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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

January 2014 Issue

A helping hand at the holidays

The Choctaw Nation Outreach Services reached out to Choctaw families and our communities during this Holiday season:

• Distributed 3,009 Thanksgiving food vouchers

• Distributed 3,526 Christmas food vouchers

• Distributed 240 Elder Angels Christmas gifts

• Distributed **150** pairs of donated shoes to youth in the Youth Outreach Program

 Distributed 75 donated coats and hoodies to youth in the Youth Outreach Program

• Delivered 140 donated presents to the Little Chahta Angels in the Youth Outreach Program

 Home specialists assisted 43 families in making applications for the Choctaw Christmas for Needy Children

 Assisted with the Choctaw Nation heating stations/shelters during ice storms at Hugo and Antlers Community Centers: Dec. 6-11 Winter Storm 2013 the Choctaw Nation assisted with the Red Cross, Southern Baptist Relief Team and Hugo/Antlers **Choctaw Community Centers** (Councilmen Perry Thompson and Jack Austin.)

• A total of **918** meals served at the Antlers and Hugo warming centers which included breakfast, lunch, and dinner with 50 residents staying through Dec. 6-11.

• Volunteer shift hours were broken up into four shifts with six hours per shift each day two to four workers male and female

Choctaw Nation designated a 'Promise Zone'

By LARISSA COPELAND

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

President Barack Obama announced the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as one of five locations designated by his administration for its "Promise Zone" initiative, a new anti-poverty program meant to provide resources such as grants and tax incentives to help improve conditions in persistently high poverty communities.

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle said, "I am very thankful that the Choctaw Nation and partners have been awarded the Promise Zone designation. We are blessed to work with many state, regional, county, municipal, school, and university partners who, along with the Choctaw Nation, believe that great things can occur to lift everyone in Southeastern Oklahoma when we work together.

"This designation will assist ongoing efforts to emphasize small business development and bring economic opportunity to the high-need communities. I am confident that access to the technical assistance and resources offered by the Promise Zone designation will result in better lifestyles for people living and working within the Choctaw Nation."

The Choctaw Nation has shown tremendous improvement in the region in the past decades by making effective change with more than 5,000 education scholarships annually and creation of jobs through economic development throughout Choctaw Nation. Plans for the future include providing even more education and economic opportunities through this initiative. Projects on the radar have potential to develop tourism and small businesses in Southeast Oklahoma as well.



I am confident that access to the technical assistance and resources offered by the Promise Zone designation will result in better lifestyles for people living and working within the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Nation has been active in communities by building fire departments, donating to law enforce-

ment agencies and schools and initiating programs like the summer school program. "The Tribal Council is excited to hear about the Promise Zone effort and anxious to implement even more revitalization efforts in their districts," said Chief Pyle.

The President first announced the Promise Zone Initiative during last year's State of the Union Address, as a way to partner with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, expand access to educational opportunities and quality, affordable housing and improve public safety. This announcement will be a critical step forward in delivering on this commitment, according to a White House release.

The Promise Zone region is an important initiative; it identifies census tracts that experience high poverty and other challenging demographics.

These areas are in several southeastern Oklahoma counties, including Atoka, Bryan, Coal, Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore,

staggering 52.8 percent.

- Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The goals of this initiative include attracting private investment, improving affordable housing availability, improving educational opportunities, reducing serious and violent crimes, and assisting local and tribal leaders in navigating federal programs and cutting through red tape.

This designation provides benefits such as technical assistance, federal staff support, more extensive preference points and access to other federal grants programs, and may also provide the Promise Zones tax credit where private businesses would receive tax incentives for hiring and investing in Promise Zones, to create jobs and attract additional private investments.

The initiative is sponsored by several federal agencies including the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Justice, Housing, and Education.

The Choctaw Nation has worked to unite government officials, local leaders, and economic development groups across southeast Oklahoma to serve on a committee that will work together through the Promise Zones initiative to create a long-term vision and guidance plan that will best meet the needs of our communities.

In addition to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, San Antonio; Texas, Philadelphia; Los Angeles; and southeastern Kentucky were also included in the Promise Zone designation.

McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha. Of the census tracts involved, nine have poverty rates over 30 percent, the highest of which is a

at the Choctaw Community Center Warming Shelter in Hugo and two shifts of seven hours each day per shift and one 10 hour shift for the overnight hour with a two to three workers, male and female, at the Antlers Choctaw Nation Community Warming Shelter. Choctaw Nation volunteers included staff from Outreach Services, Casino Security Officers, Housing Authority, Tribal Police, Health Services, and the Safety Department.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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room/biskinik-newspaper-archive/



Choctaw Nation responds to icy cri

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Mother nature recently gave Choctaw Nation the cold shoulder in the form of a week-long, multi-county ice storm beginning Dec. 6. Pushmataha, Choctaw, and northern McCurtain counties were hit hardest, with the rest of Southeastern Oklahoma experiencing difficulties as well.

Power outages, icy roads and damage from falling tree limbs marred the week of the winter storm. According to reports from major electric providers - OG&E, PSO, Choctaw Electric and Southeastern Electric - approximately 13,500 Oklahoma residents experienced loss of power for a period of time. Some even went without electricity for the duration of the storm and several days after.

Daryl Holaday, director of Safety Management / Emergency Management, and Jeff Hansen, emergency manager for CNO, had been tracking the weather system as it moved closer to CNO's 10.5 counties. Once certain the area was in for the winter chill, they began coordinating with other CNO departments to prepare for possible emergency response.

The process of preparing for the worst began with securing large, trailer-pulled 100-120 kW generators and placing them at strategic locations based on where weather was forecast to be worst. CNO Tribal Police, Outreach workers and employees of Choctaw Housing Authority volunteered their time and were assigned to operate the Choctaw community centers, which were used as shelters.

As the ice rolled into the area, so did calls of power outages. The Hugo and Antlers community centers opened their doors to provide shelter for those without power on Friday.



A Choctaw Nation chain saw crew works to clean up broken trees and debris after the ice storm.

CNO Emergency Management then began coordinating with the local emergency managers in these areas, which were critical to CNO response efforts. The Red Cross also lent support in the form of cots and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Cooking Crew began cooking, providing meals to those in need. The combined effort of these entities ensured that those who needed help got it.

By Saturday, conditions had reached full force and many were unable to leave homes. Water supply was an issue for rural area residents who relied on well water, as many were still out of power and water pumps had frozen.

In response to this fact, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management supplied pallets of bottled water to town centers and CNO workers helped to distribute the supply.

Meal delivery was coordinated to Boswell, Soper and Antlers. Pallets of water were also transported to Smithville, Bethel, Hugo and Antlers. By Sunday, all shelters were receiving food distribution.

Food and water distribution continued into the next week with Antlers and Hugo seeing the majority of those needing assistance. As emergency workers were able to travel, smaller generators began to be delivered to those with immediate medical issues requiring electricity. Chainsaw crews also began removing debris from driveways, allowing residents to leave homes to obtain food and emergency vehicles to reach residents.

"We want to make sure we can get emergency services to someone's house," Holaday said as he

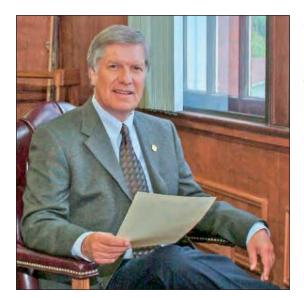
spoke about the importance of keeping driveways cleared of downed trees.

As the week went on, conditions gradually improved and power was restored to some areas, creating less of a demand for assistance.

Over the course of the event, the Antlers Choctaw community center housed anywhere from three to five people each night until Thursday, and provided almost 500 meals. The Hugo center housed from one to nine people a night and provided 423 meals, all while coordinating the pickup or delivery of 3,011 meals from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Cooking Crew.

During the ice storm, CNO proved that the time and effort invested in emergency management planning could make a substantial difference. "When an

Heart of servant leadership evident during recent storms



From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The heart of the Choctaw Nation is never more evident than in a crisis. The recent ice storm in portions of southeastern Oklahoma left thousands of residents without electricity and heat, and in many cases, without water.

The Choctaw Nation Emergency Management Team started monitoring the storm days ahead. They rented generators and made plans to set up shelters if needed.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help their neighbors in this time of need.

The Choctaw Nation's 10-1/2 county service area is largely rural. Many of us were fairly lucky because the precipitation was in the form of sleet. It affected walking and driving. Freezing rain, however, built up on trees and power lines in the eastern counties. Limbs and lines snapped and thousands were without power as a result.

We have 17 community centers and before the storm's effects

were over, three of them had been opened to provide assistance - Hugo, Antlers and Smithville. The Bethel center was also used as a distribution point for water.

The response of our staff was outstanding. They forged partnerships with other organizations such as local emergency response groups, the Red Cross and the Baptist Men's Association to provide food and a warm haven. Community health representatives (CHRs) checked on their patients whenever possible and several hospital employees spent night and day at the facility. Replacements couldn't make it to the hospital to relieve them, so instead of trying to make it home when their shift was over, they stayed to take care of patients. These are just a few examples. Citizens from the areas have expressed their appreciation to the Choctaw Nation because of the quick and professional response.

The true heart of a servant leader has been shown through the acts of putting others' comfort first. As the Choctaw Nation moves forward, it is great to be confident in the continued success of staff and volunteers who work with such tremendous effort for the people.

Employee commitment a valuable resource

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

As the New Year begins, I think of how blessed we are as a Nation. The tribe continues to prosper and we give back in many ways. It's most evident to others during the holiday months of November and December, yet the Choctaw Nation is a giving tribe all year long. The tribe and countless individuals step up to the plate to make people's lives a little better.

Each year an employee is recognized for going "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty." I am amazed when I hear the stories of all who are nominated by their peers. This year's ABCD recipient, Gena Fowler, is a career counselor for the Career Development department. She has selflessly contributed to the success of many of her clients and is a devoted friend to co-workers. Acts that may seem small to Gena have made a world of difference to others.

Nothing says it better than this quote from the person who nominated Gena – "In the Choctaw Nation, we fight to ensure our members can hold on to their heritage while building successful sustaining careers. This is difficult for many members because they lack the support of family and friends. Gena has stepped up to become that support system."

Congratulations, Gena, and thank you for your dedication.

The Choctaw Nation is fortunate to have



such committed employees and one of our primary goals is to expand its businesses to ensure we can continue to provide jobs and opportunities for tribal members. Economic growth produces a reverberating impact throughout our communities and can add hope and security. Our families will have a greater likelihood of staying intact.

The backbone of the Choctaw Nation is the family unit and we need to never forget our culture. We need to balance our growth in the ever-changing world while remaining true to who we are as tribal members. We cannot forget those who have paved the way for us. I like the wisdom of the old saying, "You must look at the past before you can look to the future." The New Year holds promise. My family and I wish you a very happy and healthy 2014.

Tribal Council meets in regular December session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Dec. 14 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted to:

• Approve right of way with the city of McAlester in Pittsburg County,

• Dispose of surplus equipment,

• Budget for Choctaw Nation Environment Office Water Pollution Program,

• Application for Promise Zone Initiative,

• Application for Climate Change Adaptation.

• Application for Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative grant, and

• Application for Native American Library Service Basic grant.

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

Annual Choctaw Livestock show to be held Feb. 1-2

The 2014 Choctaw Nation Livestock show will be held Feb. 1-2 in Durant and Wilburton.

This show is open to all 4-H and FFA members who are 9 to 19 years of age at the time of the show and have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). There are NO Boundary Guidelines again this year, so participants DO NOT have to live or go to school within the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

Wilburton Show: (held at Eastern Oklahoma State College campus) Saturday, Feb. 1 Swine - 10 a.m. Does - after swine show Wethers - after doe show Lambs - after wether show Sunday, Feb. 2 Heifers – 11 a.m. Steers - after heifer show **Durant Show:** (held at Bryan County Fairgrounds) Saturday, Feb. 1 Swine - 10 a.m. Does - 10 a.m.Wethers - after doe show Lambs - after wether show Sunday, Feb. 2 Heifers - 11 a.m. General rules and regulations 1. Entry fee is \$10 per head; late fee is \$25 (after Jan. 25). Up to three entries per division (swine, goats, sheep, heifers, steers). 2. Wood chips or shavings only shall be used for bedding. (NO HAY OR STRAW) Participants must bring their own shavings. • Durant show - No shavings in cattle barn 3. Each school will be responsible for monitoring their students and following their eligiblity rules for participating in activities.



4. A photo area will be set up for all breed, reserve breed and grand champions.

5. All animals must be owned by 4-H or FFA exhibitor at least 60 days prior to show.

6. No animal can be shown at both shows. Start times: Steers - after heifer show

Chaplain's Corner Believing with all your heart

May you have a blessed New Year in 2014.

Let's look at the ministry of Philip and a prominent Ethiopian, a nobleman, of great education and high standing. He was a treasurer of a great empire, serving his queen.

Philip was an evangelist. He had been preaching the Gospel of Christ in Samaria and was in the midst of a revival.

Then, God said to Philip, "Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jeruselum into Gaza, which is desert," (Acts 8:26.) Into a desert, there was nobody there, but Philip did not argue with God. He obeyed immediately.

He stopped preaching and headed for the desert. Humanly speaking, this seemed like a foolish act.

In the desert Philip saw a man sitting in a chariot and heard him reading aloud. The passage he was reading was Isaiah 53, which though written 700 years before Christ, was a description of His atoning death to be found in the whole Bible.

Philip ran up to him and said, "Understandest thou what thou readest?"

The nobleman asked, "How can I except some man should guide me?"

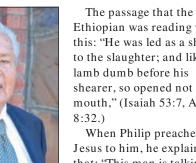
To many the Bible is a closed book. They will never understand it except with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This is God's Book and without His enlightening power it will remain a closed book.

So Philip reached out to the nobleman, he preached unto him Jesus.

This is a challenge to us; we can witness to one person about Jesus and it may have more significance than preaching to a big congregation.

It is God's purpose to send the Gospel to every creature into the desert, into the city, into the rural areas and into our Native American communities.



REV. BERTRAM BOBB Tribal Chaplain

Ethiopian was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened not his mouth," (Isaiah 53:7, Acts

When Philip preached to Jesus to him, he explained that: "This man is talking about Jesus, who died on the cross for you."

Then they came to a certain water and the Ethiopian nobleman said, "Philip, what would hinder me to be baptized?" He answered, "You may - if you believe with all your heart." And the record reads that this nobleman answered, "I believe that

Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

I want to ask you: Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

The word "believe" means that you put your confidence and your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Have you believed with all your heart that Jesus died for you, that he was buried and that He rose again?

My friend, this is what God is waiting for, that you give your all, your heart to Jesus Christ. That you believe with all your heart.

Do you believe with all your heart? "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved?'

To believe means to trust. If you never trusted Jesus Christ and Him alone for your salvation, will you do that today? You can pray something like this: "God, I realize that I am a sinner, I trust Jesus Christ as my personal Savior." I trust you will make this decision today. May the peace of God be over you and your loved ones this new year.

Pray for America. Pray for our servicemen and servicewomen in the Armed Forces.

Plaques will be given for Breed and Reserve Breed (Steers and Heifers) for each division (English, Continental, Brahman Influence and AOB). Does, Wethers, and Lambs will be broken into divisions based on the total number of entries.

Plaques will be given to each champion division and reserve champion division winners. Bronze Champion will be named for each species.

The show committee's decision final in grievances. For more details, applications and premium information, visit choctawnation.com or contact the Jones Academy adminstration office at 888-767-2518 or the Jones Academy Land Operations office at 918-297-2518, ext. 1011.

Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program now taking applications

Deadline – April 1, 2014

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Workforce Investment Act Program offers young adults an opportunity to establish a foundation for success in the workplace. The youth program is designed to introduce workers into the workforce and assist with the development of behaviors and attributes to become a successful employee. Employers are seeking individuals with good communication skills, honesty, work ethic, professionalism, positive attitude and are self-motivated.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has made revisions to the upcoming youth work program effective Dec. 12, 2013. The constraints placed upon employers by Child Labor Laws have made development of these skills more challenging. This challenge initiated the upcoming changes to the Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program. Child Labor Laws prohibit teen workers under the age of 16 to participate in job activities which are potentially harmful. For this reason, revisions have been made to the youth work program. Please note the decision was made to grandfather all youth work program participants who successfully completed the youth work program in 2013.

These changes will effect new applicants for the program. All new applicants must be

16 years or older on or before Monday June 9 to be apply for the 2014 Youth Work Program. Program guidelines still apply to all applicants for the program. Beginning January 2014, participants who successfully completed the youth work program will be permitted to work this year. Renewal applications will be accepted from participant's ages 14 and 15 years of age who worked and successfully completed the youth work program in 2013. Renewal applications have been mailed out to all participants who worked last year.

Applications are available at all Choctaw Nation Field offices, Choctaw Nation website, or by contacting the WIA office.

All applications must be in the Durant office, complete and approved by the deadline, April 1, 2014.

Original applications is required for all new applicants. Application processing can take up to 10 days. If you have not been contacted via mail with the status of your application, call the WIA office at 800-522-6170. Please mail original application in a timely manner to meet the deadline of April 1, 2014.

Renewals applications can be faxed or mailed. You may contact the WIA office at: 1-800-522-6170.

COUNCIL Sustaining a vision

A leader with a green thumb

Councilman Dillard utilizes his agriculture background to better his community

By DEIDRE ELROD

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A favorite part of being a Choctaw Nation Tribal Council member is looking ahead, trying to plan for the future and truly being able to help people when they are in need, according to District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard.

"If somebody comes to you and needs help for whatever circumstance, whether it's health related or job related," he explains, "and you're able to help - that's what keeps you coming in. It's those success stories." He says he's glad to be able to assist tribal members in utilizing the numerous programs the Choctaw Nation has to offer.

Dillard was born in Talihina to Glen and Christine Dillard. He was raised in Caney and attended school there, graduating from Caney High School in 1986.

After graduation, he earned a Federal Junior Fellowship through the USDA to work at the OSU/USDA Wes Watkins Research and Extension Center in Lane. Dillard says that part of the fellowship was to go to college and take classes that would benefit his position at the research center.

He attended school at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, then transferred to Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater where he graduated in 1991 with a bachelors degree in horticulture.

It was during his time at Southeastern that he met his future wife, Janie. Dillard was employed at the Choctaw Nation Bingo Hall in Durant, where Janie also worked in management. He transferred to OSU and upon moving back home after graduation he began to date Janie. They married in July of 1995, and he became stepfather to Janie's two sons, Toby and Brad. Today, he and Janie are also grandparents to four grandchildren.

Also after graduation, he went back to work at the research center as a research technician. There, his work emphasized on several different disciplines of agriculture research, from genetics, plant pathology and molecular genetics. "I knew that I wanted to stay in this area and it was a good job for the area," says Dillard about his job at the research center.

He was employed there for a total of 20 years, working there following his senior year of high school, then his college fellowship, and his post college days, until he was elected councilman in 2005. He stayed on part-time for a year after he was elected. "Doing research has probably helped being on council considerably because of the problem solving that the position entails," he says.

The councilman position is a legislative arm of the tribal

government for the Choctaw Nation with numerous responsibilities, such as approving annual budgets for over a hundred different programs. This position also consists of program oversight, approving laws that govern the tribe and providing leadership to help guide the tribe into the future.

"You look at the council position and might think it to be just passing council bills and worrying about the finances," Dillard explains, "but you also dive into a lot of social work when you start talking about different individuals, with their needs or what's



Anthony sits at the Atoka community center.

Choctaw Nation: Deidre Flrod

going on in their lives and what they need help with. So you end up doing a lot of social work as well."

Dillard's service area includes Atoka, northern Bryan and southern Pittsburg counties and is currently serving his second term in office.

Dillard serves on many community boards in the Atoka area, such as the Atoka County Tornado Organization for Recovery, or ACTOR, after an F3 tornado went through his district, Southeastern Electric Co-op Board of Directors, Atoka County Rural Water District #3 and Oklahoma Southeast Economic Development Board. He has also served on the Caney school board and Atoka County Fair Board, which he says helped prepare him for the office of councilman.

He thinks that the agriculture department is very valuable and is an extremely positive activity for kids to be involved in during school. "If you're not showing animals and just doing the leadership aspect of FFA, it is also very valuable as far as the speech contests, getting up in front of people and the ability to be able to do that will help you in the future. It can help your success as a young person and open a lot more doors for you."

Because of Dillard's agriculture background, he was eager to tell about the community garden he helped start about four years ago. Since the Atoka Community Center didn't have a place for a garden at its former location, Dillard

asked the research center in Lane, a town approximately 11 miles to the east, if they would help with space for the garden. He would help supplement the garden and assist as needed. Dillard said it worked well until the research center closed.

Upon building the community center at a new location though, the garden was also relocated. Dillard was pleased to say that the Atoka Community Center has been approved to build a greenhouse at the location. Along with the greenhouse, "it would be nice to able to do some stuff throughout the winter," Dillard says, "but also where we can grow transplants for our seniors to plant for their own gardens and help supply them."

This year, with the help from several of the seniors and employee Kendra Sparks, they were able to can a lot of dill pickles, made from cucumbers from their community garden. Dillard's aunt and uncle gave him a delicious recipe for the pickles. He says he has canned pickles in the past, but nothing like this recipe.

The food out of the garden is shared amongst the seniors, Dillard says. "It's good because we are promoting our culture," he says. "[Choctaws] were a farming culture. There are so many things about our ancestors' way of life that we really should be embracing, such as living off the land, and that's what we try to do with our community garden."

Farm and You event Agriculture education for youth

Choctaw Nation Health Services Going Lean Program held a Farm to You event on Nov. 5, 2013, with the OSU Extension Agency. Over 300 students from Whitesboro, Buffalo Valley and Talihina Public Schools attended the event. Forty volunteers lent their support as well.

According to the OSU Extension office, the Farm to You is a 40-foot by 40-foot enclosed walk-through exhibit and has ten stations. Small groups of approximately ten students begin the educational, interactive experience at Farmer Pete's Garden where they learn about fruits and vegetables.

The second station is called Farmer Pete's Chicken Coop, here the students learn about raising chickens and the important role protein plays in our diets. The third station is Farmer Pete's Dairy Farm where they learn about raising dairy cows and the nutrients that dairy foods provide. The fourth station is Pete's Acres, where students learn about the different types of grains in our diets.

The remaining six stations take students through the digestive system where they learn how the foods on the farm are important for our bodies. At each station, community or school volunteers use a written script to provide students with a message and activity related to the specific station.

To better address the Oklahoma State Department of Education Priority Academic Students Skills (PASS), the mouth, bone and muscle stations have different scripts for Grades K - 3rd and 4th - 6th.

The Oklahoma Farm to You Nutrition Exhibit is designed to involve first through sixth grade students in learning the skills and choices for a healthy lifestyle. Children learn about the link between agriculture, nutrition, good hygiene practices, physical activity and health.

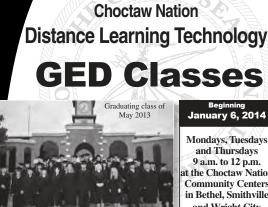




- Youth of the Nation —

"You're stupid" "You're ugly" Many people hear things like this on a daily basis. Put downs that make them feel bad about themselves; make them feel bad about how they look, how they act, the things they do, the clothes they wear, the things they believe in. So, what is bullying? Bullying is like a transfer of feelings. A person who doesn't feel good about themselves or has been bullied before transfers all that abuse to another person by bullying them. Being abused like this can cause people to hurt themselves or other people. Things like that don't make anyone feel good. All they do is cause harm and suffering. If you see someone being bullied or you're being bullied, tell someone about it. Nothing good comes from bullying. Oklahoma's bullying Laws require all school districts to have a Bullying Plan in place. If you don't know your school's bullying policy then get in touch with school officials.

Article submitted by Tyler Macon CNYAB of Clayton



Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. t the Choctaw Nation **Community Centers** in Bethel, Smithville

The class will meet 3 days each approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and esting fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class on January 6. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

and Wright City Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Talihina

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation **Community Centers** in Atoka and Coalgate

Getting back to well-balanced meals

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! For most of us Thanksgiving and Christmas came with a lot of wonderful foods to enjoy. Now with the New Year some of us are thinking "Oh no! What have I done?". Cutting ourselves off from all the rich, creamy and sweet foods can be difficult. There are a few steps we can take to get us back to healthier eating habits.

- 1. DO NOT set unrealistic goals! Instead of "I will only have salad for lunch and dinner" Try "I will add a 1-cup garden salad to my lunch and dinner."
- 2. Have evenly spaced meals daily. Have a meal every 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours. If you will not be able to eat a meal within 4 hours have a balanced snack, such as a piece of fruit and 1/4 cup of pecans
- Have balanced meals as follows: 1/2 the plate non-3. starchy veg - green beans, carrots, broccoli, etc. 1/4 the plate starch - whole grain bread or pasta, brown and wild rice, beans, sweet potato, etc. 1/4 the plate lean meat baked grilled broiled or stewed ¹/₂ cup of fruit. 8oz skim or 1% milk or 4-6oz light yogurt
- 4. Drink water throughout the day. Try to get around 64 oz each day.
- 5. Enjoy taking daily walks with a close friend.

When looking at change, overcoming small obstacles can be easier to obtain.

Recently a question was asked about how to make a healthy pot pie. The following recipe is a healthier version of chicken pot pie. Unfortunately the fat and sodium are still high. However, the calories, carbs, fat and sodium are cut by more than half of the traditional pot pie.

Chicken Pot Pie Comparison

	Before	After	Change
Calories	1,833	250	Difference of 1,583 calories per serving
Fat	106g	10 g	Difference of 96g
Sodium	2,961mg	543mg	Difference of 2,418 mg

NURSERY NEWS

Bryson Daly

Bryson Daly was born on Sept. 25, 2013, at 2:04 at Chickasaw Medical Center in Ada. He weighed 8 pounds and 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. His parents are Charla Russell and Jason Daly both of



Davis. Grandparents are Cotton and Juanita Russell of Davis and grandmother of Williston, S.C.

James Baker

James Henry Baker was born Nov. 18, 2013, at 4:02 p.m. at Madera Community Hospital in Madera, Calif. He weighed 8 pounds and 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.



His proud parents are Sean-Paul and Tiffany Edwards Baker of Madera, Calif. His big brother is Jared E. Wright. His grandparents are Ronald and Kay Rose Edwards of Madera, Calif., and Paul and Lynda Baker of Sun City, Ariz.

7 Holiday Health Tips from W.I.C.

- Move every day! Our busy holiday schedules can bump 1. us off our regular exercise routines. Try to participate in local walks, runs or sporting activities.
- 2. Enjoy a pre-party snack. Arriving hungry to a holiday party can make you more likely to overeat. Plan to eat a small meal before a party.
- 3. Set the one plate rule. To avoid recreational eating, consciously make one plate of the foods you really want. Eat it slowly- enjoying and savoring every tasty bite.
- Give yourself options. If you're attending a holiday function, bring a contribution of low-calories foods, such as fruits and vegetable trays so there are healthy options available.
- 5. Modify your recipes. Aim to use half the amounts of high-calorie baking products such as butter, shortening, and sugar. Cooking with skim milk can save up to 70 calories when compared to whole or 2% milk!
- 6. Be brainy about beverages. Watch out for hidden calories in soda, fruit punch and eggnog. Water and diet sodas are calorie-free.
- Enjoy friends and family. Although food can be a big 7. part of the season, it doesn't have to be the focus. Holidays are a time to reunite with good friends and family, to share laughter and cheer, to celebrate and to give thanks.

(Courtesy of Wellness Corporate Solutions)

Choctaw Nation WIC



(580-298-3161)

<u>SITE</u>

Antlers

HOURS	DAYS
8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday

and CHILDREN

WOMEN, INFANTS

Healthier Chicken Pot Pie IX

(A recipe from From Allrecipes.com)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cubed
- 1-1/2 cups sliced carrots
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- ٠ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced celery
- 3 tablespoons Brummel and Brown spread
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup wheat flour .
- ¹∕₂ tsp. salt
- ¹/₄ tsp. ground black pepper
- ¹/₄ tsp. celery seed
- 1-3/4 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2/3 cup 1% milk
- ¹/₄ cup chopped Italian parsley
- 2 (9 inch) unbaked whole wheat pie crust

Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 425° F (220° C)
- 2. Combine chicken, carrots, peas, and celery in a saucepan. Cover with water. Boil until chicken is no longer pink in the middle and vegetables are fork tender, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain, and set aside.

ANTLERS

Feb. 5: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)

Closed: Feb 17 for Tribal Holiday and Feb. 27-28 for inventory.

DURANT

Closed: Feb 17 for Tribal Holiday and Feb. 27-28 for inventory.

Feb. 12: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)

- 3. Cook and stir onions in Brummel & Brown spread in a saucepan over medium heat, until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in flour, salt, pepper and celery seed. Slowly stir in chicken broth and milk. Simmer over medium-low heat until thick, about 5 minutes. Stir in parsley and remove from heat. Set aside.
- Place chicken mixture in bottom pie crust; pour 4. hot liquid mixture over. Cover with top crust, seal edges, and cut away excess dough. Make several small slits in top to allow steam to escape.
- 5. Bake in preheated oven until pie is golden brown and filling is bubbly, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Nutrition Facts:

Amount per serving: 8 servings Calories 250, Total Carbs 26.7g, Total fat 10g, Fiber 2.2g, Sat fat 1g, Protein 15.3g, Sodium 543mg

I hope you enjoy this recipe and have a healthy New Year! For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Staff will take lunch from 11:30 to 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 Ave, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Center Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investm Idabel: Choctaw Community Center Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Market open weekdays Feb. 3-26, except for:

Recipe of the Month

Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Market open weekdays Feb. 3-26, except for:

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Feb. 3-26, except for: Closed: Feb 17 for Tribal Holiday and Feb. 27-28 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 6, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Feb. 3-26, except for: Closed: Feb 17 for Tribal Holiday and Feb. 27-28 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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.



About Choctaw Farms

Choctaw Farms was developed in partnership with House of Webster, which has been creating the very best in gour-met gift items including handcrafted jams, preserves and cheeses for over thirty years. Choctaw has part-nered with House of Webster to bring these delicious, handcrafted products to guests.

The fine products from Choctaw Farms include:



2-Jar and 3-Jar custom assortment gift packs including preserves, jellies, jams, marmalades, fruit butters, spreadable fruit, relishes, salsas and homestyle pickles.

Signature Meat & Cheese Gift Packs with cheddar cheese, summer sausage and jalapeno stuffed olives. Spiral-Cut Half Hams that are hickory-smoked the old-fashioned

way to bring out the sweet, rich flavor.

Choctaw Farms products appeal to a variety of people in a many situations, creating a special experience for both the gift giver and the recipient. Choctaw Farms products are available for purchase online or at one of our locations at: Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant and Pocola.

800.369.4641 www.choctawfarms.com

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

The Durant Police Department and the Choctaw Nation would like to remind you...

Be responsible.

If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.





NOTES TO THE NATION

Thank you for donation

Dear Chief Pyle,

My name is Julie Cook and I'm a high school junior participating in the Norman North Timberwolf Marching Band. Earlier this year, organizers of the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Memorial Parade selected our group to represent the USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 2013.

Our band members were excited and humbled to be chosen for this event, but the problem of our finances remained. Our 140+ members accepted no money from the VFW or other veterans' groups, instead choosing to raise the funds for airfare, lodging and food ourselves.

Beginning in June we sold cookie dough, washed cars, worked a month at fireworks stands, served at a fundraising dinner and even sponsored a golf tournament.

Chief Pyle, I'd like to thank you so much for assisting in this matter. You personally returned my mother's phone call and were very gracious and helpful (you are a wonderful leader!) I'd also like to thank the employees of the Choctaw Nation for helping us.

By all accounts the Timberwolves' performance at the ceremony was well received, and we met and spoke to several of the remaining survivors of the USS Oklahoma. Our tour of the island and the Pearl Harbor Memorial was, for me, truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience I will never forget. Again, thank you so much!

Julie Cook

Proud to be Choctaw

Dear Chief Pyle,

This is a letter of gratitude for the things you and the Council have achieved for our tribe. Your efforts on our behalf are appreciated by everyone.

Thank you for the health system I enjoy. The clinic at Idabel is excellent in all ways. The staff can't be beat! There is a smile from everyone, attention to detail, and sincere caring for each patient.

I am proud to be a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Judy Petre

Thank you for prayers during illness

I would like to thank all of the members of the Choctaw Nation for all of your get well cards and prayers for me during my 8-month bout with Guillain-Barré syndrome. I am recovering and will be able to start back to work teaching GED classes. I appreciate all the well wishes during my recovery.

> Charlie Thompson Adult Education

EVENTS

Church to hold monthly gospel singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7,

Searching for cousin

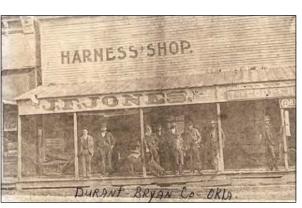
My sister, brother and I are trying to locate our cousin. Her name is Elizabeth (Thompson) Smith. She lives in Atoka last we knew but we have lost contact and don't know how to find her. Please help. She is the only family we have on our mother's side. Please contact us at 921 North 3rd St., Wills Point, TX 75169 or call 903-873-8061. Thank you.

Jackie Hull

Seeking information on photos

I am the great-granddaughter of Moses C. Clark and Nancy F. Allen of Durant. Recently I inherited several photographs, becoming the family progenitor. I am searching for a photograph of the old cotton gin at Bokchito. My grandparents, James "Jim" F. Jones and Martha Ellen Clark, operated it prior to relocating to Durant. When they would return home at the end of the day, Jim would take the money earned that day and put it in a tin can and toss it out in the yard thinking that no one would get his money should he be robbed. To the family's knowledge, no money was ever missing.

If you have any information regarding these photographs, please contact Carolyn Jones Higgins at 422 N. 1st St., Broken Arrow,Ok 74012, 918-806-1873, or chig42@yahoo.com. Thank you



This is a photo of a leather shop where gun holsters, saddles and harnesses were made. The shop was owned by James F. Jones, my grandfather (1862-1945). The photo was taken about 1900. I've been told that there were a few relatives standing in front of the store. Recently, I visited the Choctaw museum where the director told me that she believed it was the tiny shop on the corner across the street from the museum. Any help would be appreciated.



Thank you for assistance during the winter storm

Dear Jeff Hansen,

I, along with the citizens of Rattan and our neighboring communities, would like to thank you for your assistance in providing us with American Red Cross meals last week. While it was a shock to our community that we had undertaken something of this nature, everyone was very grateful for the help and assistance. We can not stress enough our thanks to you, the Choctaw Nation, the American Red Cross and the Baptist Foundation for your support. This was the first time the Town of Rattan had undertaken such an operation to feed people in our area in its history. Once again thank you for your support during the ice storm and power outage. Simple words will never be enough to express the impact your help and assistance brought this community.

> Thank You, Leland Watts Mayor of Rattan

Thanks for support during time of grief

Cleta Mata and family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Choctaw Nation for support after the passing of her son, Rance Miguel Mata who passed away Dec. 7, 2013. A special "Thank You" goes to the Food Distribution Department for the unparalleled support and prayers during the time of grief.

Cleta Marta

Thankful for ornament

Thank you for the wonderful ornament for our tree. It mean a great deal to our family to get these gifts about our heritage each year.

Leah, Jason and Elliana Wise

Congratulations Choctaw Casino Resort KOA

Kampgrounds of America honored nine campgrounds, including the Choctaw Casino Resort KOA in Durant, during its Austin, Texas, International Convention in November for receiving top service scores from campers in 2013.

Each year, KOA surveys more than 200,000 camping guests shortly after their stays, asking each if they would recommend that particular KOA to others. Congratulations to the Choctaw Casino Resort KOA for again achieving the top score this year out of 487 KOAs!

Choctaw Nation Head Start, Preschool begins 2014-2015 recruitment

The Head Start Program of the Choctaw Nation of Okla-

2014, and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month, at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-760-6127.

Gregory E. Pyle Chief Gary Batton Assistant Chief

The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer Lisa Reed, Executive Director Larissa Copeland, Director/Editor Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director Karen Jacob, Purchasing Coordinator Bret Moss, Media Coordinator Deidre Elrod, Reporter/Photographer

P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 www.choctawnation.com e-mail: biskinik@choctawnation.com

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

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

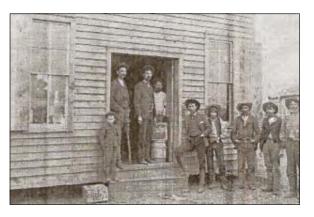
The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



I need help in locating this house. An elderly relative saw it a few years ago when visiting Durant. It was the home of James F. Jones and his wife, Martha Ellen Clark, my grandparents. The family had four children. At the time, Jim Jones also owned and operated the harness shop in Durant before moving to Oscar (Brown), Okla.



I am trying to find the location of the store pictured, as I believe W.T. Clark was the grandson of Moses and Nancy Clark. Can anyone tell me who the gentlemen are standing in front of the store? I saw three who could belong to the Clark family. I would like to correspond with those researching the family of Moses and Nancy Clark. I am willing to exchange information and any photos I may have.



Is there anyone who can tell me which organization this photo regards? I was thinking the Masons, however, this building resembles a church. I believe it was taken in the late 1890s or early 1900s. Can you identify any of the people in the photo? I believe one may be James "Jim" F. Jones, my grandfather, and several could be his brothers, along with Moses C. Clark, my great-grandfather and founder and first pastor of the First Baptist Church of Durant, plus a few of his children. Any help would be greatly appreciated. homa is recruiting prospective students for the 2014-2015 school year. A concentrated effort is made in January each year to identify children who may be eligible for child development services provided by Head Start. The program serves children who will be 3, but not yet 5 years of age by September 1st. Although we have a Native American preference, Non-Native Americans are welcome and no CDIB is required. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families. Families of children with special needs are strongly encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services for children with special needs.

Choctaw Nation Head Start is a "School Readiness" program and provides families with assistance in their efforts to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. All classrooms have "state certified Teachers" and qualified Teacher Assistants. The program provides a nutritional breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack each day. The Head Start program offers afternoon care and transportation services to families who meet the guidelines.

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement in school readiness enhances the quality of lives and promotes the long term lifelong success of children. For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Center in your local community or choctawnation.com Also, you may contact the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2219 or 2555.

Choctaw Housing Authority Affordable Rental Housing

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

- Applicant must have a CDIB Card
- Applicant household must meet income guidelines

 \bullet Household members age 18 and over must pass OSBI criminal background check

Household members age 18 and over must pass local background check
 Applicant must provide two previous landlord references including telephone
numbers and addresses

Applicant must have an income.

Elder Residential Housing

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

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

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

Affordable Housing is housing that is affordable to lower income households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. Tenant rent in the Affordable Housing Program is based on 15% of the gross

Housing Program is based on 15% of the gross adjusted income for the household. The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation has 146 affordable rental units located within the Choctaw Nation boundaries.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Wister barrel racer claims world title

By KIM ROSS

Poteau Daily News and Sun Printed with permission

A young Wister girl clinched the top title last week during the 2013 Indian Nation Finals Rodeo, claiming the fastest time and winning the title of Junior Barrel Racer World Champion. Trisha Walden, 12, has only been competing in barrel racing for the past four years, but in that time she has claimed numerous title, trophies and cash.

According to Walden's mother, she began riding about seven years ago and quickly began participating in pole bending, flags and other"Play Days" events. At the age of 8, Walden realized she wanted to barrel race and entered her first competitive event - the "Crash and Burn." held in Poteau at the Phil Gardenhire Rodeo Arena. For Walden, her first competition became

her first win, taking \$60 home in prize money. She participated in play days the following two years and was named reserve champion both times. Last year, Walden began participating the Oklahoma Youth Rodeo Association and the conclusion of the circuit she walked away as reserve champion in barrel racing at the finals rodeo held in McAlester.

This year she joined the Indian Rodeo Association which is made up of 11 regions in the United States and Canada. Her region of competition was filled with youth from seven states. As she moved her way through the circuit she found herself in the No. 2 qualifying spot in her region for nationals.

With the help of her family, they headed out to Las Vegas to watch Walden and her horse Dago give it their best.

"My daughter and son-inlaw, Misti and Chris Upton, made the trip to Las Vegas

"Thank you for your support. I really appreciate it. It was very exciting to go to Las Vegas...and even more exciting to come back Jr. World Champion Barrel Racer."

- Trisha Walden



Seniors set sail

Several Choctaw Seniors from District 9 went on a five-day cruise to Mexico aboard the carnival Triumph. They visited Yucatan, Mexico to see ancient Inca ruins and a ranch for an authentic dinner and rodeo featuring horsemanship, a wonderful display of cowboy rope twirling skills, singing and dancing. Then to Cozumel, Mexico for time at the beach and shopping. On board ship they enjoyed food, singing, dancing, shows every night. To complement the cruise experience, there were beautiful sunrises and sunsets. All had a good time eating and relaxing and want to go again. Pictured from left to right are Geneva and Joe Shultz, Glenn and Peggy Estes, Don and Diana White, Peggy Wolf, Jo Shelby and Kay Whyte.

Are you over 18 years old?



Trisha Walden and Dago take the last turn and head home for the winning time at Las Vegas last week. Photo submitted by Linda Walden

was a great feeling of accom-

"The victory lap was my

favorite part," said Walden.

"It made me feel proud, re-

An honor roll student at

not only for riding, she plays

basketball, is on the archery

team and shows her calves.

Her uncle, who owns

Wister Food Market pro-

vided a TV at the store so

that the community could

gather to watch Walden's

win. Her mother said those who couldn't attend found

other ways to watch and the

amount of support was a

wonderful thing.

Wister Walden finds time

plishment.

ally good."

possible," said Walden's mother Linda. "They have helped us out a lot and drove us out there and brought Dago."

Entering the competition against 31 other racers, Walden and Dago would compete three runs. The first two were dust in the wind as the duo flew into first place to make the final run with nine other racers. With the title within reach, Walden charged the barrel with a finishing time of 14.975 to claim not only the World Championship, but a second title usually not won by the same person - the Average Winner title, and she said it

Blevins named base architect

Leaford Blevins has been named as the new Base Architect for Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. Leaford is a registered architect with 35 years of practice experience. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Blevins has completed projects throughout the United States and has served as a consulting architect to international organizations and governmental bodies.

Tinker is a massive industrial site with over 450 facilities including one of a kind testing and evaluation laboratories.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DOROTHY DURANT

Dorothy (Samis) Durant celebrated her 70th birthday on Nov. 30. Erma, George, Adrian, Montague and family wish her a happy birthday.



BOBBY CLARK HOLDER

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby C. Holder with the Texas Civil Defense celebrated his 80th birthday on Jan. 4. Bobby is a member of the Gospel Lighthouse Church in Dallas. Happy Birthday Bobby!

CHARLOTTE WHITNEY

Charlotte McCain Whitney celebrated her 60th birthday on Jan. 7, 2014. She was born in Hugo in 1954. Happy birthday Charlotte!



LAITA HARP

Laita Harp will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Feb. 17, 2014. She was born in 1921 in Stigler.

May 50th anniversary

Larry and Connie May of Heavener celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 22, 2013. Connie is the granddaughter of original enrollee, Eliza White Steilman. They were married by Bro. Utah Humphrey.

The couple have four children; Jeny May and



Cody May, both of Heavener, Shawna Miller of Poteau and Manda Brown of Hontubby. They also have 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Emily Graduates

Emily Sarah Straiton graduated from Texas Christian University with Master of Theological Studies. The graduation was held Dec. 14, 2013 at the Daniel Meyer Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas.









Kiera in All-State Chorus

Kaylee earns bachelor's

Congratulations to Kiera Burton, who was selected to the OK Choral Directors Association 2014 Junior High All-State Chorus. This is Kiera's second year to earn this honor.





Durant Casino Available Positions

- Casino Full Time Openings
 - Hotel Sales Manag
 - o Financial Analytics Manage
 - Environmental Services Staff
 - Marketing Coordinator o IT Network Administrator
 - IT Systems Administrato
 - Security Officer

Casino Part Time Openings

- Valet Cashier
- Environmental Services Staff
- Cage Cashier • Hotel Housekeeping (Tower & Choctaw Lodge)
- Hotel Front Desk (Tower)

Food & Beverage Openings (DNC)

- Beverage Servers (Part-Time)
- Bartenders (Part-Time)
- Food Court Staff (Full-Time

Interested applicants please apply online at: caree 4418 S HWY 69/75 * Durant, OK 74701 * 580.920.0160 ext. 1108

- and operated by the Choctaw Nation of O idian Self-Determination Act. Please attack ahoma. Position will give preference to copv of CDIB Card to Choctaw Careers

Congratulations for Kaylee Michelle Johnson who has earned her Bachelor's of Science with a degree in Biological Health Sciences from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

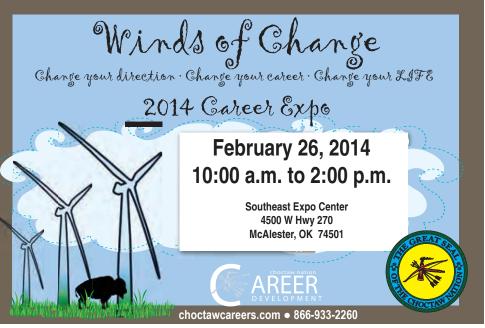
Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

Peggy Estes

February 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Durant	Talihina	Antlers by appt.		Broken Bow	
	8:00-4:30	10:00-2:00			8:00-4:30	
					Idabel by appt.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Durant		Crowder by appt.		Wright City by	
	8:00-4:30	11:30-1:30			appt.	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10	17	18	McAlester	20	Atoka by appt.	22
			10:00-2:00		Coalgate by appt.	
			Stigler by appt.		0 7 11	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Durant	Wilburton by			Broken Bow	
	8:00-4:30	appt.			8:00-4:30	
					Idabel by appt.	



Transportation for tribal members is available from locations within Southeast Oklahoma. Contact us to reserve your spot by February 14, 2014.

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

membership card!

Don't forget

to update

your tribal

News from Jones Academy

Family day was a 'big splash'

Braving heavy fall rains, about 200 family and friends of Jones Academy students attended the annual Family Day on Oct. 26, 2013.

The event allowed the students to visit with their families and friends free from the rigors of school. Guests were transported from the Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Durant areas by Academy vehicles.

Activities kicked off at 11 a.m. with games, family portraits, inflatables, and snacks. Both lunch and dinner meals were provided for students and guests in an effort to provide a fun time for family groups. Even the wet weather did not put a damper on the high spirits as attendees of all ages laughed and played and celebrated family together.



Grandfather Randy McGirt, Aiyanan Colungo, mother Stephanie McGirt and Precious Colungo.



STAR Students Shine at Jones Academy

The Jones Academy STAR student award recipients for the spring 2013 semester were, from left, Naomi Christmas, Olivia Gaffney, Priscilla Trejo-Rains, and Lastenia Lainez-Ortiz.

The STAR program is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation in an effort to recognize students for academic achievement and perfect attendance. Students are also rewarded with Wal-Mart gift cards.

Other honorees not pictured for the spring awards were: Alanna Scott, Cristefer Trejo-Rains, Christopher Lopez, Enrique Guerrero, Jeffery Yeager, Nathan Gaddis, Justin Jefferson, and Melissa Sam.



Jones Academy students Holly Andersen and Ethan Begay pick up materials from EOSC department representative.



Lastenia Lainez-Ortiz



Students, Tressa and Terra Roark, Grandparents, Linda and Don Grigery.



Priscilla Trejo-Rains, Fourth Grade Teacher, Mrs. Martin, Christefer Trejo-Rains (lower front), Elementary Principal, Mr. Ray and mother, Stephanie Rains.



Raquel Ramirez, (lower front) Jennah Billie, (background) Sierra Blindman, Rozlind Smith, Sunrise Mousseax.

Students preparing for the future

Preparing for life after high school at Jones Academy takes an immense amount of effort. Making plans for the future requires putting forth thought, effort and energy. This fall, Jones Academy senior high school students have participated in several activities to prepare them for the post-secondary days ahead.

On Oct. 22, 2013, 25 students attended the College Fair at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. About 190 attendees from area high schools met with approximately 30 college representatives to discuss career interests and educational opportunities. A month later, on Nov. 20, 2013, the seniors returned to EOSC for Mountaineer Mania. Participants got an opportunity to preview the school which included a campus tour and an organizational fair to meet with faculty and staff from different departments. During this time, seniors looked at academic programs offered, housing and residential living, and financial aid. Students also got to mix at an outdoor picnic featuring delicious hot dogs and free Tshirts.

Part of the students' planning for "Life After Jones" has included tests training. This fall, students have been preparing for End-of-Instruction exams and ACT tests by practicing on the USA Test Prep program at school and home. On Oct. 26, upperclassmen benefitted from the Chad Cargill ACT Workshop, which was presented at the McAlester campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College. Cargill addressed techniques and strategies for optimizing performance on the college entry exam. The event was sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Talent Search Program.

To date, Jones Academy students have also visited Southeastern State University, Bacone College and also the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program's annual Ivy League and Friends event in Durant, on Nov. 9, 2013. More college and vocational school visits are scheduled for the near future as well as planning strategies with students concerning their career goals. Jones Academy students have wonderful opportunities to maximize their learning at Jones and beyond.





Student, Angelica Chalepah with Uncle, Darrell Johnson and Aunt, Rachel Chalepah.

EOSC Mountaineer Mania.

Seth Crow displays 'True Grit'

The Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma and Hartshorne Public Library sponsored the Big Read/True Grit fine arts contest this fall for area school-age youth. The event was underwritten by the Southeast Oklahoma libraries to promote literacy and reading. This year's theme



was drawn from the Charles Portis' classic story True Grit, which was set in Southeast Oklahoma. The categories of the competition included the mediums of art, poetry, video and writing. All the works had to draw inspiration from the True Grit topic. Jones Academy's own Seth Crow submitted a poem which won first place among 25 entries. The poem (enclosed) was free verse and called True Grit, True Courage. His piece was then placed in a round of competition with other works in the Southeastern Oklahoma libraries region. Seth is the son of Henry and Carol Crow of Eufaula, Okla.

Librarian, Cindy Bedford commented that she was amazed by the students' participation and pool of talent. She explained that the contestants were enthused and enjoyed the competition. There were over 50 essays submitted during the contest.

True Grit, True Courage

I look as the bullet meets the heart. Then I see my daddy fall as the tears start. I do not let them flow let them stop at my eyes. As I let the anger take me I see my enemy's demise.

I set out to find the killer who stopped my life. Then I meet a one-eyed person who causes me much strife. I find the killer later and make sure to take his life. So the sum of this story, have courage and do not cause strife.

Eighth graders learn outside the classroom

Eighth graders at Hartshorne Junior High have been active this fall with the GEAR UP program. The Hartshorne Junior High staff along with the GEAR UP sponsor, Racheal Ranallo, have taken the eighth graders on a couple of excursions outside the classroom.

Field trips were made to the University of Oklahoma in Norman in October and the Battle of Honey Springs Battlefield Historic Site in November. The OU stop was hampered by rain; however, the students were able to go sightseeing, visiting the Barry Switzer Center and adjoining football facilities.

Coach Marv Johnson gave the students a tour of the sports complex including the OU football players' locker room, playback room and the football field. Students also made a stop at the Fred Jones Jr. Fine Arts Museum located on the OU campus.

The Battle of Honey Springs Battlefield Historic Site featured a civil war reenactment in Checotah the week of Nov. 9-10, 2013. The event was held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle fought in 1863. Students were able to interact with civil war soldiers (reenactors,) tour the campsites, observe period pieces and relics and hear soldier fight music.

The eighth graders saw shooting demonstrations as well as training on how to lead horses into battle. According to Ms. Ranallo, "The Battle of Honey Springs field trip was a success! Students were well-behaved and got to experience something new and different."



Eighth graders visit the OU Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium.



Jax Mendenhall visits the OU football players'locker room.

Childhood cancer survivor works toward career in cancer research

Nathan Sweeney recipient of \$20,000 Chahta Foundation doctorate scholarship

By LARISSA COPELAND

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

"I hope my name becomes synonymous with cancer research," says Nathan Sweeney, a 30-year-old graduate student studying for his Ph.D. in Cancer Biology at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.

One tool Sweeney is using to help realize that dream is a \$20,000 doctoral scholarship awarded to him by the Chahta Foundation this past year. Sweeney was one of seven recipients of the scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in 2013.

Sweeney's path to choosing a career in cancer research was one that began for him when he was just a toddler. "I chose to pursue a degree in cancer biology because of my childhood," he explains. "When I was 16 months [old] I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia."

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow and the most common type of childhood cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute.

After a year-and-a-half-long battle and treatments, doctors declared Sweeney cured of his leukemia.

"My parents rejoiced!" he says, but the family's time of celebration was short-lived. Sweeney's leukemia returned just a brief six months later - only this time the cancer was a more aggressive form, taking its toll for a much longer period of time than his first bout.

"I was a fortunate patient [though,]" says Sweeney, optimistically. "After I battled it for five years I went into remission and I've been in remission ever since. And I believe after you've been in remission for 10 years then you're called a long-term survivor. I proudly say I'm a long-term survivor."

This fight during his childhood is what brought him to where he is today, pursuing his doctorate in cancer research so that he can, in his words, "get the last laugh" when it comes to cancer.

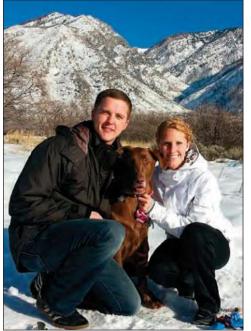


Photo provided

Scan this code and

listen to Nathan

tell his story

Nathan Sweeney with his wife, Linnley, and their chocolate Labrador, Reese.

"I want to make it so receiving the news of the diagnosis of cancer is not as difficult to take," he says, "that people will know that there are treatments out there. I want to be a part of that."

After he graduates, which he expects to do

in 2017, he plans to continue with his current work in a cancer prevention lab where he studies colon cancer. "I find it very exciting," he says. "I enjoy it. There are good things happening and great things to come. It's such an exciting field to be in, not just prevention but cancer research in general. There are a lot of remarkable people working in this field and it's a good place to be. There are a lot of good things to come so stay tuned!"

He says he's incredibly grateful for the scholarship he received from the Chahta Foundation, which he considers a gift. "It's something that's precious to me; something that I cherish and I work hard every day to

be worthy of this gift."

He applied for the scholarship a year ago after reading a notification on Facebook advertising the education opportunities available from the foundation. For the Fall 2013 semester, the Chahta Foundation offered the Chahta Doctorate Scholarship to a student who had been accepted into the doctorate program of their choice.

"I knew it was going to be difficult because I knew there'd be a lot of qualified applicants," he says, but he thought he'd give it a shot.

A lot of qualified applicants indeed, according to Chahta Foundation Scholarship Specialist Scott Wesley.

"We initially planned to give one scholarship but we received

so many qualified, deserving applicants that we decided to award seven," Wesley says. "Our board came together and quickly raised the money to fund the other six for a total of seven doctorate scholarships.'

Sweeney says he was "deeply honored and overwhelmed with emotion" when he received the award. "It's been a

great blessing in my life and wife [Linnley's] life, and my chocolate lab, Reese's, life," he says. "We have been so touched by it.

"It's made everything possible. It's enabled me to pursue my dream of cancer research. I just hope that I'm able to be an example of the Choctaw people and the Chahta Foundation," an example he says was set for him by his late grandfather, Rufus Sweeney.

His grandfather was his hero. It is through him that he receives his Choctaw heritage and Sweeney says he tries to be like him every day. "He was an example of love, of kindness, of charity and hard work. He's the kind of person who said when you do it, do it right and do it right the first time and have fun while you do it."

Sweeney relayed a story about his grandfather that was told by a cousin at their grandfather's funeral. Sweeney's cousin was serving in Iraq, feeling homesick, when he

received a small care package from his grandfather. Inside was a single, carefully wrapped Symphony chocolate bar, his cousin's favorite and one unavailable where he was currently serving.

This simple gesture spoke volumes to his cousin and to Sweeney as well.

"I think this tells you two things about my grandpa," Sweeney says. "One, that he knows your favorite kind of chocolate bar, and two, that he knows when you're homesick and when you need to feel that you're loved."

He said his cousin went on to say that no matter the distance they were from their grandfather, his love was always felt.

"And I don't think my grandfather can be any farther away than he is now but I don't think I've ever felt

I hope when you hear my name again it's tied to my discoveries or to my work...I hope to make the Choctaw people and the Choctaw Nation proud.

 Nathan Sweeney Chahta Foundation Scholarship Recipient

hear my name again it's tied to

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Sweeney says, "I

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One way Sweeney does this

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my discoveries or to my work that I've done and I hope to make the Choctaw people and the Choctaw Nation proud."

Chahta Foundation Director Stacy Shepherd added, "This is what it's all about -helping a Choctaw student achieve his or her unique potential. There are many more stories like Nathan's that need to be told. Chahta scholarships create a means for strengthening Choctaws and expanding their opportunities."

The Chahta Foundation is again offering the scholarships this year - the Chahta Masters Scholarship in the amount of \$12,000, and the Chahta Doctorate Scholarship of \$20,000. The application period is open from Jan. 15 to March 31. All applications and more information can be found at chahtafoundation.com. Anyone with questions can call the Chahta Foundation at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2546.

ICE Numerous Choctaw entities assist during icy winter storm

Continued from Page 1



the center had plenty of food ready and had "not had a shortage of anything." "I'd love to see all our centers look like that one."

echoed Angela James and Oma Hansen. Not only Clay prepare lunch for those needing a meal at wellthe Choctaw community equipped with supplies, center in Antlers. Antlers also

which had slid off the road. Hobbs remarked that this feat would not have been possible with standard vehicles. "We could get places in [the Bearcat] that other people couldn't."

The CNO Housing Authority was also instrumental in response efforts, coordinating resource allocation and assisting in emergency repairs. "We had a great response from a good number of our associates," stated Housing Authority Executive Director Russell Sossamon.

Many had their own problems with power utages, property damage or endangere livestock, but they stepped up to support our tribal members, Sossamon added. "I would like to commend our staff for their response."

the Tushka tornado of 2011 and previous ice storms.

A suggestion the Emergency Management team brought to light about preparing for future occurrences was better infrastructure - fortifying critical resources such as electricity by making sure trees are trimmed away from power lines.

Holaday and Hansen both encourage strengthening the relationships between the Choctaw Nation, City and County governments, and local utilities to better prepare Choctaw communities in times of disa They also encourage tribal members to talk to their local utilities, and councilman if they see areas of vulnerability such as overgrown trees around power lines. The Emergency Management team also made mention that community centers should be the contacted first in area-wide cases of emergency. A list of community centers, the addresses and phone numbers can be found at choctawnation.com/services.

emergency occurs, we try to give it some level of organization," said Hansen as he described the duties of his department.

He went on to explain that in times such as this, there are usually many resources available, but without coordination, the utilization of said resources are not efficiently used and often duplicated when those involved don't have specific instruction.

Though material aid was essential, support from CNO employees and volunteers was equally necessary. Choctaw Housing Authority, Public Safety and Outreach Services employees, and many others were crucial in staffing shelters, distributing food and water, and securing items for special needs.

Safety Specialist Shane Meshaya praised his team at the Antlers shelter for their dedication to the cause. He made note that the staff of the center had went above and beyond their job description. Meshaya feels that the staff "has been a resource for the community." When folks needed a place to go, we were there, continued Meshaya.

He was also quick to praise the efforts of other community entities such as the Antlers First Baptist Church, the Antlers Fire Department and Cowboy Church, all of which were a hub for those seeking aid in the wake of the storm.

Community Health Representatives and nurses were on staff each day, some practically living at the center, ready and willing to help in any way they were able. Holaday, Hansen and Meshaya all praised the Antlers center for the degree to which it was prepared for such an event. Meshaya stated that



Photo provided

A generator is loaded into the Choctaw Nation Emergency Response Vehicle, the Bearcat.

had dedicated employees such as Oma Clay and Angela James, Community Health Representatives from Rattan and Sobol. The two, along with other staff, ensured that there were always warm meals and clean facilities for people seeking refuge.

"This is what our job is all about - helping people," stated Clav.

James, who had been without electricity since the initial frost, secured accommodations for her family, then sprang into action assisting Oma and delivering food. "I'm here to help the people," she stated humbly.

Among those assisted by the Antlers center is Howard Harty, who was referred the to the center by the Antlers hospital. Harty was in need of an oxygen supply due to complications with his lungs. Complete Care Medical provided access to a machine that generated oxygen and allowed him to reside at the center where he could access electricity.

"They got me everything I needed," said Harty as he praised the efforts of the CNO employees.

Steve Bellairo, a resident of Moyers, was another grateful recipient of CNO aid. Bellairo's house burned on Dec. 10, and a friend brought him to the center, where he found a place to stay and even assistance in finding a place to live after the shelter closed its doors. "They are helping a lot and I appreciate it," said Bellairo as he exclaimed his appreciation.

Holaday also reports of generator deliveries to those with urgent needs for electricity. McCurtain County Emergency Manager Greg Campbell made a special delivery to a paraplegic requiring power to operate essential medical equipment.

Executive Director of Public Safety John Hobbs used CNO's emergency response vehicle, the Bearcat, delivering a generator to a man with a heart condition who was also in need of power for his medical equipment. Nine other public safety employees joined Hobbs in delivering food and supplies and even acted as a chainsaw crew during the freeze. "We are just doing our part in serving and protecting," Hobbs stated.

While using the Bearcat to make the trek from Durant to Hugo, Hobbs and his crew also pulled several vehicles out of ditches,

As the ice thawed, the general sentiment of those responsible for the emergency effort was that procedures ran smoothly and efforts were efficient. "We know what it takes to make it through," stated Holaday who cited other inclement weather conditions such as

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Deadline:

Back in the saddle

The following article is from a segment titled "PSN Cowboy Gille with Tracy Renck," published by The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and written by Tracy Renck.

Shane Slack, 38, finished 11th in the tie-down roping PRCA World Standing with \$69,664 to qualify for his first Wrangler National Finals Rodeo since his rookie year of 1996. Slack, a Choctaw who lives in Idabel, Okla., had a long road back to the WNFR while battling to overcome a drug problem he had suffered through for years. In 1996, when 17-time world champion Trevor Brazile was also a rookie, Slack was the Overall and Tie-down Roping PRCA Resistol Rookie of the Year.

What does it mean to you to get back to the WNFR for the first time since 1996?

It's exciting. I'm still kind of shocked. It hasn't sunk in real good yet. I'm sure it will hit me when I get to Las Vegas (for the Dec. 5-14 WNFR).

How much have you learned from your struggles and daily recover from drugs?

The main thing is I have a real close relationship with God now. There is just so much stuff that I've learned, that I can't just pinpoint it to one certain thing. I know where there are tons and tons of things I've learned – like the things in life that matter. When you go through the day, things pop up you think are a big deal. But when you go through something like that (his battle with drugs) and you come through it, you realize a lot of things that pop up aren't really that big of a deal. Like staying mad about something, or just small things that used to be big things, just aren't anymore.

Who has been the key person in your recovery support system?

My daughter, Shaylee, who is 8 years old. When I look at that situation, I know I have to reach down a little further and become the person she can be proud of. I want to be that father figure that I need to be. For sure, that's a nugget that helps me a lot.

You missed the entire 2001, 2003 and 2005 PRCA season. What kept you from giving up the sport for good?

It was one of the hardest things for me to stick out, with the mental stress of wanting to win and having trouble. One night (in 2010) I was in my bed reading and I just felt ready to start back. That's what triggered it. Then, once I got involved, I didn't realize how hard it was going to be. I guess it was just all God's plan. I wanted to quit a million times, but I would not have felt comfortable with myself it I didn't stick it out. I wanted to continue each day to live for God, and if I don't finish one thing, I can't go to the next thing.

What was it like when you started competing full-time again in 2010?

It had been so long. What I got mixed up in, it took a while to figure out who I was and kind of get myself back together. It had been so many years that I had been mixed up in that. Plus, when I came back, it seemed to me guys were tying calves a lot faster.

Do you feel like you can be an inspiration to other people?

I feel like with what I've been through and everything that I know, some things can help people because I have been through it and I lived it. I know what it's like when someone

POSSE planning for another year

The definition of 'posse' is a group of people who come together for a common goal," explained Paula Harp, director of the Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) program and the Making a Difference program at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Harp smiled as she described just what the POSSE program does for the youth of Durant and the surrounding area. "The main goal of the Partnership of Summer School Education program is to provide academic remediation to students in grades pre-k through second grade," stated Harp. "It is the goal of the Choctaw Nation to provide a culturally enriched, safe and positive atmosphere for the students that participate in the summer school program."



Slack ropes a calf.

wants out of the situation. I know I wanted help, but getting it done took a while. The things I had to do, I feel like I could help a lot of people and be an inspiration to someone.

Have you ever done any motivational speaking? With what I came through, I was in depression because of it for a long time. I can speak more right now (about it) than I have ever been able to. Just by seeking God everyday and letting Him get me to this point, I'm more of a whole person and able to speak. I never spoke much at all about the situation (before) because I just didn't want to. I avoided situations like that.

How gratifying is it for you to be one of the world's best tie-down ropers again?

I thank God for it every day. It just feels great. I didn't think I could do it (make it back to the WNFR). Sometimes we lose a little bit of faith along the way at times. I know it has happened (qualifying for the WNFR). It's just hard for me to believe.

What kind of expectation do you have for the upcoming WNFR?

I don't know what type of expectation I have. I just know I have to work harder than I have ever worked. The competition is so tough. I just want to give myself the best opportunity I can. That's all I can do.

What are your plans after the WNFR?

I really don't know. I gave it all I had in roping, and I worked to get my body back in shape. I knew if things didn't work out this year, because of my satisfaction with my relationship with God, if it was revealed to me that it was OK not to go any further, I wouldn't have kept going. Now that it's happened the way it has, I don't know yet. I'm going to do some praying and seeking God about it, and it's a choice I will have to make. I don't know the answer right now.





Vet visits D.C., meets **Moroccan journalist**

Bob Champion, pictured between Adil Belamaalem, left, a journalist sent by King Mohammed VI of Morocco, and the Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief Fouad Arif, standing in front of a picture of King Mohammed in Washington, D.C.

Arif presented Champion with a leather folder containing the king's crest embroidered in gold - a personal folder King Mohammed presented to Mr. Arif originally.

Champion had made the trip for Veterans' Day with sonin-law, Mohammed Erraqui and wife, Adil, along with their children.

During the trip, they visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall and found names of friends and even a cousin, Gregory Cox

As he visited the memorial with other veterans, Champion mentioned that it was a very welcoming atmosphere as he greeted current and past military personnel. "We shared a few tears, smiles, hugs, and laughs, it seemed to be the 'order of the day.' I couldn't begin to show my appreciation for all the hospitalities from every one that I met. My many thanks to our hosts," Champion stated.

Jack Bryant named **RCC** President

Jack Bryant, the son of Jack and Romaette Bryant of Allen, Okla., and grandson of original enrollee Mary Elizabeth Cranford, was appointed as the seventh president of Redlands Community College by a unanimous vote of the Redlands Board of Regents during the December board meeting. Bryant has served as acting president of the college since June 27, 2013.

Travis Ketter, Chairman of the Board of Regents stated, "President Bryant is a leader and shows the passion and transparency the college needs in this exciting time. I am very proud of the board and feel privileged to be the chairperson as we move forward. He stepped up when called upon as acting president and proved he is the right person for the job. I would like to thank the faculty and staff for your work in supporting President Bryant over the past 6 months and I hope the unanimous vote for our new president shows that Redlands stands united."

During his tenure as acting president, Bryant has led the college into fiscal accountability by eliminating Redlands outstanding debt by more than 90 percent. Regent Kent Carder said, "Bryant has done a great job of continuing to take care of the debt and other problems as they have come."

According to Valerie Crabtree, principal of the Durant summer school program, POSSE's inaugural summer was well received by students, teachers and parents alike. Teachers were thrilled to be working in a more hands-on situation with smaller classes and more time to devote to each student.

The future of POSSE was discussed at Second Annual Superintendents' Luncheon on Sept. 17. After a presentation of the success at the Durant location, many educators were curious how they could include their school in the program. Promising plans were made to expand the service area of the program. According to Harp, next year, an additional seven Bryan County schools will be added to the program: Achille, Caddo, Calera, Silo, Bennington, Colbert and Rock Creek Public Schools.

POSSE was available for eligible children pre-k through second grade, who attend school Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. as well as the "Jump Start to Kindergarten" group of students, who attend class Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. It is a seven-week-long program, held at Washington Irving Elementary School in Durant, which began June 3, and concluded July 25.

The selection of students to be accepted into POSSE is based

Photo Provided

Students are able to explore the tribal airplane hangar as they learn about the principles of flight.

on teacher recommendation and test scores; Choctaw tribal membership is not required. If the student is having trouble with reading or math during the school year, the teacher will suggest to Harp they need to be admitted into the summer school program.

Harp continued illustrating the goals of POSSE by listing examples of how the staff and educators conduct themselves:

• they work to inspire and empower the students • build on the strengths of the community

- applaud students' achievements
- expand resources

• work with communities, schools and organizations in the geographic service area

• plan, implement, expand, coordinate and evaluate the program itself.

There were 184 students enrolled in the initial summer school program according to Harp, who worked closely with Durant School administration and staff to develop the curriculum for the summer school.

The Choctaw Nation helps with funding POSSE, providing the school with half of the needed funds. While the Nation provides funding for teachers' salaries and supplies throughout the seven weeks, Durant ISD provides all other expenses, such as bus drivers' salaries, bus fuel, air conditioning in the building, summer lunch program, etc.

Bryant has a diverse career in higher education spanning more than 30 years. The majority of his career has been spent on community college campuses. He's taught in the classroom; worked with special needs students; headed federal programs; and served as senior administration in student services, academic affairs and contract training.

Bryant has worked for Redlands twice. His first term from 1990-94, included time as an instructor, grant writer and program coordinator. Bryant returned to Redlands 2001 as vice president for contracted, continuing and online education. Since that time Bryant has served as the vice president for workforce and economic development.

Bryant's ability to lead and advance change is a staple of his career. Cherry Rain, President of the Faculty Association said, "Faculty are very pleased to be moving forward and President Bryant has done an incredible job the last few months rebuilding a solid, transparent and inclusive college environment."

"I have respect for President Bryant and know that he is very passionate and dedicated in the vision of moving Redlands forward" expressed Regent Richard Ruhl.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead this college. I would like to thank the Redlands Regents for naming me president," said Bryant. "Together along with the faculty, staff, students and community, we are building a stronger Redlands Community College."

Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10.5-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

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

Choctaw Nation Community Center 10377 W. Choctaw Rd. - Stigler Jan. 24, 2014 9:30-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

CNO Education attends Summit

By KATHY CARPENTER

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

What makes an excellent workshop in a wonderful facility even better? For one Choctaw Nation employee, it was a visit from former president George W. Bush himself. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was the only tribe to participate in the Early Warning Systems Early Adopters Learning and Sharing Summit on Nov. 5 – 6 at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas.

The Choctaw Nation

Making a Difference (MAD) program has been recognized among tribes as a forerunner in education. The MAD program is currently taking steps to begin tracking data and identifying problems in real time. Identification is the first step in addressing problems quickly in order to get students back on track before it is too late. Paula Harp, Director of the Making a Difference program and the Partnership of Summer Schools Education program, attended the summit and was pleased to see that the Choctaw Nation is already using

much of what was discussed.

The summit was attended by representatives from schools, colleges, state departments of education, researchers, civic groups, support groups and policy makers from across the United States.

Participants were trained in the use of Early Warning Indicators (such as attendance, discipline, personal challenges and test scores) to predict student success. Discussion covered how to implement these systems and how to intervene once problems have been identified.

Former President Bush paid a visit to the group to express the importance of Early Warning Indicators and how they are addressed. He and Mrs. Bush continue to be supporters of education in this country.

Harp and the staff of the Making A Difference program realize that "early warning allows early intervention." As the new program continues to build, technology is being put into place to greatly improve the speed and efficiency with which the needs of students can be identified.

Choctaw Means Business

The Choctaw Nation is experiencing what some are calling a "Choctaw Renaissance" in Southeast Oklahoma. More specifically, the Nation is becoming a significant economic force as more Choctaw become entrepreneurs by starting their own husinesses

For those who follow Choctaw history, this resurgence shouldn't come as a surprise. The Choctaw have a strong history of doing business. As early as 1700, the tribe developed a strong economy based on farming and selling goods and livestock to the Europeans. Trade between the Choctaws and other Southeastern tribes had long been established. In years past, the primary business centered around agriculture and it is still a strong component of the Tribal economy today.

While the Tribe is known for gaming, there are new and established businesses in many industry sectors including retail, cultural arts, technology and food. However, a range of challenges remain for members that desire the rewards of business ownership including business education, mentoring, access to capital and many others.

Because entrepreneurship is critical to the future of the Nation, Chief Gregory E. Pyle has commissioned the Choctaw Business Development Center (CBDC) to provide assistance and support for Tribal members that want to start a new business or take their existing business to the next level.

"The CBDC is a catalyst for job creation in Southeast Oklahoma" states Bill Wimberley, Chief Business & Economic Development Officer for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. "But it's really much more than that. Creating jobs is a means to an end. We are focused on sustainability for the Choctaw People."

The CBDC's mission is to "... provide one-to-one business counseling, economic development assistance and development to both aspiring and existing Choctaw entrepreneurs. This support includes counseling, development and support services concerning the formation, management and operation of businesses, all in partnership with existing Choctaw Nation programs."

Aspiring entrepreneurs can apply to the CBDC through the Center's website (www.Choctaw-MeansBusiness.com). Each application is evaluated by the Center's staff to evaluate the applicant's business readiness and ensure the best fit.

At this time, the Choctaw Business Development Center has two primary "tracks" for aspiring entrepreneurs: Incubation and Acceleration. Each track is designed to build critical business skills as members gain traction in their business.

Incubation

Designed for the advanced hobbyist or person who has a business concept but isn't sure how to take the idea and leverage it into revenue. Often these businesses have been family run enterprises for many years, but have never created a business plan, financial model or marketing plan. The Incubate track provides simple to follow workshops and one-on-one time with experienced business people who provide mentoring.

Acceleration This track is for the business that has revenue, some level of planning and is looking to get to the "next level". This "next level" might be revenue, profit, jobs created or any number of other metrics depending on the business. The idea is to strengthen what is working well and address

any weaknesses to better prepare the business for growth and/or partnership to better compete in a larger market.

Each track builds on the previous track. For example, a business that is in its infancy would enter the Incubate track and after ninety days of mentoring and support, graduate to the Accelerate track to further build on the opportunity. The CBDC is designed to take a lot of the guess work out of the process.

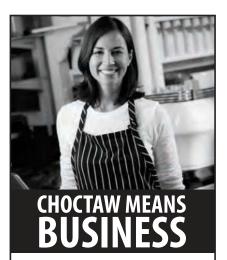
For those not ready to enter the CBDC's program tracks, the

Center works closely with Jill Revna, coordinator for The Native American Business Resource Center. The NABRC offers extensive training and workshops for Choctaw who desire to start their own business. According to Reyna, "The first thing I do is have a one on one counseling session where we discuss the type of business they are thinking of starting, the background they have and then the next steps they would take to start a business."

A unique aspect to the Choctaw Business Development Center is that it also originates businesses, developing and deploying business concepts completely within the Center.

"We come across different opportunities that are isolated. On their own, they are not going to turn into businesses." says Wimberley. "But from our purview, we can connect those opportunities into unique business concepts and literally create a business from the ground up." For these "originated" businesses, the CBDC will hire from within the Tribal community to run and work in these businesses

"We understand the challenges faced when it comes to starting businesses and finding employment, but also know the unique strengths Choctaw people can bring to the business world," says Wimberley.



The Choctaw Business Development Center's mission is to provide one-on-one business counseling, economic development assistance and technical support to Choctaw entrepreneurs.

The CBDC provides aspiring and existing Choctaw businesses with services focused on counseling, development and support services to support the formation, management and operation of Choctaw-owned businesses.

If you wish to start a business or take your existing business to the next level, the CBDC can help.

Qualified applicants receive one-on-one mentoring, entrepreneurial development, business planning support and much more.

Learn more at: www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com

Tree Survival and Recovery After the Storm

By TOM SMITH

Extension Educator, Agriculture/4-H Youth Development, CED, Pushmataha County

By the time you get this, I hope everyone has their electricity back on. I know the crews have been working diligently to remove broken branches and downed trees and replace those fallen electric poles. And the recent ice storm is the reason I am writing this.

Every time we get one of these storms, I get two questions about trees: #1- Will my tree(s) survive? And #2- What can I do to help it recover?

For question #1, unfortunately I cannot give a positive answer immediately. Several questions must be answered before anyone can guess at the survival of trees. First, how much of the live crown was lost? Did branches shatter at the base? Is there torn bark along the trunk and larger branches? The more damage that occurred to the bark and to the branches that make up the top of the tree, the less likely the tree is to survive. While there are no hard-and-fast rules, trees that suffered less than 50% live crown damage have a high chance of survival. The growth may slow but if nearby trees suffered more damage, trees with lesser damage may actually benefit due to reduced competition. On the other hand, if more than 75% of the crown is damaged and there is a large amount of peeled bark, the tree has a poor chance of surviving due to the likelihood of insect and disease infection. How old is the tree? As a general rule, younger trees are more resilient than older ones. What kind of tree is it? Maple, elm, and other weak-wooded trees usually experience more damage than other species. Owners of pecan trees will be glad to know that pecans are very resilient, and are resistant to many diseases and insects that are opportunistic in the spring after ice storms. And how healthy was it before the storm? Trees that were already weakened by 3 years of drought, or ones that were suffering the effects of disease or insect infestation are generally poor candidates if they suffer heavy ice damage. As for question #2 above, recovery can be enhanced by a couple of practices. First, remove the dead trees, those that are partially uprooted, and those with broken or cracked trunks. Then, remove dead or broken limbs that may still be partially attached to the tree. Remember, SAFETY FIRST! Wear safety gear: goggles, hard hat, leggings, and boots with good traction. Watch out for the wind,

as broken branches and partially down trees may fall suddenly. Wait until the ice melts. Don't climb a ladder with a running chainsaw. Especially, don't climb an ice-covered ladder with a running chainsaw! Don't cut a limb (or tree) onto your house! Don't climb any tree that is severely damaged, and especially DO NOT WORK ON ANY TREE THAT IS NEAR A POWER LINE! These are just a few of the dangers of doing the work yourself.

Prune broken branches back to the branch

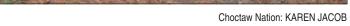


collar (the raised area around where a branch attaches to the trunk or another branch). The "three step" method is recommended. This involves making a partial cut underneath the branch, several inches from the branch collar, then following with another cut a few inches beyond the initial cut, going completely through the limb. This prevents the limb from cracking, splitting, or peeling bark, which would cause further damage to the tree. Finally, make a final cut just outside the branch collar to remove the stub and complete the job. We no longer recommend pruning paints or wound dressings. Trees can quickly form a barrier to insects and diseases, and some research indicates that pruning paints actually slow down this process.

You may wish to hire a professional. Trained certified arborists are available in many areas, or may be found by searching the Forestry Services Section of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry website. If hiring a professional, be sure to see proof of liability in case of personal or property damage and ask for local references.

Remember that you may not see all of the damage immediately. Branches that droop after leaves come out in the spring may indicate hidden cracks or decay. And you may not see evidence of root damage for a couple of years, when leaves and branches in the upper crown begin to die. Also, trees that are stressed by ice damage are more susceptible to other stresses such as drought, flooding, insects and diseases. Proper attention to fertilization and watering will go a long way toward helping your trees overcome these problems and restoring them to their pre-storm glory.

But don't jump into making a hasty decision about removing a tree. First, get rid of the safety hazards. Then take your time and consider your options before you act on the remaining trees.



Cultural Events holds year's last bow shoot

The last bow shoot sponsored by the Cultural Events department was held in Tyshka Homma on Nov. 9 and included the usual bow shoot plus a turkey shoot. It was a cold and wet day but well attended. Pictured are dedicated archers Lorna Breshears, Riggin Waugh, Brandon Knudsen, David Edwards, Kevin Ryan, Glenn Dickson, Jennifer Dickson, Rian Dickson, Sam Jacob, Levi Hatcher, Robert Breshears, William Breshears, Christina Waugh, Joey Waugh, Jody Waugh, Sarah Hoven, Cameron Dickson and Pam Waugh.

CNO Food Distribution making strides in service

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Food Distribution is rolling out several new features to its already effective program.

Food Distribution has recently purchased a bobtail truck and freezer trailer to assist in transporting frozen meats and goods. During each month, employees travel to Idabel, Broken Bow, Smithville and Bethel to serve clients who live a considerable distance from the nearest distribution center.

In the past, clients would be limited to non-frozen goods or forced to make a trek. Now, those who are only able to make it to the mobile distribution centers will be offered the full array of choices, and those who traveled to the permanent centers will have the option for a more convenient location.

Trista Winnett, store manager for the Durant location, mentions that she is excited for the upgrades in the services and mentioned that she expects to see larger numbers during the mobile distributions. It is expected that this change will initially benefit an estimated 100 households.

Winnett also mentioned that all clients are welcome to make multiple trips to any of the centers during business hours, and that a

weekly trip - opposed to monthly - will use less storage space and allow clients to keep their supply fresh. Construction on the new Durant facility is also moving along nicely, according to Winnett. The new center will offer store-style distribution and a larger variety of services to better serve eligible Choctaws.

Food Distribution currently has centers in Durant, 580-924-7773, McAlester, 918-420-5716, Poteau, 918-649-0431 and Antlers, 580-298-6443. If you would like to know more about the program, please call 580-924-7773.

Each participant receives approximately 80 food items totaling 85 pounds of food per person in the household.

Rules for receiving food distribution benefits include:

1. One resident per household (any age) is required to have a CDIB card.

2. Social Security numbers and cards are required.

3. Verification of income is required: copy of a payroll check, or if unemployed, a card from the Employment Office will be needed.

4. Verification of residence is required; a utility bill containing name and address.

5. Cannot be receiving food stamps.

6. Must reside in the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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OBITUARIES

James Watson Belvin Jr.

James Watson Belvin Jr. was born on Sept. 7, 1972, in Oklahoma City, the son of Richard Mark and Veronica Sue (Hooper) Belvin. A Baptist by faith, James attended Good Springs Baptist Church. In spite of 40 short years of a life enjoyed, the Lord called James home from his earthly labors on Aug. 8, 2013, in Springfield, Mo. The world seems a little lonelier without James to make you laugh. He



attended Eufaula boarding school and later Tecumseh High School. He worked in the construction industry and carpentry. When he wasn't working, there was always a horse to ride or spending some well-deserved time at the fishing hole. If ever you needed someone to make you smile, this was your man. He possessed a wickedly funny sense of humor, and he was the man you could depend on for a joke or a good story. If you were traveling and needed a companion to ride along and enjoy the scenery, he was ready at a moment's notice. You always knew you had a loyal and faithful friend with James around. He had your back through good times and bad. He absolutely adored his family and his children and nephews were his pride and joy.

James is preceded in death by grandparents, Henry and Sarah Belvin and Nancy Washington and Gil Hooper.

Those left to cherish James' memory include his parents, Richard Belvin of Hugo, and Veronica Cavanaugh of Indianola; three brothers and a sister, Mark Belvin with wife Debbie of Shawnee, Henry "Roo" Belvin of Boswell and Amanda Sue Griffitts of Indianola; his children, Korey, Ryan, Rowdy and Kya; his nephews, Blake Estrada, Joe Estrada, Jesse Belvin and Justin Belvin; as well as many cousins and a host of friends and loved ones.

Eliza "Liz" Elizabeth Smithart

Eliza "Liz" Elizabeth Smithart, 73, of Atoka passed away on Oct. 3, 2013, at Durant. Eliza was born on March 17, 1940, to James and Alice Lee (Jacob) Hicks, at Talihina. She attended Sequiah school then graduated Atoka High School in 1959. Eliza was a Cook at the Tushka Truck Stop and worked at the Tushka School Cafeteria for 9 years. She married Charles Allen Duncan in July of 1959 in Atoka, he preceded her in death in 1968. Eliza then married Billy Smithart in February 1978 in Caddo, he preceded her in death in 1982. She enjoyed sewing blankets, needlepoint, and painting.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Alice Lee (Jacob) Hicks; husbands, Charles Duncan and Billy Smithart; siblings, Leroy Hicks, Buddy Hicks, Virginia Egan, Ruby Hodges and Linda McCully.

Eliza was survived by her children, Charles Allen Duncan Jr. of Tushka, Jack Wayne Duncan of Tushka and Pat Blankenship with husband Blake of Norman; Grandchildren, Eric Chase Duncan of South Carolina, Cassandra Nicole Duncan of Spokane, Wash., Charles Allen Duncan, III of Tushka, Lauren Blankenship of Norman, Earin Blankenship of Norman, Zane Blankenship of Norman, Kristen Michell Martin of Spokane, Wash.; Stepsons, Bobby Smithart with wife Rhonda of Tushka, John Smithart of Atoka and Wayne Smithart of Tulsa; siblings, William Hicks of Atoka, Harold Hicks with wife Anita of Allen, Johnny Hodges and Laura Readon of Willdomar, Calif., Betty Freeman of Lewisville, Texas and Lois Hicks of Lane.

Wendell D. King

Wendell D. King passed away on July 3, 2013 in Redding, Calif., his home of more than 30 years. Wendell Donny King was born to Chester W. and Louem Mangrum King on March 2, 1941, in Talihina. In 1946, Wendell's family headed west to California and eventually settled in Fortuna, Calif. Wendell was a California resident for his entire adult life, residing in Fortuna, Orleans and Eureka before settling in Redding. He attended both grade school and high school in Fortuna. After he married, he went to work in the timber industry for several years before beginning a lifelong career in construction. Wendell joined the Laborer's Union in April 1965 and was a member for over 48 years. He was a dedicated, hard worker who began his career running heavy equipment. After gaining experience, he was promoted to superintendent, a position he held for the remainder of his career. He was employed many years by Roy Ladd Construction. As a youngster, he and his brother Neil fished the local creeks and shared fond memories of fishing at the jetty. Later in life, they enjoyed both diving and digging antique bottles together. Wendell loved nature, gardening, reading about history and especially enjoyed the country property on which he lived. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. His wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren meant a lot to him and held a very special place in his heart.



James Gary Robinson

James Gary Robinson, 82, of Prunedale, Calif. passed away peacefully at his home with his family at his bedside on Aug. 20, 2013. He was born on Nov. 7, 1930, in Oklahoma to Calvin Calhoun and Verial Orinda Goddard Robinson as the Great Depression was growing in force across the country. A child of the Choctaw Nation, Jim ("Gary" to his many friends and family members) was descended from James

Alexander Loran Robinson, one of the original Dawes Enrollees of 1905-1906 in Oklahoma. His family moved to Salinas in 1942 shortly after the outbreak of World War II. Gary graduated from Salinas Union High School in 1948, attending Hartnell Junior College for his associate degree. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1950, after the outbreak of the Korean War, later transferring his service branch to the Army in 1951 to complete Officer Candidate School as a member of the Army Field Artillery. He would serve his country in the Army until his retirement from the service as a Major. Gary married his long-time love, Dorothy Clark Evans, in the Salinas Presbyterian Church in Sept. 1952, upon his being commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After his early release from active duty in 1953, they returned to California for the completion of his B.A. degree in Business at San Jose State. Gary joined Kaiser Industries in 1956, and progressed through the company rapidly. Showing great promise, ambition and a remarkable work ethic, he was promoted through a series of escalating assignments in Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee and California. The pinnacle came when he was named President of Kaiser Aluminum of Brasil, Ltd. (KABL) in 1970, a position that he excelled in, and one that remained his favorite assignment in his career. He returned to Kaiser Center in Oakland, taking his retirement from Kaiser in 1985. He then relocated to Prunedale to go into real estate and to be close to friends and family. An avid hunter, shooter, natural conservator, reader and man of many interests, Gary brought a scientific approach to everything that he did. His many family members and friends were richly blessed by his active and generous life.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary; brother, Philip; and wife, Dorothy.

He is survived by his children, David W. Robinson, Vicki R. Robinson, Rondi L. Robinson and Matthew S. Robinson; five grandchildren, James, John, April, Holly and Joshua; nine greatgrandchildren; sister, Dorothy Robinson Ansberry.

Jesse Gooding

Jesse Fred Gooding, 86, of Paris passed away on Oct. 30, 2013, at Paris Regional Medical Center. He was born Jan. 10, 1927, in Grant to Jesse Basil and Lois Nichols Gooding. He graduated from high school and attended Murray State College. He served in the US Army following World War II delivering German prisoners of war back to their home in Germany. Jesse married Glenna

Murl Gifford on Sept. 4, 1948, in Bogata, Texas. He was retired from Philips Lighting Corporation and member of the Sumner-Mount Tabor United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Jesse Allen Gooding; one brother, Hal Leflore Gooding; and his sister, Vera Vivian Hutchison.

Mr. Gooding is survived by his wife, Glenna Gooding of the home; two daughters, Sharon Flores with husband Kenneth of Roswell, New Mexico and Vera Armstrong of Dallas; five grandchildren, Ben Gooding, Camey Rodgers, Marcus Flores, Cindy Montalto and Stephanie Clement; five great-grandchildren, Riley Rodgers, Taylor Flores, Tasha Clement, Tori Clement and Bradley Clement; and two brothers, William Dean Gooding and Walter Lee Gooding.

Joe Pate Norris

Joseph "Joe" Otto Hilton

Joseph "Joe" Otto Hilton, 27, passed away on Oct. 20, 2013, at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He was born in Talihina on July 23, 1986, to his parents, Charles and Ava (Taylor) Hilton. He graduated from Talihina School and was avid "Tiger" fan. He was a very good son, father and brother. He enjoyed being outdoors and hunting. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wilson and Deloris



Taylor and Alvin Hilton; uncles, Wilson, Jeff, Kurt, Jesse, Richard, Roger; aunt, Afrieda.

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Ava Hilton; mother of his children, Malissa Burgan; daughter, Kaci Hilton; two sons, Kaiden and Khristian Hilton; brother, Charles with wife Trish Hilton; sisters, Dalilah Hilton and Crystal Hilton; three nephews, Kenneth Long Jr., Chasen Sikes and Racin Hilton, nieces, Kelli Hilton, Kyleigh Long, Charley Hilton, Katie Long, Khloye Sikes, Tamra Hilton and Keilani Williams; grandma Hilton; numerous family and friends.

Joseph Ben Carnes Jr.

Joseph Ben Carnes Jr., 49, a resident of Calera passed away in Durant, Nov. 11, 2013. He was born in Talihina to Joseph Ben and Pearlyne Carnes, Sr. on Nov. 2, 1964. J.B. was married to Lachelle Mercado who passed away in 2011. J.B. was a machine operator at CMP manufacturing for many years. He enjoyed working in his yard and was proud of his Choctaw Indian heritage. J.B. loved to tease his grandchildren and considered his time with them a blessing.

Mr. Carnes was preceded in death by his father, Joe Carnes (2003); wife, Lachelle Carnes (2011); brother, Hubert Sonny Homer (2010); grandfather, Simpson Carnes (1985); nephew, David Carnes (1994).

Mr. Carnes is survived by his daughters, Heather Price with husband Elvin Gordon of Colbert, Ashley Henderson with husband Freddy of Calera, Rhoda Carnes of Calera and LaNaya Allen of Tupelo; son, Michael Mercado with wife Teari of Moore; mother, Pearlyne Carnes of Durant; brothers, Gerald Ludlow of Durant and Eddie Homer of Durant; sisters, Linda Hornsby of Calera, Ramona Swilling of Grant, Sheila Carnes of Las Vegas, Nevada and Jennifer Carnes of Durant; grandchildren, Jayda Henderson of Calera, Kaylee Price and Isaiah Mercado of Durant, Bentley Gordon of Colbert, Abiel Mercado of Moore and Malachi and Aiden Perez of Tupelo; numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Lois Clifford

Mary Lois Clifford, 98, of Ada, passed away on Nov. 5, 2013, at her home. She was born Nov. 19, 1914, in Lula to Henderson G. "Sonny" and Bessie Cross Gore. She graduated from Chilocco High School in 1932. She also went to school at Lula through the 10th grade. She married Dillon Raymond "Chock" Clifford in 1933 in Stonewall. He passed away on Aug. 12, 1981. During World War II, Mrs. Clifford was a welder. Later, she was a seamstress at the Wrangler Plant and had worked in housekeeping at Valley View Regional Hospital until her retirement. She was a member of Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church and a former member of the Lula Home Demonstration Club. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Dickie Clifford; four sons-in-law, Clovis Thompson, Louis Hale, Bobby Joe Sweat and Charles (Sonny) Leader; two great-granddaughters, Nanette Brauning and Ryan Clifford; and a sister, Oma Hokett.

Survivors include four daughters, Maxine Sweat of Stonewall, Marcine Brooks with husband Donald of Lula, Helen Leader of Bowlegs and Debbie Kindrick with husband Will of Savannah, Texas; three sons, John Clifford of Owl Creek, Donnie Clifford and Ronnie Clifford both of Ada; a sister-in-law, Louise Mc-Curdy of Ventura, Calif.; 19 grandchildren, Debbie Ann Herndon, Rickey Thompson, Linda Forrester, Bessie Eddy, Dwayne



He was preceeded in death by his parents, Chester W. and Louem Mangrum King; and his brother, Neil King.

Wendell will be remembered by his wife, Diane of Redding; his children, Wendy Belisle (Bill), Julie King, Chance King, Jared King; stepchildren, James Shapard (Kellie) and Tracy Shapard; three grandchildren, Joshua, Daniel and Winter Giles; and four step grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Linda King Bartleson (Elvis) and sister-in-law, Kay King; numerous nieces and nephews.

Marshall Teague Sr.

Marshall Teague Sr., 84, of Conroe, Texas passed away in the early morning of Sept. 22, 2013. Marshall was born April 29, 1929, to parents, Calvin George Teague and Octavia Genell Ward in Austin, Texas. He was a member of the Choctaw Nation and was very proud of his Native American Heritage. Marshall never met a stranger and was a friend to everyone. He was a very hard worker



and his skills were not limited to one trait. He had a beautician license, welding license, security training, bartender, diesel mechanic, hazardous material training, dispatcher, salesman, ran four routes for Borden Milk in the Houston/Galveston area and commercial driver's license for over the road trucking and Hot Shot rigging. Marshall enjoyed ice cream, the outdoors, playing music and working in his yard.

Marshall was preceded in death by both of his parents, Calvin George and Octavia Genell; brothers, James Milton Teague, Jasper Calvin Teague, Cecil Teague, Charles Ora D. Teague, Bennie Lee Teague and Donie Teague; sisters, Betty Pearl Jalufka, Genell Teague and Jenny V. Teague; sons, Marshall Calvin Teague and Mark Rodgers.

Marshall is survived by his wife, Ruth Joann; sons, Danny D. Teague and Marshall Teague Jr; daughters, Linda Maria Frazier, Diana Lynn Teague and Loretta Michele Castro; brothers, Carl David Teague and Joseph Teague; sister, Mary Alice Hagen; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many friends.

Joe Pate Norris, 68, formerly of Grant, passed away on July 20, 2013, at the home of his sister, Joy Parker in Oklahoma City. Mr. Norris was born Nov. 22, 1944, in Grant. The youngest of six children to Jack R. and Lucille Belvin Norris. He graduated from Hugo High School in 1963. He enjoyed drama, sports and track but noted "I did as little as possible." He attended Oklahoma State University majoring in general agriculture. Mr. Norris joined the National Guard in college and became a weekend warrior. He was honorably discharged with an E6 rank as a sharp shooter. He was deployed in a few uprisings with prison riots in McAlester. He was a 32nd degree Mason. He worked for Henry and Joy Parker out of college and eventually opened Norris Safety Shoe Company in Oklahoma City. Mr. Norris eventually sold the shoe company and moved to Grand Lake where he worked as a spider exterminator and contracted power washing of boat docks. Many people have spoken of how Joe was a good guy to talk to and was genuinely interested in how they were doing.

Mr. Norris was preceded in death by his father, Jack Norris in 1979; and his mother, Lucille Norris in 1993; a brother, Jackie and his wife Peggy of Grant; sisters, Ann McMurry of Durant and RaeJean and her husband Harold of Tulsa.

Joe Pate is survived by his sisters, Joy Parker of Oklahoma City and Judy and Don Moffitt of Powderly, Texas; brother-inlaw, Bice McMurry of Grant; and several nieces and nephews.

Otis Fox Jr.

Otis Fox Jr. went to our heavenly father on Nov. 21, 2013, in Los Angeles, Calif. He was born to Otis Fox Sr. of Hartshorne and Ann Miller Fox of Riverside Calif. He was proud of being Choctaw. He cherished his family and mother and father. He enjoyed to hunt and fish. His grandmother was an original Choctaw enrollee.

Katherine M. Hawkins

Katherine M. Hawkins, 71, of Joplin, Mo. passed away on Sept. 30, 2013, following a lengthy illness. She was born Oct. 12, 1941, in Talihina to Jesse and Henrietta Jefferson James.

Katherine was employed in the banking industry, retiring in 1972 from the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Joplin, Mo.

Katherine was preceded in death by her parents; and one brother, Cecil Jefferson.

She married Thomas Hawkins on Feb. 4, 1964, in Bolivar, Mo., and he survives. She is also survived by one son, Thomas Hawkins Jr. with wife Cherie, Joplin, Mo.; two daughters, Deanna Glass with husband Sonny, Miami, Laura Kruger with husband Jeff, Linn, Mo.; one brother, Jonas James; one sister, Shirley Cogburn; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Brooks, Diana Banker, Kay Brauning, Sami Clifford, Terri Escobedo, Traci Jimenez, Dayton Clifford, Dakota Clifford, Stormy Clifford, Justin Clifford, Tiffany Clifford, Davey Johnston, Janet Milburn, Jared Clifford and Daniel Clifford; 39 great-grandchildren, Kristen, Brooke, Sarah, Brandon, Ricky, Billy, Brandi, LaRhonda, Ronnie Alan, Lindsay, Michael, Christopher, Jeff, Derek, Aubrie, Desirae, Jamie, Dennis, Justin, Jason, Megan, Morgan, Lance, Sherri, Clayton, Rebecca, Elena, Maddy, Rylan, Rush, Remington, Dawson, Bryce, Treston, Emma, Chase Ryan, Diana, Alison and Ashley; 27 great-great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Cetieva, Patience, Gague, Hunter, Logan, Annberlynne, Aiden, Juliette, Cheyenne, Chloe, Ella, Payton, Kade, Kamdym, Boston Charles, Abri Lynn, Wynter, Summer, Chebon, Christian, Anthony, Max, Chloe, Camryn, Brison and Brianna; one great-great grandchild, Aliyah; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Hazel Augusta Cannon

Hazel Augusta (Trammell, Wade, Parks) Cannon passed away Nov. 28, 2013, in Gillette, Wyo. Hazel was born in Rush Springs, on Jan. 8, 1921. She married Troy Lee Wade in Norman in 1939. They moved to Pueblo, Colo., in 1942; and both went to work at Colorado State Hospital. Son, Jerry, was born in June 1942. During WWII the family lived in California, while Troy



served in the Navy and Hazel worked in an aircraft factory in Long Beach. Eventually, they returned to Pueblo, where she went back to work at the State Hospital. While working in the drug treatment program, she received her Associate of Psychiatric Technology Degree. Troy died in 1972, and Hazel was on her own. Hazel had always been a caretaker, having quit school in the 8th grade to look after a sister, Joyce, who was badly burned. After Troy's death, Joyce came to live with Hazel until Joyce died from cancer. Then, their mother also spent her last years living with Hazel. Many of Hazel's twelve siblings felt her caring hands as she nursed them during their lives; and all preceded her in death. In 1976 Hazel married Claude Parks. He passed away in 1985 from emphysema, after himself receiving years of caring from Hazel. A friend introduced her to Edgar Cannon, and the two were married in 1987. They split their time between the house in Pueblo and the ranch outside Fowler until Edgar's passing in 2008. Hazel was a member of Parkhill Baptist Church for many years, and enjoyed teaching Sunday School. She also cherished the opportunity to witness to and be a mother figure for patients at the State Hospital.

Hazel is survived by her son, Jerry of Gillette, Wyoming (formerly of Colorado City); three grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-granddaughters. Littell of Sweet Home; brother, Larry Beal of Sacramento, Calif.; sisters, Karen Beal of Illinois, Diana Beal of Pollock Pines, Calif. and Marilyn Bauer, of Perry, Ga.; grandchildren, Nicole Leeper of Yuba City, Calif., and Jacob Leeper of Texarkana, Texas; several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Story of a Choctaw POW comes to light after 300 years

This month, Iti Fabvssa presents an incredible and yet heart-wrenching story of two Native American men who were captured by enemies in what is now the American Southeast and taken to Europe as prisoners of war. For 300 years, their story was unknown, until recently when researchers managed to reconstruct it from bits and pieces found in original documents from the American Colonies and Europe. Available information suggests that one of these two POWs was probably a Choctaw man. What is presented below is a synopsis of the recently published account (Sullivan 2012), combined with insights from the "Choctaw" side of the frontier.

From a Choctaw perspective, the story would begin with a boy born somewhere in the Choctaw homeland in 1694 or 1695. He was the son of a chief and part of a powerful family. His birth name is unknown, but as a young man, he was given the name Okchalincha, which could be translated as "Brought to Life." Growing up, he probably heard stories handed down from the days of his great-great-great-greatgrandparents about a Spanish army (lead by Hernando Desoto), entering the area and fighting with Tribal communities. These stories might have seemed almost unreal when Okchalincha was a young boy, because for 130 years since the Spanish left, few or no Europeans entered the Choctaw homeland. Only the deadly diseases they brought continued to rage through the area.

However, when Okchalincha was around 5 years old, a different group of Europeans, the French suddenly arrived on the Gulf Coast, very near Choctaw country. They soon set up a permanent settlement on Mobile Bay. An alliance was created between the Choctaw and the French. The French supplied the Choctaw with guns, metal, and cloth, while the Choctaw provided food, hides, and military protection for the small French colony.

Although an international alliance with France brought benefits to the Choctaw people, it also involved Choctaw communities in France's global power struggle with England. In hopes of weakening France's Native allies, English colonists in Carolina armed warriors from English-allied Tribes with guns and began paying them for prisoners that they could capture from other Tribes.

By around 1700, Chickasaw slaving raids, sponsored by the English had resulted in 500 Choctaw women and children taken as slaves, 1,800 Choctaw men, women, and children killed, and 800 Chickasaw warriors killed (Iberville 1981:172 [1702]). The inhumanity of the English slave trade was ultimately one contributing factor in the Yamasee War of 1715, in which Muscogee Tribes attacked the Carolina Colony and brought it to its knees, before the Cherokee entered the war and helped to save the colonists.

Okchalincha grew up in this environment. No doubt, from an early age, concepts of bravery and self-sacrifice to protect the community were instilled in him. As a young man, he must have distinguished himself in fighting for his community, and so was tattooed as a warrior, from head to toe. Through circumstances that we do not know, this warrior was later captured by an enemy force, taken hundreds of miles on foot to the Carolina Colony, and sold as a slave to John Pight.

According to surviving records, Pight was one of the most viscous English slave traders, and was effectively banned from the colony because of the role that his abuses of Native people played in starting the Yamasee War. When he sailed



Iti Fabussa

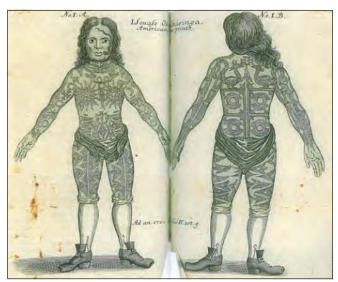


Fig. 1: The lone surviving image of Okchalincha.

for England in 1719, he took two Native American men with him, Okchalincha and a man named Tvstvnvke who was probably from one of the Muscogee Tribes.

People living in Europe during this time had a curiosity about Native Americans. Pight capitalized on this interest and the sensation caused by the spectacular dark-blue tattoos that covered the bodies of his two captives. Pight made up costumes for Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke and concocted sensational stories about their past and his own. He began charging fees for Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke to appear as spectacles at theaters and in circuses around London. Perhaps most humiliatingly, Pight brought paying customers to the men's living quarters, to observe their tattoos and inspect them like works of art in a gallery, as they stood still and stone-faced. Pight even once had them perform a war dance at a London woodwind concert. While the sites, settings, and cultural juxtapositions must have sometimes been pretty interesting, Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke were prisoners of war, being forced to act against their will.

Neither of the Native men spoke English; Pike was the only person in their lives that they could communicate with, apparently through the Mobilian trade jargon. Pike, jealous of profits and not wanting to lose control over the men, did his best to keep them from interacting with other people. Nevertheless, the two became quite popular in London. They were entertained by nobility, given tours of London landmarks, and several times invited to an audience with King George I.

After about six months, the profitability of these spectacles started to wane for Pight. He took Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke to Paris against their will, where he hired them out as mascots for the unpopular American Company. Thereafter, the three disappear from the historical record, but reappear in present day Germany in 1722.

Eventually, Pight got tired of touring, and boarded the two men in Dresden, attempting to sell them as curiosities to

King Augustus. This situation allowed them to interact more with the local people. From the writings of these people, we start to see a bit of the human side of the two men. We learn that Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke wanted to return to their homelands, that they thought European clothing was silly, that they liked European beds and enjoyed smoking. We learn that they had scars on their bodies from battle wounds. The two were noteworthy among Europeans for their honesty. They had an excellent sense of direction, and rarely got lost, even in the streets of towns unfamiliar to them. We also learn that Tvstvnvke was learning to paint, depicting the cities that they traveled through. Okchalincha had a reserved personality, and Tvstvnvke liked to make him laugh. The Europeans who were interacting with these two men, seem to have respected them. Some expressed regret that they had come under Pight's control.

Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke had a surprisingly broad influence in Europe. They are mentioned in The Half-Pay Officer, an English comedy and in several period satires. They were the background for a character in the French play Arlequin Sauvage, and their names found their way into a Masonic ritual. Multiple paintings and statues of them were commissioned by wealthy Europeans. One image of Okchalincha (Fig. 1) survives.

In 1723, Pight sold Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke to King Augustus. By this point, they had started to learn the German language. In Pight's absence, they finally had an opportunity to freely interact with other people, and they made friends with some of the Protestant citizens of the town. Tragically, much like the Choctaw's alliance with France, this friendship pulled the two men into an international struggle between Protestantism and Catholicism. Following the encouragement of their new friends, Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke were baptized into the Protestant faith as Friedrich Christian and August Christian. This was done without the King's permission. In punishment, he decided to gift them to the Czarina of Russia, moving them to an area where they knew absolutely no one.

Okchalincha and Tvstvnvke disappear from the known historical record in October 1724 riding in a carriage, ultimately headed for Russia. Tears were in their eyes as they left their friends and headed for an area then experiencing a plague epidemic. Okchalincha was 29 years old.

In their lifetimes, Okchalincha's family members never found out what happened to him, heard the fantastic and sad story of his years touring Europe, or knew that years after his capture, he was still out there alive and wanting to come home. It is hoped that by telling his story to the Choctaw people, even 300 years later, some small measure of closure is provided and some due respect is given to Okchalincha for the difficult and also incredible path that he traveled.

Works Cited

Sullivan, John Sullivan, 2012

The Princes: A Reconstruction. The Paris Review. Spring 35-88.

Pottery class to be held in Talihina

The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department will be hosting a pottery class from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 11 and Feb. 25 at the Talihina Community Center.

For more information, please call 888-522-6170, ext. 2216.



Ninth Annual Choctaw Casino Resort Pow Wow winners

The winners of the 9th Annual Choctaw Pow Wow held in Durant on Nov. 29-30, listed by category, are:

2. Marcos Estrada 3. Koy Bearstail Women (18 & Over) Choctaw Traditional

2. Darwin Goodwill

3. Henry Hunter 4. Billy Komahcheet 5. Dave Madden Senior Adult Men (35-54)

Choctaw **Conversational** Responses

1. Alhika?

Pronounced: A(n)h-thli-ka Really?

2. Keyu sv yimmi!

Pronounced: Ke-yoh sah yim-meh Most commonly pronounced: keyyoh sammi (as in the English short vowel sound in 'hat.'

I don't believe so! (In today's usage, it is closer to the English expression "I don't think so!"

3. Peh ish maka ho?

Pronounced: Peh ish mah-ka ho(n)? Are you just saying that?

4. Achukma ahni li.

Pronounced: Ah-chohk-ma ah-nih

I think it is good...I agree...I like.

5. Aiokpanchi li.

Pronounced: Ah-yohk-pahn-chi lih. I like or approve of (something or someone).

6. Aiokpanchi li kiyo.

Pronounced: Ah-yohk-pahn-chi lih ke-yoh.

I do not like or do not approve of (something or someone).

7. Vlhpesa chi akinli.

Pronounced: Ahth-pe-sah chi(n) ahk-ihn-lih.

It's / It is going to be allright..lt will be alright.

8. Vlhpesa akinli.

Pronounced: Ahth-pe-sah ahk-ihn-lih. It's okay...It's alright.

Junior Girls (7-12) N/S Cloth 1. Sonja Delgado 2. Davyn Hinman 3. Neena Lasley Junior Girls (7-12) Buckskin 1. Addison Cloud 2. Starlitt Garfield Junior Girls (7-12) Shawl 1. Hozhoni Whitecloud 2. Rose Goodeagle 3. Lenore Pushetonequa Junior Girls (7-12) Jingle 1. Tylyn Thurman 2. Kassidie Andrade 3. Lakota Johnson Junior Boys (7-12) Straight 1. Brycen Whiteshirt 2. Blake Hipp 3. Amos Satepauhoodle Junior Boys (7-12) Grass 1. Kia Fiddler 2. Tyrin Lasley 3. Jamisen Wolfleader Junior Boys (7-12) Fancy 1. Tyler Thurman 2. Akhyka Pewo 3. Xavier Toehay Shawl Teen Girls (13-17) N/S Cloth 1. Tara Goodfox 2. Malia Pewo 3. Nawnee Littleaxe Teen Girls (13-17) Buckskin 1. Jasa Lightfoot 2. Alexa Gabbard Jingle 3. Sawwana Smith Teen Girls (13-17) Shawl 1. Oke-Tw'sha Roberts 2. Alexis Gaines 3. Vanessa Schocko Teen Girls (13-17) Jingle 1. Brennah Wahweotten 2. Emma Clairmont 3. Erin Casoose Teen Boys (13-17) Traditional 1. Donovan Haury 2. Tsakuru Shawnee 3. Daniel Cloud Teen Boys (13-17) Straight 1. Jeffrey Lightfoot 2. Cory Chasenah Teen Boys (13-17) Grass 1. Mu-Juhtheen Roberts 2. Kyle Sine 3. Xander Downing Teen Boys (13-17) Fancy Grass 1. Justin Townsend

1. Perrin Deal 2. Annica Billey 3. Kandace Folsom 4. Danielle Dinardo 5. Debra Belt Junior Adult Women (18-34) N/S Cloth 1. Amanda Harris 2. Chalene Toehav 3. Rosie Motah 4. Elizabeth Nevaquaya 5. Nico Ross Junior Adult Women (18-34) Buckskin 1. Hauli Gray 2. Charish Toehay 3. Joy Flores 4. Jocy Bird 5. Dalynn Alley Junior Adult Women (18-34) Traditional 1. Alva Fiddler 2. Danya Bear 3. Randi Bird 4. Lyndee McClellan 5. Larissa No Braid Junior Adult Women (18-34) 1. Kirsten Goodwill 2. Naomi Nevaquaya 3. Taylor Spoonhunter 4. Brittany Crawford 5. Janee` Gabbard Junior Adult Women (18-34) 1. Grace Pushetonequa 2. Amanda Ironstar 3. Ryanne White 4. Nitanis Largio 5. Rena Belle Nevaquana Junior Adult Men (18-34) Traditional 1. Novi Runsabove 2. Wendall Powless 3. Dana Warrington 4. Sidrick Jr Baker 5. Marcos Andrade Junior Adult Men (18-34) Straight 1. Anthony Monoessy 2. Denny Medicinebird 3. Audie Todeme 4. Kiowa Cozad 5. Berwyn Jr. Moses Junior Adult Men (18-34)

3. Wolf Leitka 4. Tik Richardson 5. Buck Spottedtail Junior Adult Men (18-34) Fancy 1. Darrell Hill 2. Rylan Baker 3. Graham Primeaux 4. Bruce Neconie 5. Billy Jr. Pewo Junior Adult Men (18-34) Chicken 1. Colin Raine 2. Isaiah Stewart 3. Todd Half 4. Charley Lewis 5. Michael McIntyre Senior Adult Women (35-54) N/S Cloth 1. Sandy Harris 2. Cree Cree Hughes 3. D. Yanni Hamilton 4. Tracey Moore 5. Angie Goodfox Senior Adult Women (35-54) Buckskin 1. Danita Goodwill 2. Toni Tsatoke-Mule 3. Jamie Whiteshirt 4. Delaine Alley 5. Cottalene Deer Senior Adult Women (35-54) Traditional 1. Denise Haury 2. Tosha Goodwill Senior Adult Women (35-54) Shawl 1. Nahmi Lasley 2. Shelley Bointy 3. Delores Gabbard 4. Dane Davenport 5. Julia Charles Jingle 1. Dionne Jacobs

Senior Adult Women (35-54) 2. Yvette Goodeagle 3. Rowena Roberts 4. Tahnee Growingthunder 5. Gladys Two Eagle Senior Adult Men (35-54) 1. Chaske Lablanc 2. Tony Wahweotten 3. Reuben Crowfeather 4. BJ Haury 5. Matt Littlecreek Senior Adult Men (35-54) Straight

1. Everett Moore

2. Jason Lightfoot

1. Trae Little Sky

Grass 1. Rusty Gillette

- 2. George Growingthunder
- 3. Dwight Whitebuffalo
- 4. Pat Pacheco
- 5. Tyler Lasley

Senior Adult Men (35-54)

Fancy

- 1. Dwight Whitebuffalo
- 2. Jeremy Keahbone
- 3. Tyler Lasley
- 4. Jay Mule 5. Cecil Gray

Senior Adult Men (35-54) Chicken

1. Dennis Nevaquaya

- 2. Brady Tapedo
- 3. Michael Gabbard
- 4. Chris Whitewolf
- 5. Claude Friday

Golden Age Women (55+) Northern

- 1. Madelynn Goodwill
- 2. Karen Wahwasuck
- 3. Sylvestine Shields
- 4. Cheryl McClellan
- 5. Connie Twina

Golden Age Women (55+) Southern

- 1. Amber Komahcheet
- 2. Charlene Cozad
- 3. Dorsey Sadongei
- 4. Delores Goodeagle
- 5. Charlotte McCurtain Golden Age Women (55+)

Jingle & Shawl

- 1. Annamae Pushetonequa
- 2. Patricia Eagleman Golden Age Men (55+)

Northern

- 1. George Shields
- 2. Mark Roanhorse
- 3. Badger Wahwasuck

Golden Age Men (55+) Southern

- 1. Terry Tsotigh
- 2. Darrell Moore
- 3. Robert Pewo
- 4. Deswood Kashiway
- 5. Patterson Tahdooahnippah

Golden Age Men (55+) Grass & Fancy

- 1. Wayne Pushetonequa
- 2. Joe Bointy
- 3. Edward Jr. Black
- 4. Gene Tsatok

Traditional