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# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

February 2013 Issue



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Regional University System of Oklahoma Regent Terry Matlock, Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Larry Minks, Chancellor Glen D.

Johnson of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and State Rep. Dustin Roberts cut the ribbon during a ceremony celebrating the

opening of SE's Center for Student Success. The new facility includes the Native American Center, Academic Advising and Learning Center and other programs.

## Native American Center gets upgrade

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Students at Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SE) in Durant can now experience an ease of access to many resources offered by the university with the opening of its new Center for Student Success.

The center, located in the heart of the campus, is comprised of a group of programs, including the Native American Center (NAC), Academic Advising and Learning Center, among other programs. These university entities have been moved from separate parts of campus and brought together under one roof in the midst of the highest student traffic area on campus, allowing more attention and ease of access.

A large crowd was on hand as the Center for Student Success officially opened its doors on Jan. 24 with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. The event began in the afternoon with a reception for guests, followed by a dedication service in

the atrium of the student union. The sizable audience heard remarks from several state leaders, including Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Oklahoma State Regent John Massey and former SE president and current Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education Glen D. Johnson.

Many students who toured the NAC were pleased to see the new accommodations. "It looks good," said Dakota Estrada, who was excited to see where he would be spending his time. Student worker Hailey Cusher followed Estrada by mentioning she preferred the new location, noting it is much easier to find.

The building that houses the center is the former location of the SE bookstore, which moved in 2007. The structure has since been unoccupied due to the requirement of extensive renovations. With those requirements fulfilled, activities will be able to occur in a prime position on campus, which is expected to

### Did you know

Southeastern leads all Oklahoma regional universities in the four and five year graduation rates of Native students

draw more student interest.

"It is easier for them to find us and I feel like I make more connections here. Having advising so close definitely helps," said Erin McDaniel, a peer advisor for the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program whose office is housed in the center.

The cohabitation of the building with other SE programs will allow more exposure of the center to Native students who may not have known the resources offered to them. The Academic Advising Center is a starting place for all new students,

which had previously been on the opposite end of campus, meaning many new Native American students may have missed the original NAC.

Now that these departments are in the same building, these students are sure to be fully aware of this significant resource they have at their disposal. "I've been able to see a lot more Native American students," stated academic advisor for the NAC, Chantelle Standefer.

The previous NAC helped to enroll students, assisted with schoolwork, and facilitated many events that promoted Native culture. The new facilities will serve all the same functions as well as add a computer lab, conference room, a lobby to serve as a meeting ground for Native student groups, and more exposure for activities occurring there.

The new center will help "us better serve Native American students and make them more aware of the resources available to them," mentioned Standefer.

Currently, 30 percent of the

student body is of Native decent, with Choctaw members comprising the largest of the tribes represented on campus. That 30 percent translates into about 1,100 students with Choctaws numbering over 500, according to Standefer. With Native students being a large portion of the student body, the upgrade of the NAC should see even more positive reception and use as time passes.

The new NAC is filled with cultural artifacts, the majority from the Choctaw Nation, with many donated by the tribe and tribal members. Choctaw baskets, artwork and other artifacts such as stickball sticks line walls and fill display cabinets.

The renovation and relocation of offices was made possible by a combination of a U.S. Department of the Education grant written by SE staff and Chris Wesberry, NAC director, and contributions from SE and other sources. The grant is currently in its second year of its five-year term with a goal of increasing the number of Native American graduates.

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### The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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



## Preparation is key to success



Gregory E. Pyle, Choctaw Nation Chief

*"The unified effort of members of the council and its delegates is important in our communication on a state and federal level."*

### Economic development important to future of Oklahoma's tribes

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A recurring theme emerged as leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes explored the future – the necessity of expanding economic development.

The Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council met for two days in Durant, the top objective to improve services for their people. With expected cuts to federal budgets, the tribal representatives focused on how to continue programs providing assistance, health benefits, education and cultural awareness.

"The Inter-Tribal Council is one of the oldest organizations in Indian Country," said Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "The unified effort of members of the council and its delegates is important in our communication on a state and federal level."

A full day of committee discussions on Jan. 31 opened the third quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council since it reconvened in June 2012. Staff from the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole and Muscogee-Creek Nations formed work groups to share information and ideas on boosting tourism, housing, social services, communication technology, cultural preservation,

transportation and more.

Pyle welcomed nearly 200 in attendance Feb. 1 at the council's general session in the Choctaw Resort's conference area. He highlighted the Choctaw Nation's top priorities – education, health and jobs. The expansion of tribal business is vital to the success of enhancing the lives of tribal members.

"Our vision is to achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws," Pyle said.

Seminole Nation Chief Leonard Harjo, who has worked at the executive level for over 20 years, commented on the growth and progress among the five tribes, commending his peers for the strides that have been made carrying their people forward.

"We are well on the way to achieving our dreams," he said of the Seminole Nation. "We opened the second expansion phase of our Seminole language immersion school two weeks ago. We will be able to have 18 children in the full immersion environment five days a week."

Funding is available to provide classrooms and develop curriculum through third grade and the next phase will expand the immersion school through the sixth grade. The ultimate goal is to create an immersion school for Pre-K through 12th grade.

"I have challenged our language program to create the opportunity for our tribal youth to be bilingual within 20 years," Harjo said.

The tribes' commercial efforts are what make this possible, especially with the looming issues of federal funding cuts due to the fiscal cliff. It will have an effect

**See Inter-Tribal, Page 2**





From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It is a tremendous blessing to have Choctaw people who are willing to share their knowledge of culture and heritage. Each day it seems a new tidbit of information passes my way that enriches my life. While most of the hours of our days at the office and travel are taken up with busy meetings, research, calls and paperwork, there always seem to be gems of moments each day when there is an opportunity to learn something about Choctaw culture.

Sometimes this “educational moment” has been simply a greeting in Choctaw from a co-worker or visitor, giving me a chance to brush up on basic language skills; or seeing a piece of art by a Choctaw artist.

Heritage Monday is always a great day, since employees are

encouraged to dress traditional and share history and culture throughout the day. On this special day each month, prayer is offered in Choctaw language over the intercom, posters are on the office doors with stories of tribal history, and exhibition dances are occasionally part of the day’s routine.

Although always interested in the history of our great Nation, I have learned a great deal since working for the tribe since 1982. Just visiting the historic sites are a wonderful way to share culture with your friends and family. Some of the more prominent places to tour include Wheelock Academy in Miller-ton, Skullyville Cemetery in Spiro, and the Choctaw Nation Capitol and Museum near Tuskahoma.

The people who have passed on the culture of the Choctaw Nation from generation to generation are treasured resources. I appreciate these families very much for being willing to share. Yakoke!

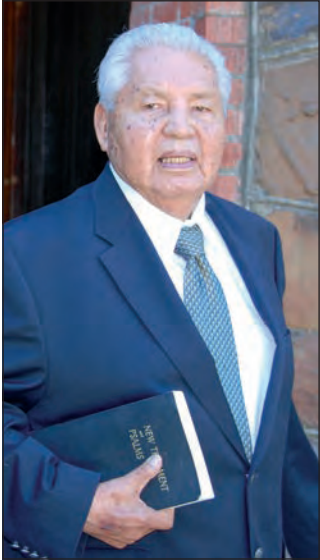
Chaplain’s Corner

The greatest text in the Bible

The verse in the Gospel of John chapter 3 verse 16 is the greatest text in the Bible.

There are many other texts that tell us the Love of God. There are many other that show how men are delivered from judgment, that tell us how we may obtain everlasting life.

For myself and many others, there is no verse that gives us all these wonderful, precious truths.



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

This one verse is so clear that when the gospel is carried and preached throughout the world we find it necessary to use John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting live.”

There are many truths wrapped up in this one verse:

1. The first is the personality of God – God so Loved. A God who can love is a person. Behind love there must be a person with a warm loving heart. God so Loved.
- What a wonderful love that is, all wrapped up in this one verse.
2. Then there is the truth of the divine Fatherhood. This God so loved men that He gave His Only begotten Son. There cannot be a son without a father. If God gave His Son. God Himself is a Father. And that is truth the world never dreamed of.
3. Then there is the lost condition of mankind. God gave His beloved Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

A man that is not a Christian, an unsaved man, is in terrible danger. You are in danger of being lost that you may be banished from the presence of this loving God forever. Yet, He loved you so much that He has provided a way whereby you may return to Him.

God gave Him up to a sacrificial death on the cross for all men and women and children. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Everyone is offered mercy here also. It is a whosoever message, and what does whosoever mean?

An old man found a piece of paper with John 3:16 scribbled on it and tried to read it. He wasn’t a good reader, and the little boy was coming by, and he asked him to read the verse for him. The boy read:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

The old man asked, read it again, and the boy read the verse again, and the old man asked, “Does it really say that somebody can be saved by just believing?”

Then he asked what does that long word mean? The word was “whosoever.”

“Oh,” said the boy. “Whosoever means you, or me, or anybody; but there goes the bell, I have to run.”

The old man stood there and read it again:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son; that you, or me, or anybody who believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.”

He said, “That’s good news for a sinner like me,” and there confessed himself a sinner for who Jesus died. He took God at His Word and His Son and was saved. God loved, God gave, I believe, I have eternal life.

The Gospel is for you too. You can become a new person. How? Realize who God is. Realize who you are, a sinner. Realize who Jesus is and what He has done on the cross. He paid the penalty for sin which is death. Trust Jesus as your personal Savior by faith. I am praying for you.

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

Investing in the future leadership of the tribe

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma invests in the future leadership of the tribe in various ways. Young children are prepared to be successful learners through the Choctaw Head Start program. This year, 310 head start students are enrolled, attending classes in state-of-the-art facilities, equipped with Smart Boards and classroom computers with educational software that all the children have an opportunity to use daily. Teachers integrate the Choctaw language and culture into daily lessons and environment.

The head start has also provided a specialized Choctaw dance instructor who began by visiting each center teaching the children and staff traditional Choctaw dances. The staff is now trained and carries on this tradition with the children weekly. Many of the children are invited to perform these dances at various community functions.



A program available in schools across the United States, the Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) program builds future leaders by instilling and enhancing motivation in young people grades 2-12. By earning rewards for good grades and attendance, they are encouraged to develop and accomplish both short and long-term goals. Students learn the responsibility to earn their award and the empowerment of accomplishment! The STAR program is a great example of investing in the future of people – it fosters self-esteem, independence, character and good decision-making.

Students in public schools who are members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board are great examples of future leaders of our communities. Some of the projects these youth have been involved in since October include: Serving for Families Feeding Families, Fundraisers for Toys for Tots, donations for Hands of Hope Clothing Bank, canned food drives for local food banks and for Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets for needy families, flags for veterans graves, Christmas cards for Veterans Center residents, coat drives for school kids, Angel Tree gifts, nursing home Christmas caroling, activities for the Foster Care Christmas party, and providing stockings/gifts for needy

children.

As you can see, the Youth Advisory Board is serious about serving others. They are also very involved in raising awareness about issues that concern them, such as Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, Natural Resource Awareness, Distracted Driving presentations and Diabetes Awareness.

The Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) is preparing Choctaw students to be future leaders by ensuring they are receiving the highest quality of education from the country’s best colleges by creating partnerships with these colleges, connecting the students with valuable internships that will prepare them for their specific career fields, promoting community involvement

and encouraging students to seize leadership roles through various organizations and programs at the college, state and national levels.

The Career Development Program offers a variety of guidance and employment services for tribal members to obtain credentials that lead to career and employment advancements, giving them skills needed in future leadership roles at home and work.

In January 2012, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was proud to launch Choctaw University to help prepare future leaders for our Nation. The purpose of Choctaw University, which is referred to as Choctaw U, is to develop and grow the knowledge and skills of internal management and associates by instilling a deeper understanding of their purpose within the organization. Chief Pyle established the program to help sustain our people; it is essential to prepare our next generation of leaders to guide the way through the next 100 years.

Choctaw U allows us to identify tribal leaders who will carry us into the next century. Choctaw U teaches leaders to foresee change and look for opportunities for the Nation’s development and growth opportunities.

We should all be very proud of the leadership skills being developed by the people investing the time and effort through these many programs made available by the Choctaw Nation. Yakoke to Chief Pyle and the tribal council for making this path possible for these future leaders!

INTER-TRIBAL: Expanding tourism adds to opportunities

**Continued from Page 1**

on everyone. Preparation is the key.

“Tribes are able to step up and help the federal government with the funding process,” explained Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby. By making choices and prioritizing, the tribes can still do what is needed because of their businesses. Anoatubby said he remembers what it used to be like and is thankful for where the tribes are today. When the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 was implemented, a lot of changes took place in Indian Country.

“Today, we can say self-determination works, self-governance works,” he said.

Expanding tourism is a fast-growing solution to generating economic growth. Each tribal leader talked about the progress in Oklahoma, listing new ventures under way. Casinos, hotels and expansions topped the list for the tribes as well as unique enterprises such as the Chickasaw Nation’s Welcome Center at the intersection of Interstate 35 and Highway 7. The Chickasaws’ Bedré Chocolate factory will be relocated to the new center, considered to be a “gateway for travelers.”



Assistant Secretary  
Kevin Washburn

“When our tribes are successful, Oklahoma is successful,” said Muscogee-Creek Chief George Tiger, who is currently serving as chairman of the Inter-Tribal Council’s executive committee. The Muscogee-Creek Nation is following a new path in developing a Department of Energy and establishing a utility company. Tiger said small business is also a driving force in Indian Country and has partnered with Oklahoma Small Business Development Center to assist tribal citizens with starting a business.

He introduced U.S. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn who reiterated the importance of increasing tribal land and employment. Washburn told the group that around 197,000 acres had been restored to tribes in trust status last year. “We consider restoring the land to tribal homelands one of our great successes,” Washburn said. “We want to keep that success going forward.”



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

**Muscogee-Creek Chief George Tiger, Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Seminole Chief Leonard Harjo preside over the first Inter-Tribal General Session of 2013.**

Inter-Tribal Council approves resolutions

- Res. 13-01 – to establish a Standing Committee of Social Services to address issues concerning the social and economic well-being of Indian communities.
- Res. 13-02 – in support of the position of the Indian Child Welfare Act and of the position of the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation citizens concerning the case of Adoptive Couple vs. Baby Girl, et al.
- Res. 13-03 – supporting and urging the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners work together with the Oklahoma Bar Association Indian Law Section to include Indian law principles and subject matter on the Oklahoma Bar Exam.
- Res. 13-04 – to establish a Standing Enrollment Committee, recognizing the vital role of enrollment services and their contributions to each tribe’s sovereignty and existence.
- Res. 13-05 – to establish a standing committee that addresses regulations and issues pertaining to the field of environmental protection.
- Res. 13-06 – to establish a Standing Committee of Health to address health-related policies and programs promoting the common welfare of American Indians.
- Res. 13-07 – supporting negotiated rule-making of the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).
- Res. 13-08 – establishing a Standing Realty Trust Services Committee
- Res. 13-09 – recommending and addressing the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.
- Res. 13-10 – to continue financial support for the annual To Bridge a Gap Conference during which the U.S. Forest Service, tribal governments and federal agencies and offices gather to discuss issues relevant to historic preservation and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Res. 13-11 – supporting the position of the Cherokee Nation in opposition to the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit’s application of ex parte Young to tribal sovereignty.

The Cherokee Nation will host the next quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council in April.



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Seeking relatives

I am part Choctaw and lived in McAlester years ago. My name is Ethel Rebecca Lane Charlesworth of Lone Tree, Iowa, maiden name being Doyle, and everyone calls me Becky. My mother, Dessie Flora McDonald, passed away several years ago here in Iowa. We are from California. My grandmother was Rebecca Siemens.

I am disabled with multiple sclerosis and in a nursing home in Lone Tree. My mother and I moved here to be near my sister after my father passed away.

I would like to find my cousins, the Websters, as I have lost touch. The Websters – Gary, Jerry, Phillip and Chester – are also Indians and are somewhere in Oklahoma. I am also looking for my cousin, Carl Phillips, and any information on the Yorks or the Betts or the Lane family. Please contact me at Pioneer Park, 501 E. Pioneer Rd., Lone Tree, IA 52755.

## Thank you for help with schooling

I just wanted to say thank you for everything the Choctaw Nation does. I can't even begin to explain to you how much your assistance and scholarship has helped me so far. It's one less thing to worry about, so I can focus on my classes. You all are awesome. Thank you again.

**Michelle Tucker**  
**OU nursing student**

## Thank you for help with family member's burial expenses

My name is Gwen Burney Poppe, and I would like to thank everyone at the Choctaw Nation for helping to bring my brother, Haskell Burney, back home to Oklahoma from California for burial. Words cannot express my gratitude. I am a disabled widower, and the Choctaw Nation has helped me so much throughout the years. I am so proud and thankful for my Choctaw heritage. Thank all of you so very much.

## Applications available for 2013 Jr. Miss and Miss Indian Oklahoma

The 2013 Miss Indian Oklahoma and 2013 Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma will be selected in Newkirk on May 3 and 4.

The weekend activities will be co-sponsored by the Otoe-Missouria tribe. The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women, a non-profit organization since 1969, will hold their annual festival of events, featuring the 2013 pageant, a banquet honoring the current titleholders, recognition of statewide award winners, an arts and crafts showcase and an honor pow wow. Outgoing titleholders are Miss Indian Oklahoma Brittany Hill, Muscogee Creek and Yankton Sioux, of Tulsa and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma Jasa Lightfoot, Kiowa, Apache and Pawnee, of Apache.

The Miss Indian Oklahoma and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma competitions will be held at the Council Bluff Event Center at the First Council Casino on May 4, and the pageant is open to the public. Miss Indian Oklahoma contestants must be 1/4 or more degree of American Indian blood, must be between the ages of 18 and 24 and must be in high school or a high school graduate with at least a 2.0 GPA. Contestants will be judged on personal interview, essay, traditional dress, traditional talent, platform and an impromptu question.

Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma contestants must be 1/4 degree or more of American Indian blood, must be between the ages of 13 and 17 and enrolled in school with at least a 2.0 GPA. Contestants will be judged on personal interview, essay, traditional dress, traditional talent, platform and an impromptu question. Miss and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma serve as ambassadors for all American Indian people in the state of Oklahoma.

For more information, please contact Couita Wilson, 2013 Pow Wow director, at 580-320-6179, Nicole Walls, OFIW president, at 405-593-7060, or Andrea Mann, 2013 pageant co-director, at 405-831-6394. Applications can be found on the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women website, OFIW.org.

*Gregory E. Pyle*  
*Chief*

*Gary Batton*  
*Assistant Chief*

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

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



BISKINIK 2013

## Marines thankful for little pieces of home during holidays

Thank you very much to the Choctaw Nation for all the goodies sent for my Marines and me. We greatly appreciate all of your love and support. The packages came just in time for Christmas, so my PFC and I split up everything to put in our Marines' Christmas stockings. I know they will absolutely love and appreciate everything. Little pieces of home mean a lot to us.

My name is Corporal Valerie Purcell, and I'm 21 years old. I'm originally from Memphis, the "home of Elvis." I come from a big military family. I have a sister in the Marines, a sister in the Air Force, a brother in the Marines, a brother in the Army and my father is a retired Marine. As you can see, it was pretty easy for me to decide what I wanted to do in life.

I am attached to Marine Attack Squadron 231, an AV-8B Harrier Squadron that helps keep the ground guys safe from up above. I am currently the administrative chief for my unit, and I'm in charge of all pay, awards, leave, legal issues and any sort of random paperwork. I love my job!

This is my first deployment, so I wasn't too sure what to expect. I prepared for the worst. It's not bad at all. I love being able to see the different cultures from around the world. There are people from all over the world working as contractors on this base.

By far the best thing I have seen so far, though, was maybe a 12-year-old Afghani boy riding and herding about 20 or 30 camels. It was a really fun thing to see. We're right off the mountains, so it's pretty cold here some days, not what I expected at all.

All of my Marines are really into Christmas, so we all decorated the office spaces with Christmas trees, pictures and we're even doing a secret Santa. We are all trying to make the best out of everything. We couldn't be home with actual family this year, but we're all brothers and sisters, so I'm happy to have spent it with my fellow Marines. We are a very close group.

We thank you again for all of your support, it means a lot to us. We wish you happy holidays and a happy New Year!

## Thank you from New Jersey

As a Choctaw living in New Jersey, I wanted to express my personal thanks to the Choctaw Nation Forestry employees and firefighters, Raymond Ludlow, Wally Kitchel, Josh Bates, Kevin Ludlow and Dustin Samuels, who helped out with Hurricane Sandy clean-up in New Jersey. It is so heart-warming to know that these gentlemen took time out from their busy lives to help others in need.

Also, I love receiving the Biskinik and reading about what's going on in the Choctaw Nation. Bertram Bobb's Chaplain's Corner is always enlightening. I can't wait to order the Choctaw "A Cultural Awakening Photobook" mentioned in an article I've read.

Just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do for tribal members near and far.

**Laurie Braman**

## Grateful for scholarships

It gives me great pleasure to accept and sincerely thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education and program employee Freda Scott for the Higher Education scholarship. I am completely thankful for your consideration for this scholarship and it being awarded to me as a financial aid to complete my courses at Eastern New Mexico University, my dream to pursue a flourishing career in higher education.

**Stacey Robinson**

## Appreciation for Tribal Complex

I thank the Choctaw Nation for the beautiful calendar, Christmas ornament and my birthday card for my 93rd birthday. I noticed Assistant Chief Batton is from Clayton; my home was in Sardis.

The Choctaw Nation headquarters building holds many special memories for me. I came there as a junior, living there while I attended Southeastern. My senior year, I was engaged to O. Dixon Poe, and the faculty of the Oklahoma Presbyterian Center and the town of Durant gave us a "fairy tale" wedding the day I graduated from Southeastern. Later in life, our son, George Dixon Poe, and Virgie Mae Sanders, an Oklahoma Presbyterian Center student, were married in the parlor of the headquarters building.

We are so happy that the property became the Choctaw Nation headquarters. We appreciate all of the fine work you are doing for the tribe. Thank you for everything you do.

**Edith Bell Poe**

## Unclaimed Funds

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

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Becky Allen, Internal Service Accountant  
or by phone, 580-924-8280 ext. 2434.

Ansiel, Sydney  
Billy, Zachary  
Cochran, Melinda  
Dews, Desiree  
Douglas, Darius  
Grider, Erin  
Holmes, Michael  
Johnson, Landon  
Releford, Brittany  
Schlote, James  
Shearwood, Joseph  
Taylor, Bryan  
Ward, Henry  
Wheeler, Jo Ann  
Workman, Dianna

## Events

### Chahta class held in Tulsa

A Chahta class will be held every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. from September to June at the Creek center in Tulsa at 8611 South Union Ave., one-half mile east of the Tulsa Hills Shopping Center. There is no charge for the class, but participants are asked to pay for workbooks. Children are welcome. Dinner will be served the first Monday of the month and snacks the other days. Students are responsible for bringing snacks. Beri Gipson serves as the certified instructor.

For more information, call Bill Hoover at 918-645-2299.

### Fruit, landscape trees available

The Bryan Conservation District will be taking orders for a variety of fruit and landscape trees until March 1. For details, please call 580-924-5464 or come by the USDA Farm Service Center at 200 Gerlach in Durant.

### Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

The Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 22 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 707 Bond St. in Crowder. Bubba Johnson will serve as master of ceremony and concession will be available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Writing Workshop: Historical Fiction, Preserving Choctaw Removal Stories

The "Writing Workshop: Historical Fiction, Preserving Choctaw Removal Stories," a workshop for Choctaw writers led by author and storyteller Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, will be held March 23 at the Choctaw Community Center in Durant. The workshop is supported by the Artist Leadership Program of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The workshop offers participants to learn key skills in writing true stories in fiction form, while preserving their cultural and historic integrity. The workshop is open to all Choctaw writers. Attendees receive a syllabus containing research resources compiled in Washington, D.C., with sensory details to help bring settings and characters to life. Those attending the workshop will have the opportunity for publication in a special anthology of Choctaw removal stories.

Registration is free of cost, and pre-registration is required; space is limited. For questions or to register, contact Sarah Elisabeth at me@sarahelisabethwrites.com or 903-567-5024.

### Choctaw Veterans Association meeting

A Choctaw Veterans Association meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on March 30 at the cafeteria in Tvshka Homma. Bring your favorite food, a potluck lunch will be served. Prepare to have fun and learn about the association. Bring a friend, wife or husband.

There will be an election for president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

### Will Preparation Clinic

A free Will Preparation Clinic is to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 by Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS), where they will help you prepare your will.

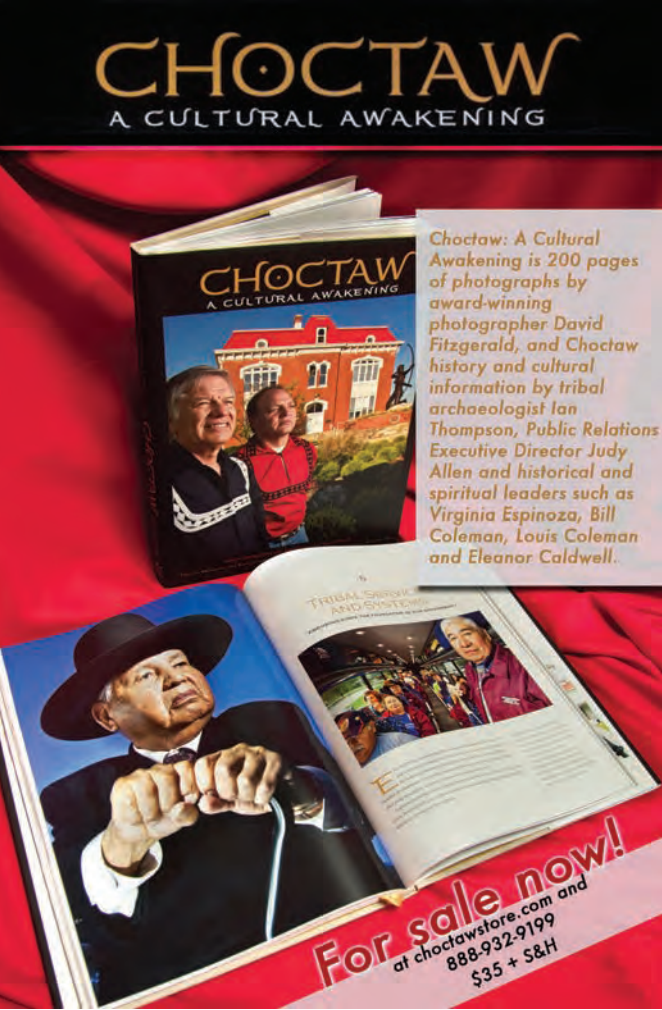
The clinic will be held at the Choctaw Nation Investment Center at 210 S. Chahta Road in Broken Bow. To register, please call 1-800-658-1497. Registration is limited, so call as soon as possible if interested.

OILS is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call OILS at 1-800-658-1497.

### Frazier/Johnson reunion

The Samuel and Lucy Ann Frazier-Johnson family reunion will be held April 26-27 at Camp Israel Folsom in Battiest. Friday begins with supper at 5 p.m. Please bring any information you may have concerning relatives of the past descendants.

For more information, contact Stacy Colbert at 580-314-5767, Phyllis Roberts at 580-236-1052 or Raymond Johnson at 580-244-7549.



**CHOCTAW**  
A CULTURAL AWAKENING

Choctaw: A Cultural Awakening is 200 pages of photographs by award-winning photographer David Fitzgerald, and Choctaw history and cultural information by tribal archaeologist Ian Thompson, Public Relations Executive Director Judy Allen and historical and spiritual leaders such as Virginia Espinoza, Bill Coleman, Louis Coleman and Eleanor Caldwell.

**For sale now!**  
at [choctawstore.com](http://choctawstore.com) and  
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\$35 + S&H



# Making an ‘IMPACT’

## Choctaw Nation Recycling expanding

By BRET MOSS  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Recycling will soon begin an ambitious new endeavor titled Choctaw Project IMPACT, which will focus on recycling efforts in the northeast portion of the Choctaw Nation.

The project will allow for a recycling center, similar to the existing location in Durant, which will serve as a hub for all mobile rollaway receptacles located in the area and be able to compact materials.

The new center, which opened its doors Jan. 28, is located at 304 Kerr Ave. in Poteau. It is able to process all types of paper, cardboard, tin/steel cans, aluminum cans, plastics (1, 2 and 5), printer cartridges and Styrofoam.

It is open to all residents and businesses in the community and is not limited

to Choctaw Nation tribal members, employees or businesses.

Employees will be available to assist 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., with 24-hour drop-off. The center can be reached at 918-649-0343.

IMPACT will also hire two new employees, create opportunities to educate communities and host special collection activities much like those hosted in Durant.

Collection events would include e-waste collection and recycling collection days where the staff will collect materials at a special location. Communities will be engaged by working with Girl/Boy Scouts, youth groups, senior citizens, etc., to help citizens learn more about the importance of recycling.

IMPACT is funded by a grant issued to Choctaw Recycling by Administration for Native Americans (ANA),

Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS). The grant is set for \$151,280 for the first year and will be funded at approximately the same rate for two additional years.

ANA is a part of the Department of Health and Human Services and has the mission to promote the goal of self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing funding for community-based projects and for training and technical assistance to tribes and native organizations.

“Through the grant we expect to reach around 120,000 people,” stated Tracy Horst, director of project management. This recycling program is aimed at providing education and collection activities to divert recyclable waste from landfills or being dumped through our communities. These types of efforts will “definitely make a positive impact on commu-



nity health and well-being,” continued Horst.

This effort will not only benefit the environment, but can also cut trash costs for businesses and individuals. Though Choctaw Nation already cooperates with businesses, it will be able to reach many more through the grant. “We look forward to speaking and working with clubs, schools and businesses within the northeast area of the Choctaw Nation,” remarked Horst.

To learn more about the Choctaw Nation’s recycling efforts or for information on ways to help, contact Tracy Horst at 580-920-0488 or 800-522-6170.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Silas Bacon

Silas Lee Bacon was born on Dec. 11, 2012, at the Choctaw Nation Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 20.8 inches. He was welcomed by his parents, Soloman Bacon Jr. and Melissa Waterman; grandparents, Dean and Teresa Davis, Soloman Sr. and Teresa Bacon, and Kay Ethridge; great-grandparents, Floyd and Hazel Davis, Mildred Waterman, and Shirley Bacon; and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.



### Savannah Clinton

Savannah Rae Clinton was born at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 15, 2012, at the hospital in Durant. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 19 inches. She is the daughter of Sharena Ward and Tony Clinton; sister of Bethany Anderson and Haley Clinton; granddaughter of Ruth Ward, Carmalita Clinton, Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee; great-granddaughter of Linda and Lee Knight and Mary and Loyd Ward of Powderly, Texas.



### Anthony Goar

Anthony Ray Goar was born on Jan. 7, 2013, in Oklahoma City. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 19 inches long. He is both Oklahoma and Mississippi Choctaw. He is welcomed into the world by his proud parents, Greg Goar and Sarah Perry; sister Alyssia Proffitt; and brother Jason Proffitt Jr. of Edmond. Anthony’s namesakes are his uncle, Sylvan Anthony Perry Sr., and his great-grandfather, Johnnie Ray Goar. Anthony is the grandson of Billie Ruth Goar of Oklahoma City, and the late Ronald J. Stoliby, Geraldine Marie Pfeiffer of Guthrie and Rick D. Perry of Dubuque, Iowa. Great-grandparents are Phyllis Charline (Layman) Goar of Oklahoma City and the late Johnnie Ray Goar, the late Aline (Shipman) Stoliby and the late Monroe J. Stoliby, Eleanor and the late Gerald Pfeiffer of Dubuque, the late Virginia and Paul Perry of Dubuque; and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.



### Recipe of the Month

#### Black Bean & Salmon Tostadas

Recipe provided by the American Heart Association

##### Ingredients:

- 8 6-inch corn tortillas
- Canola oil cooking spray
- 1 6-oz can boneless, skinless wild Alaskan salmon, drained
- 1 avocado, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced pickled jalapenos, plus two tablespoons pickling juice from the jar, divided
- 2 cups coleslaw mix or shredded cabbage
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 15-oz can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 tablespoons reduced-fat sour cream
- 2 tablespoons prepared salsa
- 2 scallions, chopped
- Lime wedges (optional)

##### Directions:

Position racks in upper and lower thirds of the oven; preheat to 375 F. Coat tortillas on both sides with cooking spray. Place on two baking sheets. Bake, turning once, until light brown, 12-14 minutes. Combine salmon, avocado and jalapenos in a bowl. Combine cabbage,

cilantro and the pickling juice in another bowl.

Process black beans, sour cream, salsa and scallions in a food processor until smooth. Transfer to a microwave-safe bowl. Cover and microwave on high until hot, about two minutes.

To assemble tostadas, spread each tortilla with some bean mixture and some salmon mixture and top with the cabbage salad. Serve with lime wedges, if desired.

##### Nutrition Facts:

Makes 4 servings – two tostadas each  
Calories - 319, Total fat - 11g, Saturated fat - 2g, Monounsaturated - 6g, Cholesterol - 16mg, Sodium - 352mg, Carbohydrates - 43g, Fiber - 12g, Potassium - 670mg.  
\*If you do not prefer fish, exchange salmon for canned chicken.  
For more information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

## Losing weight by cutting calorie intake

### A simple step to reducing your waistline

We are now months into 2013. Has time escaped us or are we still on track for a healthier new year? During this month we should focus on one thing – “The Heart!” According to the American Heart Association, between 60 to 70 percent of Americans are overweight or obese. There are many theories out there as to why so many Americans are overweight. The number one reason is taking in too much food and high-calorie beverages in conjunction with little to no physical activity. This leads to excess weight. If we were to take in a little less from food and beverages and burn off a little more energy from physical activity, there would be a weight decrease. Remember to eat just what you need. Evenly spaced balanced meals and snacks are good for you. Balance your meals with non-starchy veggies, lean protein and carbohydrates from whole grains, fruit and fat-free milk or yogurt. Snacks also need to

be balanced, smaller servings. For example, a meal may be 2-3 ounces of grilled chicken served over a 2-cup bed of leafy greens tossed with black beans, corn, tomatoes, red onion, cilantro, lemon juice, a couple of slices of avocado and a cup of mango, papaya, strawberries and kiwi coupled with some light vanilla yogurt.

After reading this, you may be hungry – do not forget about balancing your delicious meals with energy out. Physical activity can be as simple as going for a walk with family or your best friend, going to a fitness center, working in the garden or just doing housework. Whatever you decide to do for physical activity, do some every day.

Getting healthier comes from eating the right foods the right way, and staying active. If weight loss is needed, remember, decreasing weight by just 10 pounds can lower your risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

## Tips for increasing physical activity

### Make physical activity a regular part of the day

Choose activities that you enjoy and can do regularly. Fitting activity into a daily routine can be easy — such as taking a brisk 10-minute walk to and from the parking lot, bus stop, or subway station. Or, join an exercise class. Keep it interesting by trying something different on alternate days. Every little bit adds up and doing something is better than doing nothing.

#### More ways to increase physical activity

##### At home:

- Get the whole family involved — enjoy an afternoon bike ride with your kids.
- Walk up and down the soccer or softball field sidelines while watching the kids play.
- Walk the dog — don’t just watch the dog walk.
- Play with the kids — tumble in the leaves, build a snowman, splash in a puddle, or dance to favorite music.

##### At work:

- Replace a coffee break with a brisk 10-minute walk. Ask a friend to go with you.
- Take part in an exercise program at work or a nearby gym.
- Join the office softball team or walking group.

##### At play:

- Play basketball, softball, or soccer.
- Take a nature walk.
- Most important — have fun while being active!

## WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS  
AND CHILDREN

## Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS  
and CHILDREN



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



Free help

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

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# LISTEN UP



Luksi wants you to recycle too!

## Wanna Know Why?

CHOCTAW NATION WANTS YOU TO KNOW

# RECYCLING

IS TOTALLY IMPORTANT

## RECYCLING ONE TON OF PAPER CAN SAVE 17 TREES

PLUS two barrels of oil (enough to run the average car for 1,260 miles), 4,100 kilowatts of energy (enough to power the average home for six months), 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, and 60 pounds of pollution. (true story)

WHEN JUST ONE TON OF STEEL IS RECYCLED APPROXIMATELY 1,400 POUNDS OF COAL ARE CONSERVED! (whoa!)

# YOU CAN HELP BRING RECYCLABLES TO A ROLLOFF

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HOW MANY TIMES ALUMINUM CAN BE RECYCLED!

# YOU CAN HELP BRING RECYCLABLES TO A ROLLOFF

Tribal Complex, 16th and Locust, Durant  
Recycling Center, 3408 Wes Watkins Blvd., Durant  
Sears, 615 Westside Dr., Durant  
Choctaw Travel Plaza West, 4169 Choctaw Road, Durant  
Gaming Commission, 3735 Choctaw Road, Durant  
American Heritage Equine, 4310 Industrial Rd., Durant  
City of Calera, 3rd and Ryan, Calera  
Choctaw Travel Plaza East, 4015 Choctaw Rd., Durant (cardboard only)  
Food Distribution, 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., Durant (cardboard only)  
LaGrande Mexican Restaurant, 2005 North 1st, Madill  
Idabel Field Office, 2408 E. Lincoln Road, Idabel  
Idabel Casino/Shopping Center, 1425 S.E. Washington, Idabel  
McCurain County Gazette, 107 S. Central, Idabel  
Broken Bow Field Office, 210 Choctaw Road, Broken Bow

Broken Bow Casino, 1709 South Park Dr., Broken Bow  
Choctaw Hospital, One Choctaw Way, Tahliha  
Talihina Field Office, 201 Dallas St., Talihina  
Oklahoma Veterans Center, PO Box 1168, Talihina  
Pocola Travel Plaza, 3402 'A' Service Road, Pocola  
Poteau Health Clinic, 109 Kerr Ave., Poteau  
Howe High School, 21444E. North Railroad, Howe  
Spiro Field Office, 19400 AES Road, Spiro  
Stigler Field Office/Comm. Center, 2208 E. Main, Stigler  
Wilburton Field Office, 515 Center Point Road, Wilburton  
Antlers Field Office, 400 1/2 SW "D" St., Antlers  
Push County Collision, 1303 E. Main, Antlers  
Wright City Field Office, HC 74 Box 1760, Wright City  
Choctaw Tribal Services, 304 Chahta Circle, Hugo

Choctaw Community Center, 408 N. M Street, Hugo  
Choctaw Travel Plaza, Rt 1 Box 17-1, Grant  
Kiamichi Opportunities, 2204 E. Jackson, Hugo  
Goodland Academy, 1216 N. 4200 Road, Hugo  
Atoka Field Office, 1203 W. Liberty Rd., Atoka  
Stringtown Travel Plaza, 895 Hwy 69/75 N., Stringtown  
McAlester Field Office/Casino, 1632 George High Expw, McAlester  
Manns Flower/Greenhouse, 1218 S. George High Expw, McAlester  
Haileyville City Hall, Main Street, Haileyville  
Jones Academy, 909 Jones Academy Road, Hartshorne  
Crowder Field Office, 707 Bond St., Crowder  
Coalgate Field Office, 103 E. California, Coalgate  
Coal County District 2, 4 North Main, Coalgate  
Vinyl Ease, 3620 Juanita Drive, Suite 102, Denison, TX



# Choctaw Global Staffing fulfills contracts world-wide

By **CHRISSEY DILL**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Honesty, accountability and character – these are the values that guide the Choctaw Nation’s business relationships.

The leaders of the Choctaw Nation believe it is important to help not only local communities as much as possible, but branch out and provide its services to areas world-wide, and Choctaw Global Staffing exemplifies that value fully.

“Choctaw Global Staffing was established in May 1997,” said Nate Cox, serving as CGS co-managing officer alongside Gregg Robinson. The two have been a part of the organization for 23 years.

“We are a company fully owned by the Choctaw Nation – we’re a federal contractor,” said Cox.

According to Robinson, CGS began as Choctaw Management Services Enterprise (CMSE). “We’ve now branched out to several companies,” he added.

CGS specializes in personnel staffing for the government, the Department of Defense (DOD) serving as its main partner, according to Cox, as well as the State Department, Department of the Navy and Homeland Security.

“Under DOD, our two main customers right now are the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force,” he explained. “We staff medical personnel primarily, as well as social services and medical health.”

CGS has a total of 25 large contracts located in 21 countries worldwide with its partnership with DOD and the State Department.

While medical support is

CGS’ primary form of service, Cox said the business has branched out the past six years into facility maintenance.

“We do facility maintenance and elevator repair for all embassies and consulates worldwide,” he said.

Making up a total of about 1,000 employees, CGS has local workers as well as its worldwide offices. Program management offices are located in Durant, San Antonio, and Lorton, Va., with around 70 employees within the United States.

“Employees outside of these three management offices generally work on posts; they have an office that is provided by the military,” explained Cox. “The employees here in Durant do the Human Resources functions and the senior management.”

Robinson discussed the employees’ job descriptions, saying their responsibilities differ according to what the contract entails. “We have one contract that does facility maintenance on embassies, we have employees that do all kinds of medical services, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, physician assistants,” he explained, “and then we have the social service side, or the behavioral health, where we provide social workers.”

CGS conducts counseling services for its military members and their families, said Cox. “We also have a new parent support program overseas in Germany,” he added. “The social workers help families who have just had children with all their difficulties starting a family,” continued Robinson.

One of the DOD contracts, said Cox, WICO (Women, Infants and Children Over-

seas), is very similar to what the Choctaw Nation offers to tribal members. “We offer the program to all military families, not just tribal members,” he said. “We provide nutritional counseling, dieticians, and we print WIC vouchers here in Durant and overnight them to all of our offices worldwide, those offices located on Army posts and Air Force bases.” Families are then able to take those vouchers into the commissary on post and purchase what they need.

According to Cox, a large number of CGS employees working overseas are family members of active duty military, and they have followed their spouse when they’ve had a permanent change of station to a country outside of the United States. In many instances, they have put their career on hold, and if their skill set fits with what CGS needs and what its requirements are, they get first priority, just as tribal members get first priority.

If an individual is interested in gaining employment with CGS, they could contact its recruiting staff stationed in San Antonio, according to Robinson.

Interested applicants need schooling in the medical field and behavioral health, said Cox. “We have everything from pediatric personnel, anesthesiologists, physician assistants, a wide array.”

CGS hires counselors for families of military personnel as well, said Robinson, who aid those in need when their family member is deployed.

Throughout his 12 years with CGS, Robinson has seen the impact this business makes on its participants. “There’s something new every day, a new challenge,” he

said. “With most of our contracts being medical and social services, it feels good to know that you’re helping the soldiers and their families.”

Being part-time military in the Army Reserve, Cox said it is rewarding knowing you’re helping. “I get to do what I can to help in both the civilian capacity as well as try to do what I can in uniform, helping out not only the military, not only the soldiers, but their families as well.”

Cox recalled a moment in his career that put all his work into perspective, on a program management visit to Germany two years ago. “Standing there watching some of the medical vehicles come into Landstuhl, Germany, at the hospital, the first place where injured soldiers and airmen come in to get evaluated, seeing some of our workers doing counseling services and seeing the dedication they had for their jobs treating those soldiers and airmen who were wounded kind of brought it all into focus on what we’re about.”

Any time we get to visit one of our programs and see that it’s making a difference is rewarding, said Robinson.

When discussing the future of CGS, Cox said, “We plan to continue the services we offer, but we’d also like to expand into maybe some partnerships with the Veterans Administration to continue to help those military members as they return back from overseas. That’s our big goal.”

For more information on CGS, visit [choctawglobal.com](http://choctawglobal.com). If you are interested in employment opportunities, click on the “Employment Center” and “Job Listings” link found on the site.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

**Youth Advisory Board members join in the Pledge of Allegiance at January’s council meeting.**

## YAB attends January Tribal Council meeting

The January 2013 session of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s Tribal Council began with a full house that included several Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members.

Council Speaker Delton Cox welcomed guests with the simple but compelling phrase, “This is your Council.”

The Youth Advisory Board is comprised of students throughout southeastern Oklahoma whose goal is to volunteer and find ways to improve the communities in which they live. Members often begin a new year with a visit to a Tribal Council meeting as well as school board and city council meetings every year. Several YAB chapters were represented on Jan. 12 at Tvshka Homma including South LeFlore County, North LeFlore County, Clayton, Talihina, Wright City, Soper, Latimer County, Heavener and Idabel.

The young men and women heard committee reports about a variety of Choctaw Nation departments and programs, and witnessed the process of addressing monthly Council Bills.

Council Secretary Thomas Williston introduced each Council Bill for a vote. All were approved unanimously and included:

- An application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for America’s Historical and Cultural Organization Planning Grant. The funds will assist the Cultural Services department in planning, collecting data and assessing available resources for the development of an interpretive exhibit on early Choctaw culture and anthropology.

- A modification for the Choctaw Nation Head Start Fiscal Year 2012 fund.

- Approval of the 2013 budget of the Choctaw Nation Environmental Office Clean Air Act Section 103 Project. The project, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, would help identify sources of air pollution and establish a baseline for future planning.

- Two business leases in Pittsburg County and two grazing leases, one each in Latimer County and Atoka County.

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

# My mother’s big secret

Contributed by **SHARON POSTOAK**

The night I will never forget was one when I saw my mother looking so radiant. At 6 years of age, I thought I knew everything about my mother, but little did I know, she had a big secret.

Mom enjoyed listening to gospel music. She had a large collection of gospel records, many of which you may be familiar with, such as the Happy Goodman Family, the Speer Family, the Gaithers and her favorites, the Blackwood Brothers and the Stamps Quartet, just to name a few. These records are very precious to me; they show my mother’s love for music.

Remembering a special night that would never be forgotten or erased from my mind was the revelation of my mother’s well-kept secret. It was the month of July, and my mother and I were taking a trip to Dallas. We were boarding a Greyhound bus that afternoon. The bus station at the time was located across from the police station in town. It was an enjoyable ride, and the seats were comfortable.

When we arrived at our destination, our cousin, Ella, picked us up in her red car and drove us to her house. At a young age, I thought Dallas was just a beautiful place to be. After relaxing and having a bite to eat, mom said, “We better get ready so we can get a good seat.”

“Mom, where are we going?” I replied.

We were going to one of the biggest all-night singings put on by the Stamps Quartet. So we hurried along and got all dressed up.

My mother looked so beautiful. She had a pretty silk dress on with high heels to match. As I watched her fix her short brown hair, she then applied some red lipstick. Wow. As for me, I had a light blue dress on with

white patent shoes, frilly white socks and white gloves. Mom then combed my long brown hair and put it up in a bun. She also gave me a pretty bracelet and a heart necklace to wear. We were ready. We grabbed our purses and were on our way.

When we arrived, there were so many people. My mom took me by the hand and said, “This place is called the Sport Auditorium,” where all the best singers will perform on stage tonight. As we made our way in, we made one more stop to check our hair before we found our way to our seats. “Wow,” I thought, we were right up front! Right next to the stage, we had the best seats in the house. While we were waiting for the singers to come on, I turned around in my seat and the whole auditorium was full. There was not an empty seat to be found.

As the music started, everyone’s attention was focused on the stage. At that moment I could tell my mother was very elated. The large curtain started to open; you could feel the crowd’s excitement. Quartets from all over the United States had come to sing. The students from the Stamps Music School would open the show until the broadcasting went on the air.

Suddenly, the emcee comes out, announcing, “We are broadcasting live on air from the Sport Auditorium in Dallas, Texas, for the All Night Singing.” Everyone was whistling and cheering, even me. The emcee gets back on the microphone and says, “And let’s put our hands together and give a warm welcome to the ole man himself, Mr. Stamps and the



Contributed photo

Stamps Quartet.” In walk four men and the piano player all in black suits and white collars. They were all very handsome and distinguished looking. Each singer had a big smile and a wonderful voice. The crowd was up on its feet, everyone clapping as hard as they could.

So many wonderful songs were sung and the crowd did not want them to stop; but, suddenly they did. The tenor started talking about the people they had once sang with and said, “We see someone we know out in the audience, and I bet if we give her a round of applause we could get her up here!” The crowd got silent, everyone looking around to see if they could find that person. Then, all of a sudden, the tenor said, “Grace, would you come up here and sing with us?”

“Oh my gosh!” I thought, “That’s my mom!”

The crowd clapped and cheered her on. My mother did not expect this, nor did I.

My mind was wondering... how did those men know my mom? Now, as I think back, I was afraid of my mom leaving me in the seats alone. I requested, “Mom, don’t leave me.” But the lady sitting next to us said, “I’ll watch your daughter; she’ll be ok, now you get up there and sing.”

Watching my mother walk on stage, she looked so pretty. That night it made me realize how humble my mother was. She never told anyone she could sing like that. I was so proud of her, and very surprised. As she approached

the microphone, they introduced her. “This is Grace from Ardmore, Okla., and she has been singing as a student with the Stamps Music School for several years.”

Then the piano player started up. The first song they sang was, “I’m winging my way back home.” Then they sang, “Jesus hold my hand,” in which she sang the alto part. Her voice was beautifully complimented by the quartet. Mom had a great big smile and you could tell she was really enjoying herself. The way she performed that night was like she had done it all her life. After two songs she came back to sit with me. Many people in the crowd shook her hand and said, “We enjoyed your singing.”

As we were leaving I had so many questions to ask my mom. Talking to her, I asked, “How did you get started?” Mom’s reply was, “I started singing at Stamps Music School several years ago.” She said her teachers were Vidat Polk for reading music and Bill Stamps for voice. She had classes everyday from 9 a.m. to noon and then after lunch from 1 to 3 p.m. Mom was living with our cousin, Ella, at the time, which made it more convenient to make it to her classes. She told me how she would take a street bus that only cost a nickel to ride. The Stamps Music School started many years ago in Dallas on Oak Cliff Street. Many of the great quartets started there.

What an awesome surprise, I thought, now I know my mom’s wonderful secret.



Contributed photo

## A mason with a plan

By J. **DAVID HOLT**

“Masonry: The Voice of the Masonry Industry”

*Reprinted with permission*

Maybe Christian Rodriguez didn’t have a plan when he graduated high school in Oklahoma, but he does now.

After a year of junior college, Rodriguez decided that he was “not ready” for more school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served three years in the infantry. Following his own military service, he temporarily moved to Washington, D.C., to provide care for his brother-in-law, who had been severely injured in combat in Afghanistan.

Back home in Broken Bow, he thought about the G.I. Bill. “My mom was one of my motivations in going back to school,” said Rodriguez. “She kept telling me that it’s never too late to make something of yourself.

“I thought I should take advantage of the G.I. Bill, and my mother did, too,” he continued. “I had done some construction. My brother builds homes. So, I enrolled in the masonry program at Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabel. I was surprised. I was better than I thought I’d be.”

His masonry instructor, Jeff Dunn, said he was a very good student. “He started as a full-time student, and after his first year, Christian finished second in the state masonry competition. He finished the program this year (2012), took first place in the state contest and competed in the national competition in Kansas City.”

Rodriguez called Dunn’s class a “great experience” and his trip to Kansas City for the SkillsUSA National Masonry Championships a “once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

“He was an excellent student,” Dunn said. “I wish I had a room full of students like him.”

The student-teacher relationship continues. “I’ve gone out on my own,” Rodriguez said. “I’m trying to build a business. Mr. Dunn refers work to me that the school and his students can’t do.”

Dunn said Rodriguez has taken the initiative to print business cards, has decals on his truck and has even run advertising in the local newspaper. In the meantime, he is taking full advantage of the G.I. Bill by taking additional courses at Eastern Oklahoma State University, where he plans to pursue a degree in construction management.

Rodriguez is also taking advantage of the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program. “The CAB program is a two-to-one matched savings program for start-up businesses,” Rodriguez explained. “So by the time I get my degree, I should have saved enough to buy the equipment I’ll need.” Christian Rodriguez has a plan.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Marshall succeeds in basketball

Marshall James Henderson is grateful for his basketball-playing ability, which has taken him on an adventurous journey that is still in progress. He is equally proud of his Choctaw heritage, a fact alluded to recently by an ESPN commentator during one of his games. Marshall's great-great-grandfather, James Alexander Beams, was an original enrollee.

Marshall began his career playing for his father, Willie Henderson, at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas. After his senior year, he signed with the University of Utah where, as a freshman, he started every game, averaging 11.8 points per game.

His sophomore year, he transferred to Texas Tech at Lubbock where he was red-shirted to satisfy NCAA rules. When the school experienced a coaching change, he enrolled at nearby South Plains Junior College and helped lead them to a perfect 36-0 record and a national title. He was selected the 2012 National JUCO Player of the Year.

Following his year at South Plains Junior College, Marshall signed with the University of Mississippi. He currently leads the Southeast Conference (SEC) in scoring, with over 18 points a game. After this season, he will have one more year to play for Ole Miss.



## Zak completes basic training, graduates

Zakary Draper has completed his basic training and graduated from Fort Sill. He is currently stationed in Fort Gordon, Ga., for his AIT training.

Zak is a 2012 graduate of Brewer High School in White Settlement, Texas. He is the son of Lance Draper and Yvonne Draper, grandson of Calvin and Gail Draper and Ron and Delene Drumm, all of Fort Worth, Texas. He is the great-grandson of the late Leonard and Ruth Potts of Buffalo Valley, and the late Edward and Ola Maye Draper of Wilburton. Zak is proud of his Choctaw heritage.



## Happy birthday, Lola

Happy birthday to Lola Jean Nix, who was born on March 24, 1924. She will turn 89 years old. Husband John Nix wishes her a happy birthday. John and Lola, who reside in Quinton, were married Aug. 6, 1945. They have two sons and a daughter. John also served in the Army, he was in World War II, Europe and Germany.



## Happy birthday, Savannah

Nine years ago, on Jan. 26, 2004, a beautiful little girl was born. Savannah Jo Whitley's family wishes her the best birthday ever, from Steve, BeLina, Billy, Danny and Grana.



## Family birthdays

Roberta Ashiking of Forest Lake, Ariz., would like to wish the late Eva Parish of California a happy birthday on Feb. 18, Roberta and her twin brother Robert Felihkatubbe of Hemet, Calif., on Feb. 26, and their niece LaTisha Felihkatubbe of Palmdale, Calif., on Feb. 5. Happy birthday to all!

## Happy birthday, Conlee

Happy 17th birthday to Conlee McAlvain on Feb. 28. Conlee is from Skiatook where he attends high school. He is a direct descendant of Polk McAlvain. He races motorcycles in the Oklahoma Cross Country Racing Series, enjoys a day swimming and skiing at the lake and attends GUTS Church, where he recently gave his life to our Lord Jesus and was baptized. His proud parents, Dick and Tina McAlvain, wish him a happy birthday.



## Winners of Choctaw traditional dress contest

The Shawnee/Tecumseh Indian Education Student Pow Wow was held on Dec. 1 in Shawnee. Top finishers in the Choctaw traditional dress dance contest, sponsored by the head lady dancer, a Choctaw, are pictured at right.

From left are first place, Annica Billey of Ada; second place, Stevanna Meikle of Norman; third place, Buffy Simmons of Shawnee; fourth place, Debra Belt of Ada; and fifth place, Madeleine Freeman of Oklahoma City.

Consolations went to Serena Horinek, Jessica Meikle and Rachel Scott. Annica and Debra also competed in the Choctaw traditional dress category at the 2012 Choctaw Casino Pow Wow. Both placed in the top five.



## Patricia turns 15

Patricia Laguna turned 15 on Feb. 5. She is the daughter of Del Johnson-Laguna and Rebuh Laguna. Her family and friends wish her a happy 15th birthday.



## Philip a proud marathon runner

Pictured is Philip Yuka Keyut Rowell with his proud mother, Geraldine Rowell, upon completion of the 2013 Houston Marthon on Jan.

13. Philip completed the race with a time of 3 hours and 55 minutes. He was one of 24,000 runners from around the world.

He also competed in the 5K run early on Saturday, finishing with a time of 22 minutes. In addition to the Houston Marathon, he completed two marathons on consecutive days in Humble, Texas. He ran "The End of the World Marathon" on Dec. 21 and "The Day After the End of the World Marathon" on Dec. 22. Each marathon is 26.2 miles.

Philip, a 1996 graduate of Broken Bow High School, intends to make the Houston Marathon an annual event. He resides in Houston with his wife, Adrean. They are expecting their first child in April.



## Happy birthday, Dakota

Dakota Hood celebrated his fifth birthday with family and friends on Nov. 3. He is the son of Christie and Thomas Hood and brother of Makayla and Caleb. He is the grandson of Linda and Lee Knight and Kathy and Charles Hood.



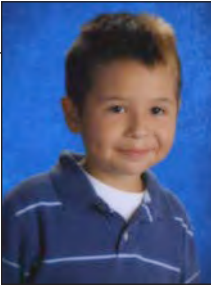
## Boehm marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Wayne Boehm are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Dallas Wayne Boehm, to Abby Leigh Sides, on Oct. 20, 2012, in Robstown, Texas.



## Jathon turns 8

Jathon Hunt turned 8 years old on Jan. 7. His family is so proud of him. Jathon had perfect attendance for almost every semester this year in first grade. He enjoys riding his bike, playing Xbox and hanging out with his older brother, Seth, and younger sister, Elizabeth.



## Happy birthday, Brad

Happy birthday to Brad Scott from Taylor, Jordan, Alanna, uncle Larry and the rest of the family.



## Happy birthday, Cassidy

Cassidy Dodge turned 10 years old on Feb. 11. She attends Valley Life Charter School in Visalia, Calif. Happy birthday, Cassidy!



## Happy birthday, Terance

Terance Johnson will turn 1 year old on Feb. 25. He is the son of Tracy Johnson, grandson of Debbie Johnson and Bill Bowdre and great-grandson of Jarvis and Sheila Johnson. Everybody wishes him a wonderful first birthday.



## Happy birthday to the family

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late Harrison and Susan Parker of Cooper, Texas, recently celebrated their birthdays in December and January.

Celebrating their birthdays are Sammie-Faye Keim on Jan. 5, Terrie Lane on Jan. 22, Robert Parker on Dec. 22, who are grandchildren, and Ty Warner on Dec. 16, Dally Warner on Dec. 18 and Miranda Keim on Dec. 10, who are great-grandchildren.

Aunt Dorothy Skeen wishes them all a happy birthday, as well as her husband, Duane Skeen, who celebrated his birthday on Feb. 8.

## Happy birthday, Kelli

Kelli Sawyer will be 1 year old on Feb. 17. She is the daughter of LeeAnn Johnson, granddaughter of Debbie Johnson, great-granddaughter of Jarvis and Sheila Johnson, niece of Tracy Johnson and cousin of Terance Johnson. Her family wishes her a very happy first birthday in New Mexico.



### DOCTORATE

\$20,000 Scholarship  
\$10,000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014  
1 applicant will be selected  
Deadline: March 31, 2013

- United States Resident
- Accepted into Doctoral Program of Choice
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member

### GRADUATE

\$12,000 Scholarship  
\$6000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014  
2 applicants will be selected  
Deadline: March 31, 2013

- United States Resident
- Accepted into Masters Program of Choice
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member

### BROADENING HORIZONS



### EMPOWERING CHOCTAW LIFE

### UNDERGRADUATE

\$3000 Scholarship  
\$1500 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014  
2 applicants will be selected  
Deadline: March 31, 2013

- United States Resident
- Completed One Year Toward Bachelors degree
- GPA of 3.0 or Higher
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member
- Full-Time Student

### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

\$2000 Scholarship  
\$1000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014  
3 applicants will be selected  
Deadline: April 12, 2013

- Graduating High School in the 10.5 Counties of the Choctaw Nation
- GPA of 2.5 or Higher
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member
- Full-Time Student

CHAHTAFUNDATION.COM/EDUCATION

1-800-522-6170 X2546  
Scott Wesley, Scholarship Specialist

Transportation available to tribal members in Southeast OK! Register by March 22nd at 866-933-2260!

Pathways to Success... A Choctaw Tradition Career Expo 2013

April 3rd 10:00am to 2:00pm

Southeast Expo Center 4500 W Hwy 270 McAlester, OK 74501

Guest Speaker Mr. Grant Baldwin

866-933-2260 • choctawcareers.com

CHOCTAW NATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT



# EDUCATION



Photo provided

**Congratulations to the Choctaw Language class in Ardmore, who recently completed Phase I of the class. Pictured from left are teacher Lillian Vaughn, (front row) Brad Joe, Henry Marris Jr., (second row) Kathy Eye, Carrie Williamson, Ella Ross, Vonya Lang, Jeannye Preston, Lucretia Dickson, Delores Marris, Ronnie Bond, Leona Johnson, Luther Wooley, (back row) McClain Lang, Curtis Boston, Donald Dickson and Harry Marris.**

## Farm Service Agency announces important program updates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended the authorization of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) for many Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) commodity, disaster and conservation programs through 2013. FSA administers these programs.

**FSA offices will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3.** To sign up for the program, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 and vice versa. All dairy producers' MILC contracts are automatically extended to Sept. 30. Eligible producers therefore do not need to re-enroll in MILC.

For more information about the programs and loans administered by FSA, visit any FSA county office or [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW Stop 9410 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll-free at 866-632-9992 (English) or 800-877-8339 (TDD) or 866-377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or 800-845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

## Thankful for financial support in school

My name is Justin Rosebeary, and I graduated from the nursing program through the University of Central Oklahoma. I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial support I received each semester during school. I sincerely appreciate your generosity. The cost of education is very high, and your contributions helped me to reduce my financial burdens. Reimbursing me for the NCLEX exam has been icing on the cake.

I also wanted to especially thank Karen Thomas for assisting me each semester and her timely responses whenever I had questions. The Choctaw Nation has been a true blessing for me. Thank you very much.



### Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray to appear on AMC

AMC channel's new program, "The Road Show," will premier this spring featuring Miss Choctaw Nation. The Road Show is a reality show filmed in documentary style focusing on the backgrounds of its contestants. Murray will be exhibiting her exceptional vocal talents.

## Emily earns superintendent's honor roll

Congratulations to Emily King, who won third-grade superintendent's honor roll at Central Elementary of Coweta Public Schools on Jan. 18. She made straight A's throughout the semester and won a "Tiger Club" award for great conduct as a student. Emily is from Tulsa.



Photo provided

**The Choctaw Language class of Durant completed Phase II in January, with Ann Kaniatobe serving as the instructor. Congratulations to graduates Victor Ratliff, Barbara Cates and Dr. Roderick Smith.**



## Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

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

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

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

## Legal Aid board elects Bruce Frazier president

The Board of Directors of Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) has elected Bruce Frazier, advocate for the Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program, to serve as its president for 2013. Frazier served last year as vice president and has been a board member since 2009.

"LASO helps provide much needed legal services to those who would otherwise have no one to turn to," said Frazier, who lives in Hugo. "In today's economy, we have many members of the Choctaw Nation as well as others who would be lost in a justice system through which they could not find a path. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to serve LASO as a member of the Board of Directors and strive to lead the board through these days when funding challenges are surpassed by the greater need of our clients."

Frazier was the first advocate hired to serve the Choctaw Nation victims of crime under the Oklahoma Victim Assistance Program in 2003. His advocacy work with crime victims, including the elderly, covers the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation in southeastern Oklahoma. He also serves on the Choctaw Nation Sexual Assault Response Team, the Bryan County Coordinated Community Response Team and the Bryan County Task Force in Durant.

LASO offices elected include Tulsa Attorney Dwight L. Smith, Tulsa, as vice president, and Lucille Logan, Oklahoma City, as secretary-treasurer. Smith represents the Oklahoma Bar Association and Logan represents the Northeast Area Council of Oklahoma County.

LASO is a not-for-profit law firm that provides free civil legal assistance to eligible low-income individuals and their families and to elderly persons. Legal Aid attorneys and their staff work through LASO's 22 law offices and satellite offices, serving eligible clients in all 77 counties of Oklahoma. Legal Aid Services prioritizes cases involving issues that affect basic necessities of life, such as safety, food, shelter and a source of income, or those cases that have an emergency nature, such as a hearing in a few days or an impending eviction.

## Kiera chosen for OCDA JH All-State

Auditions were held Nov. 13 in Oklahoma City to select members for the 2013 OCDA Junior High All-State Choral groups. Kiera Bruton, the daughter of Janis and David Bruton, was chosen to the esteemed 2013 OCDA Jr. High All-State Treble Chorus.

Kiera, an eighth-grade middle school vocal music student, will join the other 28 elite Soprano I vocalists from throughout the state to rehearse and be presented in concert Jan. 10-12 at Oklahoma City and Bethany.

Kiera achieved this honor when she was selected one of only 30 Soprano I singers that advanced to the OCDA final auditions after competing in the quad portion of the All-State competition. She has achieved other music honors, such as a superior medal in OSSAA solo competition, selected to the 2012 SW OK All-Region Honor Choir and performed with the school choir.

This is a marvelous accomplishment for Kiera and perhaps one of many in her musical future. Congratulations, and please know that your school and community are honored and celebrate your prestigious mark of distinction.



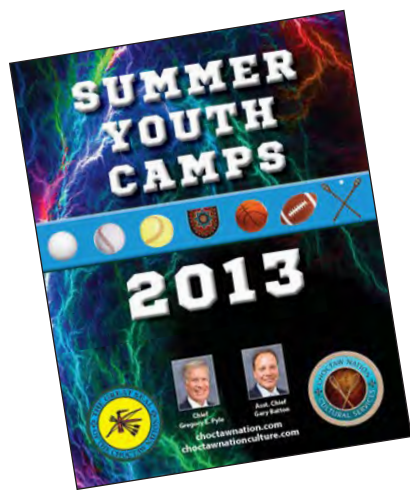
## Choctaw Language Class: Phase III - Durant

Phase III of the Choctaw Language class will begin **Feb. 11**, every Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for 16 weeks.

The class is held at the Choctaw Community Center in Durant, located near the Big Lots Distribution Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**For more information, call the School of Choctaw Language at 580-924-8280 or Ann Kaniatobe at 580-916-1819.**

## Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Camps 2013



The 2013 Summer Camp booklet is now available online and at the Choctaw community centers.

For more information, call the Summer Youth Camp Program at 1-800-522-6170.

Registration forms are available online at [choctawnation.com](http://choctawnation.com) or [choctawnationculture.com](http://choctawnationculture.com).

Deadlines for each camp are as follows:  
Golf Camp - **March 29**  
Baseball, Softball, Stickball, Cultural Enrichment, Basketball and Football - **April 19**

New applicants **must** send copies of their Choctaw Membership Card and CDIB.

## Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>M</b>						1	2
<b>A</b>							
<b>R</b>	3	4 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	5 Antlers by appt.	6 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	7	8 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	9
<b>C</b>	10 Daylight Saving Time begins	11 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	12	13 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	14	15 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	16
<b>H</b>	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Crowder by appt.	20 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	21	22 Wright City by appt.	23
<b>2</b>							
<b>0</b>							
<b>1</b>	24 Palm Sunday	25	26 Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	27	28	29 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	30
<b>3</b>	31 Easter	First Day of Passover				Good Friday	

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](mailto:ddavenport@choctawnation.com)



# OBITUARIES

## Rebecca Sapulpa

Rebecca Jane Sapulpa, 59, passed away on Dec. 30, 2012, in Antlers. She was born Feb. 7, 1953, in Talihina, to Benjamin and Katherine (Walker) Austin.

She was a member of Fresh Beginnings Church in Finley. Rebecca enjoyed gospel singing, shopping, making frybread and banaha. She also liked to volunteer with the Dutch House and New Beginnings.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin and Katherine Austin; and grandparents, David Walker and Agnes Graman.

She is survived by her children, Christy Sapulpa-Myers with husband Troy of Lake Ridge, Va.; grandchildren, Yasmin, Aliyah, Shakira and Arianna; stepsons, Sean Sapulpa and Scott Sapulpa; brother, Dwight Austin of Finley; sisters, Eugenia Mae (Austin) Martinez with husband Custer, and Shelly Dawn Greenwood with husband Cubby, all of Finley; nephews, Ben Austin, Nathan Austin, Earl Austin, Anthony Martinez, Brent Greenwood, and Cody Greenwood; nieces, Melissa Austin, Catherine Martinez, Nizhoni Martinez, Jessica Billy and Lavanda; as well as many other relatives and friends.



## Doris Jenkins

Doris N. Jenkins, 87, passed away on Nov. 21, 2012, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 14, 1925, in Wister, to David Blant Darrough and Nettie (Free) Darrough. She graduated from Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma and was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. She worked for many years and retired from Tulsa County Building Operations department. Doris touched so many lives with her beautiful smile and contagious love. She will be remembered and missed by so many. The family thanks everyone for the love, caring, cards and tokens of affection shown to our mother throughout her life and her passing to heaven.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Dave Darrough; sister Elizabeth Corbin; sister-in-law Lola Mae Darrough; and brother-in-law George Corbin.

She is survived by her daughters and son-in-law, Elizabeth Marlene and Randy Gilkey, and Cynthia Parson, all of Tulsa; grandsons, Stephen Parson of Tulsa, and Sean Gilkey with wife Abby of Fort Gibson; great-grandchildren, Courtney Lea Gilkey and Trevor Sean Gilkey; nephew Jack Darrough with wife Karen of Tulsa; niece Kathy Davis with husband Rev. Sam of Coweta; and many great-nieces, nephews and countless friends.

## Suzanne Mule

Suzanne "Sue" Mule, 72, passed away on Jan. 2, 2013, in Ardmore. She was born on Aug. 23, 1940, to Ernest Williams and Audrey Williams in Ardmore.

Sue was a long-time resident of Ardmore and worked hard to support her family. She became a certified nursing assistant and took a position with the Oklahoma Veteran's Center where she worked for 25 years, caring for America's veterans before her retirement. She loved going to church and attending gospel singing. Her favorite pastime was spending time with her family and grandchildren.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Joe Mule.

She is survived by three sons, David Hotulke with wife Vickie, and Darren Hotulke, all of Tulsa, and Jay Mule with wife Toni of Norman; two daughters, Barrie Alvarez with husband Dale of Tulsa, and Cherie Hornell of Ardmore; 12 grandchildren, Kai-iei Hotulke, Kristen Hotulke, Evan Hotulke, Ian Hotulke, all of Tulsa, Michael Alvarez, Kari Alvarez, Hunter Hotulke, Hayden Hotulke, Trea Hornell, Kaila Hornell, Jaeden Reed and Jaylee Mule; three great-grandchildren; special cousin, Pat Walters of Norman; and niece, Sandra Taylor of Ardmore.



## Rosemary Wadlow

Rosemary Ann Wadlow, 67, of Sulphur passed away on Dec. 29, 2012, in Oklahoma City. She was born on Oct. 23, 1945, in Lawton, to the late James and Rachel (Meely) Smith. She married Delvin Wadlow on July 16, 2004, in Gainsville, Texas.

She spent her working career as a licensed practical nurse in area medical facilities and nursing homes. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and worked hard to preserve and share her culture. She spent countless hours teaching the native languages to those who were interested in learning. In earlier years, Rosemary coached softball. In her spare time, she enjoyed riding motorcycles with Delvin, sewing, cooking and dancing. She was a talented seamstress and made many Native American dresses. She was an avid Elvis fan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughters, Sonya and Sandra Dodson; brothers, Roger Smith and Levester Buckley; grandson Kenneth Doyle Rarrott Jr., and the father of her children, Tommy J. Dodson.

She is survived by her husband; daughters, Bobbie Sue Sledd, Sophia Thompson, both of Sulphur, and Shelly Herrera of Oklahoma City; son Shawn Dodson with wife Jodi of Edmond; stepchildren, Debbie Dobbins, Reta Wadlow and Chris Wadlow; sisters, Clara McClurken, Verna Loper and Esther Bucci; brothers James Smith; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



## Aline Virginia Sam

Aline Virginia Sam, 83, passed away on Jan. 6, 2013, in Paris, Texas. She was born in Fort Towson to George Lester and Etline (Tims) Washington. She married Leonard Sam in January of 1953, in Hot Springs, Ark. She was a lifelong member of the High Hill Church where she taught Sunday school for adults and children, and loved to take her grandchildren to church with her. Virginia had traveled extensively throughout her life and actually visited or lived in the 48 continental states. At the age of 50, she fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a LPN. She has worked in the Hugo nursing homes, the Choctaw Nursing Home in Antlers, and several area hospitals. She loved the outdoors, gardening, sewing and raising Hereford calves. She always let her children know she loved them and loved spending a lot of time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter Cindi Baker; grandson Sam Davis; and brother Oliver Washington.

Virginia is survived by her son, Gordon Sam of Dallas; daughters, Ramona White Tobacco of Soper, Pam Hunt of Antlers, Virginia Foster with husband Clark of Paris, Texas, and Sue Gann with husband Robert of Hugo; sister Naomi Sweet of Downey, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and three beloved dachshunds.



## Arthur Wilmoth Jr.

Arthur Lee "A.L." Wilmoth Jr., 90, of Buffalo Valley passed away on Dec. 2, 2012, at his residence. He was born in Buffalo Valley on July 23, 1922, a son of the late Emma (King) and Arthur Lee Wilmoth. He joined the U.S. Marines during World War II. After the war, he learned to weld in the shipyards and joined Pipe Fitter Union #351 in Muskogee. He traveled the United States as a pipe welder until retiring in 1982, when he came home and began to work as a cattle rancher on his mother's Indian allotment land, which he owned until his death. Arthur was very proud of his Native American heritage and was raised in the time of the Great Depression, so he knew what it was like to be poor. He was well liked and respected by all he knew. The family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Color Guard and Choctaw Veteran's Cemetery for all their assistance.

He is survived by sons, Anthony Lynn and Jackie Wilmoth of Blue Ridge, Texas, Wayland Dean Wilmoth and Harper Lee Wilmoth of Conroe, Texas; daughters, Janice Eileen Buchannan of Hesperia, Calif., Carolyn Sue and Fred Jackson of Cartwright, and Kelly Shawn and David Dwyer, both of Colbert; nine grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



## Amelia Tilton

Amelia (Whitaker) Terry Tilton, 58, of Hugo passed away on Dec. 16, 2012, in Hugo. She was born Dec. 29, 1953, in Texarkana, Ark., the daughter of Robert James Whitaker and Lena (Tanitubbi) Whitaker, and had lived most of her life in the Hugo area.

Amelia loved her cat, T.J., and enjoyed working puzzles and collecting knickknacks. She also enjoyed cooking and drinking her tea. She worked as a certified nurse's aide in nursing homes.

Amelia is preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Terry Sr., and brother, Robert Whitaker.

She is survived by husband Bill Cochnaur of Hugo; son Robert Terry of Hugo; daughter Barbara Phillips of Bossier City, La.; sisters, Carol Fullick of Frisco, Texas, and Alisha Gail Whitaker of McAlester; grandchildren, Christopher Terry, Cameron Terry, Tommy Phillips, Vincent Phillips, Jessica Phillips and Brandon Phillips; great-grandchildren, Zoey Terry and Aubrey Terry; along with a host of other family and friends.

## Viola Sullivan

Viola M. Sullivan, 89, passed away on Aug. 2, 2012, in Oklahoma City. She was born on Oct. 16, 1922, in Sardis to Joe and Elsie Ann (Bell) Moore. Viola was a member of the Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance and enjoyed doing volunteer work. She was an active church member.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Howard W. Sullivan; half-brothers, Andrew, Abner Sylvester, Howard, Russell Perry, George Robert, Ellis and Edgar Bohanan; half-sisters, Laura Mae Bohanan Deaton and Ethel Bohanan Hudson; stepbrother Sam Bohanon; and step-sisters, Vina Bohanon Bell and Elsie Bohanon Norris.

Viola is survived by her son, Ron Sullivan; grandchildren, Heather Rose, Ronny, Nikki Sullivan and Amanda Sullivan, and Rachel Riskey; and great-grandchildren, David and Greyson Rose, Nathan, Taylor and Ryan Sullivan.



## Edgar Gregory

Edgar P. Gregory, 95, of Spiro passed away on Jan. 12, 2013, in Poteau. He was born on April 18, 1917, in Pocola, to Edwin Shepard and Algia (Manley) Gregory.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Pearl Gregory; daughters, Norma Conrad and Laverda Hayes; son Bill Blevins; sisters, Mary Scrivner, Lilly Ridenour, and Ruby Colley; and brother John Gregory.

He is survived by his son, Allen Gregory with wife Misti of Spiro; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and numerous great-great-grandchildren.



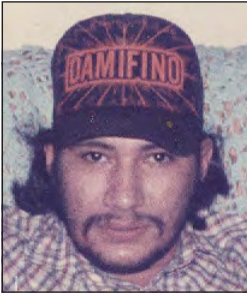
## Melvin Marlow

Melvin Lee Marlow, 48, of Idabel, passed away on Jan. 8, 2013, at Integrity Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was born on July 24, 1964, in DeQueen, Ark., the son of Willie and Bernice (Battiest) Marlow.

Melvin was a proud grandfather who looked forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. He loved being with his family and friends. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation who enjoyed working on machinery and fishing. Melvin was a very outgoing and big-hearted person who was willing to help others in need.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, George and Hester Battiest.

Melvin is survived by his sons, Michael, Calvin, Allen and Tommy Marlow, all of Idabel; grandchildren, Calvin Marlow Jr. and Lee Allen Marlow; siblings, Linda Jefferson with husband Sam of Perry, Randa Hughes of Pawnee, Regina Marlow of Idabel, William Marlow with wife Belen of Tulsa, Julia Marlow of Lukfata Community, Enita Martinez and Sheila Marlow, both of Holly Creek, and Shelly Martinez with husband Ascencion of Lukfata Community; along with several nieces, nephews and friends.



## Janie Webster

Janie M. Webster, 85, passed away on Jan. 9, 2013, in Snow. She was born to Summie and Agnes (Morris) Webster in Snow. Janie had been a lifetime resident of the Snow area. In her younger years, she had worked in Haskell, Kan., for a time, making bombs during World War II. Janie had an associate's degree in science that she had earned from Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. She worked as a dietician at the Talihina Indian Hospital until her retirement. Janie was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Tuskahoma. She enjoyed reading her Bible, Ellen White books and her "Steps To Life" quarterly by John Grossball. She also liked listening to his, and several other minister's, CD's, such as Hal Myers and Joe Crews. Janie was fluent in the Choctaw language and she enjoyed her cat, Tom, as well as her dogs. She loved music, singing and spending time with her family and dear friends.

Janie was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Simon Watson and Mitchell Williamson; and sisters, Frances Webster and Margaret Watson.

She is survived by her son, Lee R. Webster with friend Barbara of Snow; grandchildren, Hashtula Webster and Priscilla Webster; brother Jonas Watson with wife Julie of Oklahoma City; numerous nieces and nephews; and many dear friends.

## Jessie Mae Lawrence

Jessie Mae Lawrence, 82, of Hugo passed away on Dec. 11, 2012, in Hugo.

She was born Sept. 4, 1930, in Clayton to John Lung and Sally (Goins) Lung and had lived for over 65 years in Choctaw County. She married Leroy Lawrence on Oct. 14, 1946, in Hugo. Jessie was a homemaker and a member of Unity Baptist Church in Hugo. She enjoyed going to church, crocheting, fishing and watching westerns.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son Kennedy Lee Lawrence; grandson Jimmy Carlile Jr.; great-grandchildren, Megan Hill, Cordell Hill, and Bradley Modlin; brothers, Henry Chubbie and Elmer Bacon; sister Pauline Small; and one of her best friends, Ramona Sumner.

She is survived by sons, Russell Lawrence with wife Joyce of Rockwell, Texas, Leroy Lawrence Jr. of Durant, and David Calvin Lawrence of Fort Worth, Texas; daughters, Charlotte Heady with husband Leeroy, and Dora Carlile with husband Jimmy, all of Hugo, Betsie Hunter of Stigler, and Loretta Manasco with husband David of Laurel, Miss.; sister Rosie Bamburg of California; 16 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and her best friend, Shelba Robertson of Hugo.



## Jessie Gibson

Jessie Gibson, 93, passed away on Jan. 2, 2013, at her long-time residence in Maricopa, Calif. Jessie was born in Oklahoma and moved with her family to California and settled in Maricopa in 1950. Jessie enjoyed her family. She loved to quilt and fish. She made annual road trips to Oklahoma until her health no longer allowed. She enjoyed gospel music and knowing that her family was close. She was considered "mom" and "grandma" by many. She will be greatly missed by all. She was the root to her family and cherished them as they cherished her. "Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Janie Johnson; husband Tony Gibson; children Earldean, Norma Jean, Luther Ben "LB" and Marlin Gibson; daughter-in-law Martha Gibson; son-in-law Johnny Powell; and grandchild, Curtis Gibson.

Jessie was survived by her children, Doyle Gibson of Maricopa, Jearline Powell of Oklahoma, Harlin Gibson with wife Terrie of Morro Bay, Marvin Gibson with wife Bonnie of Maricopa; grandchildren, Tony Gibson, Chris Gibson, Keith Gibson, Ricky Powell, Brenda Taylor, Terri Prestridge, Tanya Ellison, Christy Gibson, Daniel Gibson, Anthony Gibson and Heidi Robbins; 32 great-grandchildren; and 20 great-great-grandchildren.

## Laura Fisher

Laura Lynn (Ladd) Fisher, 78, passed away on Jan. 1, 2013, in hospice care in Little Rock, Ark.

She was born on Feb. 11, 1934. She married Jack Fisher in Las Cruces, N.M., on May 28, 1950. In 1969, they started their own business, Fisher's Body Shop. Devoted to her children, Tonya, Lisa and Jackie, Laura served as a homeroom mother and never missed a school or sporting event in which they participated. She would drive cross-country just to see her girls compete.

Laura doted on her grandchildren, Calli Giles, Lars Vorpahl, Liam Vorpahl, Marcus Vorpahl, Justin Gaddy, Jack Gaddy and Jules Gaddy. She also thought the world of her nieces and nephews who are too many to name, and they felt her warmth and love. She was the glue in the family – the ultimate connector. She brought out the best in others. She always loved the people around her despite any shortcomings, weakness or limitations. She didn't need a perfect family or perfect friends to be happy. She accepted people for them and strived to be a better person each day.

Laura Lynn was preceded in death by her loving husband of 52 years, Jack; mother Mahala Ladd; sisters, Oleta, Nina, Onita and Charlene; brothers, George, Winfred and Johnny Claude; daughter Tonya Giles; and son-in-law, Richard Giles.

She is survived by two daughters, Lisa Gaddy with husband Jay of Little Rock, and Jackie Vorpahl with husband Kai of Mills, Mass.; and brother, Elwood Ladd with wife Donna of Blanchard.



## Tommye Bertero

Tommye Ruth (Welch) Bertero, 90, of Austin, Texas, passed away on July 6, 2012. She was born Jan. 23, 1922, to Louisa "Polly" Crowder and William D. Welch on Crowder Prairie in Oklahoma. She served in the Women's Air Corps during World War II. She was a long-time Austin resident who earned a B.A. in Psychology at UT Austin when she was 65 years old.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Col. Frank R. Bertero; and a son, Robert.

She is survived by four children, Barbara Rice, Patricia Bertero, Janet Pellikka and Charles Bertero; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

## George Bell

George Bell passed from this life to his heavenly home on Jan. 7, 2013. He was born in Sardis on May 24, 1922. He attended Jones Academy in Hartshorne, and then graduated from Sequoyah Indian School in Tahlequah. After graduation he came to Oklahoma City where he lived until he enlisted in the Army in World War II. He was wounded three times and received the Purple Heart. He married Evelyn Ruth Foulks at the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City on Jan. 11, 1947. They were to celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on Jan. 13, 2013. George worked at the FAA for 40 years until he retired. He made many friends while working there. George was a devout Christian and served many years as a deacon at Brookwood Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. He was an example of faithfulness and devotion to Christ and his church. He loved to fellowship with his friends at church. He loved his family and enjoyed being with his children and grandchildren. He worked diligently to provide a good home for his wife and children. He loved to work in the yard and spent many years caring for his home. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage and loved to travel to tribal events and to decorate the graves of his ancestors in Sardis cemetery.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Silas Perry Bell and Vina Bohanon; son Silas R. Bell; daughter Debbie Ann Bell; and the aunt who raised him from age five, Elsie Bohanon Norris.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Ruth Foulks Bell; daughter Karen Kimbley; sons, George Bell Jr. and David Bell; sisters, Imogene Matilda Bell Horton and Edith Virla Bell Poe; grandchildren, Tim Kimbley, Christy Stover, Stephanie Delzer, Jeff Bell, Brittany Shinn, Destiny Stalcup, Athena Young and Jonathan Bell; and numerous great-grandchildren.





# OBITUARIES

## Grace Cotton

Grace Jean Cotton, 81, of Ardmore, passed away on Sept. 14, 2012. She was born to Willie Cotton and Cecelia Thompson on July 13, 1931, in Ardmore. She worked at Walker's Nursing Home for five years before taking a position for 11 years as a nurse at the Ardmore Convalescent Home. She was an active member in the Center Point Baptist Church and she was devoted to her church family. She was also active in the many Chickasaw senior citizen activities. As a singer, she loved gospel music and received her training with the Stamps Quartet out of Dallas, Texas. She enjoyed arts and crafts, quilting and sewing clothing for her family. In her youth, she enjoyed putting her heart into poetry and she also enjoyed sketching. Grace was an avid OU fan. She invested her time by encouraging her daughter to perform in formal dance. She spent countless hours taking her to class, performances, recitals and talent shows. Grace was a caring grandmother to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as a devoted mother.



She was preceded in death by her parents; half-brother Sonny Wallace; and sister, Sandra. She is survived her daughter, Sharon Postoak of Ardmore; granddaughters, Deidra Marris and Kimberly F. Jim, both of Ardmore; four great-grandchildren, Stratton, Bryant, Aspen and Briar; aunt Elizabeth Rich of Ardmore; niece Jennifer Wyatt of Guthrie; nephews, Mike and Jason Wallace, both of Ardmore; five great nieces and a great nephew.

## Annie Ganote

Annie Marie (LeFlore) Ganote, 89, of Talihina, passed away on Nov. 14, 2012, at her residence. She was born on Dec. 10, 1922 in Keota, the daughter of the late Columbus LeFlore and Edna (Tom) Carter. She was the widow of Kent Ganote, whom she married in Wichita, Kan. She was so proud to be a full-blooded Christian Choctaw. She loved her family and always wanted to know if everyone was okay. She loved visiting with people and telling her life stories. She had a love for animals and fed strays all over town by carrying something for them in her pockets. Most of all, she loved God, and would tell people goodbye by saying, "Be careful, pray, God bless," with a smile.



She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Kent Ganote; Baby Boy Ganote; sister Belle Smith; and son-in-law Cleo Ritter.

She is survived by her son, Ted and Darlene Ganote of Tulsa; daughters, Paula Ritter of Cameron, Regina and Don Mings of Talihina; grandchildren, Kevin, Chris with wife Sheila, Joanie, and Terry Ganote, Keith with wife Michelle Mings, Gregory with wife Raquel Mings, Britni with husband Michael Landers and Tawni Mings; 12 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends.

## Hiahwahnah Neal

Hiahwahnah Richard Neal, retired Marine Corps master sergeant, of Talihina, passed away on Jan. 20, 2013, at the VA center in Little Rock, Ark. Born on Jan. 13, 1946, in San Jose, Calif., to the late Dess and Samantha (Going) Neal, Richard enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after his 18th birthday. He served three tours in the Vietnam War, receiving the Purple Heart with clusters, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. Upon completing 20 years of military service, Richard retired to the state of Oklahoma. He attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Richard enjoyed reading his Bible, being with family and friends, rescuing dogs and taking care of them until homes were found.



He is survived by his wife, Janie Neal of the home; sons, Hiahwahnah and Kathy Neal, and Michael Neal, all of Louisville, Ken.; Rayson Neal of Lawton, and Shawn Moore of Waldron, Ark.; daughters, Kimma Neal of Cache, and Lillian Gonzales of Sprindale, Ark.; brothers, Dess and Newana Neal of Millington, Tenn., Roger Herrod and Betty of Las Vegas, Nev.; sisters, Wakita and Rick Lang of Coweta, Joy and David Seale of Trenton, Ga., Wanoka Wofford and Dean Comby, and Jo and Glen Billie of Choctaw, Miss.; as well as 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## Gloria Simmons

Gloria "Shortie" Marcella Van Deventer Simmons, 89, of Arlington, passed away on Jan. 19, 2013. She was born Sept. 29, 1923, to the late Billy Van Deventer and original enrollee Mabel Hill Huss in Mexico, Mo. Shortie grew up in Mexico, Mo., where, as a sixth-grader, she met her future husband. She followed Bob for 32 years throughout the Marine Corps world, with time spent in North Carolina, Virginia, Hawaii, Japan, California and Kansas. She was the founding member of the Marine Corps Gift Shop in Quantico and was active with the Marine Corps Aviation Wives. Shortie was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She was an enthusiastic member and pillar of the First Christian Church of Falls Church community for 50 years. She laughed and danced throughout life, and always spoke her mind. She was the spark that lit up the world around her, and the glue that held family and friends together.



She was preceded in death by her son, Brook Simmons. She leaves behind her beloved husband of 68 years, Col. Robert L. Simmons USMC (Ret.), whom she married Oct. 28, 1944, in Chicago; daughter Jill (John) Graff; grandchildren, Laura (Beth) Short and Chris (Emily) Graff; and great-grandson Arthur Graff.

## William Power

William Lloyd "Bill" Power, MD, passed away on Jan. 24, 2013, in Albuquerque, N.M., from complications due to a stroke. He was born in 1947, in Sherman, Texas, the son of the late William H. and Mary Adeline Boland Power. He was the grandson of Elizabeth Turnbull Boland, an original enrollee, and John L. Boland of Caddo. Bill was valedictorian at McAlester High School in 1965. He attended Oklahoma State University studying engineering and pre-med until he was accepted by Oklahoma University School of Medicine, where he graduated in 1972. He was at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., until he became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, Indian Health Service. He served as a general practitioner on the Alamo Reservation, N.M., from 1973-1975, and at the Albuquerque Indian Hospital from 1979-1984. He became chief of medical staff at both places. He went into private practice with Neurology Consultants, Ltd., in 1984, until health issues forced him to retire in 1998. Bill and his wife of 40 years, Kathleen Breenan, were avid cyclists and went on several long distance cycling trips. They enjoyed outdoor activities of all varieties including cross-country skiing, hiking and sailing. Bill was also a photographer and musician. He converted a small bathroom at his home into a darkroom and spent several years developing black and white photographs. A musician since childhood, he played piano, clarinet, guitar, mandolin and harmonica.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen; daughters, Celeste and Corina; brothers, Jim with wife Marsha of Kansas, and John of Chicago; as well as numerous Choctaw cousins in Oklahoma and Texas.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays March 1-25  
March 6 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)  
March 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
Closed March 26-29 for inventory  
Cooking with Carmen: March 7 & 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays March 1-25  
Closed March 26-29 for inventory.  
Cooking with Carmen: March 1 & 6, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### MCALESTER

Market open weekdays March 1-25  
Closed March 26-29 for inventory.  
Cooking with Carmen: March 11 & 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays March 1-25  
Closed March 26-29 for inventory.  
Cooking with Carmen: March 5 & 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Staff will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon.  
WAREHOUSES & MARKETS  
**Antlers:** 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443  
**Durant:** 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773  
**McAlester:** 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716  
**Poteau:** 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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## Jean Turnbull

Wynona Jean Turnbull, 85, passed away on Nov. 25, 2013. She was born to Ruth Ann Park Turnbull and William Perkins Turnbull on Feb. 15, 1927, on the Turnbull Ranch east of Caddo. She graduated from Southeastern State College. After doing her student teaching, she said she would never teach school, and she didn't. Her first job at 10 years old was delivering the Democrat and Daily Oklahoman to her customers in Blue. Her brother, Wilman "Poncho" Park Turnbull, bought Pete's Drive In from Pete Freaney of Caddo after World War II. He hired Jean as his carhop. George Bryant bought Pete's from Poncho and changed the name to George's. He asked Jean to stay on and work for him. She needed the job to help pay for college, so she stayed. When Mr. Bryant sold George's, she went to work at Moore's Meat Packing Plant. Her next employment was with Durant Electronics. She then opened Jean's Café with her partner, Albert Keck. Her last business was Jean's Little Store in Blue. At 85 years old, she had folks who recognized her and would shout at her saying, "Hey Jean, bring me a burger and fries."



At age 6 she was hit by a car and her mother was told she would never walk. She had cancer three times and overcame it twice. She never complained and when asked how she felt, her reply was, "I'm just fine." She was an extraordinarily strong and independent person with a great sense of humor.

Jean was one-half Choctaw and was very proud of her heritage. She participated in language classes and enjoyed fellowship with folks at the Choctaw Senior Center in Durant. Jean was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Timothy "Buck" Brashears Turnbull and Wilman "Poncho" Park Turnbull.

She is survived by her sister, Billie Ruth Turnbull Roberts; nephews, Billy Jack Roberts and Timothy Hames Roberts; and nieces, Rutha Jane Roberts Thomas, Virginia Kay Roberts Green and Jan Elaine Turnbull.

## Eden Nelson

Eden Gooding "Pat" Nelson, 78, passed away on Jan. 24, 2013, at his home in Carmi, Ill. Born Jan. 25, 1934, in Wright City, Texas, Pat was the son of the late David Roebuck and Tessie Evalene (Thomas) Nelson, and the grandson of Choctaw original enrollees Eden Gooding and Laura (Ashford) Nelson. He lived a rich, full life, loved dearly by his wife of 53 years, Betty (Fobar) Nelson, and their children, Lea Ann Richmond, Jeff Nelson and Steve Nelson. A son of the "Great Generation," Pat was a Christian, a man devoted to family, a Korean War veteran, an entrepreneur, and a good Samaritan. With deeply spiritual commitment to Christ and a legacy of Christian service that began with his grandfather, Eden Gooding Nelson, pastor of Antlers Circuit of Choctaw-Chickasaw District, Pat served his Lord as deacon, Sunday school teacher, and began the first bus ministry in Carmi, bringing children and young adults to church who might never have otherwise been able to attend. Like his mother, he began each day reading the Bible, having read it in its entirety 16 times in the past 23 years. Pat raised strong children knowing they were loved, that family would always endure as they were together. He was an entrepreneur, a risk-taker with considerable initiative who became a well-known oilman throughout the Midwest. He established the Nelson Company, which grew to include a pipe division, well plugging division, Nelson Midwest Contractors, and oil producing entities consisting of Nelson Enterprises, Eden Petroleum and Nelson Development Corporation. Honest, responsible, generous, ethical, hardworking and values of the Great Generation; these were the values Pat passed to a new generation.



Pat was preceded in death by his brother David Nelson and nephew Tom Nelson.

Pat is survived by sisters, June Walker and Joe Ann Beeson; brothers, Elwood Nelson and Robert Nelson; sister-in-law Grace Nelson; grandchildren, Niki Ballard, Lauren Nelson, Kady Nelson, Evan Nelson, Bethany Nelson, Brandon Farr, Ryan Farr and Kara Engle; great-grandchildren, Violet Sorg, Ava Ballard, Liam Skelly and Aiden Dugger; and 11 nieces and nephews.

## Help Wanted Durant & Pocola

*Choctaw CDIB members apply with us*

**Choctaw Casino & Hotel in Pocola is looking for qualified Choctaw applicants for the new Gaming and Hotel expansion to apply for the following positions; please submit applications and resumé to careers.choctawnation.com**

### FULL TIME openings:

Hotel Shift Managers  
Hotel House Keeping Manager  
Hotel House Keeping Supervisors  
Security Officers  
Marketing Coordinator  
Grounds Keeper  
PART TIME openings:  
Hotel Front Desk  
Hotel EVS  
Valet Attendants  
Cage Cashiers  
Slot Attendants  
Marketing Coordinator  
Blackjack Dealers  
EVS

**Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant is looking for qualified Choctaw applicants for the following positions; please submit applications and resumé to careers.choctawnation.com**

### IMMEDIATE FULL TIME openings:

Hotel Front Services Manager  
Graphic Artist  
Digital Media Specialist  
Executive Host Asian Player Development  
Poker Manager  
Commercial Laundry Technician  
Security Officers  
Deep Clean Staff  
Deep Clean Supervisor  
Tours & Travel Sales Coordinator  
IMMEDIATE PART TIME openings:  
Hotel Front Desk  
Hotel EVS  
Lifeguard  
Marketing Coordinator  
EVS

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

## ‘Pathways to Success’ at sixth annual Career Expo in McAlester

"Pathways to Success... A Choctaw Tradition" is the theme for the Sixth Annual Career Expo. The event will be held at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester on April 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Career Expo creates an opportunity for job seekers and students to connect with employers and college or training facility representatives at more than 135 booth spaces. There will be something for everyone at the Career Expo!

This year's guest speaker is the talented Grant Baldwin. Grant is an engaging communicator and a leading expert at helping students prepare for life after high school. He is author of the book and curriculum, "Reality Check," and is a popular youth motivational speaker. Grant has given hundreds of presentations and has spoken to over 250,000 people in 42 states through leadership conferences, conventions, school assemblies and other student events.

While Grant does love speaking and inspiring students, he loves his wife and three daughters more.

Choctaw Nation's Cultural Revival will be highlighted throughout the event. Choctaw Cultural Development will enrich the event with live demonstrations, a tribal timeline and Native American careers of past, present and future. Attendees will have the opportunity to be immersed in tribal history and the careers that have been vital sustaining forces of our past as well as those career pathways that will support our culture for generations.

The focus of the Career Expo is to connect job seekers with employment and training opportunities available throughout the region.

Hiring representatives will be on-site from such businesses as: Enogex, Tyson, Air Evac, State of Oklahoma, Kelworth Trucking and Choctaw Casinos, to name a few. There will also be representatives from colleges and training centers. Some of those attending include: Oklahoma City University, Kiamichi Technology Center, OU, OSU and Grayson Truck Driving.

The annual Career Expo is presented by the Choctaw Nation Career Development Program. Career Development assists tribal members in obtaining high quality career and technology training which leads to industry-recognized certifications and licenses. Currently, the program supports tribal members in training programs ranging from truck driving, welding, teaching and heavy equipment operation, to a wide variety of health fields, to name a few.

There will be a breakout session geared toward, but not limited to, high school attendees. This session will cover information on FAFSA, student loans and various Choctaw Nation programs, including Scholarship Advisement, Career Development, Choctaw Higher Education, Make a Difference and Choctaw Asset Building. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a career exploration scavenger hunt. Upon completion of the scavenger hunt, students will have a chance to win an iPad2.

Transportation is available to Choctaw tribal members in southeast Oklahoma who make reservations. Members can call Deidre Inselman at 580-920-2260 to reserve seating. Deadline to sign up for transportation is March 22.

The Career Expo is open to all persons interested in finding out more information about educational or employment opportunities. Admission is free.

For more information, or if you would like to participate in this April 3rd event, contact Kelli Ostman or Rhonda Mize with Choctaw Nation Career Development at 866-933-2260.



# Traditional uses of freshwater mussels

‘Oka fulush,’ in the Choctaw language, are more diverse in the southeastern United States than in any other place in the world

If you’ve taken a walk by a lake during the recent drought in Southeastern Oklahoma, you’ve probably come across some freshwater mussel shells, left high and dry by the receding water. Oklahoma’s freshwater mussels come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and all of them have shells with beautiful mother of pearl on the inside, often in brilliant shades of iridescent pink, purple, and green. These pretty shells have captured the attention of a lot of people through the years, including many Choctaws. In this month’s edition of Iti Fabvssa, we’re going to look at some of the ways that Choctaw people have traditionally used freshwater mussels and their shells.

Freshwater mussels, known as “oka fulush” in the Choctaw language, are more diverse in the southeastern United States than in any other place in the world (Fig. 1). Some of these species are only an inch across when fully-grown; others may be more than 1 foot long, and have a life span of up to 100 years! Mussels are filter feeders that help to clean the water, and they provide food for a variety



Fig. 1. Mussel shells from Lake Texoma.

of animals and people. In the Choctaw homeland today, massive piles of mussel shell can still be found on the banks of rivers, near villages where ancient people pulled the mussels out of the water, cooked and ate them. They mostly preferred to eat some of the smaller, less tough species of mussels, like the Southern Clubshell (Smith 1983:414).

The mussel shells themselves, “okfulush hakshup,” are made up of three different layers. The inside of the shell is lined with mother of pearl. The middle portion of the shell wall is composed of tough, prismatic calcium carbonate crystals. The outside, dark-colored part of the shell is called the periostracum, which seals the other

## Iti Fabvssa



Fig. 2. Flakey, burned mussel shell.

shell layers. Choctaw people took advantage of the unique structure and chemistry of these shells in several ways. Beginning around 1,000 years ago, ancestral Choctaw potters began mixing mussel shell into the clay that they used for making pottery. First, the shells were burned in a fire to around 650 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature, the prismatic calcium carbonate in the shell chemically changes into a plate-like form. Thereafter, what was once hard shell can be easily crushed with the fingers into thousands of tiny flakes (Fig. 2). When Choctaw ancestors added these burned shell flakes to their clay for pottery, they physically and chemically changed the clay body. Pots made from the burned shell / clay mixture were less likely to crack or warp



Fig. 3. Left: ancient mussel shell hoe (3 views) from Lub-bub Creek archaeological site in Alabama; Right: mussel shell hoe in use.

during drying and firing. The addition of the shell allowed low-fired pottery to be strong. There is even some evidence to suggest that the corn-based food they cooked in these pots was made more nutritious through a chemical interaction with the calcium in the shell. Choctaws made several types of objects from raw mussel shells. The biggest, thickest shells were often used as tools. Sometimes shells were broken in half, or roughly chipped along one edge to make woodworking implements. The sharp edge of the shell can shape green wood as quickly as a pocket-knife (see Iti Fabvssa 10/10). A serrated mussel shell edge can be used on wood much like a metal rasp. Shells were used to de-bark trees, and to chip out soft charcoal during some stages of canoe making. Mussel shells were used to make the blades of digging tools for agricultural work. A hole would be bashed through the middle of the shell and used to attach the shell to a wooden handle. The shell would be used much like a modern hoe blade (Fig 3). Shells were also used as scraping tools for shaping pottery. Some Tribes, possibly including the Choctaw, used matching mussel shells to pluck out hair.



Fig. 4. Left: ancient mussel shell spoon (3 views) from Lubhub Creek archaeological site; right: mussel shell spoon with bean stew.

“Oka falush ishtimpa,” or mussel shell spoons (Byington 1915:566) were commonly made from the shells of mussel species such as Elephant-ear, which were relatively thick and flat. To make a spoon, the edges of the shell were ground away and rounded off. The finished product somewhat resembled today’s tortilla chip scoop (Fig. 4). Sometimes teeth were filed into the edge of the shell spoon so that it could be used to saw cooked meat or other foods. Jewelry was also made from some of the flat shells. The types included flat, disk-shaped beads as well as gorgets. Gorgets are large necklace pendants that were often decorated by engraving designs into the surface of the shell and then rubbing it with pigment. This was a highly developed artform in some ancestral communities. The techniques for making gorgets and beads will be the subject of next month’s edition of Iti Fabvssa.

Today, American freshwater mussels are severely threatened by environmental degradation. These filter feeders, with complex developmental cycles and long lifespans require clean water and healthy stream systems. Although North America has more diversity

of freshwater mussels than any other place on the planet, this diversity is declining at a scary rate. Of the original, 297 North American mussel species 35 are now extinct, 70 are endangered or threatened, and 180 are critically impaired (Augspurger et. al. 2007). This serious decline is occurring as a result of stream channelization, soil erosion, water pollution, and invasive species such as the zebra mussel and Asian clam that crowd out the native species. Sadly, in many places in the southeast it is now rare to find freshwater mussels. We in southeastern Oklahoma are fortunate because many of our rivers, such as the Kiamichi are still relatively healthy and support large communities of freshwater mussels. Thanks to the continued diligence of Choctaw leaders on water conservation and stream health, it is hopeful that our children and their children will be able to have first-hand experience with these amazing native creatures.

*Do you have a question about Choctaw culture? A collection of Iti Fabvssa articles can be found on ChoctawNationCulture.com. A form is also available to submit questions to the authors of Iti Fabvssa.*



### Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Bow Shoot Schedule

Tvshka Homma Capitol Grounds

**Registration: 10:30 a.m. • Competition: 11 a.m.**

– DATES –

March 9  
April 13  
May 11  
June 8  
July 13  
August 10  
September 14  
October 12

– Age groups –

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

Long bows, recurve bows, self bows, handmade  
NO compound bows

Prizes for each age group will be awarded at the end of each shoot. A final prize will be awarded at the end of the year for overall points.

For more information, please contact  
Sue Folsom – 800-522-6170, ext. 2134 or  
Pam Waugh – 580-775-7862

**Special shoots scheduled:**

- May 18 – 3-D Adult
- Sept. 1 – Labor Day Festival
- Nov. 9 – Turkey Shoot

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

### ◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Continuing from January’s language lesson, we will learn other weather-related terms and insert them into the response “Kucha yvt. – It is \_\_\_outside”.

## Kucha yvt pisa katiohmi?

*Pronounced:*  
Ko-cha yaht pi-sa kah-tee-oh-meh?

What is the weather like outside?

*Word Meaning:*  
kucha – outside, weather      \*yvt – subj. marker  
pisa- look, see      katiohmi – how, in what manner

## Kucha yvt kalampi.

*Pronounced:*  
Ko-cha yaht kah-lahm-pi

It is freezing outside.

**Practice substituting these weather words into your sentences.**

*Pronounced:*

<b>kalampi</b> (kah-lahm-pi)	<b>hoshonti</b> (ho-shon-ti)	<b>omba</b> (ohm-ba)
<b>oktusha</b> (ok-toh-sha)	<b>kocha okpulo</b> (ko-cha ok-poh-loh)	<b>hvshi tomi</b> (ha-shi toh-mi)

*Word Meaning:*  
kalampi – freeze/freezing,      hoshonti - cloudy,  
omba – rain/raining,      oktusha – snow/snowing,  
kocha okpulo – storm/y,      hvshi tomi – sunny; sunshine

*Note: The definition of kucha is ‘outside.’ There is not a Choctaw word for ‘weather.’ The literal translation of this sentence is “How/What does it look like outside?” In the context of this sentence it is understood that one is speaking of the weather, thus, ‘weather,’ is included as a definition of ‘kucha’.*

*\*yvt – subject marker- points back to the subject ‘kucha.’ When translating back to English, correct grammar requires the insertion of articles ‘a,’ ‘is,’ or ‘the’ to complete the sentence. It does not, however, mean that the articles are literal translations of ‘yvt.’*

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## Arrowhead Pow Wow

April 20  
McAlester Expo  
Hwy. 270 West of McAlester

Gourd Dancing:  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Grand Entry: 6:30 p.m.

*Honor dance for  
Choctaw Nation  
District 11*

*Councilman Bob Pate*

Choctaw Nation Color Guard  
Emcee: Archie Mason  
Head Singer: Michael Whitecloud-  
Cheyenne Arapaho/Choctaw  
Head Man: Michael Roberts-  
Choctaw/Chickasaw  
Head Lady:  
Evelyn Kasworm-  
Southern Cheyenne  
Head Gourd:  
Ira Kaulay Jr. - Kiowa  
Arena Director:  
Bill Takehorse -

Adults (16 and over)			
Fancy/Grass	\$300	\$200	\$100
Tradition/Straight	\$300	\$200	\$100
Fancy Shawl/Jingle	\$300	\$200	\$100
Buckskin/Cloth	\$300	\$200	\$100
Juniors (7-15)			
Fancy/Grass	\$75	\$50	\$25
Tradition/Straight	\$75	\$50	\$25
Fancy Shawl/Jingle	\$75	\$50	\$25
Buckskin/Cloth	\$75	\$50	\$25
Tiny Tots (6 and under)			

All princesses welcome  
Contestants’ registra-  
tion closes at 6 p.m.  
Contestants **must** be  
in Grand Entry  
Craft booths: \$35/table space  
and donation of craft item  
McAlester Expo will have  
the only concession  
No drugs or alcohol allowed.

Contact information: Dena Cantrell  
918-423-1016 or 918-421-0368.