



Choctaw U
holds
graduation

Page 3



Bennington
Head Start
Heritage Day
activities

Page 8



Gathering
of Tulsa-area
Choctaws

Page 11

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

January 2013 Issue

Military mother's surprise Christmas homecoming



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Rodriguez holds sons, 6-year-old Jason, left, and 4-year-old Josef, as they meet her at the door during her surprise homecoming at the Choctaw Nation Head Start and Day Care Christmas program.

■ *A holiday wish comes true for two young brothers at the Choctaw Nation Head Start/Day Care Christmas program*

By BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Two young boys were overwhelmed when their Christmas wishes were granted early at the Choctaw Nation Head Start and Day Care in Durant. Their mother, Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Rodriguez, who had been deployed overseas since early 2012, surprised them during the center's annual children's Christmas program on Dec. 20.

"I feel like my heart is going to jump out of my chest," said Jennifer as she eagerly awaited the time when she could reveal herself to the boys.

As the program came to an end, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" began to play and Jennifer walked through the door. Astonished, Jason, 6, and Josef, 4, almost seemed to not believe their eyes as they first gazed upon their mom.

As the realization of who had arrived took hold, the boys jumped from their positions among the children. Their faces displaying a mix of disbelief and excitement, they ran to their mother.

The applause was loud and the hugs were long as sheer joy of the reunion reminded the audience of how special the bond is between mother and child.

Josef leapt into his mother's arms and the two became inseparable. When asked what he was going to do with mommy now that she is back, his response was simply, "Gonna give her hugs."

Having their mother home was atop their Christmas list this year, making this a wish come true for both boys.

Jennifer is stationed in New York, and she traveled back to the Northeast with her boys near the end of the month, but not before spending Christmas with them and other family members in Oklahoma. The

family had many fun events scheduled during this time, including taking the boys to a Dallas Cowboys game.

Josef and Jason had been staying with their grandmother, Linda Gothard, in Durant since Jennifer left for duty in February. "I'm going to miss my boys, but I'm glad she is home," stated Gothard, as she spoke about Josef and Jason going home with their mom.

The reunion on Thursday night was not only the first time to see her children since she had returned, but also her entire family. When she arrived at the program many friends and family greeted her as she attempted to contain her excitement before seeing her children.

After Jennifer was revealed, hugs, tears and affection surrounded her and the boys from family and friends alike. As the crowd cleared, Josef and Jason shared stories with their mother, telling her how they missed her and their plans now that she has returned. Every onlooker could clearly see the joy in Jennifer's face as she listened and held her sons.

The 28-year-old finance officer, who was stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan, during her deployment, had the idea of surprising her children for some time. She arrived back in the United States on Dec. 9, but had been at a demobilization site out-processing until her big debut. She had to be careful about her location when speaking to the boys over Skype, as to not clue them in on the pending Christmas surprise.

Jennifer made plans to surprise them during a class period, but Donna Holder, director of the Choctaw Nation Day Care, suggested that she up the excitement and make it the showcase of the night at the Christmas program. The surprise was a success and everyone in attendance was able to witness a Christmas wish come true.

Tribal Council meets in regular December session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on Dec. 8 in Tvshka Homma.

Council members voted to:

- Approve budget for Family Violence FY 2012/13.
- Approve adopting certain codes for use in the Court of General Jurisdiction of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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

◆ What's inside

Columns	2
Nursery News	4
Food Distribution	4
Notes to the Nation	5
People You Know	6
Education	7
Obituaries	10
Iti Fabvssa	12

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/newsroom/biskinik-newspaper-archive/>



A helping hand for our neighbors in need

Choctaw volunteers assist residents of New Jersey during Hurricane Sandy clean-up

By BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw people have long garnished a reputation for being a good neighbor to those near and far. Residents of the Northeast United States have recently been in need of a helping hand, and Choctaw Nation was ready and willing to lend one.

Three Choctaw Nation Forestry

employees, Raymond Ludlow, Wally Kitchel and Josh Bates, along with two Choctaw firefighters, Kevin Ludlow and Dustin Samuels, embarked on a 13-day excursion to aid those affected by hurricane Sandy.

FEMA contacted the Choctaw volunteers shortly after the storm hit and asked them to assist with efforts near Fort Dix, a U.S. Army

post located in New Jersey. The team departed Oklahoma on Nov. 3.

The crew's main goal was to clear roads of debris so transportation and work could return to normal. The crew would often wake up at 5:30 a.m. to begin their daily duties, and work on into the night sawing tree limbs and moving them off of roadways.

Crew members mentioned that

they were happy to help victims of the storm. "It is always good to help people," said Raymond Ludlow, a 14-year Choctaw employee with a long history as a volunteer worker, including assisting victims of hurricanes Katrina and Ivan.

For more information on emergency volunteer work through the Choctaw Nation, call Raymond at 918-567-2321.

Choctaw Casino Resort KOA wins service awards for third year straight

The Choctaw Casino Resort KOA Campground and RV Park in Durant has again received one of the top aggregate guest service scores in the 485-park Kampgrounds of America (KOA) system in North America.

The campground, managed by Charlie Tyree, received the award for one of three top guest service scores in the KOA system at the KOA International Convention held recently at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando, Fla.

This is the third year in a row that Tyree and the Choctaw Casino Resort KOA has received the award. It was presented by KOA Vice President of Franchisee Services Jef Sutherland.

The award is based on the results of more than 250,000 surveys completed by KOA campers shortly after their stay at a KOA in 2012.

Tyree and the Choctaw Casino Resort KOA Campground and RV Park also won both the KOA President's Award and KOA Founder's Award, both based on the results of their guest surveys and their annual inspection scores.

The Choctaw Casino Resort KOA, which is located at 3650 Enterprise Drive in Durant, opened its gates to campers in June 2009, and features 77 large concrete pull-through slots, with full RV hook ups and a barbecue grill and a picnic table at each site. Of those slots, 28 are premium sites, which also provide free Wi-Fi

Internet, cable and a covered picnic area. Amenities at the campground include a heated, saltwater swimming pool, playground and dog park, and the 10,000-sq.-ft. main building boasts a 100-plus seating capacity meeting room, fully appointed kitchen, spacious laundry room, game room, business center with computer work stations and much more. With these amenities and its close proximity to the Choctaw Casino and Resort, entertainment, comfort and convenience help ensure a pleasurable experience for each guest visiting the campground.

KOA, the world's largest network of family-friendly campgrounds,



Photo provided

Charlie Tyree, manager of the Choctaw Casino Resort KOA Campground and RV Park, accepts the facility's awards.



The Choctaw Casino Resort KOA Campground and RV Park in Durant has been awarded the KOA's Founder's and President's Award every year from 2009 through 2012.

was born on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Mont., in 1962 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012.

2013 Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

Wilburton Show

at the Eastern Oklahoma State College campus

Saturday, Feb. 2

- * Market Swine
- * Market Goats
- * Market Sheep

Sunday, Feb. 3

- * Heifer Show
- * Steer Show

Durant Show

at the Choctaw Event Center

Saturday, Feb. 2

- * Market Swine
- * Market Goats
- * Market Sheep

Sunday, Feb. 3

- * Heifer Show
- * Steer Show

For more information visit www.choctawnation.com, click on news room, then click events, or call 888-767-2518.

Proud of Choctaw people from all walks of life

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation has much to be proud of, especially in recent years. Our tribal people have accomplished tremendous personal growth. Each day, I receive news from individuals of all ages who have received honors in their field of work or philanthropic efforts, been awarded scholarships at prestigious schools, gotten jobs they desired, and many other indications of success.

There is no limit to what Choctaw people can achieve! The Choctaw Nation has education programs available to assist post-high school students regardless of where they reside. The Career Development Program, Higher Education Program and Scholarship Advisement Program can all be reached at (800) 522-6170. These three programs meet unique needs, so whether it is a training certificate in a new career or a university degree that is being sought, a phone call can begin a path for assistance if you qualify for the program.

We have a tribe of diverse people from all walks of life. I have met Choctaws who



are ministers, writers, musicians, teachers, businesspeople, politicians, artists, cowboys, homemakers, museum curators, social workers, anthropologists, photographers, . . . the list is never-ending.

No matter what your goals are, don't be afraid to reach for the stars. Our tribe's future depends on all the tribal members' continued success! Choctaws are a proud Nation and we are a family of people who want to celebrate achievements of all our members! Afvmmi Himona Na Yukpa! (Happy New Year!)

Values and ethics guide future success

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

There is tremendous merit in the values and ethics that we are taught through our families, jobs and church. Choctaws have historically had strong family ties, respecting elders, with a deep-seated faith in God and a determination to do what is best for the youth of the tribe. This combination has helped build strong leaders for the tribe – leaders of integrity who have kept the Choctaw Nation economically strong in a year when other areas of the United States have sometimes struggled.

My prayers have been thankful that our tribe is blessed to remain fruitful. Businesses are expanding and we have been hiring new staff in recent months. Our partnership with all areas is essential to the future success of everyone. We want to continue to grow together, as a tribe, as families, and as communities.

A commitment to serving others is es-



sential for meeting the changing needs of the tribal members and the communities in which the Choctaw Nation resides. The leaders of the tribe have both compassion and commitment, and I am honored to work with them.

Thanks to extensive research, collaboration and planning, the forecast of the tribe is looking bright!

We can look forward to the upcoming year with eager anticipation for more business expansions, staffing increases, sharing of cultural information, and community involvement!

Appreciation for support

Sgt. 1st Class Colby Keck and Darla Moody, coordinator of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's Family Readiness Group in Durant, present Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a plaque on behalf of the families and soldiers of the HHT 1-180th Cavalry to show appreciation for the tribe's tireless efforts and continued support of the nation's military service men and women.



Chaplain's Corner

What is God really like?

As we turn over a new page in our life, may the New Year 2013 be a happy and successful new year for you.

As we approach this new year, do you ever hear, think or ask the question, "What is God really like?" I believe it is possible to know what God is like.

Many men say that God is absolute and that is all we know about Him. Others say that God is the expression of everything that is in nature and in life – all that is in nature is God.

Almost everyone in the world has wrestled with the question. Thousands of people down through the ages have looked up at the stars at night, wondered and asked themselves: What is God really like? I am not going to try to answer all the arguments concerning all the viewpoints. I couldn't anyway.

A viewpoint that I can't understand or believe is evolution (species that grew in the water, grew a tail, walked on the ground, grew hair, legs, climbed trees, and became a man). It doesn't seem like anyone could understand this.

I am going to the Bible, which I believe to be the Word of God. In the Bible, we have a full revelation of what God is like.

If we believe that in the Bible we have a revelation of God, then our minds can be completely satisfied as to the correct answer. There are hundreds of things we could say about God as revealed in the Bible, but we are going to look at only four today.

First, the Bible says that God is a Spirit in the Gospel of John. In John 4 Jesus is talking to the woman at the well of Synchar, and he He says in John 4:3, "God is a Spirit." What do you imagine? Cloudy vapor? But that is not a picture of God.

He is not limited to body, shape, or boundaries, because God has no limitation. He can be everywhere at the same time.

We read the words of Jesus after His resurrection in Luke 24:39: "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have."

So we know that a spirit has no body. Spirit is something that is not limited by body. Spirit is not bound in a body.

There is no limit to God. There is no limit to His wisdom, His power, His love, His mercy.

Everything fits into place once you understand who and what God really is, and when you get acquainted with Him.

Second, the Bible not only reveals God as Spirit, but the Bible also reveals God as a person. Everywhere in the Bible we read: "God Loves."

Everything that we attribute to a person is attributed to God.

A person is one who feels, thinks, wishes, desires and has all the expressions of personality. And here on this earth our personalities are limited to our bodies. You are an immortal soul. Someday your personality will leave your body. Your soul is the real you and will live forever for eternity.

God is not bound by a body, but He is a person. He feels, He thinks, He loves, He forgives. He sympathizes with things that make up our lives.

Third, the Bible declares not only that God is a spirit and God is a person, but that God is a Holy God. He is perfect and absolute in every detail. He is the Holy and Righteous Being.

From Genesis to Revelation, God reveals Himself as a Holy God. He is perfect and absolute in every detail. He is too holy to endure sinful living. He is a Holy and Perfect God.

If America could ever get a vision of His



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

Perfect Righteousness, what a difference it would make in the way our nation lives. If we could see the difference that separates men's unrighteousness from God's Righteousness, it could change our way of living.

The Scripture declares Him to be Light in whom there is "no darkness at all." It is impossible to understand the Bible unless you have a clear understanding of the holiness of God.

Because God is holy, there is separation between God and the sinner. We read in Isaiah 59:2: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Not only is the sinner separated from God, but God is separated from the sinner. Because God is holy, He can have nothing to do with sin.

Before sin came, man and God had fellowship with each other. Now that fellowship is broken and it is an impossibility for a sinner to have any contact with God unless it be through Jesus Christ.

Man does not or cannot acquire sinlessness that is necessary to come into the presence of God. Jesus Christ is the only way by which we can come into the presence of God the Father. We read in John 14:6: "Jesus saith unto him I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In God's holiness lies the reason for the death of Christ. What His Holiness demanded – the penalty for sin. His love provided penalty in His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He was beaten, nailed, suffered and died on the cross for you and me.

We are dealing with a Holy, Righteous and Pure God. He will not tolerate our evils and sins.

How long is this pure God going to endure our divorce rate, our overall breakdown of morals, or immortality, our drunkenness, our swearing?

Were it not for the mercy and long suffering of God, we would be judged and chastened.

Fourth, God is Love. Many people have misunderstood that part of God's nature. The fact that God is love does not mean everything is sweet, beautiful and happy and that God's love could not possibly allow punishment for sin.

God's holiness demands that all sin be punished, but God's love provided a plan of redemption and salvation for sinful man. God's love provided the Cross of Jesus Christ by which man have forgiveness and cleansing. It was the love of God that SENT Jesus Christ to the cross.

Who can describe or measure the love of God? The Bible is a revelation of the fact that God is love.

When we preach justice, it is justice tempered with love. When we preach righteousness, it is righteousness founded on love.

When we preach the resurrection of Christ, we are preaching the miracle of love. When we preach the return of Christ, we are preaching the fulfillment of love.

No matter what sin you have committed, no matter how black, dirty, shameful or terrible it may be, God loves you. You may be at the gate of Hell, God loves you with an everlasting love.

Because of His love, there is a way to salvation. A WAY BACK TO God through Jesus Christ His Son.

It is your part to believe. It is your part to receive. You can sit all the days of your life under the preaching of the love of God and die without Christ. Or you can open your heart today and say, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, I receive you today." Will you do that now?



The first phase of renovations at the Choctaw Casino in Pocola is finished and Phase II will be completed this Spring.



The Tribal Council, casino management and staff, construction team members and guests look on as Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton cut the ribbon at the Choctaw Casino in Pocola.

Pocola Casino holds ribbon cutting for first phase of expansion

A commemorative opening ceremony, which included a ribbon cutting, was held Nov. 30, at the Choctaw Casino in Pocola, marking the end of the first phase of the casino's massive expansion project.

Numerous guests and casino-goers filled the newly expanded gaming floor to witness Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary

Batton, Tribal Council members, casino management and staff, members of the construction team and distinguished guests, cut the opening ribbon.

Major renovations have been under way at the casino over the past year as two phases of expansion were in the works.

This newly completed first phase offers new

gaming options with a larger slot floor, a high-limit gaming area and a 12-table pit in addition to the current games already offered, as well as a new restaurant, lounge and gift shop.

Construction is scheduled for wrap up in the spring with Phase II of the expansion being completed on the new 130-room hotel ad-

dition, 600-space parking garage, restaurant/entertainment space and updated Centerstage multipurpose event room.

With this expansion comes new jobs, which is good news for the local Pocola economy. Several hundred new casino, restaurant and hotel employees will be hired by the time construction is completed this May.

Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN



Photos by LISA REED and LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Left, the Choctaw U senior class graduates will move on to the next challenge in their careers with the tribe.

Right, the Administrative Professional's class displays their certificates.



The Choctaw U sophomore class graduates are all smiles.



The junior class graduates are ready for the next year in their studies.

Choctaw U holds first graduation ceremony

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw University, or Choctaw U, held its first graduation ceremony on Dec. 11, 2012, at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, with more than 170 associates honored for successfully completing the inaugural year of instruction offered by the program.

Choctaw U was established in early 2012 by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Learning & Development Department, in partnership with Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SE), with a mission to empower tribal associates who are committed to personal and professional growth in their career and to make available to them educational and leadership-building opportunities.

Through Choctaw U, associates enhance their knowledge and skills and instill a deeper understanding of their purpose within the organization.

Participants in the program receive advanced professional development training, build knowledge, and improve their skills to be more efficient and productive leaders.

Choctaw U includes two series for development: the Leadership Series, which mirrors the make-up of a standard university with five levels of training, freshman through masters level, and the Continuing Education Series, comprised of classes that result in career-focused certifications.

The Continuing Education series includes administrative assistant, professional development, professional development with an emphasis in technology, and introduction to management classes.

Thanks to the partnership with SE, students enrolled in the Leadership Series can also earn college credit for completed courses, which include leading generational diversity, transformational leadership, managing people, effective coaching and mentoring, change management, and succession planning.

When Choctaw U launched last year on Jan. 26, 82 associates made the first year-long commitment to the Leader-



The Choctaw U Introduction to Management class has 32 employees graduate.



The Choctaw U Professional Development class displays the certificates earned from their hard work.



These Choctaw U graduates receive their certification in Professional Development with an Emphasis in Technology.

ship Series. The Continuing Education series classes started May 1 and had 89 employees complete the program.

Susan Stockton, executive director of Human Resources for the Choctaw Nation, spoke to the graduates during the ceremony, expressing her pride in each associate for taking this step in their professional growth.

"Embrace this [opportunity] and get out of it everything that you can," Stockton told the graduates as she reflected on her own humble beginnings and insatiable pursuit of educational opportunities. "I was raised in poverty and was told Indian kids didn't get to go to college," she said, saying the statement only fueled her desire to continue working toward her dreams of a higher education.

"I got good grades in school and earned scholarships," she explained, allowing her to keep working, eventually earning her degree as well as numerous certifications. Stockton encouraged the students to continue on their

own quests to reach higher and to never stop learning.

"I just want to congratulate you all on this truly outstanding achievement," she said in closing.

The second year of the Choctaw U's Leadership Series begins this month with the tribe's leaders of tomorrow continuing their studies, learning the skills needed to apply their visionary leadership to ensure the growth of the Choctaw Nation.

Chief Greg Pyle says he's proud of all those enrolled in Choctaw U, stating, "I'm confident in the abilities of these aspiring leaders who have the desire for growth and are making this step to advance their professional careers."

He says he's also encouraged by the participants as they seek to ensure the future of the tribe. "Their success is beneficial to not only them but to all tribal members," he says. "This program will challenge them to be more efficient and productive leaders who will lead the way in ensuring the success of the next century of Choctaw people."

Christmas celebration at Jones Academy



Chief Pyle speaks to the Jones Academy students during the celebration on Dec. 20, wishing them all a Merry Christmas and success in the new year.



Jones Academy receives a donation from the Choctaw Nation. Pictured, from left, are Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath, Jones Academy Foundation Member Mike Freeny, Jones Academy Director Brad Spears, Jones Academy School Board Chairperson Suzanne Heard and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton presented school employees with their service awards during the Christmas program. Below, they present JA tutor Marian Konsure her 10-year service award.

Photos by CHRISSY DILL | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Enjoying the Christmas festivities!



Choctaw Nation Head Start recruiting for 2013-14 school year

The Head Start Program of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is recruiting prospective students for the 2013-14 school year. Families of children who will be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2013, are age eligible to apply.

The program serves children of all nationalities, although there is a Native American preference policy. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families. Free after-hours child care is available to families who wish to participate. Transportation may be available for families who have no transportation resources, are working, or attending classes that would make it impossible to transport their child.

Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services for children with special needs. Transportation may be available for families of children having special needs, who have specialized transportation needs.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their efforts to obtain educational, health, and social services. The program provides a nutritionally sound break-fast, lunch and snack each day.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact your local Choctaw Nation Head Start Center:

	Coalgate	Poteau
Antlers	580-927-1165	918-647-8500
580-298-2113	Durant	
Atoka	580-924-8536	Stigler
580-889-7054	Hugo	918-967-2897
Bennington	580-326-9576	Wilburton
580-847-2767	Idabel	918-465-5360
Broken Bow	580-286-7930	Wright City
580-584-6680	McAlester	580-981-2634
	918-423-9360	

Applications are also available by contacting the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, or in the Durant area, 924-8280, ext. 2353, or on the Choctaw Nation website, choctawnation.com.

Be food safe

10 tips to reduce the risk of food-borne illness

A critical part of healthy eating is keeping foods safe. Individuals in their own homes can reduce contaminants and keep food safe to eat by following safe food handling practices. Four basic food safety principles work together to reduce the risk of foodborne illness – Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill. These four principles are the cornerstones of Fight BAC!, a national public education campaign to promote food safety to consumers and educate them on how to handle and prepare food safely.

CLEAN

- Wash hands with soap and water**
Wet hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available. Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all parts of the hand for 20 seconds. Rinse hands thoroughly and dry using a clean paper towel. If possible, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet.
- Sanitize surfaces**
Surfaces should be washed with hot, soapy water. A solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water can be used to sanitize surfaces.
- Clean sweep refrigerated foods once a week**
At least once a week, throw out refrigerated foods that should no longer be eaten. Cooked leftovers should be discarded after 4 days; raw poultry and ground meats, 1 to 2 days.
- Keep appliances clean**
Clean the inside and the outside of appliances. Pay particular attention to buttons and handles where cross-contamination to hands can occur.
- Rinse produce**
Rinse fresh vegetables and fruits under running water just before eating, cutting, or cooking. Even if you plan to peel or cut the produce before eating, it is important to thoroughly rinse it first to prevent microbes from transferring from the outside to the inside of the produce.

SEPARATE

- Separate foods when shopping**
Place raw seafood, meat, and poultry in plastic bags. Store them below ready-to-eat foods in your refrigerator.
- Separate foods when preparing and serving**
Always use a clean cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw seafood, meat, and poultry. Never place cooked food back on the same plate or cutting board that previously held raw food.

COOK AND CHILL

- Use a food thermometer when cooking**
A food thermometer should be used to ensure that food is safely cooked and that cooked food is held at safe temperatures until eaten.
- Cook food to safe internal temperatures**
One effective way to prevent illness is to check the internal temperature of seafood, meat, poultry, and egg dishes. Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb, and veal steaks, chops, and roasts to a safe minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least 3 minutes before carving or eating. Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb, and veal to an internal temperature of 160 degrees. Cook all poultry, including ground turkey and chicken, to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. (www.isitdoneyet.gov).
- Keep foods at safe temperatures**
Hold cold foods at 40 degrees or below. Keep hot foods at 140 degrees or above. Foods are no longer safe to eat when they have been in the danger zone between 40-140 degrees for more than two hours (1 hour if the temperature was above 90 degrees). Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information. Go to www.fsis.usda.gov for food safety information.

Recipe of the Month

Honey-Dijon Chicken

Recipe will make eight servings

Ingredients:
• 2 ½ lbs. skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 8)
• ½ cup white Zinfandel wine, apple juice, or apple cider
• ¼ cup olive oil or canola oil
• ¼ cup honey
• ¼ cup Dijon-style mustard
• 4 cloves garlic, minced
• ½ tsp. ground black pepper
• ¼ tsp. salt

Directions:
Place chicken breasts in a resealable plastic bag set in a bowl. For marinade, in a small bowl combine wine or apple juice, oil, honey, mustard, garlic, pepper and salt. Pour marinade over chick-

en; seal bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least 8 hours or up to 24 hours, turning bag occasionally. Drain chicken, discard marinade. Place chicken on the grill rack directly over medium heat; grill for 12 to 15 minutes or until done (170 degrees F), turning once half-way through grilling.

Nutrition Facts:
Calories - 212.7, Total Fat - 5.1g, Sat. Fat - .9g, Mono-unsaturated Fat - 2.9g, Polyunsaturated Fat - 0.8g, Cholesterol - 82.2mg, Sodium - 218.9mg, Total Carb - 4.8g, Protein - 32.8g
For more information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

Start the new year right with a well balanced diet

Here we are with a New Year under foot. The question is what foot you plan to step out on for this upcoming year. There are many different diets, supplements and approaches. Some are good sound advice, others ... well let's just say check it out with your doctor, pharmacist and or dietitian. Many of us have medical conditions and medications that may be adversely effected by some diets and supplements, even "all natural supplements." One approach that tends to work for most people is to allow themselves to eat. Yes, I did say it. Eat! By having evenly spaced and balanced meals this helps the body to have more stable blood sugar levels. When we have more stable blood sugar levels we decrease the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes. If you are diabetic, having more stable blood sugar levels helps to decrease the risk of all complications of diabetes. Evenly spaced meals means eating the first meal of the day within two hours of waking and then having subsequent meals within three and a half to four hours. If going longer than four hours between meals you should have a small balanced snack. Balanced meals and snacks are simply including foods which contain carbohydrates, protein, fat (preferably good fats) and non-starchy vegetables. For example a snack could be a small apple and a ¼ cup of unsalted pecans; this will provide carbohydrates, protein, good fat and fiber as well as taste. For a meal three ounces grilled chicken, small baked sweet potato with cinnamon, one cup of leafy greens tossed with tomatoes, red onion, cucumbers and a lite vinaigrette, one cup steamed broccoli, three fourths of a cup blue berries, raspberries and sliced banana with 4oz light yogurt. Who said eating for health wasn't tasty? Hope you enjoy the above recipe from Better Homes and Gardens.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-25.
Feb. 6 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Feb. 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed Feb. 18 for tribal holiday & Feb. 26-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 11 & 22, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Feb. 1-25.
Closed Feb. 18 for tribal holiday & Feb. 26-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 13 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-25.
Closed Feb. 18 for tribal holiday & Feb. 26-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 7 & 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-25.
Closed Feb. 18 for tribal holiday & Feb. 26-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 5 & 20, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

NURSERY NEWS

Braylin Pearce



Jay and Christy are proud to announce the birth of their son, Braylin James Pearce. He was born Nov. 7, 2012, weighing 6 pounds 14.9 ounces, and measuring 18 inches long.

Braylin is welcomed by big brothers Brennan and Bricen; memaw Connie; papaw Bruce; and many aunties, uncles and cousins. We are all so in love with our sweet Braylin!

Camilo Ferguson

Camilo Santiago Ferguson was born Dec. 9, 2012, to Westley and Claudia Ferguson in Texas. He is a younger brother to Jacob W. Ferguson and a sixth grandchild for Dennis Ferguson.

Aaron Caskey



Aaron Ikana Cleland Caskey was born on Sept. 24, 2012, at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada to Chirs and Kara Caskey of Lexington. He weighed 8 pounds 3.8 ounces.

His family includes his brother, Matthew Caskey; grandparents, James and Kim Caskey, and Lou Ann McCoy, all of Lexington, and Cleland and Sue Willis of Idabel; and great-grandparents Harold and Gale Caskey of Lexington, the late Dixon and Melba Willis of Wright City, Amos Steele and the late Sweeley Steele of Broken Bow.

Emma Wilcox



John and Lori Wilcox of Crowder are announcing the arrival of a daughter, Emma Mae Wilcox. She was born at 9:11 a.m. on Nov. 22 at McAlester Regional Health Center and weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Emma joins two brothers, Kaleb, 21, and grandson, 10; and sister Brianna, 17; grandparents, Sylvia Moody and the late Glenn Moody of McAlester, and Joyce Wilcox and the late Russell Wilcox of Crowder.

Braylon Sutter



Braylon Michael Sutter was born at 8:22 a.m. on Oct. 19, 2012, at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces and measured 19 inches long. His parents are Mitch and Afton Sutter of Keota; grandparents are Patty Davis of Stigler, Mike and Lori Sutter of Keota, Bruce and Julie Otto of Canistota, S.D.; great-grandparents are Mildred Davis of Stigler, the late Leonard Davis, James and Francille Harris of Keota; Chester and Thelma Lowe of Keota; Eunice Otto of Canistota, and the late Francis Otto; great-great-grandparents are Florence Kates of Stigler and the late Jack Kates.

Audrina Hunt



Mr. and Mrs. Adam Hunt celebrate the arrival of their daughter, Audrina Annemarie, who weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. She was born Aug. 24, 2012. Audrina's great-grandfather was Donald McCann, and her great-great-grandfather was Dixson McCann.

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



We are online

ALL THE TIME

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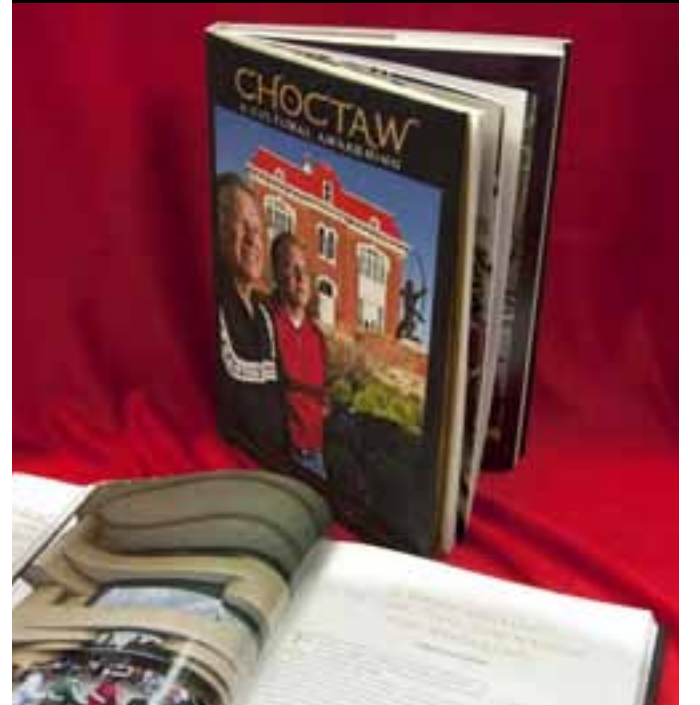
Facebook

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@ChoctawNationOK



PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Congratulations to Ruth Ann Petty, who received her five-year award for her work at Jones Academy. All of her brothers, sisters and her parents are very proud of her.
Ruth is the daughter of Phyllis (Bailey) and Danny Hudlow of Leflore and Elton Petty and Ellen (Duvall) Petty of Oklahoma.

Happy birthday, Harold

Happy 48th birthday to Harold Dean Walker on Dec. 29, from his sisters, Joyce and Birdy, and families, brothers Shawn and Robert and families, mother Janice Walker and father Carl Walker.



Happy birthday, Bianca

Happy 8th birthday to Bianca Genevieve Fuller on Dec. 17. She has enriched the lives of her family with laughter, hugs and kisses. They thank God every day for blessing their lives with her.



Happy birthday, Joyce

Happy birthday to Joyce Tallant, a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who turned 58 on Dec. 16.



Teela named case manager

Randel Bohanon introduces Teela Walton Nichols to the Smithville community during the seniors' luncheon. Teela will be serving as case manager for the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority in Districts 1, 2 and 3 non-active homes (homes not under contract with CHA.) Case manager duties will require all phases from application to final work on homes. Teela will be meeting with people in communities on a regular basis. This is one way that the CHA is trying to improve relations with tribal members with face-to-face visits compared to a voice on the phone. Once this project is in place, case managers will have all information for each applicant and will be able to answer questions concerning their applications.



Birthday girls turn 2

Cierra and Kierra Knight celebrated their second birthday on Sept. 25 with family, friends and a teddy bear cake. They are the daughters of Ricky and Stacey Knight. Their siblings are Hannah and Camron, and their grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight.



Group runs the Grand Canyon

On Oct. 19, Virginia Hart and her husband, Jim, of Glenpool, along with five friends ran the Grand Canyon from rim to rim. It took 10 hours to complete the 22-mile run. They have participated in half-marathons, full marathons and many hours of shorter races preparing and training for this adventure. All agreed it was the hardest thing in athletics they had ever done; a Choctaw taking on the difficult terrain of Navajo country and coming out on top.



Erin and teammates participate in coat drive

Erin Dunseath, along with her basketball team at Briarcrest Christian High School in Eads, Tenn., collected coats for Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach. After reading the article about the coat drive in the November issue of the Biskinik, she decided to coordinate collecting coats from her teammates to send to the Choctaw Nation. The response was overwhelming, so her coach, who works nights at Federal Express offered to ship the large box of coats. Even though she lives in Tennessee, she was glad she was able to participate in one of the programs led by the Choctaw Nation.



Roger Campbell, whose grandmother, Anne Elizabeth Lowe, was an original enrollee, submitted this photo of his work. Roger made these pipes with bald eagle talons and moose horn.

Amberly turns 12

Amberly Battiest celebrated her 12th birthday on Dec. 13 with family and friends. She is in the 5th grade at Wright City Elementary School. Amberly enjoys hunting, fishing and playing sports. Her family would like to wish her many more to come and is blessed to have her in their lives.



Happy birthday, Jackson

Jackson Alexander Whitworth celebrated his 2nd birthday on Nov. 1. Celebrating with him at his birthday party were his father, Jeremy Whitworth; his mother, Jennifer Adams-Whitworth; grandmothers, Pamela Knowles-Whitworth and Teresa Gibson-Adams; grandfathers, Gerald Whitworth and James Adams; uncle Ian Whitworth; aunt Amanda Adams; cousin, Dylan Griffin; uncle Eric Griffin, and other friends.



Macee proud of accomplishments in the show ring

My name is Macee Mathis and I attend Van High School in Van, Texas. I am currently a sophomore and serve as the president of the Van FFA Chapter.
On Sept. 14, I attended the Four States Fair and Rodeo in Texarkana, Ark. I showed the Grand Champion Maintainer heifer, named "Kracker," who is 1 1/2 years old, and she gives me lots of love and kisses. I also have a Polled Hereford heifer, named "Lollee," who I also showed at the Four States Fair and won first in her class. I showed her last year as well. Both of my heifers have brought me many buckles, ribbons and smiles. They are now bred and will be calving in the spring, and I have already obtained two additional heifers to continue my high school show career.
I also show lambs, and I raised the Grand Champion lamb last year at the Van Zandt County Fair. Last year, I received the Star Chapter Degree as a freshman. I have obtained many goals that I have set for myself, because I know how to work hard. I get up every morning and feed my show animals and in the evenings, I work with each animal, grooming, bathing and clipping. Each animal also has to be exercised on a daily basis. My animals bring me lots of joy and happiness. They also give me a sense of accomplishment.
My parents are Chad and Chantay Mathis. My grandparents are Chester and Jane Crosby, Buzz and Mary Williams and Eddie and Debbie Mathis.



Bailey turns 7

Bailey Thorne turned 7 years old on Nov. 29. He celebrated with his parents and brother in Disneyland. Bailey is on the Little Rascals baseball team in Tucson, Ariz., and is a first-grader at Butterfield Elementary School. His grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City, and he is the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.

Burris a competitive swimmer

On July 28, Thomas Burris completed the Alcatraz Sharkfest swim from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco. His official time was 33:11, placing him 85th out of 701 in the wet suit category.
T.J. was born and raised in Phoenix, Ariz., on dry land in the desert and this was the first open water swim in which he has competed.
His great-great-grandfather, Samuel Sidney Burris, and his great-grandfather, Buster Burris, were on the original Dawes Roll. T.J. is the son of Robin and Steve Burris.



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. 12, 2012, in Robstown, Texas.



Five generations of Cusher family

Pictured are five generations of the Cusher family of Broken Bow. Left to right are: Jessica Parson of Horatio, Ark.; George Lee Cusher-Griffin of Horatio; Ennie Cusher of Broken Bow; Kenzie Lee Newton of Horatio; and Bonita Griffin-Martin of Horatio.



Choctaw Nation employee Jim Sallee was awarded the first prize for Underground Line/Utility Line Locator in a One-Call Competition at the Damage Prevention Summit in Norman, held by Utility Training Academy. Presenting Jim the award is Bob Nighswonger of UTA and Roger Cox of Aligning Change to Succeed.

Happy birthday, Bobby

Bobby Clark Holder turned 78 on Jan. 4. Bobby has been a member of the Texas Civil Defense for five years with a rank of Sergeant First Class. His duties include security.
Bobby has been a member of his church for 37 years and a member of the Eyes and Ears Team. His hobby is taking care of his wife, granddaughter and dog. Bobby is proud to be a Choctaw.



Happy birthday, Marvin

Happy 60th birthday to Marvin Johnson on Feb. 5. His wife, Cheryl, wishes him the very happiest of birthdays. He is special to his family and fills their lives with laughter and happiness. He is the man, brother and son of which they are all proud.



Reduce

Reuse & Recycle

Remember the three

Rs

and renew the planet

Choctaw Nation Recycling is increasing its effort all over Southeast Oklahoma. Increasing the amount of receptacles and widening the variety of materials to be recycled are factors contributing to Choctaw Recycling's award-winning efforts.

To find out how you can contribute, or to find a receptacle near you, call (580) 920-0488.

EDUCATION

A new Pawnee beginning

Dr. Joseph Bohanon named new President of Pawnee Nation College

Contributed by:
Thomas D. Watts

Originally published in
News from Indian Country

This article discusses some of the background and experiences of Dr. Joseph P. Bohanon, appointed the new President of Pawnee Nation College, in Pawnee, in July 2011. First I will discuss the administrative and leadership background that Bohanon has demonstrated in abundance his entire life. I will also discuss some personal qualities of Bohanon that contribute to the quality of his future tenure as president of Pawnee Nation College.

His educational background puts him in an enviable position to understand and to be proactive vis-à-vis the many challenges faced by higher education today, and in particular, the challenges faced by Native American colleges.

Dr. Bohanon, a member of the Choctaw tribe, received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss. His Ph.D. dissertation was on field education in social work programs. His master's degree in social work is from the University of Texas in Arlington.

His bachelor's degree in social work is also from the University of Texas in Arlington. I served as the Director of the Undergraduate Social Work Program at the University of Texas in Arlington from 1991-1998, so I watched as he progressed through the program, first the undergraduate program, then the graduate program.

White at UTA, he performed well in the classroom

and also found time to be one of the most community-involved students that I have had the pleasure of meeting during my long tenure at UTA. Indeed, while at UTA, he founded the NASA (Native American Student Association), a most needed and still thriving organization today. He either founded or was involved in so many Native American organizations that I can hardly begin to describe them here.

During the 1986-1998 period, I was a member of the American Indian Center Board of Directors, located in the north Texas area. The common opinion among AIC board members and among Native Americans living in north Texas that I knew was that Dr. Bohanon was one of the best known, involved Native Americans in all of north Texas and beyond. This indeed reflects both his noticeable leadership abilities as well as his commitment to services to the Native American community and to others.

The considerable diversity of his life and work experience and his leadership is too lengthy for me to explicate here. He knows and understands a wide variety of cultures and life experiences. He has taught various courses, most all developed by himself, that demonstrate this. Interestingly, he is of course a member of the Choctaw tribe, but he is a keen student of other Native American tribes and cultures, all of whom are, as we know, quite different from each other, other ethnic groups, other ways of knowing and experiencing things.

He is always eager to learn and to know, and that partly

explains his extensive educational and life accomplishments. His social work and higher education degrees will provide a good background for addressing the many challenges faced by tribal colleges today.

Retaining male students is a real challenge at tribal colleges and universities (TCU's.) with female students significantly outnumbering males. Other challenges include the continuing financial challenges of TCU's and of Pawnee Nation College, developmental coursework, retention of students, and later success rates. These are just a small sampling of the issues and problems faced by Dr. Bohanon at PNC, but, as he has been his entire life, he does not shrink from challenges of any kind.

Bohanon grew up in Oklahoma and had occupied a position as Director of American Indian Studies Program at historic Bacone College in Muskogee. As a truly multicultural person, he recognizes and appreciates the nuances of tribal differences, including those tribes or cultures very different from his own.

As Director of the Bacone College American Indian Studies Program, he was involved in the new AIS degree, the "Tribal Policy Administration Bachelor Degree (2011)" and various other degrees and programs in development. These kinds of programs will certainly be of considerable relevance to him as PNC President in the years ahead.

Dr. Bohanon has published various items over the years and given numerous presentations to conferences and to

community groups. He has seen himself as a Native American community presence and leader, not just a scholar. I have no doubt that he could publish more scholarly works if he had the time to do so; however, he has been such a visible, dynamic presence in the Native American community, in Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and elsewhere, that he has not had the time to do the scholarly work that he would like to do.

I recall reading articles before about the particular demands placed on ethnic minority scholars and professors. They have to be "much more" to the communities that they serve, and the students who come to them for advice, counsel, mentoring and, of course, instruction.

I feel quite sure that I have left out thoughts that I wished to communicate here about Dr. Bohanon. Space does not permit a considerably more thorough rendition of his many accomplishments than I would like to have rendered here. I wish to end by again stressing Bohanon's sterling record of leadership and his firm commitment to leadership. Amazing things can happen to organizations and to people when good leadership is present. I firmly believe that Dr. Bohanon will bring quality leadership to PNC.

PNC and the Pawnee tribe have an illustrious past and an impressive future ahead, and I do think that Dr. Bohanon can enhance, develop and stimulate growth and further success in the years ahead for PNC. Indeed, he acquired much of his leadership experience right here at UTA.

Tommie accepts Distinguished Service Award

Tommie M. James, Family and Consumer Science extension educator of Bryan County Cooperative Extension Service, was honored at the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences 2012 annual session. She received the Distinguished Service Award at the conference held in Columbus, Ohio.

In receiving the award, Tommie was recognized for her work in nutrition, health and parenting programming. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award presented by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The award recognizes members for leadership, outstanding program efforts and personal and professional development. The NEAFCS silent auction sponsors the plaque for the award. Tommie's commitment to meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities is exemplary.

She is pictured accepting the award from Amy Peterson, NEAFCS president.



Corey receives scholarship from OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance

President Della Eisel and Scholarship Chairman Curtis Stewart present Corey Belvin with a \$500 check. Corey is a very well deserving recipient of a scholarship given by the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance in Oklahoma City.

The organization hopes to present this award annually to anyone who is looking to enhance their life through education. Corey loves volunteering at the Choctaw Alliance and promoting the culture as she participates in many dances and parade events, such as Red Earth. She is majoring in psychology at Oklahoma City University and after graduation plans to help Native Americans in health services.

Corey is truly an inspiration to many people, and her life is an encouragement to future generations that all is possible if you are willing to put forth the effort. She is an inspiration to us to continue to be a help to those wishing to provide better for their families and in turn help others in the tribe and communities.

Jacob named student of the week

Jacob Brittingham, a second-grader at Boswell Public Schools, was "caught being good" by this teacher, Stephanie Phillips. By drawing, he was selected as the student of the week in December and enjoyed a lunch with the elementary principal, Scot McCorstin.

His mom, Dinty, and grandma say, "Jacob, your actions make us proud!"



Wolf named Most Promising Engineer or Scientist, honors her heritage and past

Lauren Wolf has never had to look very far to find people who motivate and inspire her. In fact, before Wolf – who is this year's winner of the Most Promising Engineer or Scientist Award – even utters a word about the many accomplishments of her still young career, she deflects credit toward her ancestors. And to hear Wolf tell the story, it is quickly clear why she is so appreciative of those who came before her.

Wolf's journey from a childhood spent living all around the world as the daughter of an oil executive to acquiring a degree in industrial engineering from Oklahoma State University to her current position as a tool design engineer for Boeing in South Carolina really began with her great-grandparents.

"They were supportive of education and started the precedent in my family that school was so important," said Wolf. In their time, she continued, it was more normal than not for kids growing up in Oklahoma, where much of her family is from, to drop out of school to help on the farm. "When my grandmother, Nell Rose Farris, came along, they sacrificed everything to keep her in school so that she could graduate, and she was the first in our family to obtain her master's degree. It was a turning point in my family."

That significant push toward prioritizing education and making personal sacrifices was the start of a chain reaction that rippled down from Wolf's grandmother to her mother, Carolyn Denise Farris. "She put off her own career and her own desires to make sure my sister and I would have everything we needed to be successful," she said. Given Wolf's already impressive track record – which has encompassed work at Lockheed Martin, where she focused on missile and helicopter technology, and will soon include a master's of science degree in human factors in March – she is fulfilling the dreams of her forebears.

At the same time, she has embraced her heritage in a way that others in her family couldn't. It wasn't until Wolf reached OSU and its vibrant AISES chapter that she really began to delve into her Choctaw heritage. "To be honest, when I was growing up I didn't know I was Native American," she said. "And when my grandfather was growing up, it wasn't something you talked about. You tried to hide it." But while at OSU, Wolf learned all about her background and sees that heritage as an essential element of who she is today.

This awareness is an important reason why she has become involved in mentoring and teaching Native young people – especially girls through her work with the Girl Scouts – who are interested in careers in math and science. And really, given her family's story and her appreciation of their journey, who could be a better teacher? "My grandma and mother have shown me that no matter what you come from, you can push through and be successful," she said. "That motivation is deeply rooted in me, and I try to teach other young girls that they can do it, too."



Howe earns art fellowship

Two Oklahomans are among 54 national artists awarded a \$50,000 fellowship from United States Artists, a national grant-making and advocacy organization that recognizes innovative and influential artists in a variety of artistic endeavors.

LeAnne Howe was one of six recipients in the literature category.

Fellowships were also awarded in architecture and design, crafts and traditional arts, dance, media, music and theater arts.

The awards ceremony was Sunday at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Howe, a member of the Choctaw Nation, teaches at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. An author, playwright and scholar, Howe has written fiction, creative nonfiction, plays, poetry and screenplays that deal primarily with American Indian experiences. She holds degrees from Oklahoma State University and Vermont College.

"I am enormously flattered and thrilled beyond words," said Howe. "I'm working to create a novel, titled 'M memoir of a Choctaw in the Arab Revolts: 1917, 2011,' about a Choctaw missionary who got involved with the 1917-era Arab revolt. I'm calling it a trans-indigenous novel for the 21st century. I'm planning a trip to Jordan to shoot some film that will be part of this e-book. It should be completed in 2013."

Jamese receives scholarship award

Congratulations to Jamese Sullivan on receiving an Imagine America Adult Skills Education Program scholarship award to attend Sullivan University in Louisville, Ky.

Jamese would like to thank the Higher Education department and staff for allowing participation in the program.



Pictured is the Choctaw language class held in Sulphur at the Chickasaw Community Center on Nov. 26. The class was taught by Rose Wadlow.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J			1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4 <small>Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.</small>	5
A	6	7 <small>Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</small>	8 <small>Antlers by appt.</small>	9 <small>Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</small>	10	11 <small>Broken Bow 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</small>	12
N	13	14 <small>Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</small>	15	16 <small>McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.</small>	17	18 <small>Wright City by appt.</small>	19
U	20	21 <small>Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</small>	22 <small>Crowder by appt.</small>	23 <small>Poteau 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</small>	24	25 <small>Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.</small>	26
R	27	28 <small>Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</small>	29	30 <small>Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.</small>	31		

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



Steven Parrish's Choctaw language class recently held a Phase I graduation in Wilburton. Congratulations, graduates! Pictured are Nicholas Charleson with Parrish, and Councilman Joe Coley (top) and Coley and Parrish's grandmother, Rosie Parrish-Ludlow (bottom), a full-blood Native speaker.



Pictured are groups of participants from a Choctaw language class held in Claremore, one group taught by Margaret Johnson (top photo) and the other by Ruth Hancock (bottom photo), a full-blood Choctaw. Congratulations, everyone!

Jones Academy Corner

Nutrition class presents students with healthy eating habits

In an effort to raise awareness about diabetes, Jones Academy school nutritionist Raina Sparks has come up with some delicious recipes for the elementary school students to try during their nutrition lessons. Each month, students will make a new recipe and will experience the taste of new foods that not only taste good, but are healthy as well. This month, the students made "apple turtles," as pictured.



Sixth-grader Kyle Miller gave the apple turtle snack a five-star rating.



Jones Academy fourth-grade students enjoyed eating the "apple turtle" snack after they learned how to make it in Sparks' nutrition class.



Pictured are Jones Academy's first nine weeks Super Students. Each nine weeks at Jones Academy, six students are chosen as Super Students. This title is not achieved easily, as students who receive this award perform exceptionally academically and exhibit good citizenship, on and off campus. Jones Academy is very proud of their Super Students, Isabelle Lujano (first/second grade), Mira McKnight (third grade), Jordan Hayes (fourth grade), Charity Rosier (fifth grade), Erin Willis (sixth grade) and Jessica Pool (alternative school.)



Tyler Dressman suspends in mid-air with the aid of a harness and cable.

Sunshine Hendricks, Anika Antone, Tyler Dressman, Brandon Thomas, Clayton Joaquin, Gabby Rios and Lane Rust play a team skills-building game.



Lane Rust stands on top of a telephone pole.



Jessica Pool watches as Brylee LaFaunce attempts to maneuver the "Devil Sticks."

Telephone poles and log rolls

By: Brylee LaFaunce

All work and no play makes for a really long, boring day. That being said, the alternative students needed a break. Recently, the students who attend the Alternative Learning Center at Jones Academy were able to take a day-long break from school work. They took a short road trip to the ropes course in Talihina. After warming up with some trust games, their leader/site trainer, Sandy Stroud, led them into some real fun. The group started out by walking some wooden planks that ascended gradually. Next, they decided it was time to try something a little more difficult. They walked along a moving log, and, as if that wasn't enough, a blindfold was brought out for the braver participants to wear on the log walk. Later in the afternoon, things got even more exciting. At this point, the question on everyone's mind was, "how high can you go before you freak out?" Many of the students climbed an actual telephone pole. Some sat on top of it, some stood on top and some actually jumped off of it. This trip was a great way to blow off some steam, and many students learned that they were more capable of doing some things they never dreamed possible.



Kelly and team state champions

Congratulations to Kelly Masters and the Sanger Indians cross country team for winning the 3A Texas State Championship. Kelly is a junior at Sanger High School in Sanger, Texas. Her parents are Bill and Leisha

Masters and grandparents are Bill and AnnaKay McGowan and Bill and Ahanawake Masters. She has been on the varsity cross country team since her freshman year under the coaching of Coach Davidson. The team has been to state every year.

Amy finds success in law career

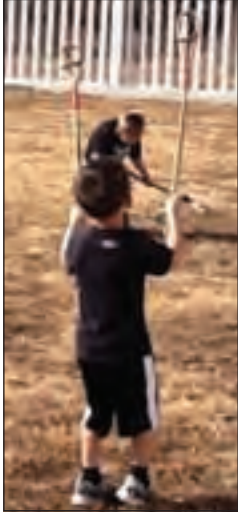
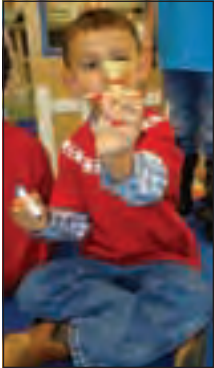
Amy D. Padgett grew up in Soper. She is the daughter of Jim and Donna Dominick. After graduating from Soper High School, she attended Oklahoma State University, where she graduated in three years with a degree in finance and dual minors in economics and international business. Prior to law school, Amy worked for various large corporations in finance and product marketing. In 2008, she decided to pursue her life-long dream of becoming an attorney and she enrolled in the University of Oklahoma College of Law. In 2011, Amy graduated with distinction from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. After graduation, she joined the international law firm of Dorsey and Whitney, LLP in their Washington, D.C., office. Today, Amy practices in the areas of general civil litigation, federal energy regulation regarding oil pipelines and Native American law. She hopes to expand her Native American law practice and is very excited that U.S. News/Best Lawyers recently named Dorsey and Whitney its Law Firm of the Year for Native American Law for 2013. Amy wishes to personally thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation. "I am sincerely grateful for emphasis that the Choctaw Nation places on education," she said. "During law school, I was greatly helped each semester by Higher Education grants and career services scholarships. The Choctaw Nation's dedication to their members' success is apparent in my story. I am proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation, and I will forever be grateful for the assistance that I received, which allowed me to realize my dreams."



Bennington Head Start learns about Choctaw culture on Heritage Day



Photos provided



Choctaw Nation offers digital application for jobs to tribal members

By CHRIS RIBERA
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chief Pyle has been discussing a 100-year vision for several years now. Many departments within the Choctaw Nation have been working diligently to support this vision through enhancements to services and programs, innovation and the introduction of new technology.

The Human Resources Department is now offering an online job application and tracking system. This new system will allow individuals to apply online for various job openings, upload a resume, and track their progress through the interview process. This online job application tool is streamlining processes by removing the hassle of shuffling and tracking paper. Additionally, it is decreasing the time it takes for managers to review applicants and set up interviews.

To visit the online job application site, please go to careers.choctawnation.com.

You will be directed to the Choctaw Careers page. From this page one can browse the available job openings by clicking on the “View Job Postings” tab, see an overview of benefits offered to associates at the “Benefits” tab or reach someone via email through the “Contact Us” tab. To apply for any position online, one must have an email address and submit their employment profile.

For our tribal members who aren’t able to access the Internet at home, kiosks have been installed at community centers and health service locations across the Choctaw Nation (See Community Center and Health Service Location lists too the right). You can also visit us at the tribal complex in Durant and our friendly receptionist can help you apply at a kiosk in the main lobby.

The intent of this new system is to create an easy to use, more efficient system to enhance our tribal member’s experience when searching

Location:	Worker:	Address:	Phone:	Fax:
Antlers	Virginia Hammons	P.O. Box 192 / 400 1/2 West "O", Antlers, OK 74523	(580) 298-5501	(580) 298-5501
Atoka	Twilia Pittman	P.O. Box 87 / 1203 W. Liberty Rd, Atoka, OK 74525	(580) 889-6147	(580) 889-6147
Bethel	Linda Jefferson	P.O. Box 131 / HC 72 Box 338 Bethel, OK 74724	(580) 241-5637	(580)-241-5413
Smithville	Vicky Amos	P.O. Box 369 / HC 15 Box 72 Smithville, OK 74957	(580) 244-3289	(580) 244-3347
Broken Bow	Wanda Sanders	P.O. Box 207 / Broken Bow, Ok 74728	(580) 584-6372	(580)-584-3684
Coalgate	Louise Ott/Vicky F.	105 E. California, Coalgate, OK 74538	(580) 927-3641	(580) 927-3976
Crowder	Vanessa Allen	P.O. Box 115 / 707 Bond Street, Crowder, OK 74430	(918) 334-5344	(918) 334-5384
Durant	Melvis Wilson	2750 Biglots Parkway, Durant, Oklahoma 74701	(580)-924-7810	(580)-924-7811
Hugo	Robyn Morgan	P.O. Box 86 / Hugo, 74743	(580) 326-7551	(580) 326-6663
Idabel	Matilda Paxton	P.O. Box 1844 / 2408 E. Lincoln RD, Idabel, OK 74745	(580) 286-6116	(580) 286-9293
McAlester	Dena Cantrell	1632 S. George Nigh Expressway, McAlester, OK 74501	(918) 423-1016	(918) 423-1089
Poteau	Sabrina Ralls	P.O. Box 793 / 208 B Street Hwy 271 Poteau, OK 74953	(918) 647-9324	(918) 649-3425
Smithville	Debbie Conley	P.O. Box 369 / HC 15 Box 72 Smithville, OK 74957	(580) 244-3289	(580) 244-3347
Spiro	Mary Hunter	P.O. Box 187 / AES Road & Hwy 9 Spiro, OK 74959	(918) 962-3832	(918) 962-3871
Stigler	Linda Colwell	P.O. Box 189 / 10377 W. Choctaw Rd. Stigler, OK 74452	(918) 967-2398	(918) 967-5190
Talihina	Laura Durant	201 Dallas Street, Talihina, OK 74959	(918) 567-2106	(918) 567-2106
Wilburton	Mary Coley	515 Center Point Rd, Wilburton, OK 74578	(918) 465-2389	(918) 465-1599
Wright City	Debbie Wesley	P.O. Box 789 / Wright City, OK 74766	(580) 981-7011	(580) 981-7021

and applying for jobs within the Choctaw Nation. We sincerely believe that once you become accustomed to the new system you will realize the benefits.

For additional information, please contact the Human Resources Department at (800) 522-6170, extension 2344.

Choctaw Health Service Locations		
Location:	Address:	Phone:
Talihina	One Choctaw Way, Talihina, OK 74571	(918) 567-7000
Atoka	1201 West Liberty Road, Atoka, OK 74525	(580) 889-1981
Broken Bow	1300 Martin Luther King Drive, Broken Bow, OK 74728	(580) 584-2766
Hugo	410 North "M" Street, Hugo, OK 74743	(580) 3326-7561
Idabel	902 Lincoln Road, Idabel, OK 74745	(580) 286-2600
McAlester	1127 S. George Night Expressway, McAlester, OK 74501	(918) 423-8440
Poteau	109 Kerr Ave. Poteau, OK 74953	(918) 649-1100
Stigler	2204 E. Main, Stigler, OK 74462	(918) 967-9200
Talihina	205 Dallas Street, Talihina, OK 74571	(918) 567-3636

Choctaw employees invited to FEMA Region 6 meeting

Four representatives from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were invited to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 6 meeting and Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 15, 2012, at the FEMA headquarters in Denton, Texas.

Attending the meeting was Choctaw Nation’s Emergency Manager Billy Crabb, Executive Director of Commerce Matt Gregory, Marketing Director Lana Sleeper and Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray. The meeting included a Thanksgiving lunch and program, and was organized by Region 6 Mitigation Division representative Connie Dill. It included recognition of the contributions and accomplishments of Native Americans in observation of Native American Heritage Month. The

Choctaw Nation group gave presentations to the FEMA Region 6 staff, which includes representatives from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, on the history of the tribe.

Sleeper told the group a historical account of the Choctaw Code Talkers of World Wars I and II. She spoke in detail about how the Choctaw Code Talkers were the original group of military men who used their native language as code during the war — a code that was unbroken — and are credited with helping to end the war and save thousands of American and Allied lives during WWI.

Murray opened the meeting by singing in the Choctaw language beautiful renditions of “The Lord’s Prayer” and then closed the meeting with “God Bless America.”



Photo provided

Choctaw Nation Emergency Manager Billy Crabb, Marketing Director Lana Sleeper, Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray, Connie Dill and Executive Director of Commerce Matt Gregory attend the FEMA Region 6 meeting in November in Denton, Texas, to share historical accounts of the tribe in recognition of Native American Heritage Month.

Choctaw, barbecue pitmaster Dave Anderson inducted into Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame

By KATHY HANSON
Sawyer County Record
Reprinted with permission

“Famous” Dave Anderson was inducted into the 2012 Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in a ceremony held Saturday, Dec. 1 in Atlanta’s downtown Epicenter.

The event honored individuals who have made a significant impact and achieved a remarkable level of success in their respective fields, along with philanthropy and innovation.

“For me, my entrepreneur’s story wouldn’t be complete without acknowledgement of my American Indian heritage, because both my mom [Iris from Hayward, Wisc.] and dad [Jimmie Anderson from Idabel, Okla.] came from reservations where high unemployment, high alcoholism and poverty were rampant,” Anderson said, adding that “for Famous Dave’s BBQ to get started just a stone’s throw away from the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and have it turn into a nationally recognized restaurant company is nothing short of miraculous.”

Anderson said his dad loved barbecue and that’s where he developed his passion for down home Southern cooking and

barbecue. They lived in Chicago and Anderson said they were the first family in their neighborhood to have a barbecue grill.

Anderson spent 25 years learning how to make different BBQ sauces, rib rubs and the fine art of smoking ribs. He said friends would always tell him to open up his own barbecue joint, and when he decided to open his first restaurant in Hayward he knew he was going to build the best BBQ joint around, despite many who doubted that a town of only 1,800 — most of Norwegian and Swedish descent — would be a likely place for ribs.

“By the end of that summer — without advertising — we were serving an amazing 4,000 to 5,000 people a week (and) they were driving from Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Green Bay.”

Today there are nearly 200 Famous Dave’s in the country and it is one of the most awarded restaurants in America, with more than 600 Best of Class Awards, First Place Trophies and countless Blue Ribbons recognition, Anderson said.

“I am barbecue. I am an old school pitmaster. If it runs, walks, flies, moos or oinks . . . I can barbecue it,” Anderson said.

Anderson’s success also enabled he and his wife Kathy



Photo provided

Dave Anderson, right, accepts his award for induction into the 2012 Entrepreneur’s Hall of Fame from Mitch Schlimer, who created multi-colored tennis balls and holds the patent on video security systems.

to set up a family foundation that has given \$10 million to help youth-based programs and start his LifeSkills Center for Leadership, which teaches life and career skills to at-risk youth on reservations and in the inner city.

Anderson, who almost didn’t even attend the Epicenter ceremony because he thought someone was pranking him, said that he was honored to meet the other Hall of Fame entrepreneurs. At his table was Truett Cathy (founder of Chick-fil-A), Fred Deluca (founder of Subway), Sara Blakely (founder of Spanx), and Harris Rosen (founder of Rosen Hotels and Resorts).

“They all demonstrate an unbounded philanthropy to give back to help the disadvantaged and the underprivileged. This was truly a night I’ll never forget,” he said.

Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship offered again for Spring semester

The Scholarship Advisement Program is excited to announce that the Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship Committee will be awarding two \$500 scholarships for the current spring semester. Kimberlie Celeste Jacobs of Northeastern State University and Samantha Ann Stein of Southeastern Oklahoma State University were selected as the fall scholarship recipients.

This competitive award is a \$500 scholarship available to Choctaw students majoring in Criminal Justice or Social Work. In addition to being Choctaw and majoring in one of the two fields, candidates must be a resident of the 10 1/2 counties tribal service area, have at least a GPA of 2.5, submit an application and write an essay describing “Why you want to obtain a degree in social work or criminal justice? What does it mean to you to be Choctaw and how will you apply the social work or criminal justice degree to your Choctaw community?”

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Feb. 15, 2013. For additional information or an application, please contact SAP at scholarshipadvisement@choctawnation.com or 800-522-6170 ext. 2383.

DOCTORATE \$20,000 Scholarship \$10,000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 1 applicant will be selected Deadline: March 31, 2013	GRADUATE \$12,000 Scholarship \$6000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 2 applicants will be selected Deadline: March 31, 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Resident• Accepted into Doctoral Program of Choice• Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Resident• Accepted into Masters Program of Choice• Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member
<div><div>BROADENING HORIZONS</div><div>EMPOWERING CHOCTAW LIFE</div></div>	
UNDERGRADUATE \$3000 Scholarship \$1500 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 2 applicants will be selected Deadline: March 31, 2013	HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS \$2000 Scholarship \$1000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 3 applicants will be selected Deadline: April 12, 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Resident• Completed One Year Toward Bachelors degree• GPA of 3.0 or Higher• Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member• Full-Time Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
CHAHTAFOUNDATION.COM/EDUCATION 1-800-522-6170 X2546 Scott Wesley, Scholarship Specialist	

OBITUARIES

Gladys William-Cooper

Gladys Elizabeth William-Cooper, 93, passed away on Sept. 30, 2012, at Brewster Place in Topeka, Kan. She was born on a farm in Stigler, on Dec. 15, 1918. She was the youngest child of original enrollee Kelsey Edward Williams and his wife, Mary Eunice Fenton-Williams. She lived in Oklahoma until moving to Kansas to teach school in 1941. She was a teacher for 28 years. She married Wallace William (Bill) Cooper of Hoxie, Kan., on Jan. 12, 1945.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years; grandson Matthew Yocum; brother Charlie Roy Williams; sisters, Loretta Coppick and Pauline Culver; and her parents.

She is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth Ann Hunsecker (Don) of Maple Hill, Kan., and Mary Edith Yocum, of Topeka; sons, Michael Lynn Cooper (Yvonne) of Phoenix, Ariz., and Patrick William Cooper of Omaha, Neb.; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



Myrtle Carr

Myrtle Faye Youree Carr, 89, of Durant, passed away on Nov. 22, 2012, in the Durant hospital. She was born Nov. 3, 1923, in Utica, the daughter of Harry Youree and Myrtle Beale Youree. She graduated from Utica High School and attended SOSU. She married RC “Monk” Carr in January of 1943. She and Monk lived in the Utica area all of her life where she and Monk were members of the Utica Baptist Church. She was a very active member of the community for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Juanita Layhand and Lucille Robnett.

Survivors include husband RC Carr of the home; daughter Carolyn Anderson with husband Bob of Durant; son Mark Carr with wife Debbie of Comanche; grandsons, Chris Haworth with wife Dee Ann of Utica, Kelly Haworth with wife Tammie of Blanchard, and Nick Carr with wife Amanda of Carter; great-grandsons, Tyler and Derrick Haworth of Utica, and Nate, Scott and Zack Carr of Carter, and Asa and Titus Haworth of Blanchard; great-granddaughters, Ashlee Carr of Carter, and Lydia Grace Haworth of Blanchard; brother Eugene Youree of Sherman, Texas; sisters, Pat Trostle of Denison, Texas, and Dean Sweeney of Durant; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.



Joe Blake

Joe M. Blake passed away on Nov. 20, 2012, in Norman. He was born on Sept. 22, 1926, in Howe, to William T. and Lillie A. (McCasson) Blake. He was the youngest of five brothers and two sisters. After losing his parents at a young age, he lived with siblings and attended Seminole schools. Before his graduation from high school, he felt an obligation to serve his country during World War II. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a cadet in pilot training until the war's end in 1945. He was then assigned to occupational duty in Germany where he played on the USAFE Basketball and Baseball teams that participated in the European Championship Tournaments in Nuremberg. He had the opportunity to witness the Nazi War Criminal Trials and often commented that he obtained an invaluable education from this experience. After his discharge from the military, he obtained an honorary high school diploma and enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. His studies were in history and geography as well as being a member of the OU baseball team. While in school he met Ouida Spaulding. They dated through the school year but in the spring, professional teams came calling and Joe signed a contract with the Chicago Cubs organization. He left Norman and played professionally for two years, returning to ask Ouida to be his wife. Two weeks later they were married on June 27, 1950, at the First Methodist Church in Ouida's hometown of Tipton. For the next five years, the couple enjoyed the travels and experiences of baseball life with both the major and minor leagues. They returned to Norman to finish their college degrees and upon graduation, Joe was accepted into the management training program at Tinker Air Force Base. After 35 years, he retired from Tinker with expertise in material management, aircraft production and supply operations. Joe was very active in his children's activities including school sports, helping with American Legion Baseball, 10 years as Scoutmaster of Troop 241 and the Girl Scouts. He was a member of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church, an avid sports fan and was a lifetime member of the OU Alumni Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Robert, Monroe, Sam, Billy and Dean; sisters, Beulah and Lula; and in-laws Hubert and Vera Spaulding.

Joe is survived by Ouida, his wife of 62 years; sons, Cameron with wife Chris of San Diego, Calif., and Linden; daughter, Dallas Chapman with husband Greg of Norman; grandchildren, Danielle Batson of Moore, Ryan Blake with wife Jennifer of Austin, Texas, and Meredith and Messina Chapman, both of Norman; nephews, James A. Blake with wife Carole of Yukon, and Don Blake with wife Flora of Edmond; and nieces Nancy Coggins with husband Preston of Norman, and Linda Jackson with husband Howard of Reno, Nev.



Haskell Burney

Haskell D. Burney, 75, of Vallejo, Calif., passed away on Nov. 23, 2012, in Walnut Creek, Calif. He was born in Mead, on Jan. 24, 1937, to Haskell and Lois (Brown) Burney. Haskell married Genell Balogue in 1959. She preceded him in death in December of 2011.

Haskell was a man who appreciated the beauty of nature. He loved hunting, fishing and riding his Quad Runner in the mountains. Haskell went to school in Durant and was of the Baptist faith. He joined the navy and met his wife Genell to whom he was married for 53 years. Haskell was a licensed mechanic for Volvo motors for many years until he retired. Haskell loved and cherished his family. He was a kind, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend who will be truly missed by all.

Mr. Burney was preceded in death by his parents, Haskell and Lois Burney; wife, Genell (Balogue) Burney; son Haskell Burney Jr.; brothers, Harold, Edward and Donald Burney; and sister, Lavanda Shepherd.

Mr. Burney is survived by his sons, Joe and Henry Burney of Vallejo; daughter Donna Burney of San Francisco; sister Gwen (Bruney) Poppe of Bokchito; nieces, Denna Wingfield with husband Scott of Bokchito, and Tracy Conder with husband Terry of Alva; nephews, Mark Johnson of Albany, Tink Johnson of Durant, Brent Knight of Bokchito, Randy Shepherd with wife Diane of Southmayd, Texas, and John Shepherd with wife Gina of Antlers; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Stephanie Bullard

Stephanie Gayle Roebuck Bullard passed away on Nov. 28, 2012, after a long battle with lung cancer. She was born Feb. 2, 1952.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ulysses “Pete” Roebuck; sister Lisa Roebuck Giles; and brother-in-law William “Bill” Lowe.

She is survived by her daughter, Tammy Collins of Webster, Texas; son Glenn Rogers III of Webster; granddaughters, Heather and Sierra Collins of Webster; mother Johnnie Pierce of Wichita Falls, Texas; sisters, Sandra Lowe of Anadarko, Paula Cain of Iowa Park, Texas, and Bobbie Reynolds of Wichita Falls; brother Donald Roebuck of Iowa Park; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be missed by all who knew her.



Lee Roy Ward

Lee Roy Ward, 97, passed away on Nov. 30, 2012, in Antlers. He was born April 22, 1915, in Kosoma to Eastman and Sibble (Frazier) Ward.

Lee Roy married his beloved, Alice Ann Betsey, in Paris, Texas. He worked for Muskogee Bridge Co. for many years. Lee Roy enjoyed gardening, playing the piano, fishing, hunting, playing pranks on others, which made him the greatest jokester. After work he liked to work on his trucks. Most of all Lee Roy enjoyed spending time with his family.

Lee Roy was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; sisters, Rachel McCarty and Berneice McCarty; brothers, Josiah Ward and Luther Ward; and daughter, Jean DiNardo.

He is survived by three sons, Billy Joe Peters of Oklahoma City, Floyd Peters and Marvin Peters, both of Antlers; daughters, Margaret Raye and Rhonda Juarez, both of Albuquerque, N.M., Barbara Cates of Durant, Roberta Williams of Atoka, and Janis Lee Ward of Garland, Texas; 26 grandchildren; 54 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren with three more on the way; as well as many other relatives and friends.



Harve Gardner

Harve Gardner of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on Nov. 13, 2012, in hospice care at Trust Point Hospital. He was the son of an original Choctaw enrollee, born on Aug. 21, 1918, in Bennington. His parents were Morgan McKinley and Winnie D. Gardner. Harve married Cecil Hutson on Feb. 14, 1967. He was an employee of Halliburton Oil Co. for years. After their marriage, Harve joined Cecil in the operation of Cecil's Drapery, retiring in 1994. Both were longtime members of Woodrow Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

He was preceded in death by his wife; sons, James and Charles Gardner; daughter Macalynn Summers; stepson Jerry Hutson; and grandson Darrin Gardner.

Survivors include two sons, Clyde Gardner of Brownfield, and Jerrel Gardner; stepson Bob Hutson of Lubbock; sister Frances Anders of Lubbock; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Clara Carroll

Clara Mae Carroll passed away on Nov. 30, 2012. She was born on April 22, 1925, in Blanco to Robert and Fannie Crawford Grubbs. She married A.L. Carroll on Feb. 14, 1943, in McAlester, and together they moved to Memphis in 1948. She worked 25 years for the Hall County Hospital as a Kitchen Helper. Clara was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Memphis, the Salvation Army, and the Choctaw Nation.

She was preceded in death by her husband on Jan. 30, 1994, and her son, Bobby Carroll.

She is survived by her children, James Carroll of Childress, Paul Carroll of Memphis, Charles Carroll of Lubbock, Donnie Carroll of Uvalde, Glenda Cook of Memphis, and Charlotte Schacher of Tulia; 15 grandchildren, Robert Carroll of Amarillo, Jimmy Carroll of Childress, Jason Carroll of Amarillo, Lauri Smith of Amarillo, Susan Mathison of Childress, Shad Carroll of Amarillo, Amanda Carron of Lubbock, Heather Brownlow of San Marcos, April Guenther of Tulia, Andrew Carroll of Lubbock, John Carroll of Fort Worth, Ryan Carroll of San Antonio, Sarah Carroll of Los Angeles, Judy Brown of Hereford, and Regina Noel of Fort Smith, Ark; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Eugene Felker

Eugene “E.A.” Felker, 77, of Wister, passed away on Dec. 1, 2012, in Dickenson, N.D. Eugene was born Nov. 1, 1935, in Wilburton, the son of Arthur Felker and Melvanie “Ted” (Lambert) Felker and grew up in Wright City. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1961 and was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He enjoyed working and running his sawmill. He also loved flying his plane and he never met a stranger.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Felker of Wister; sons, Doug Felker of Rattan, and Wayne Felker of West Virginia; daughters, Susan Hacker of Poteau, and Jeanette Dunn of Pocola; brother, Bill Felker of Wright City; nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of other family and friends.



Misty Farmer

Misty Ann (Durant) Farmer, 28, Atoka resident, passed away on Dec. 12, 2012, in Atoka. She was born on July 22, 1984, in Ada, to Alan and Diana Lynn (Holley) Durant.

She graduated from Atoka High School and then received an associate's degree in 2006 from the Kiamichi Technical Center. She was an LPN at Atoka Memorial Hospital and Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, and was of the Baptist Faith. She enjoyed fishing, computers and babysitting.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Curtis and Dorothy Holley, and Clara Holley.

She is survived by her parents Alan and Diana of Atoka; stepfather Hugh Sewell of Atoka; sisters, Sabrina Durant Beard with husband Gene, and Sarah Durant, all of Atoka; grandmother Billie Alford of Tushka; niece, Zoey Beard of Atoka; special friend Stephen Stiles of Atoka; ex-husband, Ray Farmer of Atoka; along with many other relatives and friends.



Richard Harris

Richard A. Harris, 80, passed away on Nov. 19, 2012, in Yuba City, Calif., with his wife of 55 years by his side.

He was born on Aug. 25, 1932, in McClain. He graduated from Marysville High School and attended Yuba College. He courageously served his country in the United States Army as a sergeant during the Korean War. After that was, he became a retail milk delivery driver for Carnation Creamery.

Later he worked for the Crystal Cream and Butter Company and had many very grateful customers. After 20 years in the milk business, he worked as real estate sales professional in the Yuba –Sutter area for 10 years. Richard finished his working career as a dedicated rural route carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Live Oak, retiring in 2000. Richard was a man respected by everyone who knew him. His family will miss him tremendously.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Logan and Glossie Harris, and his siblings, Logan and Joann.

Survivors include his wife, Claudia; sons, Richard, Mark and Greg; sisters, Rose Ricketts, Sue McCasin and Wanda Carter; and brothers, David, Bill and Glen Harris.



Kenneth Rodebush

Kenneth Darrell Rodebush, 54, of McAlester, passed away on Dec. 12, 2012. He was born to Kenneth D. and Willow Bell (Dozier) Rodebush on Dec. 30, 1957, in Oklahoma City. He grew up in Shamrock and in Oklahoma City. Kenneth worked for the Oklahoma State Fair, the City of Oklahoma City as a crossing guard at public schools and Terry Reynolds Plumbing. He also was a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. Kenneth liked camping, being outdoors, attending the OK Choctaw Alliance events, and enjoyed OU football. The family would like to thank the Heritage Hill Nursing Center and Heartland Hospice, both of McAlester, for their care and compassion. The family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the help during the time of his passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two infant brothers.

He is survived by sisters, Carolyn Slane of Newalla, Bonnie Cole of Oklahoma City, and Diana White of Norman; nephews, David Slane, John Cole, Richard Cole, Chris Slane, Amos Vann and Adam Vann; nieces, Amber Vann and Angela Vann; special friends, Tiffany Goff, Terry Reynolds, Sandy and Charlie Wells and Robin Dorman; along with other family and friends.

Joan Held

Joan Garner Held passed away on Dec. 30, 2012, in Oklahoma City. She was born Sept. 29, 1927, in Banty. Joan was the fourth of nine children born to Hazel and Leroy Gardner. Her passions were her family, gardening, cooking, sewing, reading, and Sooner football. From the 1970s through the early 1990s, Joan created a very successful bridal consultation and catering service. She was able to share her love of helping people, sewing, cooking and decorating. It gave her great pleasure making many a bride's dream wedding come true throughout the state of Oklahoma. Joan was a fixture at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for decades. She married John Klein Held on April 11, 1947, who preceded her in death.

Joan is survived by three children, John Jr., David, and Katherine; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Integris Hospice House for their tender and attentive care during her stay.



Dale Hinsley

Dale Ray Hinsley, 53, of Cooper, Texas, passed away on Nov. 21, 2012, at the Sulphur Springs Memorial Hospital. Dale was born on Nov. 7, 1959. He was the son of Leonard Hinsley and Frankie (Atwood) Hinsley, the great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee, Alex B. Thompson. He graduated from Cooper High School in 1978, and was a member of the East Delta Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his father and grandmothers, Ella (Thompson) Hollowell, and Lillie Watkins, both of Cooper.

Dale is survived by his mother, Frankie Hinsley of Cooper; brothers, Terry “Butch” Hinsley of Lake Fork, and Roy Hinsley of Kensing; sisters, Joyce Henry of Winnsboro, Texas, and Rosanne Limbaugh of Cooper.

Kathryn Pinson

Kathryn Pinson, 87, of Hugo, passed away peacefully in her sleep, on the morning of Jan. 1, 2013, in Bonham, Texas.

Kathryn was born on July 31, 1925, in Bennington, to Arthur Murray and Luella (Jones) Murray. Following Luella's death in January of 1934, Arthur later remarried, and Arthur and Alma Murray continued to raise Kathryn.

On Aug. 15, 1945, better known as “V-J Day”, while attending Arizona University, she caught the eye of Leslie Clay Pinson of Barboursville, W.V. To this day he will tell you that it was love at first sight. Following his honorable discharge from the Army Air Corps at the end of World War II, he resumed his pursuit of a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona. He also picked up where he left off in attempting to woo Kathryn. They married in Nogales, Ariz., on March 22, 1947.

During their early years, they were involved in the farming industry in Arizona. In the late 1950s, they left farming when he took employment with Hughes Aircraft in Tucson, Ariz. By then, they had two daughters, Carey and Becky, and a son, Clay. In 1964, the Pinson Family moved to Texas, when Leslie Clay Pinson accepted an opportunity to work with Campbell Soup Company's new plant in Paris.

In the Spring of 1968, Kathryn and “Les,” as she called him, purchased the Village Inn Motel and later Marbut's Restaurant, located next door; it became the Village Inn Motel and Restaurant. Later, they purchased the Karriage House Motel and expanded into the longtime goal to own and operate a cattle ranch, which was named the 5P Ranch.

Kay and Clay had been married over 65 years and their relationship was something very special to see.

Kathryn and Leslie Clay Pinson's children blessed them with six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Carey and Bill Warren of Fort Towson have two daughters, Kelly and Lendy; Kelly and Brett Brame of Miller Jumbo have two sons, Zach and Garrett; Lendy and Kooney Duncan reside near Noble; Becky and Hank Dennis have a daughter, Lynn, and a son, Cody; Cody and Andrea Dennis have a son, Cody Jr., and a daughter, Ally Kay, and all reside in Wanette; Preston Clay and Eva Pinson and son, Sam, reside in Heath, Texas; daughter Tillie Pinson resides in Rockwall, Texas.

Her brothers, Grover and William, formerly of the Bennington area, preceded her in death.



Cultural Expo graces Tulsa

Local artists assist Choctaw Nation in raising cultural awareness in Tulsa

Photos by JUDY ALLEN,
LISA REED and BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

By BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma teamed up with local artists on Dec. 6, 2012, to demonstrate Choctaw culture to the people of Tulsa.

The many that were in attendance were able to get their hands on traditional weaponry and pottery. Choctaw experts were on hand to share their experience and knowledge of age-old customs.

Artists of the Tulsa area were able to showcase

their work in a venue along with their peers. Among the talents present was Theresa Morris, who created "Windstar," a design that can be found on many Choctaw productions. Other artists include Gwen Coleman Lester, Paul King, Peggy Lukas and Paula Baugh.

As people began to filter through the exhibits and into the auditorium, the main event began. Chanter and beadwork artist Brad Joe led Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton, along with the Choctaw dancers onto the stage to begin the show.

Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray opened with the singing of the Lord's Prayer, and Choctaw Language teacher Lillie Roberts followed her with a lesson on Choctaw words.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton then addressed the people, informing them on current events within the Choctaw Nation.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle took the podium next, speaking of the tribe's plans for the Choctaw people – plans to prosper and grow while sticking to their values.

Choctaw Dancers took

to the stage following Chief Pyle, demonstrating several traditional dances, including the Wedding and Four-Step War Dance.

Chanter Brad Joe followed the dancers with a song and concluded the formal portion of the meeting. Attendees then returned to exhibits. Many met Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton.

A membership booth was also available for questions and assistance for navigating the requirements to become a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Everyone left with a Choctaw T-shirt and a better understanding of what it means to be Choctaw.



Linda Barton is very precise as she demonstrates her potter talents.



Phil Ashby and Debbie Garland of Tulsa grab a photo with Assistant Chief Batton.



Shameka and Cheyenne Seals inquire about Choctaw weaponry as Pam Waugh lends her expertise.



Chief Pyle spends time with Wes Pebsworth, his six-year-old daughter Ryan Peoples, and wife, Kristin Pebsworth.



Zhavion Monroe, Brandon Norris and Nelson Battiest of Tulsa learn about stickball from Joey Tom.



Seth Fairchild and Mandy Lawson get moving during the Four-Step War Dance.



MaKayla Robey and Michelle Benning with the Sapulpa School NASA group learn about Choctaw basket weaving from Debbie Damron and Shelley Garner.



86-year-old Billie Woen Eslick and Debi Eslick Wilbon visited with Chief Pyle at the recent Tulsa meeting.



A young Choctaw makes the night complete by meeting Miss Choctaw Nation.

Durant senior citizens host luncheon



Bryan County Senior Citizens recently hosted a lunch, attended by both Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The tribal leaders are pictured with Joe Shults enjoying the meal.



Martha Wight and Willie Walley relax before being going to the salad bar at a Durant lunch. A huge crowd of close to 100 senior citizens attend the meal each week.



Shirley Barboan and W.B. Williamson smile for the camera.



Carol Espenshade and Betty Beal are going through a box of old photographs that have been brought to the Choctaw Community Center at Durant.



Will your child be a statistic or a survivor?
Buckle up right.
It can keep your family together for life.



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 (CDB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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

Choctaw Textiles

Picture in your mind a Choctaw woman who lived back before the arrival of Europeans on this continent. What is she wearing? If you're like most people, your mind probably just created an image of a person wearing clothing made from animal skins. There is nothing wrong with that picture; as we saw in December's edition of Iti Fabvssa, early Choctaw people certainly did make clothing from buckskin. However, Choctaw ancestors were also highly skilled textile artists who made a lot of their clothing from cloth. We don't hear much about this today because the trauma of colonization stopped the production of Choctaw textiles long before the Trail of Tears. Fortunately, enough knowledge about Choctaw textiles still exists that the art could be brought back to life today.

Archaeological deposits show that textiles have been made in the southeastern United States for at least the last 10,000 years. In fact, evidence suggests that for much of the past, some Southeastern communities actually made and used quite a bit more cloth than buckskin. The first Europeans to enter Choctaw country described fine textiles being made. Choctaw people continued to make textiles, known as "na tvnna" in the Choctaw language, until well into the 1700s.

Textiles are made



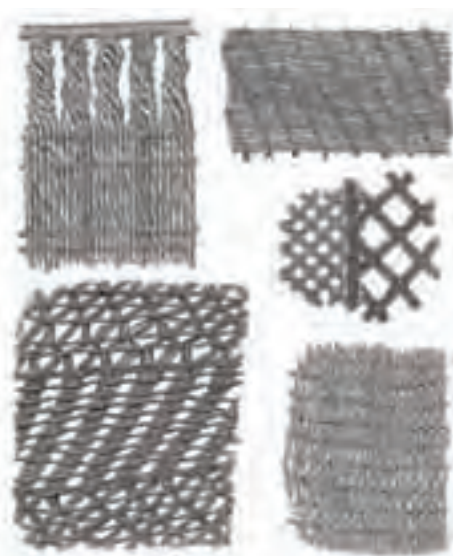
Iti Fabussa



Fig. 1: Milkweed stock in winter, with fibers naturally separating from bark



Fig. 2: Making a bag: A) 2-ply dogbane cordage, B) twining, C) half-completed bag, D) finished bag (part D from Kutruuff et al 2004)



Left, Fig. 3: Twining techniques from pre-contact Southeastern textiles (Holmes 1896 and Drooker 1992)



or through a controlled rotting process, known as "retting" in English. Dogbane fibers are particularly resistant to rotting. Mulberry inner bark was stripped from small mulberry saplings in the spring, and the outer bark scraped off of it. The inner bark was then mechanically broken down into fiber through pounding it and also manipulating it with the hands. Sometimes, mulberry fiber was bleached by boiling it in wood ash so that it could be dyed different colors.

Plant fibers were made into yarn either by hand or with a drop spindle (Adair 1775:453). Different techniques were used to make the yarn into fabric, but twining was the most common (Fig. 2). Through time, Choctaw ancestors made shoes, robes, skirts, sashes, mats and bags from plant-fiber cloth. Some of these garments and other items were made incredibly fancy through the use of different twining and looping techniques to create complex patterns (Fig. 3), by incorporating yarns dyed different colors and by painting sections of the finished fabric. Robes, called "kasmu" in the Choctaw language, were sometimes made by attaching small turkey or swan feathers, one at a time, to a plant fiber net until they completely covered one side. The very fanciest fabrics were made by stripping off thin sections of feather quills with the vanes from one side of the feather still attached, wrapping these stripped feathers around thread, and then twining these threads together to

Fig. 4: Feather mantle from Hawaii, similar to mantles made by Choctaws (British Museum)

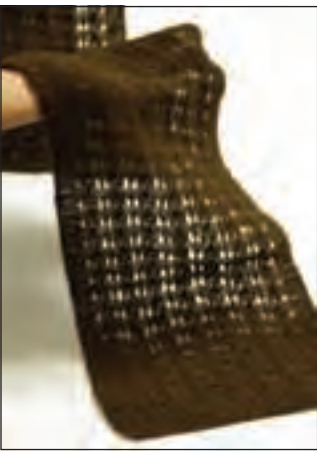


Fig. 5: A fine scarf made from bison wool (Buffalo Gold, photo by Shelly Garner)

make a garment. The result was a fuzzy, brightly colored and very warm piece of clothing (Fig. 4).

Bison wool, "yvnvsh hishi," was the principle animal fiber used in Choctaw textiles. The wool was picked up after the animals shed their thick coats in the later part of winter and spring. Bison wool is made up of five different fiber sizes, ranging from thick guard hair, to soft down (Boucher 2012). Once collected, the wool had to be washed. Fabric almost as soft as cashmere could be made by separating out and using just the down (Fig. 5); coarser, scratchier material could be made with the coarser hair (Cecil Miskin personal communication). The wool was spun into yarn, just as with the plant fibers. Bison wool is difficult to dye, but some sources suggest that Native Southeasterners managed to do it.

James Adair describes Choctaw women gathering shed bison wool in the winter, spinning it into fine thread, and then twining the thread to make shot pouches, which were decorated by stringing beads onto the threads as they were being twined together (Fig. 6). Some of these fancy bison wool pouches had raised work, inside and out

(1775:454). Choctaw women, like women from the tribes around them, probably also made sashes, straps, leggings, and leg ornaments from spun bison wool. Choctaw women were especially known for making fancy skirts, "alh-kuna," partly from bison wool and partly from plant fiber, with different designs on the inside and out (Anonymous [1755] 1918:67-68).

To the best of the author's knowledge, Choctaw traditional textiles have not been made since the mid-1700s, other than a few experiments here and there. In today's rushed life, the amount of time required to make traditional Choctaw textile art is pretty extreme. But in investing this time, one starts to separate oneself from today's mindset, gets a little bit closer to the old way of being, and brings back to life something that is Choctaw. Today, some tribes such as the Navajo enjoy world-wide recognition for the textiles that they make. Many of the pieces made by Choctaw hands a few centuries ago were finer and more complex than any Native American textile art being produced today. The art of Choctaw textiles is patiently waiting for just the right person with the interest, patience, and passion, to bring back to life this 10,000-plus-year-old tradition.



Fig. 6: 1700s bison wool bag (Bushnell 1909)

Choctaw students live out history at site of Battle of New Orleans

Choctaw students from three states have spent a semester discovering their ancestral role in the Battle of New Orleans and have begun to share the story with others. Led by park rangers from Chalmette Battlefield, site of the Battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815, the students participated in this fall's "Recognizing Our Roots" program and will serve as living history experts in period dress during the battle anniversary Jan. 11-12, 2013.

More information about the battlefield and the January event is available at www.nps.gov/jela.

"Recognizing Our Roots" works with high school students who learn Battle of New Orleans history and skills such as drilling, musket firing and cooking over a campfire. The park outfits the students in period dress, provides hands-on history lessons, and helps them research the men and women they will portray at the anniversary event. This year's students are:

- Choctaw youth from Louisiana's Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma representing Jugeat's Choctaw volunteers,

- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from Joseph S. Clark Preparatory High School in New Orleans representing members of the New Orleans battalions of free men of color,
- JROTC cadets from Chalmette High School in Chalmette representing Tennessee militia volunteers.

About 60 Choctaw men made up the company of Choctaw volunteers who joined Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson's American troops at the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson's hastily assembled army of 4,000 regular troops and volunteers defeated 7,000 experienced British soldiers in what is now seen as both the last major battle of the War of 1812 and a turning point in world history. The Choctaw troops were among those who defended the American lines in an area the British targeted for their main attack, assuming that the volunteers

there would be easily overcome.

Web conferences technology funded by a grant from the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea Program (www.national-parks.org) allowed the Choctaw youth to join "Recognizing Our Roots" this year.

Park Ranger Patricia Corral explained, "Distance learning lets us take the students on real and virtual field trips, share our research and have classroom time no matter where we or the students were. Including the Choctaw students would have been impossible without it. It's been a real plus for all of us to add representatives of this important group of 1815 troops to the program."

Chalmette Battlefield is managed by the National Park Service as one of six sites of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Louisiana.

The battlefield, adjoining national cemetery, and visitor center are open daily 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Admission to the site and to most programs is free.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

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 – subject marker
pisa – look, see katiohmi – how, in what manner

Kucha yvt kapvssa.

Pronounced:
Ko-cha yaht kah-pah-sah.

It is cold outside.

Word Meaning:
kucha – outside *yvt – subject marker kapvssa – cold

Introducing: Adverbs of Degree

fehna

Pronounced:
feh-na

Word Meaning:
fehna – very

chohmi

choh-meh

chohmi – sort of/ kind of/somewhat

chiyyohmi

che-yoh-meh

Kucha yät kapvssa fehna.

It is very cold outside.

Kucha yät kapvssa chohmi.

It is sort of cold outside.

Kucha yät kapvssa chiyyohmi!

It is really cold outside!

Note: The definition of kucha is "outside." The Choctaw language does not have a 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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