at home in the small country town of Snow to Alice M. Baker and the Rev. Abner W. White Sr. on April 26, 1934. She attended both Goodland and Wheelock Academy, Choctaw boarding schools.

She and Robert "Trouble" Lewis were married and he preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her parents, five sisters and one brother, and two of her children, Lissa F. Lewis and Wadis L. Love Sr.

She is survived by one daughter, LacQuita J. Lewis of the home; one son, Kenneth D. Lewis of Durant; her "baby" sister, Patricia "Tators" Brown of Liberty and her "baby" brother, Howard "Fats" White of Blue. She also is survived by her best friend of more than 75 years and her sister-in-law, Elsie M. Lewis of Durant, as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and many others whose lives she touched.

Aspecial thank you to the Choctaw Nation CHR Department for assisting with the funeral.

## Jeremiah LeFlore

Jeremiah LeFlore, 71, passed away on July 21 at his home in Calera.

He was born on Dec. 23, 1942 in Bennington to Jerry and Mary (Barcus) LeFlore. Jeremiah attended elementary school at Jones Academy, graduated from Bennington High School and in 1963, attended Chilocco Indian School where he learned auto mechanics. Jeremiah proudly served his country in the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam Conflict earning many awards including the Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Stars. Jeremiah was Honorably Discharged on March 25, 1980. Jeremiah dearly loved his Lord and began his life preaching the gospel. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage and he enjoyed fishing, photography and reading and studying the Bible.

Jeremiah was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry and Mary LeFlore; and sister, Esther Bob.

Jeremiah is survived by his sons, Charles LeFlore and wife Jeanette LeFlore of Durant and Dale Roberts of Ada; granddaughters, Ashlee Rosas, Zoe LeFlore and soon to be born, Alexa LeFlore; sister, Alice Homer; brother Neimiah Gibson and wife Margaret Gibson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment with Military Honors was in Bennington Cemetery.

## Delbert Truman Hunter

Delbert Truman Hunter passed away after a short illness on Feb. 28 in Tulare, Calif.

Delbert was born in Stonewall and came to California during the "Dust Bowl" years with his mother and siblings. Delbert's father Tandy Hunter, along with his brother Andel Hunter were original Choctaw enrollees. Delbert was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and loved to learn about everything Choctaw. Delbert drove trucks long and short distances for many years, and owned his own auto painting shop which he enjoyed working in until he was in his 80s. Delbert will be greatly missed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and attended all of their extracurricular activities and celebration events.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years Nancy Ellen Hunter in 2012 and a son Donald Hunter in 1984. Delbert was laid to rest beside his beloved wife Nancy.

He leaves behind his children, Gabriel Hunter of Tulare, Calif., Deborah Hunter of Tulare, Calif., Rhonda Espinoza of Lindsay, Calif., Pam Johnson of Manteca Calif., Delbert Hunter of Los Angeles area, Gloria of Hollywood, Calif., and Jack Hunter of Colorado. He also leaves behind several cherished grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

## David Lee Manning

David Lee Manning, 63, of Caney, passed away on June 5 at Atoka.

He was born on Sept. 9, 1950, to Leon and Eva (Dodds) Manning, at Caney. David graduated from Caney High School in 1968, he later attended Murray State College in Tishomingo where he played baseball. David was a bus driver for the Choctaw Nation. He was a retired captain for the Houston Fire Department. He married Patsy Lois (King) on April 26, 1969, at the Voca Baptist Church in Caney. David was of the Baptist faith. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed boating, playing softball, and he was a big Houston Texan fan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Eva (Dodds) Manning; and a sister, Annette Manning.

David is survived by his wife, Pat Lois Manning of the home in Caney; daughter, Wendy Coats of Caney; sons, Bryan Manning and wife Samantha of Caney, Michael Manning and wife Tracy of Caney, Larry Manning of Caney; sister, Rita Allen of Wichita Falls, Texas; brothers, Earl Manning and wife Barbara of Cypress, Texas, Herman Manning and wife DeeAnn of Del City, Ronnie Manning and wife Lois of Caney; grandsons, Hunter Manning of Caney, Blayne Coats of Caney, Bryson Manning of Caney, Tyler Manning of Caney, OK, Vance Owens of Howe, Texas; great-grandson, Finley Hill of Tushka; special brother-in-law, Charlie King, Carl King; special sister-in-law, Donna Webb; along with numerous special nieces and nephews.

Interment was in Perkins Cemetery.

## Edgar Dale 'Eddie' Smith

Edgar Dale "Eddie" Smith, 61, passed away July 24 in Hugo.

Eddie was born Nov. 19, 1952 in Hugo to James Edgar and Mary Marie (Ellis) Smith. He married Wylene Napier on Sept. 7, 2001. Eddie lived in the Hugo area all of his life. He worked as a backhoe operator for many years, and he was very skilled at what he did. He was employed by Choctaw Nation OEH for 12 years, and he and his wife also owned and operated B&E Backhoe Service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching football, and being "Paw-Paw" to Blane, Easton, Talon, & Ace.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his two sons, "Little Eddie" Smith and Jason Smith.

Eddie is survived by his wife, Wylene; one brother, Michael and wife, Ladonna, of Hugo; one sister, Linda Smith of Hugo; stepchildren, Todd, Jason, Paige, and Matt Merida; and his grandchildren.

## Travis Lee Baker

Travis Lee Baker, 55, of Durant, passed away on May 23. He was born to Jackson Jones and Emeline Baker in Talihina on July 5, 1958.

Mr. Baker was preceded in death by his mother, Emeline Baker; and a nephew, Everett Baker.

Mr. Baker is survived by his sisters, Louella Baker of Durant and Joella Hicks of Durant; brothers, Melvin Womack and wife Marty of Kemp, Marvin Womack and wife Barbara of Kemp, and James Baker and wife Anne of Colorado; nieces and nephews, Samantha Cartledge of Durant, Frank Littrell of Durant, Marvin Littrell of Texas, Tamara Couch of Kingston, Terry Waitman of Bokchito, Edith Robinson of Aubrey, Texas, Sky Womack of Calera, Mandy and Harley Dillard of Kemp, Chasity Barkley of New Allison, Marvin Womack of Kemp, Frank Womack of Kemp, Patrick Womack of Kemp, Glenn Baker of Colorado and Ruthie Womack of Aubrey, Texas.

## Robert Don Paul Jr.

Robert Don Paul Jr., 60, of Tulsa, fought a valiant battle with leukemia but lost the war on April 29 in Muskogee.

He was a proud Marine and a proud Choctaw. At the time of his passing he was employed with Homeland Security as a Federal Officer. Bob was a descendent of Mary Willis, daughter of Raleigh Britt Willis; Maggie Rosenthal, daughter of Mary Willis and George Rosenthal.

He was preceded in death by his father Robert Paul Sr.; his brother Phillip Paul; aunts, Pauline Wood and Ruby Boveri; cousin Steve Phillips; grandparents: E.C. and Carrie Lister, and Jack and Ruby Paul.

Bob is survived by his mother, Nadine Paul of Chickasha; his wife of 42 years, Debra Paul; children, J. Justin Paul and wife Glenna, Robin Paul and four grandchildren, all of Tulsa; sister, Patti Paul Abercrombie; and nephew, Christian Paul of Chickasha.

## Thomas Willie Anderson

Thomas Willie Anderson, 80, of Haywood, died Feb. 26 at McAlester Regional Medical Center.

He was born to Susan Lawrence and Thomas Anderson on Jan. 8, 1934 in Atoka. He attended elementary school at Jones Academy, Hartshorne and high school at Atoka. He also attended Southern California School of Bible, California Baptist College, College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif. and Seminary Extension Indian Nation Baptist Church in Seminole.

He served in the National Guard Company "L" 180<sup>th</sup> Infantry 45<sup>th</sup> Division. He enlisted with the U.S. Air Force and served as an aircraft mechanic at Thule AFB in Greenland. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 0213 Oklahoma.

After his military service, he married Rhoda Miller whom he had been engaged to during military years. He began a family and moved to Denver, settling in Pueblo where he worked for Colorado Fuel & Iron. He moved to Los Angeles, working for the City of L.A. and buying a home.

The Lord called him to preach, so he resigned his job and began a full-time Christian ministry. He had been a Christian since age 14 and he began preparing for the ministry through studies.

Missions he began and pastored were 1<sup>st</sup> Southern Indian Baptist Church in Bell Gardens, Calif., 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Baptist Church in Houston, Covenant Mission in Durant, 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Mission in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma Community Baptist in Atoka (Stringtown), Zion Baptist Mission in San Diego, Calif.

Established churches he pastored were 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist, Hoopa Indian Reservation, 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Baptist, Shawnee, Greenhill Baptist in Talihina, Emmanuel Baptist in Claremore, and Glacerview Baptist Chapel on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana.

He was commissioned by the Home Mission Board (North American Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention. In 2002 he was selected as one of the "All Star" Missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was called by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to serve as Catalytic Missionary to work with Indian Baptist churches in the eastern half of Oklahoma.

After retiring from BGCO he served as Director of Missions for the Chik-ka-sha Association until his ill health became intolerable.

The love of his life was "going and telling people about Jesus." During his 50 years of preaching he traveled miles in the U.S., D.C. and into the Arctic Circle.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Susan Anderson; and a brother, Ellis Haskell Anderson.

Surviving relatives include his wife of 61 years, Rhoda; sons, Robert Douglas Anderson of Haywood and J. Wayne Anderson with wife Martha of Marlow; grandchildren, Mandy Jo Lawson and husband Hank of Caney, Joshua Cordell Anderson of Tulsa, Miko Travis Anderson and Mikala Dawn Anderson of Sapulpa; great-grandchildren, Shane Tisdale of Caney, Callie Jo Armstrong of Caney, Lilly Anderson of Tulsa and Tara Anderson of Tulsa; sisters, Loveda Holley and Gladys Crittenden of Atoka and Delois Powell of Tushka; also several nieces, nephews and friends.

The family appreciates and thanks everyone for all that was done during Tom's illness and later in our time of loss.

Final resting place was the Miller Family Cemetery in Caney.

## Marjorie Juanita Bassett

Marjorie Juanita Bassett, 87, a longtime resident of Okmulgee, went to be with her Lord on April 1.

She was born April 1, 1927 to Absolum and Lottie Ann Francis (Henson) Wallen in Woody, near Keota. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Morris and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Her grandfather Thompson Wallen was a Choctaw Original Enrollee.

She worked for Okmulgee Memorial Hospital for over 20 years as a LPN. No matter how many long hours she worked, she would always make time to spend with her family. She was not only a hard worker at the hospital but she worked just as hard at home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Absolum and Lottie Wallen; husband, James Edward Bassett in 1959; brother, Harold Gene Wallen; daughter, Jolene Gaye Bassett; and grandson, Joshua Don Furr.

Survivors include her daughter, Janelle Williams and husband, Jimmy of Preston; son, Donald Bassett and wife, Mai of Noble; son, James Bassett of Okmulgee; sister, Muri Coy of Okmulgee; five grandchildren, Jamie Williams, Jimmie Rae Williams, Christine Alinger, Bryan Bassett and Stephanie Bassett; seven great-grandchildren, Jarron Williams, Addison Williams, Talon Fish, Jaxon Canady, Alexis Bassett, Elijah Alinger and Tenley Alinger; and numerous other relatives and friends. Burial was at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

## Barbara Jean Jenkins-Peddicord

Barbara Jean Jenkins-Peddicord, 73, passed away on March 19. She was born Dec. 9, 1940, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Eugene Edward Foster and Hilda Joyce Smith Foster.

Barbara married Robert Murray Peddicord Jr. on June 12, 1978. She served in the U.S. Navy.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Robert M. Peddicord Jr.; sister, Edna Jane Diggs; nephews, Paul Eugene Diggs and Charles Jefferson Diggs; and a stepson, Charles Standley Peddicord.





## Jones Academy 4 – H Club successful at Pittsburg County Livestock Show



Photos Provided

(Left) Left to Right – Swine Judge, John Staude, Jones Academy 4–H student, Kirklan Loman, Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor, Brandon Spears, and Jones Academy Agriculture Aide, Micah Tiger. (Right) Lexus Sewell and her Premium Sale Crossbred.

Jones Academy 4 – hers recently competed at the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock show held at the McAlester Expo February 26 – March 1st. All schools in Pittsburg County compete at this annual event each year. Only the top forty two swine are selected for premium sale honors. Jones Academy 4 - H students qualified nineteen of the possible forty two sale slots. Kirklan Loman exhibited the Reserve Grand Market Hog overall. Kirklan’s 278 pound Hampshire pig named “Two Socks” was bred and raised at Jones Academy Swine Farm. Kirklan is a sophomore in high school, and is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation.

Other Jones Academy 4 – H students selected for premium sale are Kirklan Loman – 1st Place & Breed Champion Chester White Breeding Gilt, Corey Whitecalf – 1st Place & Breed Champion Poland China, Cody Clark – 2nd Place & Reserve Breed Champion Hampshire, Diaz Moore – 1st Place Class I Hampshire, Joe Simpson – 1st Place Class II Hampshire, Araceli Ortiz 1st Place Class III Crossbred, Lilly Bernal

– 2nd Place Calss II Hampshire, Odalys Lajano 2nd Place Class I Crossbred, Lexus Sewell – 2nd Place Class III Crossbred, Truvon Willis - Qualified Hampshire, Gabriella Chatkehoodle – Qualified Hampshire, Adayna Sewell- Qualified Crossbred, Bryan Hawkins- Qualified Crossbred, Jackie Sam – Qualified Crossbred, Christopher Rains – Qualified Crossbred, Denyuhia Willis – Qualified Crossbred, LaRae NewHolly – Qualified Crossbred, and David Murillo – Qualified Crossbred.

The spring show pig season starts for the Jones Academy 4 –H hog barn students in the month of August. This is when the arrival of the newborn babies takes place. Students help with the birthing and weaning process. Feeding, brushing, exercising, cleaning and rebedding pens are daily care routines students perform to prepare their project for show day. Brandon Spears – Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor stated, “This program is about teaching our students responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship as well as giving them a sense of ownership.”

## Veteran's services summit to visit Choctaw Nation providing help and training



Photo Provided

Choctaw Nation color guard at capitol grounds.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting the Southern Plains Region Veterans Training Summit at the Choctaw Nation Hotel and Casino Resort in Durant Aug. 27 and 28.

All veterans, anyone who has ever served in the military in any capacity, is welcomed and encouraged to attend the event which will teach attendees about available grants, give updates on services and benefits, offer employment

training, and bring veterans in contact with agencies aimed at offering services.

Transportation will be provided on Aug. 28, the second day of the summit. Local community centers are available to arrange transportation for attendees before and until Aug. 25.

For more information, Mary Culley is available to answer questions at (405) 626-3426 or (405) 456-3876.

## Atoka Choctaw Language Graduates



Photo Provided

Atoka Choctaw language class graduation pictured Linda McCarty, Sherley Zaicek, Councilman Anthony Dillard, Beverly Kinsey, Kindra Sparks, Twilia Pitman, Tanya Bess, Marcia Hampton, Director language Teri Billy, and Atoka Teacher Ron Scott, not pictured is Kimberley Baca, Kathy Moore, Karen Thomas.



During Labor Day Festival this year, join the conversation and share your experiences on social media by using the #ChoctawFest tag. The photos you share may be used in future issues of the Biskinik or on Facebook.

## Southeastern Oklahoma State University welcomes Choctaw President



Photo by Zach Maxwell

Southeastern Oklahoma State University welcomes Sean Burrage as 20th president. A Choctaw Nation tribal member, Burrage took over duties the beginning of July. Welcome ceremonies were held at the Choctaw Event Center with former Chief Gregory Pyle, Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation, Chief Gary Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. in attendance.

### Lindsay Hancock wins Native Essay Writer's Contest

Lindsay Hancock, an Oklahoma City Choctaw, recently won the HK Law Native Essay Writer's Contest. There were five first-place winners nationally. Lindsey's winning essay was on "The Guardian" statue, which sits atop the Oklahoma City capitol dome. Lindsey will be entering her senior year of high school with plans to major in microbiology and pursue her research interests in Native American health issues.



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<b>Aluminum Cans</b> 	<b>Print Cartridges</b> 	<b>Styrofoam</b> 
<b>Shredded Paper</b> 	<b>Medicine Bottles</b> 	<b>E-Waste</b> <i>Anything that runs on Electricity.</i> 
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# Choctaw Resistance to Removal (Part III)

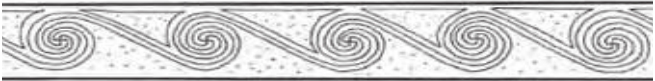
In May, Iti Fabvssa began a four part series, looking at different ways the Choctaw people resisted Removal from our homeland and the Trail of Tears. First, we looked at armed resistance.

Editor's Note: This month's Iti Fabvssa is part three in a four part series.

Last month, we looked at ways Choctaw people resisted signing the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty that ceded the last of the Choctaw homeland, setting up the Trail of Tears. This month, we focus on Choctaw individuals who, after the Treaty was signed, refused to remove from the homeland.

Several articles of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek granted land to named Choctaw individuals, to men bearing certain leadership titles in Choctaw society, to Choctaw people who had land under cultivation, and to Choctaw orphans. In addition to this, under Article 14 of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, any head of a Choctaw household could register with the Indian Agent to be granted dual Choctaw and United States citizenship and to obtain legal title to land in Mississippi proportional to the size of his household.

Following the Treaty, large numbers of Choctaw people came to the Indian agent, William Ward in order to register and claim their Treaty right to stay on their own lands. Ward refused to register nearly all of the hundreds of Choctaw people who came to him, sometimes going into hiding (DeRosier 1970:135) and even threatening applicants with physical violence (Debo 1961:69). As a result, Article 14 of the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty was simply not honored. In the meantime, swarms of land-hungry Anglo-Americans and their slaves rushed into Choctaw country and numerically overwhelmed the Choctaw people still there. Lands improved by Choctaw people for centuries were sold to the



## Iti Fabvssa



newcomers by the federal government, oftentimes literally right from under the feet of Choctaw families. In 1842, Congressional investigations began into the conduct of William Ward and rampant land fraud. These investigations were

not fully concluded for more than 60 years. In 1845, as a partial result of investigation, Congress granted some of the Choctaws who remained in Mississippi script for the amount of land they were entitled to under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. However, the full amount of script was redeemable only in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Some Anglo-Americans quickly found ways of defrauding Choctaw people out of this script. Businesses were even set up for that sole purpose (Reeves 1985:225).

Some Anglo-Americans used increasingly brutal tactics. Choctaws who remained in Mississippi had their houses burned down, fences destroyed, and cattle sent in to graze down their growing gardens. They were physically abused, chained, and even beaten to death (Tolbert 1958:66-67).

Under such treatment, perhaps 4,000 Choctaws removed from Mississippi to Indian Territory during the government-sponsored Removals of the 1840s. Still 2,000 Choctaw people simply refused to remove from their homeland. The price that these people paid to resist Removal was astronomical. They were forced into the most marginal land, and made their living as tenant farmers, or workers on Anglo-American plantations in racially segregated Southern society. Facing discrimination and abuse, they drew into their own communities and maintained traditional Choctaw life as best they could.

The final part of the Choctaw Trail of Tears occurred in 1902 to 1903 when 1,426 Choctaws were moved to Oklahoma. These individuals as well as those who had traveled west before became the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Choctaws who still remained in Mississippi and Louisiana would eventually become the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Conversational Dialogue

Ohoyo mvt nan vnnoa anoli.

Pronounced:

**O-hoh-yoh maht nahn ahn-noh-wah ah-noh-lih**

That woman is telling a story.

Word Meaning:

Ohoyo- woman mvt – that/those

Nan vnnoa – story anoli—tell/telling

Katimikma nan vnnoa ish anola chi?

Pronounced:

**Kah-tih-mihk-ma nahn ahn-noh-wah esh ahn-noh-la chehn**

When will you tell a story?

Word Meaning:

Katimikma- when nan vnnoa—story ish—you

Anola – tell achi – future tense-the ‘a’ is in the preceding word anola

Holisso himona chompa li tuk.

Pronounced:

**Hoh-lis-soh he-moh-na chohm-pa lih tohk**

I bought a new book.

Word Meaning:

Holisso—book/paper himona—new

Chompa—buy/purchase li—I tuk—past tense marker

Holisso hochefo la chi.

Pronounced:

**Hoh-lis-soh hoh-che-foh la chehn**

I will read the book.

Word Meaning:

holisso—book/paper hochefo—read

la—I (changes from li to la and follows a verb)

achi (future tense—the ‘a’ is in the preceding word ‘la’)

Nanta ish achi tuk?

Pronounced:

**Nahn-tah esh ah-che**

What did you say?

Word Meaning:

Nanta—what ish—you achi – say

Tuk—past tense marker

Yvmmvt achukma!

Pronounced:

**Yahm-maht ah-chohk-ma**

That is good!

Word Meaning:

yvmmvt—that/those

achukma—good/fine

## Choctaws discover lost Civil War vets



Photo Provided

Historic preservation workers install the headstone of Tecumseh King at the King Cemetery near Kinta, OK.

By BRANDON FRYE

Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation citizens and Historic Preservation employees worked for two months to prepare for the May 24 ceremony honoring two full-blood Choctaw Civil War confederate soldiers at their discovered gravesites in King Cemetery near Kinta.

“I was doing family research and discovered the cemetery,” Karrie Shannon, Choctaw Nation citizen and employee in McAlester, said. “In November, I made a trip to Kinta, Oklahoma to locate the King Cemetery. I found the cemetery unmaintained and abandoned. No one might have entered there for 121 years, it was so thick you had a hard time making your way through the area.”

Private Henry Cooper and 2nd Lieutenant Jerry Riddle received military government issued headstones and were honored during the cemetery dedication in May. Both were descendants of Chief Mosholatubbee, who had seven sons with the surname King and one daughter surnamed Cooper.

Skyler Robinson, Cemetery Restoration Coordinator with Historic Preservation, said his crew works to preserve and protect abandoned Choctaw cemeteries like King Cemetery.

“It was in really bad shape, thick with briars and bushes,” Robinson said. “We went in and cleaned it up, put a new fence around it with a gate, and then placed a couple of headstones.”

District 5 Tribal Council Member Ron Perry was in attendance and spoke to dedicate King Cemetery during the event. Gene Arpelar said the prayer and blessing. The Choctaw Nation Color Guard sent members, led by Herbert Jessie, to give the 21-gun salute and play Taps. The Color Guard, while honoring the veterans, also showed gratitude to their relatives.

“We were there to do the honors,” Harlan Wright, Color Guard member, said. “They folded a flag and presented it to the next of kin.”

Karrie Shannon and Cheryl Stone-Pitchford, King descendants, were there to receive the flag. Stone-Pitchford, who had also researched

Choctaw genealogy, aided Shannon in uncovering King Cemetery. She said it was a very sacred moment; everyone was there to remember and honor the cemetery and its buried that were too long forgotten.

“When it became apparent who was buried there, it became a real significance in our family. I also believe it is significant to the Choctaw Nation and history overall,” Stone-Pitchford said.

Dena Cantrell, also a King descendant in attendance at the ceremony, said she appreciated the genealogical research that had been done and how it was bringing the family history together. “Learning and knowing we are descendants of ancestors who played a great part in the history of the Choctaw Nation and the United States... is very gratifying,” she said.

There are approximately 50 gravesites at King Cemetery. Some were identified by grave depressions, bases of headstones or bases of footstones. There are a handful of existing headstones still standing. Approximately 15 out of 50 buried individuals have been identified. Two of Chief Mosholatubbee’s children are buried in the cemetery, and five military veterans.

Shannon is working to obtain military monuments for all five veterans within the cemetery. She received the monument for the grave of Tecumseh King, youngest son of Chief Mosholatubbee, on July 21.

“There’s a lot of Choctaws in that cemetery,” Shannon said. “We’ve got to remember our Choctaw soldiers and what they have done for us. And if we can do anything to give back to them, that’s what this is all about. It’s for them.”

Robinson, with Historic Preservation, said his department gets calls informing them of abandoned Choctaw cemeteries periodically, occasionally multiple within one week. He said if anyone knows of an abandoned Choctaw cemetery, it would be appreciated if the individual calls (580) 924-8280 ext. 2236. Additionally, Shannon offered to aid anyone researching family genealogy and can be contacted at n13113jme@yahoo.com.



# 2014 Summer activities & camps

## Make A Change Camp Basketball Outreach at the Beach



Make A Change Camp at Jones Academy included nearly 100 children.



Savanna Shults of Durant participates in the Choctaw storytelling of “Why Chukfi has a Short Tail” with Betty Ward.



Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation brought several critters to the Make A Change Camp at Jones Academy, including this juvenile raccoon.



Brian Jackson hands a balloon animal to a participant in the crowd at Make A Change Camp at Jones Academy. Jackson helped camp participants set a possible world record for the most simultaneous paper football field goals.



Jacob Fitzer of Eufaula creates beadwork during an activity at Make A Change Camp at Jones Academy.



Jaydan Hutchings takes a shot during basketball camp in Durant. Choctaw Nation hosted camps throughout the 10.5 counties.



Coach Tyrone Stafford guides the kids during basketball camp in Durant.



Sardis Lake beach was the scene for hundreds of swimmers taking part in Choctaw Nation's Outreach at the Beach on July 23.



Kaci Ratliff and Georgie Cantrell, both from Wilburton, enjoy their lakeside lunch during Outreach at the Beach.



Above: Several Choctaw Nation Outreach programs offered giveaway items to participants of “Outreach at the Beach” at Sardis Lake on July 23.

Left: Tavares Willis came prepared for basketball camp in his OKC Thunder Russell Westbrook jersey.

## Youth Advisory Board News...



Old and new YAB officers gathered at the annual conference in Durant on July 24. These include new secretary Taylor Griffith, outgoing secretary Taylor Cope-land, outgoing Chair Courtney Patterson, new Vice Chair Nakeia Nassar and new Chair Kelsey Janway.



Coach Tyrone Stafford (front) poses with Durant basketball camp participants on July 25. Camps were also held in Soper, Talihina, McAlester, Wilburton, Tushka, Coalgate and other Choctaw Nation locations.

All photos on this page by ZACH MAXWELL Choctaw Nation

Submit news to [biskinik@choctawnation.com](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com)



Youth Advisory Board students pose with members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council after the July 12 council meeting at Tvshka Homma. The youths attended the meeting as part of their training to be members of Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board.



Top: Tamara Legitt, Tara Legitt and Kristin Maxwell, cousins from Poteau, are all set for lunch at Sardis Lake during “Outreach at the Beach.”

Below : Community Health Representatives preparing to serve lunch at the event.



Youth Advisory Board members gathered for a group shot during the 2014 Project SAFE Leadership Conference at Choctaw Resort.





# Chahta Anumpa Isht Auehinchi

## Choctaw Traditions



Photo Provided

### Choctaw Royalty visits Mississippi

Choctaw Nation royalty were able to visit the Choctaw Indian Fair in July, hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Pictured with Chief Phylliss J. Anderson of the Mississippi Choctaw (second from right) and Tribal Councilman Thomas Williston of Idabel (far left) are Junior Miss Kayleigh Powell, Little Miss Isabelle Cox and Miss Choctaw Nation, Callie Curnutt.



Photo Provided

Princesses from the Five Tribes gather at the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Fair in July at Pearl River, Mississippi. The entourage was present at the daily gathering of native dancers during the fair.

### District 7 Princesses...



Photo Provided

District 7 Choctaw Princess winners posing with Councilman Jack Austin Sr. are Senior Miss LaTisa Davidson, Junior Miss Loren Crosby, and Little Miss Laliah Walton.

### WWII veteran honored at ceremony

#### Florence M. Spalding recognized at 'Operation 4G'

Florence M. Spalding, a Choctaw World War II veteran, was an honoree at the Honor and Recognition Ceremony "Operation 4G" hosted by the Talihina Veterans Center on July 11. This was sponsored by Oklahoma Honor Flights.

Operation 4G stands for GIVING TO THE GROUNDED GREATEST GENERATION.

Florence was escorted by her great-great-nephew, Ransom Scott of Plano, Texas.

A total of 46 veterans from the Talihina area were honored by Operation 4G, part of nearly 500 WWII veterans from Oklahoma taken to the war memorial in Washington, D.C.



Photo Provided

Florence M. Spalding, World War II veteran, with great-great-nephew Ransom Scott.

### Sixtown Choctaw Dress winners



Photo Provided

Pictured left to right are the first through fifth place winners in the Choctaw Dress contest (Southern cloth style) at the first Sixtown Stickball Powwow, co-hosted by the Oklahoma Indian Bikers. The "New Fab Five" at the event in Tecumseh on May 31 are Danielle Dinado, Debra Belt, Madeleine Freeman, Annica Billey, and Stevanna Meikle.

### District 8 Princess winners announced



Photo Provided

Pictured with District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson are Senior Miss Rebeckah Boykin, the daughter of Sam and Jana Boykin of Hugo; Junior Miss Summer Moffitt, the daughter of Johnny and Barbara Moffitt of Hugo; and Little Miss Savannah Herndon, the daughter of Tommy and Angela Herndon.



First runner-up for District 8 Senior Miss Choctaw Nation, Tyler Foshee, is pictured with District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson.

### Lil Choctaws appreciate trip to Creek Nation Junior Olympics



Photo Provided

Lil Choctaws group are shown with their delegation, representing Choctaws at the Creek Nation Junior Olympics in June.

Lil Choctaws would like to thank District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant, Choctaw Nation, Teresa Davis, Tamela Cannady for the donations.

The Lil Choctaws participated in the Creek Nation Junior Olympics on June 27 and had a few to place first and second in their categories.

The Lil Choctaws really enjoyed themselves com-

peting against other tribes. This is their seventh year to take a group to compete.

Special thanks to the parents for coming out and cheering on the children. We hope to take the Lil Choctaws next year and win more medals. Thank you for your support.

Cheryl Billy, Cindy Quintero, Yulonda Mathis, Wynona Gipson, Misty Martinez, Minoka Wright.

To view upcoming events, visit our website at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com).  
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To submit news and photos, e-mail to [biskinik@choctawnation.com](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com).  
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Yakoke!



# Spanish Mustangs designated 'The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma'

By **FRANCINE LOCKE BRAY**  
Contributing Writer

On March 5, 2014, the Oklahoma Legislature unanimously voted to designate as The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma the foundation herds owned by Bryant and Darlene Rickman and registered with the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (SSMA). Part of Resolution No. 34 states, “with its rich heritage, resilience, and perseverance, the Oklahoma Colonial Spanish horse embodies the very spirit of Oklahoma and remains a living piece of state history.”

On April 26, 2014, the city of Hugo held a re-enactment of the movie “True Grit,” complete with a “Parade of Champions” honoring past and present rodeo champions of Southeastern Oklahoma. Approximately two dozen riders, each one on his/her Oklahoma Colonial Spanish Mustang participated in this the first, official, “outing” of The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma.

Some of the horses that Mr. Rickman owns originally came from Mississippi with Choctaw families who brought them along the Trail of Tears to their new home in Indian Terri-



**Jennie Sweetin-Smith with her Colonial Spanish Mustang, Chisto, instructing students on the horses at Wellston Elementary School in Wellston, OK.**

According to Mr. Brown, the family has always had these horses on their land. About two years ago Dr. Phil Sponenberg of the Livestock Conservancy was visiting the Browns because they also raise Pinewoods cattle, another heritage animal. While he was there, several of Mr.

with us your family story, please give me a call at (317) 409-6517 or e-mail me at flbray@iupui.edu.

As part of the continuing effort to educate not only our people but also the general public about the importance of the Oklahoma Colonial Spanish Mustang, Jennie

his owner, Rebecca Stair of Arkansas.

Once again, the horses have been excelling in various competitions. Cathy Cook of Michigan wrote us that 2013 was an “amazing year” for Red Cloud, her Choctaw Spanish Mustang

similar awards in the Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Ride Association (UMECRA), including the Charles Phillips Memorial Versatility Award.

To receive this award Red Cloud completed at least two events in each division, Endurance—50 miles or more—and Limited Distance and Competitive.

Cathy’s niece, Emma Rugenbuck, and her horse, No Way’s Northern Star, were named UMECRA and GLDRA Grand Champion Competitive Junior Divisions. No Way’s Northern Star also received the Merry Legs Award, given by vote of the junior riders to the horse who best cared for its junior rider during the ride season.

Gatlin Dale of Soper on his Choctaw horse named Spotted Wolf has excelled in the junior rodeo circuit. In the Fall of 2013, with his roping partner, Dalton Dill, he competed in the TJRA Finals and placed first with a winning time of 7.30! Gatlin, with Garrett Golden, placed 2nd in 11-14 Team Roping and Gatlin won 2nd in the average (heeler) for both go-rounds!

He and Spotted Wolf also placed 4th in the Ribbon

sored by the North American Trail Riding Conference. He is currently in first place in Novice Lightweight. Another horse she raised, Painted Indian, is in second place.

The Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (SSMA), the registry for The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma, appointed new Board members and a new secretary. Harold Davis and James Stephens are now serving on the Board and Donna Davis is the new Secretary. Mr. Bryant Rickman continues as Chairman and Darlene Rickman as Registrar. Anyone wanting more information on the SSMA can visit their website at [thesouthwestspanishmustangassociation.com](http://thesouthwestspanishmustangassociation.com).

The Spirit of Blackjack Mountain website has recently been given a new look. For much more information on the history of the horses and what they are doing, visit the website at [thespiritofblackjackmountain.com](http://thespiritofblackjackmountain.com).

We hope to continue in 2014 to educate everyone about these amazing horses—their heritage, their importance to not only the Choctaw people but all Native Americans and Oklahomans, their capabilities, and wonderful dispositions.

**Some of the horses that Mr. Rickman owns originally came from Mississippi with Choctaw families who brought them along the Trail of Tears to their new home in Indian Territory.**

tory. Until recently, these horses roamed freely in the Kiamichi Mountain ranges, in the Choctaw Nation territory, of which Blackjack Mountain is a part.

Mr. Rickman’s horses include both the purebred Spanish Mustang line owned by Choctaw families who lived in the region, along with the strain bred by Gilbert Jones who dedicated his life to the preservation of the Native American horse and formed the SSMA.

This last April I traveled with my husband to Poplarville, Mississippi, to meet Mr. Bill Brown. Mr. Brown is Mississippi Choctaw, a descendant of Chief Pushmataha. He lives on his ancestral lands, owned by his family since 1811.

Also living on these lands for as long as Mr. Brown and his family can remember is a small herd of horses the family refers to as Pine Tackys.

Browns’ horses emerged from the woods. Dr. Sponenberg immediately recognized them as very similar in conformation to the Rickmans’ horses.

These Mississippi horses are descended from horses that did not make the Trail of Tears journey to Indian Territory. Yet DNA testing showed that they are genetically the same as the Oklahoma Colonial Spanish Mustangs (which include the Choctaw horses).

While in Mississippi I was told of another herd of horses whose DNA also matches the Oklahoma Colonial Spanish Mustangs.

We are continuing to research the heritage of the Choctaw horse. This year we hope to speak with families who have records of their horses in both Mississippi and Oklahoma and to gather oral histories of these horses from them.

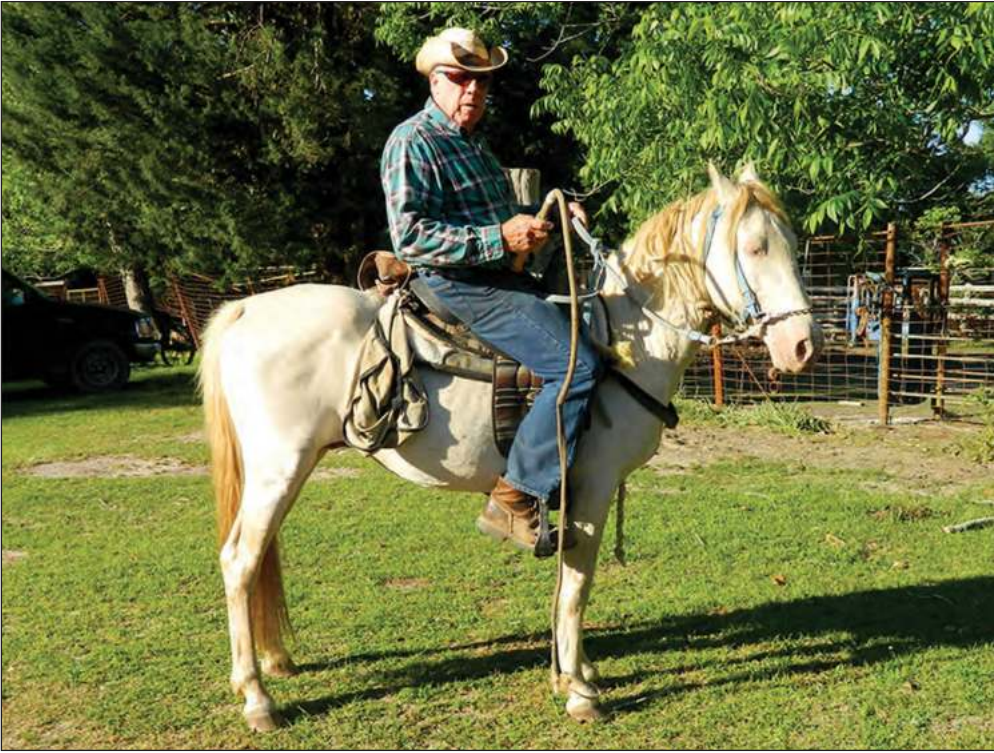
If you would like to share

and Brad Smith took two of their Choctaw horses, Chief Blue Streak and SScopycat, to the Oklahoma State Fair. The horses, of course, were well received and charmed their way into the hearts of many Fair visitors.

Jennie and Brad distributed educational materials and spent time speaking with visitors about the horses’ history, conformation, and skills. They have been invited to return to the State Fair this Fall so if you are in Oklahoma City for the Fair, be sure to stop by and meet the horses.

Jennie and Brad also were asked to return to Wellston Elementary School in April. This year they took Chisto, a Colonial Spanish Mustang. Chisto is trained in dressage and spent the day showing off his talents to over 300 students.

Some of you may remember Chisto when he came to the Choctaw Labor Day Festival three years ago with



**Bill Brown of Poplarville, Mississippi, with Desoto, his Choctaw horse.**

stallion. Their Great Lakes Distance Riding Association (GLDRA) awards include the Legend Cup (high mileage award), Grand Champion Competitive Extended Distance, Grand Champion competitive Lightweight, Extended Distance, and a 3,000 Mile Award.

Red Cloud also received

Roping Competition. Most recently, at the 2014 Oklahoma Youth Rodeo Association (OYRA), Gatlin made the finals in two events - chute doggin’ and team roping.

Teresa Galliher of Texas reported that her Spanish Mustang, Moonshadow, competed in long distance competitive trail rides spon-

***See the Choctaw ponies at the 2014 Labor Day Festival & Pow Wow. They will be located next to the Choctaw village.***

# Choctaw artist displays art aimed at expressing her culture



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Carole Ayers shows art enthusiasts one of her recent watercolor paintings depicting a horse, a subject she wishes to produce more art with in the future. Her art was spotlighted during July’s Meet the Artist event.**

By **BRANDON FRYE**  
Choctaw Nation

“It has a picture of several generations of women and they are passing on things to the next generation,” Choctaw artist Carole Ayers said, explaining “The Thread of Life,” one of her watercolor paintings. “There are four women in the picture, but

they are all connected by the umbilical cord, which I call the thread of life. They are passing on the spirit of the earth, the hope of the future.”

A young girl watched attentively as Ayers reached over to help her paint a small watercolor during Meet the Artist on July 18. A red cloth, in

sharp contrast to the purples and greens of the girl’s painting, covered the table they worked on. A palette of paint, a cup of colorful water, and assorted brushes rested at arms reach in wait to aid the two. Once finished, the girl held the painting up to her mother and received praise for her work.

Ayers, who is also the president of the Durant Senior Community Center, was a featured artist for Meet the Artist, a monthly event managed by the Choctaw Nation Marketing Department aimed at giving exposure to Choctaw artists and culture. These events are held at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert, which displays cultural items, pieces of art, and handcrafted gifts for travelers interested in Choctaw culture.

“We had people from all over this time,” Carolyn Cross, Manager of the Choctaw Welcome Center, said. “After it was posted online, some people drove all the way out.”

Ayers has had art booths set up at different art shows, including at the Choctaw Labor Day Festival, Red Earth, Haskell Indian Art Market, Tulsa Indian Art Market, the Chickasaw Festival, among others. She said she sees her art less as business and more as sharing her culture and preserving it for future generations.

“After I retired from my nursing job—I worked 35 years as a nurse—my

husband asked me what I wanted to do with my time and I said I’d like to study my heritage more and do more painting,” Ayers said. “He got me a very nice camera. I went to Red Earth and took my camera and became fascinated with the dancers and the colors and the music.”

Soon, Ayers began painting the photographs she took while at cultural gatherings. She said she preferred to work in watercolors, and preferred to work with people as her subjects.

“There is a special thing to water coloring, you have to look at the light, and you have to leave the light. Once you put paint on it, you can’t go back,” she said. “For me, one of the main things was, I discovered that I like to do pictures of people. It’s almost as if the face in the paper comes out, the personality of that person comes out of the paper.”

“This little girl...” Ayers said, beginning a story. “I was in my booth one day and a lady came in and had her child stand there and look in the same direction as the painting. She was a

dead ringer for my picture. I had never seen anything like that.”

Verree Shaw, Marketing Director for the Choctaw Nation, said there are currently 285 Choctaw artists like Carole Ayers registered with the nation, and they aim to reach 1,000 artists.

“The artists are invited to cultural meetings and meet-the-artist events at the Choctaw Welcome Center. And we are striving to have Choctaw artist bazaars four times a year,” Shaw said.

Shaw said, through the events which marketing plans, everyone who loves both traditional and contemporary Choctaw culture should have the capability of getting in contact with the artists and their artwork. Additionally, art lovers can view the artists on display at [www.choctawstore.com](http://www.choctawstore.com).

Ayers said, with her art, she hopes “people get a sense of the history of our culture, and it will make them think about where they are today, and what they want to preserve of their past and their ancestors.”



AUG. 28 - SEPT. 1 ♦♦♦♦ FREE ADMISSION ♦♦♦♦ FREE PARKING ♦♦♦♦ FREE CONCERTS ♦♦♦♦ FREE RIDES

# Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma LABOR DAY FESTIVAL & POW WOW

## Music ♦ Rides ♦ Food ♦ Family Fun

The annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival kicks off at 7 p.m. Aug. 28. The theme this year, "Honoring the Giver of Life," is meant to celebrate strong Choctaw women who are the heart of Choctaw culture.

Throughout our history and from the beginning, Choctaw mothers and grandmothers gave life, love, and learning to the tribe's children and formed the core of the tribal matrilineal society. They harvested our crops, tended our homes, were incredible artists, and were valued members of a tribe where they were termed "beloved." Today the special bond and guidance given to us by the modern Choctaw woman leads us to a future of hope, pride, and success.

From the kick-off event, the Princess Pageant, to the State of the Nation address by Chief Gary Patton, the festival is packed with great ways to celebrate the end of summer and honor the cultural heritage of the Choctaw people.

For more information, call (800) 522-6170, visit [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com), or join the conversation at #ChoctawFest.



### GO GREEN!

Learn how to sustain our people, our traditions, and our earth by incorporating simple recycling activities in your everyday life. See the following times for our sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

10:00 - 10:30 OU Climate Science: Climate Science in Your Backyard. Come see how long-term weather changes are already affecting us. Hands-on activities will demonstrate the impacts of changes in the atmosphere on water and food sources.

10:30 - 11:00 Water in the Choctaw Nation: Planning, Conservation and Sustainability

11:30 - 12:00 Blue Thumb: Protecting our Water Quality. Come learn what a watershed is, how what we do on the land affects our water quality, and see what is living in a stream near you - great for kids and adults too!

### Lunch Break

1:00 - 1:30 USDA / NRCS: Unlock the Secrets of Soil Health. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has unrolled their national soil health initiative. Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource. Join them as they conduct demonstrations with their rainfall simulator that will illustrate the importance of soil health. Come and "dig a little and learn a lot".



1:30 - 2:00 Recycling 101: How and What You can Recycle at Home, Work or School. We want to help you get started on the road to recycling!

2:00 - 2:30 Greener Living: Rain Barrel Water Conservation and Tire Recycling. Learn how you can start collecting rain water at home and how to recycle tires.

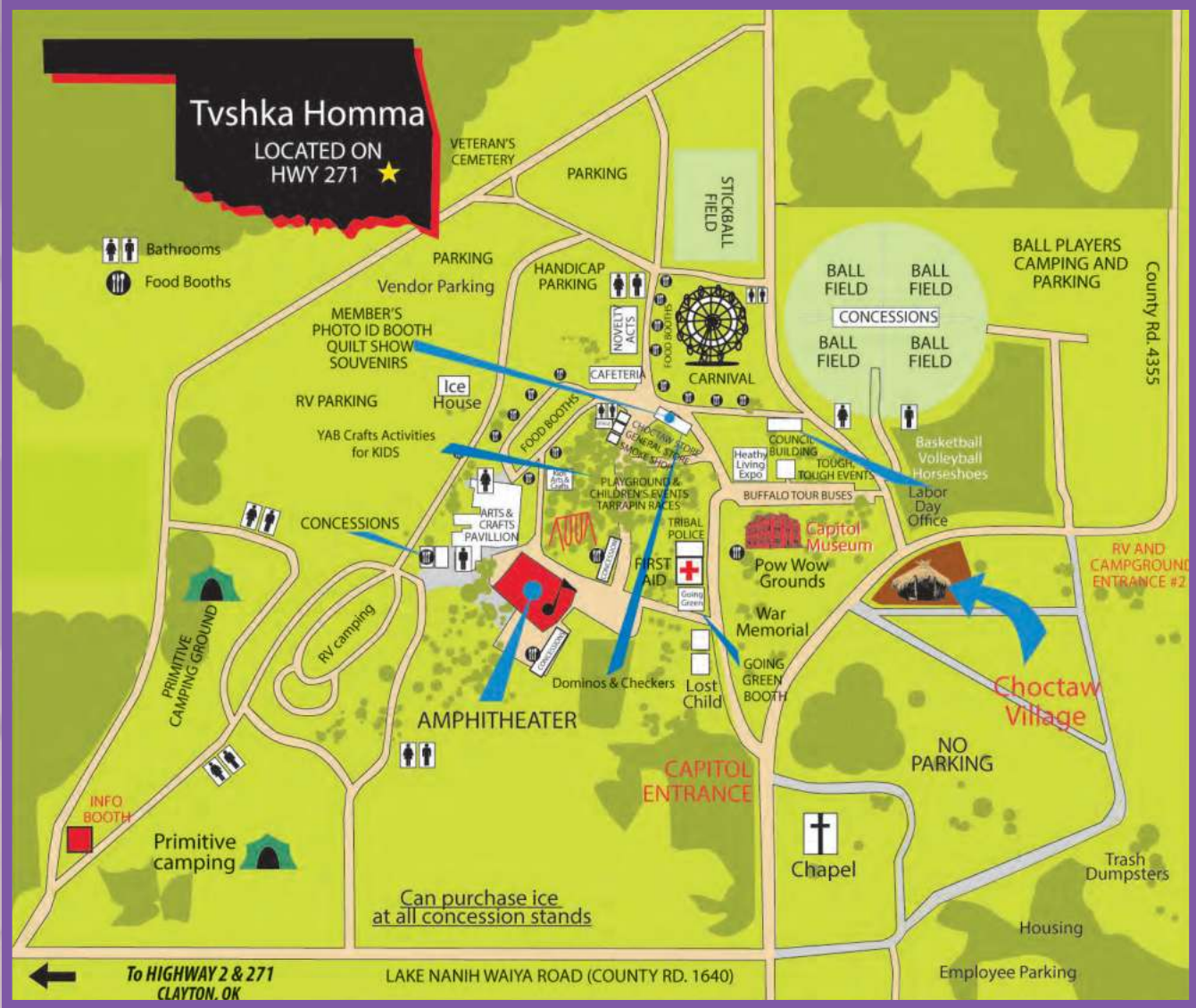
2:30 - 3:00 Composting at Home Symbiotic Aquaponics

3:00 - 3:30 Energy Conservations Tips. Are you tired of throwing away your money? If so, then let us share some energy conservation tips with you to save your budget.



Are you up to date with your vaccinations?

Choctaw Nation Community Health Nurses will be offering the Tdap and Pneumovax vaccines at the 2014 Labor Day Festival. Look for the Caring Van behind the Healthy Living Tent.





◆◆◆ THURSDAY  
7:00 p.m. Princess Pageant, amphitheater

◆◆◆ FRIDAY  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Capitol Museum open  
10:00 a.m. Arts and Crafts exhibits open  
10:00 a.m. Chapel Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
11:00 a.m. Choctaw social dance classes on Capitol lawn  
Noon-5:00 p.m. Quilt entries at Information Center  
Noon-6:00 p.m. CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open  
Noon-8:00 p.m. Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers  
2:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn  
5:00 p.m. Registration for Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge, on Council Chambers lawn  
5:00 p.m. Dead Snake Road Band in concert at the amphitheater  
6:00 p.m. Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge, on 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  
7:00 p.m. Chris Cagle in concert at the amphitheater  
9:00 p.m. Merle Haggard in concert at the amphitheater

◆◆◆ SATURDAY  
6:30-7:45 a.m. 5k registration, in front of Capitol Museum  
8:00 a.m. 5k Race begins in front of Capitol Museum  
8:00 a.m. Fast-Pitch Tournament continues  
8:00 a.m. 3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball registration  
8:00 a.m. Horseshoe Tournament registration  
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Healthy Living 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. Horseshoe 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 p.m. Choctaw Village activities (see schedule at right)  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Capitol Museum open  
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open  
2:00 p.m. Terrapin Races, playground  
3:30-6:30 p.m. Willie and Korie Robertson from Duck Dynasty sign autographs and take questions from the audience  
4:00 p.m. Tough, Tough Choctaw registration, on Council Chambers lawn  
5:00 p.m. Tough, Tough Choctaw contest, on Council Chambers lawn  
7:00 p.m. Jeff Foxworthy in concert at amphitheater  
8:00 p.m. Stickball Tournament at field north of carnival  
9:00 p.m. Turnpike Troubadours in concert at amphitheater

◆◆◆ SUNDAY  
7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. National Day of Prayer & Worship, War Memorial  
8:00 a.m. Bow Shoot, Choctaw village  
8:00 a.m. Fast-Pitch Tournament continues  
8:30 a.m. Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton  
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Youth Advisory Board – Crafts for youth at playground  
10:00 a.m. Worship Services at Chapel  
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. CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open  
1:00 p.m. Domino/Checker Tournament  
1 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Choctaw Village activities (see schedule at right)  
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers  
1:30 p.m. Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton  
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Choctaw Code Talker Assoc. Board, 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  
7:45 p.m. Kingsmen Quartet in concert at amphitheater  
8:00 p.m. Women's stickball exhibition, stickball field  
8:30 p.m. Jason Crabb in concert at the amphitheater  
9:00 p.m. Championship stickball game, stickball field  
9:30 p.m. Matthew West in concert at amphitheater

◆◆◆ MONDAY  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CDIB/Membership/Photo ID 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  
State of the Nation Address by Chief Gary Batton  
Door Prize Drawings  
11:30 a.m. Free lunch for everyone, cafeteria  
Noon Pick up quilts from Quilt Show

See the following entertainers on the festival stage . . .



Jeff Foxworthy



Chris Cagle



Merle Haggard

. . . and many more!

**Special Unveiling Ceremony during Festival**  
The Choctaw Nation will unveil a statue in the likeness of a treasured Choctaw woman at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29—the second night of the Labor Day Festival—to celebrate the well-known leader in the spirit of this year's festival: honoring the giver of life.

The unveiling of former Council member Charlotte Jackson's statue will take place just in front of the Choctaw Nation Museum.

Currently, only Chief Pushmataha, Charley Jones, and Allen Wright have busts in the garden beside the Tuskahoma Warrior statue, making this the first bust of a woman to be included. Everyone is invited to attend the unveiling and women will be given commemorative buttons as a special honor.

**Festival RV/Tent Check-in Times**  
See the following for RV and tent check-in times. Please arrive and register at your respective gate during these times.

	RVs	Tents
Wednesday (8/27)	7 a.m. - 10 p.m.	7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Thursday (8/28)	8 a.m. - midnight	8 a.m. - midnight
Friday (8/29)	8 a.m. - midnight	8 a.m. - midnight
Saturday (8/30)	8 a.m. - midnight	Locked
Sunday (8/31)	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Locked

INTER-TRIBAL POW WOW	
Friday, Aug. 29	
2 p.m.	Gourd Dancing
5 p.m.	Break
6 p.m.	Gourd Dancing
7 p.m.	Grand Entry

CHOCTAW NATION MUSEUM HOURS	
Friday	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday	9 a.m. - noon

CHOCTAW VILLAGE	
Saturday	
10:00 a.m.	Choctaw Dancing
10:30 a.m.	Stickball Skills
10:30 a.m.	Traditional Choctaw Hymns
11:00 a.m.	Storytelling
11:30 a.m.	Rabbit Stick Throw
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.	Rabbit Stick Throw
1:30 p.m.	Storytelling
2:00 p.m.	Corn Game

Join us in the village for traditional food sampling, crafts, and demonstrations during the festival.

CHOCTAW PONY RIDES	
Located in the Choctaw Village	
Saturday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.