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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

January 2015 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Dec. 13 at Tvshka Homma.

In new business, Community Language Director Teresa Billy, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant presented teaching certificates to Terry Battiest of Talihina and Alice Taylor of Oklahoma City.

Also, several Council bills were introduced and approved, including:

- Authorization of the Chief to place property in LeFlore County in trust status;
- Two electric line easements with PSO on land in Haskell and McCurtain counties;
- One electric line easement with Kiamichi Electric on land in Latimer County;
- An application of Assistance to Firefighters Grant;
- Applications for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, Tribal Youth Initiative, Chahta Vlla Apela Program and the Chahta Inchukka Program;
- Funds and budgets for the VOCA Grant and the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grants, and
- Disposal of surplus equipment and property.

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

Over 18 years old? Don't forget to update your membership card

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

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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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Choctaw youth participate in diabetes prevention study



Codi Nail, 14, exercises as part of the MOVE study at the Talihina Wellness Center as Kevin Short, Ph.D., principal investigator with the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, looks on.

By ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation is participating in a bold new diabetes prevention study called MOVE, launched by the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Researchers conducting the study and staff members from Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority recently announced the study involving youths from Hugo and Talihina. Participant screenings and fitness tests are conducted at the Diabetes Wellness Center in Talihina and at the Hugo Wellness Center.

The study asks a simple question: If we pay kids to go to the gym, will it lead to lasting lifestyle changes that promote good health?

The research is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, to focus on how to motivate young people to make lifestyle changes that can help them avoid health problems.

Choctaw Nation leaders, recognizing the high incidence of juvenile diabetes among tribal members, asked to participate in the study.

"We've developed new protocols for treating diabetes in children, but

nothing in terms of teaching those at risk to avoid the disease," said Kenneth Copeland, M.D., co-principal investigator of the study. One in three children born today will develop diabetes at some point in their lifetime; that number increases for Native American children.

"Studies have demonstrated that incentive programs help adults meet their goals in weight loss or smoking cessation programs," said Kevin Short, Ph. D., co-principal investigator and associate professor in pediatric diabetes and endocrinology at the OU College of Medicine. "But no one has ever considered whether financial incentives can improve health outcomes in younger populations."

Tamela Cannady, Director of Preventive Health for Choctaw Nation,

"We've developed new protocols for treating diabetes in children, but nothing in terms of teaching those at risk to avoid the disease."

– Kenneth Copeland, M.D.
MOVE Study Co-Principal

she said. "We have a job at Choctaw Nation to make people's lives healthier."

Mary Ayn Tullier, a research study coordinator from Choctaw Nation, said some of the participants "had no idea how to exercise" and many had never ridden a bicycle.

"We coach them and give them compliments to keep them going," she said.

Study participant Emily Greger, 14, of Moyers, has taken her participation in the study to the next level by joining her school's basketball team.

"I really like it because there is so much at the gym you can do," Greger said. "I like the people at the gym. They're just like a big family. This makes you feel great because you are helping yourself."

She got a friend to participate in the study because both have family members with type 2 diabetes. Emily's mother, Dawn Greger, who has type 2 diabetes, is supportive of her daughter's participation in the study because "it teaches her to be more active and take care of herself."

Type 2 diabetes in teens and young adults has risen sharply in the past few years. Researchers hope the study will help them find effective ways to help prevent diabetes in young people.

"We hope this research will help us develop prevention programs that effectively address how to increase the physical activity levels of all youth as well as model incentive programs for future use in the Choctaw Nation and elsewhere," said Short.

Jones Academy Christmas



Left to right: Jones Academy students 7th grader Reina Rodriguez, 10th grader Mariella Chatkehoodle, and 11th grader Adanya Sewell with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr., before the students' Christmas dinner. More photos from Jones Academy Christmas are on page 9.

CNHSA gets Gold Seal of Approval®

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority announced that it has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Hospital Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal of Approval® is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective patient care.

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority underwent a rigorous, unannounced on-site survey in September 2014. During the review, a team of Joint Commission surveyors evaluated compliance with standards related to emergency management, environment of care, infection prevention and control, leadership, and medication management. Surveyors also conducted observations and interviews.

The Joint Commission has accredited hospitals for more than 60 years. More than 4,000 hospitals currently maintain accreditation from The Joint Commission, awarded for a three-year period.

"Joint Commission accreditation provides hospitals with the processes needed to improve in a variety of areas from the enhancement of staff education to the improvement of daily business operations," said Mark G. Pelletier, RN, M.S., chief operating officer, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. "In addition, our accreditation helps hospitals enhance their risk management and risk reduction strategies. We commend Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority for its efforts to become a quality improvement organization."

Nation's 8th Annual Career Expo comes to McAlester

Keeping It Real...Real Choices, Real Jobs, Real Life!

By KELLI OSTMAN
Choctaw Nation

That's the theme for the 8th Annual Career Expo. The event will be held at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester on Wednesday Feb. 25, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Career Expo creates an opportunity for job seekers and students to connect with employers and college or training facility representatives at more than 140 booth spaces. There will be something for everyone at the Career Expo.

This year's guest speaker is Mr. Bill Cordes. Since 1988, Mr. Cordes has keynoted programs for conventions, conferences, schools, and universities nationwide. His programs have been featured in 49 states and Canada to over 2.5 million participants. Mr. Cordes combines humor and enthusiasm as he draws on his extensive life experiences as a former high school teacher, college instructor, television talk show host, life coach, and college transition specialist.

The focus of the Career Expo is to connect job seekers with employment and training opportunities available throughout the region. Hiring representatives will be onsite from such businesses as Trinity Industries, Tyson, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, State

of Oklahoma, PGT Trucking, International Paper, and Choctaw Casinos to name a few. There will also be representatives from colleges and training centers. Some of those attending include OSUIT, Kiamichi Technology Center, OU, OSU, and Grayson Truck Driving.

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

A highlight of this year's event is the Veteran's Resource Center. All veterans are invited to visit the center to learn how military experience translates to job skills. Veteran friendly employers will be identified and eager to meet with those in attendance.

This year, attendees will have the opportunity to play a life-size Game of Life. An over-sized game board and hands-on activities will emphasize the importance of making good career choices. Students and job seekers can walk through Reality Park, practice on the welding simulator, try their hand at racing a robot, visit the Manufacturing Education Training trailer, and much more. Experiences in a variety of career fields will be available. Participants will receive a free T-shirt (while supplies last) as well



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Over 2,000 people attended last year's Career Expo in McAlester.

as be entered to win a set of Beats headphones. Transportation is available to Choctaw tribal members in southeast Oklahoma who make reservations. Members can call Deidre Inselman at (580) 920-2260 to reserve seating. The deadline to sign up for transportation is Friday, Feb. 14, 2015.

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

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

FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

Keeping a focus on doing what's best for Choctaws



I look forward to the New Year with hope and enthusiasm! Your twelve-member Tribal Council and the Assistant Chief and I share a vision of continued progress and growth for the Choctaw Nation. We will remain strong and unified on behalf of our Choctaw people to make their lives better. We will also remain focused on the values that are Choctaw.

Choctaw hearts are servant leaders' hearts. We are part of the community - we care about others. That is why Choctaws have been successful in efforts to begin wellness centers, recycling centers, fire departments, school programs and economic ventures that benefit entire towns. In times of crisis, such as a tornado at Tushka or Moore, Okla. or state-wide winter storms, the Choctaw Nation responds to help. Tribal employees have recently won awards from the Red Cross for their work in storm relief.

Our elders have shared the wisdom of many years of experience. The generations that follow will greatly appreciate the stories told by the grandmothers and grandfathers. Through these words, we learn. We love and respect our elders. We love and care for our families. I was humbled to be invited into the homes of tribal elders this Christmas season as we delivered gifts from the Choctaw Nation. It was a wonderful experience to talk to so many people and learn about their lives.

The Choctaw Nation is unique because of our heritage and traditions. It is important to continue sharing our culture. We will be bringing our dance, language and art to Choctaws across the United States in the coming months, just as you have seen in past issues of BISKINIK in cultural community meeting photos that have been featured. Our heritage is highlighted through the stickball league, the school of Choctaw language, the Employee Dance Troupe, the Choctaw Artist Registry, the craft classes and the Heritage Days that the tribe sponsors. There is even a long-bow archery competition that has drawn the interest of youth across the Nation, providing an exceptional opportunity for a revival in this sport!

The past year has been marked with many successes, such as groundbreaking and grand openings, jobs created, services like the storm shelter program and Choctaw car tags. The Council, Assistant Chief and I are all committed to continue investing in our Choctaw people.

Plans for the upcoming year include doing more to honor our elders, reclaiming more land for the Choctaw Nation, improving the health care and Head Start facilities available to our people and increasing the transparency of government through actions such as election reform.

We can balance being in the world we live in today while keeping our values and beliefs as Chahta people. This is the most important thing we can do as we move our Tribal members forward.

I know there are many stories of individuals and families that could encourage the rest of us! We want to hear your story - we want to share your story of success. Please email me or write me! gbatton@choctawnation.com, or share directly on my facebook page [f](#) Chief Gary Batton.

God Bless you in the coming year and I hope you are always proud to say, Chahta Sia Hoke! I am Choctaw!

Chaplain's Corner

Christian Choices



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

As we begin any New Year we think of the past year. We thank God for the wonderful things that we have been brought in our lives. We also remember our failures, but God cleanses us from our failures as we confess them.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

As we look forward to a New Year 2015 I want to encourage you from the Bible. If we did not have the promises of God we would be filled with fear as we face this New Year. What a glorious privilege to be assured that God knows every step of the way and has made provisions.

We do wonder about the question:

Why do Christians waiver and fail in the Christian life?

This is a problem that happens so often among many Christians today. What is the answer?

In the third chapter of First Corinthians we have the blueprint of a Christian life - of a Christian experience.

The foundation is Jesus Christ, and the building is built by the life of one who has trusted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior. And today we are building with works of gold, silver, precious stone, wood, hay, or stubble on this foundation.

And there is coming a day when these works will be tested by fire. The builder will either receive a reward or he will lose his reward.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:15:

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

The need for this teaching grew out of the fact that there was division in the Church of Corinth. Of course, division is nothing new to us. Whenever we go to church we find envy, strife, division, and carnality. In verse 16 Paul gave this instruction with these words: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

In this passage Paul was speaking about the temple of God as all the churches put together.

All born-again believers everywhere become the temple of God. Paul was saying, "Don't tear the church apart!" When this happens, the whole building is weak. That is a picture of division in our day. One can hardly find a church today where there is not selfishness, strife, and trouble. People make divisions about things that are worldly and carnal.

Why do you think the Spirit of God is in the Church? One reason is to hold it together in unity.

Jesus' last prayer before He left this earth was that His followers might be one - that they might present Jesus Christ to the world as Savior. But how can the world understand this when there is fighting, bickering, and backbiting among Christians? Under these conditions how can they understand that Jesus Christ, the Savior, unites hearts and that all believers belong to one body?

God also speaks of the consequences of division. He said in 1 Corinthians 3:17:

"If any man defile (destroy or corrupt) the temple of God (the Body of Jesus Christ, the Church), him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

You cannot escape the consequences of failure in this matter.

God is also going to set

aside the church whose effectiveness is destroyed by division, and it will be just another building where people go through a form of worship. God said that such churches will lose their power.

Paul spoke of stewardship in 1 Corinthians 4:1:

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."

Jesus Christ has entrusted to us the precious riches of His Grace and we are stewards of that task. We are trustees of the secret of God.

Paul continued in verse two of 1 Corinthians 4:

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

If a man is entrusted with something, whether it is money or the ministry of salvation, it is necessary that he is trustworthy.

His trustworthiness will be tested and found out.

We have been entrusted to us things of God, and God is going to call for an account from all of us. How will we stand in that day?

I believe that the greatest lesson which Christians need to learn today is that God will, in His day, reveal everything and properly judge our deeds. Even right now God knows your heart.

We read in Romans 3:23:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God."

Paul writes again in Romans 6:23:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord."

You can trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior today by faith, and be born again into God's family.

Please continue to pray for the natives of Canada and our own Native Americans. Pray for our brave men and women in all branches of Armed Services.

Pray for the Chief, Assistant Chief and the Tribal Council members as they lead our Choctaw Nation. May God bless you in a very special way is my prayer for you in 2015.

United in a common goal



The Choctaw Nation's Tribal Council is comprised of 12 members who maintain an active interest in every aspect concerning the tribe and its citizens. The Chief, Council and I are united in our goal to provide the best opportunities for Choctaws.

The Council's regular sessions at Tvshka Homma are a good place to learn about current issues and I appreciate everyone who attends to watch our legislative body at work. The audience often consists of Youth Advisory Board students and their Youth Empowerment counselors from several districts, language instructors, and area citizens who attend every month.

The dedicated group of Councilmen considers the needs of tribal members and works with the Chief and myself to ensure the foundation of the Choctaw Nation remains solid. We explore many ways of creating new jobs, revenue, health benefits and educational options so that the legacy of our ancestors is not forgotten and their perseverance continues as an example through us to our children and grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren. We don't just consider tomorrow or

next week, we consider the next century and the wellbeing of the Choctaw people.

The Council's regular session is a culmination of long weeks spent on the road, at their centers, with tribal members, in meetings, conferences, attending events, or visiting different Choctaw Nation programs or businesses. Council Bills are submitted and have been thoroughly discussed before they are presented at the monthly session.

The Council members also meet regularly with tribal executives, directors, or managers to talk about their respective departments in the Choctaw Nation. Each Councilman gives a report during regular sessions and they can cover everything from ongoing construction to the success of Guest Services to Public Safety having a new K9 team. I enjoy listening as they relay the information and see their enthusiasm on a project going well or hear their suggestions on what will strengthen other areas.

Two of the Council - Speaker Delton Cox and Bob Pate - sit on the Inter Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, which meets quarterly. The Inter Tribal Council works more closely with legislation being submitted on a federal level.

I am proud of our Chief and Council and the vision of a Nation standing strong.

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

District 1, Thomas Williston

Idabel: (580) 286-6116

District 2, Tony Messenger

Broken Bow: (580) 584-6372

Bethel: (580) 241-5637

District 3, Kenny Bryant

Talihina: (918) 567-2106

Smithville: (580) 244-3289

District 4, Delton Cox

Poteau: (918) 647-9324

Spiro (south): (918) 962-3832

District 5, Ron Perry

Spiro (north): (918) 962-3832

Stigler: (918) 967-2398

District 6, Joe Coley

Wilburton: (918) 465-2389

District 7, Jack Austin Sr.

Antlers: (580) 298-5501

Wright City: (580) 981-7011

District 8, Perry Thompson

Hugo: (580) 326-3528

District 9, Ted Dosh

Durant: (580) 924-7810

District 10, Anthony Dillard

Atoka: (580) 889-6147

District 11, Bob Pate

McAlester: (918) 423-1016

District 12, James Frazier

Coalgate: (580) 927-3641



Spotlight on Elders

with

Lorene Blaine



By RONNI PIERCE

Choctaw Nation

Born in a small frame house in Bennington, Lorene Blaine never thought she would live a life that would take her across the country, to Europe, and back home again. "It was a one room house that had been sectioned off, and I was born in the kitchen, so I guess that's why I love to cook," Lorene confesses.

The youngest of six children and a full blood Choctaw, Lorene has accomplished much in her life.

She attended a small rural school until the 8th grade, only 24 kids and the same teacher



every year. She and her sister would walk the mile and a half to school and back home again past an old cemetery, the thought still sends shivers down her spine. "We would run as fast as we could and only look back to make sure we were far enough away to slow down."

She went on to Goodland to attend high school. "Only 12 kids in my graduating class, it was a big one," she laughs. She still sees some of those friends when she visits Tvshka Homma for various functions.

After high school she stayed close to home attending Southeastern and taking business courses.

But marriage to a military man soon took her a long way from southern Oklahoma. After marrying Silas Blaine, she lived on bases on the west coast and Germany, where they were a bit of a novelty. "People there had never seen Native Americans before, so they were full of questions, friendly but curious."

After moving back home, she continued her business degree at a school in Denison. She

then began her career with the Choctaw Nation, taking a job with the CDIB department, or voter registration.

She helped kick start the cultural reawakening within the tribe by starting the Choctaw Intertribal Club in 1992 which held annual Native American arts and craft fairs and gospel singings. She said she wanted to not only get her fellow Choctaws involved but other tribes as well. They started holding small pow wows that were noticed by professors from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. They helped her organize the events and moved them onto the campus where they were held for several years.

In 2008, she was chosen as the Outstanding Female Elder of the Choctaw Nation. And just this past year was honored by AARP Oklahoma as an Outstanding Indian Elder in recognition of her work for the U.S. Department of Justice voting rights as an observer in many tribal and state elections.

In addition to cooking, she does beadwork, makes shawls, and crochets. She also accompanies Choctaw Nation representatives on cultural visits outside of Oklahoma, including the Smithsonian. She's seen a real evolution in young Choctaws' interest in their culture including traditional dance and stickball. This pleases her. And she tries to pass on to them the best advice her parents ever gave her, "Stand up for yourself, be independent, and always respect your elders."

She also likes coaxing her fellow seniors into getting more involved at cultural gatherings. Sometimes, she says, they seem like they are too shy to join in.

She encourages them to participate, to get involved by telling them, "You don't know what you can do until you get out there."



Mrs. Blaine, with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. at the Veterans Day ceremony in 2014, shows a service plaque given to her husband Silas Blaine, Jr. He was a 20-year veteran of the US Air Force and passed away in June 2014.

HEALTH

Resolve to eat a balanced and complex diet in the New Year

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito,
I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and are starting the New Year with good health. At this time of year, especially, we look to make changes in our lives. Most often we hear of resolutions to quit smoking, exercise more, and lose weight.

As always there are many different diets, supplements, and approaches being promoted. Some are good sound advice, others . . . well let's just say check it out with your doctor, pharmacist, and or dietitian. Many of us have medical conditions and medications that may be adversely affected by some diets and supplements, even "all natural supplements." One approach which is being seen more often is called a "cleanse" or "juicing." Jaime Mass, RD, president of Jaime Mass Nutritionals in Florida states, "Produce-packed juices and smoothies have a place in any healthy diet. However, sucking through a straw for a couple days, weeks, or months in a row does not detox your body, improve your nutrition, or lead to long-term weight loss."

She goes on to report eight downsides to an "All-Juice-and-Smoothie Diet Plan" in Fitness Magazine.

1. Nutritional Deficiencies – liquid diets are usually not going to provide you everything your body requires, resulting in low energy, hair loss, poor concentration, headaches, and mood swings.
2. Muscle Loss – due to the lower calorie intake with a juice/smoothie diet, weight loss will occur. However, the weight loss will be from muscle. This not only affects



physical appearance, it also has adverse effects on the heart.

3. Rebound Weight Gain – when the body is fighting to reserve energy due to a very low calorie intake, the rate at which the body burns energy is greatly slowed. Thus, when returning to a "typical diet" the body will still be inclined to reserve energy leading to regain of weight lost and a few extra pounds.

4. Sugar Spikes – most juices and smoothies can have as much as 60 grams of carbohydrates per serving, which is comparable to four slices of bread.
5. Crazy Cravings – smoothies can be full of wonderful flavors, however, having only smoothies or juice day after day will leave one looking for something to chew, enter the fast foods!

6. Gallstones – when changing the diet suddenly to taking in little to no fat, the digestive track starts to malfunction which can lead to gallstones.

7. Digestive Issues – when taking large amounts of sugar/carbohydrates at one time, such as juicing/smoothies, the body will try to regain balance by redirecting fluid into the gut. This can lead to stomach upset, bloating, pain, and diarrhea.

8. An Unhealthy Relationship with Food – turning to quick weight-loss diets, such as only consuming juices/smoothies, leads us away from the way we are meant to eat. Be it evenly spaced/balanced meals and snacks or several small evenly spaced/balanced meals daily.

We need to take in adequate portions from several types of foods in a variety of colors and textures. The plate method is a good example to turn to for guidance at meal time.

NURSERY NEWS

Savannah Eakle

Choctaw Nation Health Services welcomes First Baby of the New Year. Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Labor & Delivery welcomed the first baby of 2015 on Jan. 2 at 9:51 p.m.



Rusty and Melissa Eakle are the proud parents of the new year baby girl who weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and measured 20 inches long. The hospital congratulated the family with a gift basket full of goodies.

Robby James Bell

Proud parents Lacie Baird and Bobby Bell along with big sister Jodie are happy to announce the arrival of their son and baby brother Robby James Bell. Robby was born October 10, 2014, at the Choctaw Hospital in Talihina weighing in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces and 18.9 inches long. Proud grandparents are Brenda Bell of Pocola, Deborah Chamberlain of Greenwood, Arkansas, Robert Bell of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Martin Fimpel of Fort Smith, and great-grandma Colleen Ragains of Greenwood, Arkansas.



Killian Rain Duckett

Son of Lakien Harley-Duckett and Keenan Duckett of Broken Bow. Killian was born July 29, 2014, at Talihina Hospital. He was 8 pounds, 2 ounces. He is the grandson of Oleda Anna-Duckett and the late Ruben Duckett of Broken Bow. The great-grandson of Sarah Jane Lewis-Anna. He is the grandson of Tonya John-Harley and the late Kirby Harley of Idabel. The great-grandson of Marilyn John-Vancil and Frankie Vancil of Idabel, and the great-grandson of the late Charlene Harley of Idabel.



Bentley Cates Houston

David and Alyce (Cates) Houston would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Bentley Cates Houston, born Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2014, at 3:59 P.M. Bentley weighed 8 pounds and 4 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches. Proud grandparents are Jerry and Ethel Houston and John and Barbara Cates.



Joy Anna Woodroof

Candace (Cooper) and Matthew Woodroof are the proud parents of a baby girl. Joy Anna Woodroof was born at 9:49 am on Oct. 9, 2014, at St. Luke's hospital in Twin Falls, Idaho. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Matthew and Candace Woodroof of Buhl, Idaho. She has an older brother, Andrew (3 years). Her grandparents are Jeff and Gaynell Cooper of Broken Bow and Bob and Donna Driggs from Oregon.



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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

Recipe of the Month

Tarragon Chicken Linguine

Ingredients:

- 6 oz. dried linguine or fettuccine pasta
- 2 cups broccoli
- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning or ground black pepper
- 3 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (12 oz. total), cut into bite-size strips
- 2 teaspoons olive oil or canola oil
- 1 tablespoon snipped fresh tarragon or dill or 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon or dill, crushed

Directions:

1. Cook pasta according to directions, adding broccoli the last 4 minutes. Drain; keep warm.
2. Combine broth, cornstarch, and seasoning; set aside.
3. In a large nonstick skillet, cook chicken in hot oil 4 minutes or until no longer pink, stirring often.
4. Stir cornstarch mixture; add to skillet. Cook and stir until thickened. Stir in tarragon; cook for 2 minutes. Serve over pasta. Makes 4 (1 1/2 - cup) servings.

Nutrition Facts:

Per Serving:

Calories 293, Total Fat 4g, Saturated Fat 1g, Cholesterol 49mg, Sodium 153mg, Total Carb 36g (2 g fiber) Protein 27g

I hope you will enjoy this recipe. Happy New Year! For more information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

2015 Health Fairs promote a healthy lifestyle

CENTER	COUNCIL MEMBER	DATE
DIABETES EDUCATORS:		
Smithville	Kenny Bryant	1/14
Durant	Ted Dosh	1/21
Stigler	Ronald Perry	2/04
Atoka	Anthony Dillard	2/11
Coalgate	James Frazier	2/25
Hugo	Perry Thompson	3/11
Wright City	Jack Austin	3/25
Antlers	Jack Austin	4/08
Spiro	Delton Cox	4/15

CENTER	COUNCIL MEMBER	DATE
COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES:		
Idabel	Thomas Williston	5/06
Broken Bow	Tony Messenger	6/03
Talihina	Kenny Bryant	7/15
Poteau	Delton Cox	7/22
Wilburton	Joe Coley	8/12
McAlester	Bob Pate	9/09
Bethel	Tony Messenger	9/23
Crowder	James Frazier	10/14

All start times: 10 a.m.

CHOCTAW NATION SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The CSBDS provides business assistance to Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs that want to start or expand their business.

Choctaw Tribal members that utilize the services will receive specialized technical assistance through one-on-one business counseling, training workshops, an extensive network of business assistance programs and educational networking opportunities. Assistance offered includes, but is not limited to:

- Business Planning
- Access to Financing
- Marketing
- Business Counseling
- 8(a) Certification Assistance
- Business Taxes
- Business Registration
- Minority Business Registration
- Bid Assistance

Our focus is to build successful, job creating, Choctaw owned companies within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

February Events Calendar:
(Please contact CSBDS for more details and to register)
February 5 – Durant – Small Business Training
February 12 – Hugo – Small Business Training
February 25 – McAlester – Choctaw Career Development Expo
February 26 – Durant – Business Tax Workshop

Contact Billy Hamilton, Small Business Development Services Manager today!
bhamilton@choctawnation.com or 580-924-8280 ext.2901

10 tips MyPlate snack tips for parents

10 tips for healthy snacking

Snacks can help children get the nutrients needed to grow and maintain a healthy weight. Snacks shouldn't replace a meal, so look for ways to help your kids understand how much is enough. Let older kids make their own snacks by keeping healthy foods in the kitchen. Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov to help you and your kids select a satisfying snack.

1. **save time by slicing veggies**
Store sliced vegetables in the refrigerator and serve with dips like hummus or low-fat dressing. Top half a whole-wheat English muffin with spaghetti sauce, chopped vegetables, and low-fat shredded mozzarella and melt in the microwave.
2. **mix it up**
For older school-age kids, mix dried fruit, unsalted nuts, and popcorn in a snack-size bag for a quick trail mix. Blend plain fat-free or low-fat yogurt with 100% fruit juice and frozen peaches for a tasty smoothie.
3. **grab a glass of milk**
A cup of low-fat or fat-free milk or milk alternative (soy milk) is an easy way to drink a healthy snack.
4. **go for great whole grains**
Offer whole-wheat breads, popcorn, and whole-oat cereals that are high in fiber and low in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Limit refined-grain products such as snack bars, cakes, and sweetened cereals.
5. **nibble on lean protein**
Choose lean protein foods such as low-sodium deli meats, unsalted nuts, or eggs. Wrap sliced, low-sodium deli turkey or ham around an apple wedge. Store unsalted nuts in the pantry or peeled, hard-cooked (boiled) eggs in the refrigerator for kids to enjoy any time.
6. **keep an eye on the size**
Snacks shouldn't replace a meal, so look for ways to help your kids understand how much is enough. Store snack-size bags in the cupboard and use them to control serving sizes.
7. **fruits are quick and easy**
Fresh, frozen, dried, or canned fruits can be easy "grab-and-go" options that need little preparation. Offer whole fruit and limit the amount of 100% juice served.
8. **consider convenience**
A single-serving container of low-fat or fat-free yogurt or individually wrapped string cheese can be just enough for an after-school snack.
9. **swap out the sugar**
Keep healthier foods handy so kids avoid cookies, pastries, or candies between meals. Add seltzer water to a 1/2 cup of 100% fruit juice instead of offering soda.
10. **prepare homemade goodies**
For homemade sweets, add dried fruits like apricots or raisins and reduce the amount of sugar. Adjust recipes that include fats like butter or shortening by using unsweetened applesauce or prune puree for half the amount of fat.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information. DG TipSheet No. 24 March 2013 USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

NEW HOURS STARTING IN FEBRUARY:
Open 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES
Bethel: Choctaw Community Center
Broken Bow: Choctaw Community Center
Idabel: Choctaw Community Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

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

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Feb. 1-28, except for:
Feb. 4: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 1:30-3:30 p.m. (market open)
Feb. 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed: Feb. 16 for Tribal Holiday; Feb. 26-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays Feb. 1-28, except for:
Closed: Feb. 16 for Tribal Holiday; Feb. 26-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MCALESTER
Market open weekdays Feb. 1-28, except for:
Closed: Feb. 16 for Tribal Holiday; Feb. 26-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays Feb. 1-28, except for:
Closed: Feb. 16 for Tribal Holiday; Feb. 26-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline
1 800 QUIT NOW
Free help 784-8669 OKhelpline.com

NOTES TO THE NATION

Appreciating the 4-H program

During this holiday season I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for all that you do for the Oklahoma 4-H program. 4-H provides so many wonderful opportunities for young people. This past month I was very honored to receive the Payne County 4-H Hall of Fame award, which is the highest honor in our county. During my acceptance speech I shared the many lessons I have learned both through successes and failures. I encouraged younger members to continue their 4-H work because of the many benefits that 4-H provides.

I am so grateful for your support that makes the opportunities possible.

Susan Weckler

Help with mother's funeral expenses

Thanks so much for helping us out with our mother's funeral expenses. It helped us a lot. Also, for everything you have done and continue to do for all of the Indian people.

You know how to do it the right way. Our government could learn a lot from you about how to run a country. We appreciate all of you. You are just the best people on Earth.

Donnie & Ronnie Clifford

Horse ornament a hit with family

I received my Christmas ornament! Thank you so very much. I have every ornament the tribe has given me. I was so taken with this year's. I love horses, but I do not own one. However, my daughter-in-law does as well as trains and boards horses and my grandson is a farrier. So this ornament is special to our family.

Thank you so much for all the wonderful things you and your council do for the tribe. And thank you for remembering the members who do not live in Oklahoma.

Sandy Van Der Linden



Mahalo and hello from Florida

I want to say thank you! Thank you for the beautiful Christmas ornaments every year. Me and my children look forward to them every Christmas season.

My children, August, 14, and Avery, 12, Asher and I have enclosed a Christmas card for you. They are the great-great-grandchildren of original enrollee Walton Dural James.

We are proud to be of Choctaw heritage and are so appreciative of all of the work you are doing for our Nation.

Julie Asher

Storm shelter a long time coming

Thank you so much for the storm shelter you recently provided for my family and I. I have wanted one for so long.

Also, I am very grateful for all the services our tribe provides for us. I am very proud of my Choctaw heritage and to be able to pass it on to my children. I live in Newcastle.

Helen Darlene (Grigsby) Rosebrook

A Christmas thank you

What a treat to receive the paper. You are the best. Merry Christmas to you all. Thank you for the read.

Betty Karbo



Kids thank Councilman Williston

The Choctaw Nation Head Start of Idabel would like to give thanks to District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston. Throughout the year he has provided the center with field trip T-shirts, welcomed us to the community center to entertain the elders, and, most recently, provided all 33 children with Christmas gifts and goody bags. Thank you Councilman Williston for all you do, you are a blessing to the Idabel Head Start family.

Gwen Martin, Choctaw Nation, Idabel Head Start

Achahpi in New England

I loved the article on achahpi! I work for an environmental education organization in New England. We have a couple of activities where students learn Native American and early American skills. Each month I scour the Biskinik for ideas to bring to our teaching. I am so excited to try achahpi with our students. I think that they will love it! Keep up the great work!

Laura Short

Ornament brings heartfelt thanks

Sometimes the little things that we do produce results we never counted on. I received your Christmas card with the story about how important the horse was to the Choctaw Nation. I have read the stories of Quanah Parker. I have a friend who's grandfather rode with him. So I know how important the horse was to our culture. Well, I have a 5-year-old granddaughter who loves horses. So I showed her the card and tried to explain it to her. Then I gave her the ornament and told her that she could hang it on the Christmas tree. She got a piece of paper her size and asked her grandmother how to spell some words. She brought it to me and asked me to send it to you. I looked at it and my heart swelled up with pride. She wrote, "Thank you Chief for the ornament I love it so much, from Annabelle Koop." She drew you a picture on the back of one of her best scenes. She wanted to give you one of her prized stones in return for your gift. But I told her it would not go through the mail machine. So you made one little girl very happy, and I am glad that I finally joined the Nation.

Lonnie B. Hensley

— Youth of the Nation —

Tyler Macon, YAB member

Hunting Safety

Hunting season is in full swing, and I feel like it is a good time to mention some hunting safety tips. The New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game's website gives us ten commandments to live by while hunting:

- Treat every firearm with the same respect as a loaded one.
- Make sure to control the direction of your barrel.
- Be sure of your target and what is around it.
- Be sure that your barrel and action are clear of all obstructions.
- Be sure to unload all firearms when not in use.
- NEVER point your gun at something that you do not want to shoot.
- Never climb a fence, jump a ditch, etc. with a loaded firearm.
- Never fire a bullet at a hard, flat surface or at water.
- Store your firearms and your ammunition in separate locations.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages and any kind of mood altering drug before or while firing your firearm.

Follow these tips and your hunting season will be fun and safe. For more tips on hunting safety, visit your local game warden or attend a class on hunting safety.

Ornaments through the years

I want to thank the Choctaw Tribe for remembering me and my family each year with a Christmas ornament for my tree. I look forward each year to a new ornament and learning another part of the Choctaw history. Below is a picture of the ornaments for the last nine years.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas.

Kay (Boyd) Basura



EVENTS

Mountain Fork Gospel Singing Convention

Choctaw Nation Community Center
Smithville, Oklahoma 74957

Saturday, January 17, 2015
Morning Singing - 10 a.m.
Potluck Lunch at Noon
Afternoon Singing - 1 p.m.

Thomas A Williston, Chairman
Meg Scott, Secretary/Treasurer
580.244.3073

Everyone welcome!

2015 Livestock Show Feb. 7 & 8, 2015

Open to all 4-H and FFA members 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.

Location & Times

Durant show, Bryan County Fairgrounds; Wilburton show, Goddard Building, Eastern Oklahoma State College

Durant

Sat. Feb. 7

Swine & does - 10 a.m.

followed by wethers &

lambs

Wilburton

Sat. Feb. 7

Swine - 10 a.m.

followed by does, wethers

& lambs

Durant & Wilburton

Sun. Feb. 8

Heifers - 11 a.m.

Followed by steers

Fees & Deadlines

Entry fee is \$10 per head

Late fee is \$25 (after Jan. 25)

Up to three entries per division

(swine, goats, sheep, heifers, steers)

For more information, contact Jones Academy Administration at (888) 767-2518 or Jones Academy Agriculture (918) 297-7373.

See <http://choctaw.link/1CO5ELC> for applications.

Choctaw Nation Can Aid With Loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580.924.8280 or toll-free 800.522.6170.

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:

Idabel Community Center • January 30, 2015
and

McAlester Community Center • February 6, 2015

at

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

Calling all Choctaw Performing Artists

The Choctaw Nation wants to know where our performing artists are. The Choctaw Artist Registry provides a means of recognizing Choctaw Artists and of providing a way to contact these artists.

To register, go to www.choctawartists.com.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Sales attends Tribal Nations Conference



Darian Sales, a senior at Poplar Bluff High School, will be featured on a popular MTV doc film series, upon being selected to participate in a Native American panel discussion in Washington, D.C. Sales was one of 36 Native American teen correspondents invited to participate in the Tribal Nations Conference on Monday, Dec. 1, at the White House. When attending, she was accompanied by

guidance counselor Tamara Day.

Sales has distinguished herself with her leadership as an ambassador for Graduate for Mas, an academic and college-readiness program sponsored by Get Schooled in partnership with the Taco Bell Foundation.

Get Schooled, a national education nonprofit, was developed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Viacom. MTV, a division of Viacom, covered the conference for its "Rebel Music: Native America" series.

Sales, who discovered she was part Choctaw Indian four years ago, plans to attend Haskell Indian Nation University in Kansas upon graduating.

Pictured are Sales and Bill Mendoza, executive director for the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska native Education.



Byram family full of academic successes

The children of Gary Byram, of Illinois, have achieved one success after another in their academic pursuits.

Brett Byram completed his BS at Vanderbilt University in Math and Biomedical Engineering, his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Duke, and is now an assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Research and lab director at Vanderbilt.

Julee (Byram) Isenhower completed her BS in Math and Chemistry at Harding University, her MS and ABD in Organic Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, and MS in Secondary Science Education and is now a High School AP Chemistry teacher.

Jennifer Byram completed her BA in French, Visual Arts and Communication, and Math at Franklin University Switzerland, and is now in graduate studies at Oxford in Materials, Anthropology and Museum Science.

Haselwood writes children's book



Linda Haselwood, Choctaw author, debuted her first book, entitled "Emma's Shoes," on Dec. 13 in Shawnee.

Haselwood was born and raised in McAlester. She said she was very excited to announce her first children's book and the inspiration for the book came from her granddaughter Emma.

"One day she was playing in my closet and trying on my shoes. She loved shoes, her shoes, or

anyone else's shoes. With that precious face she looked up at me and said, 'Nana, I wonder where my shoes will take me today?'

She said a vision about the stories she wanted to create happened right in front of her in the form of Emma.

"The shoe books are designed to entertain and inspire young children to dare to explore and daydream about where their shoes might take them," Haselwood said.

Merryman competes for 2015 Miss Oklahoma Teen USA



Makayla Merryman of Talihina competed in the Miss Oklahoma Teen USA pageant in Norman on Dec. 19-21.

She competed as Miss Kiamichi Valley, and took part in the personal interview, swimsuit, and evening gown portions of the pageant.

Merryman was excited to be selected to participate in this year's pageant. Her parents are Megan Stegall and the late Gabe Merryman. Her grandparents and great-grandparents are John and Janie Emmert, Sheila Stegall, Debbie and Tony Hunt, Wayne and Edith Merryman and the late Mark Merryman.

She wishes to express a very special thank you to all of her sponsors, family, and friends.

Amos recalls WWII experiences



Bill Amos is a War World II Veteran who joined the Navy in July 1943 where he was a Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class. He spent six months in Hawaii then the war took him to the Pacific Ocean near the Philippines. He said in the war, he was just one of many doing his job for the war effort. He added, one good thing the war brought about was how everyone worked together, black, white, everyone was a friend.

His ship AM 296 was a mine sweeper. Their job

was to clean the area so the larger ships could go into land safely. Word got out that the Japanese had left the Island, so Amos and his group went to Manila and he got to walk on the Island of Luzon.

Aug. 15, 1945, they were to come back to Hawaii for ship repairs. As they began to leave Subic Bay, all ships began to fire their guns. The Japanese were going to surrender, Amos remembered. World War II was over!

Later Amos was working with a crew that went to Vietnam. He worked at Tinker Air Force Base at the time.

"We have a good country," he said, "but we still have problems, tornados, floods and fires."

"I go to church every Sunday and pray daily that things will get better. My family gave me a large TV. I turn on the TV and watch the Dallas Cowboys, and tell myself, 'Let the Good Times Roll.'"

Bill and his wife Louise have been married for 65 years. They have one son, Mike Amos and his wife Vicky of Broken Bow. Bill and Louise also have a daughter, Nancy Amos Williams, and her husband Ron of Edmond. They have six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, Milena.

Choctaw seniors attend symphony



Eighty Durant Choctaw seniors, accompanied by Carole Ayers, President of the Durant Seniors group, attended the Dec.

7, 2014, matinee performance of the Sherman Symphony Orchestra Christmas concert at the Austin College Sid Richardson Center in Sherman, Texas.

The group enjoyed historical background information as well as classical performances of selected holiday arrangements. During the second half of the concert, everyone joined in the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

After dinner, the seniors enjoyed a tour of the Christmas lights at Loy Lake Park in Denison, Texas.

Carterby turns one year old



Isabella Carterby had her first birthday on Dec. 12, 2014. Her parents Kevin and Ashley Carterby, as well as her grandmother Bertha Going and the rest of her family, wish her a happy birthday.

Shannon turns five years old



Brycen Tyler Shannon celebrated his 5th birthday with his family on Nov. 26. His cake was a Big 5 construction site decorated with Lego candy. Brycen's mom, Heather, his "Pa" Brad, his nanny, his "paw-paw", aunt Jen, Uncle Dwayne, and cousins Bec and Cadence all gathered to celebrate his fifth birthday with him.

Coleman named new director

Robert Coleman was named the new Economic Development Director for Midwest City.

Robert Bradley Coleman is the son of tribal member Mary Ann Childers (formerly Coleman) Idabel. He is the grandson of the late tribal member Doris (Thomas) Childers Loftin, and the great-grandson of the late original enrollee Florence (McAlvain) Thomas. He is also the great-great grandson of the late original enrollee Polk McAlvain.

In addition to working in Mustang, Coleman recently worked as Community Development Director for the City of Mustang, and has worked in both El Reno and Piedmont. While employed at all three communities, he was involved in many areas, including community development, public works, capital projects, and economic development. During his tenure in El Reno, he was awarded the honor of 'City Employee of the Year' in 2005.



New language teachers certified

Alice Taylor and Terry Battiest receiving certification to teach the Choctaw language. Pictured are Teri Billy of the School of Language, Taylor, Battiest, Councilman Kenny Bryant and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr.



Hugo language class graduates

The Hugo Community Language Class graduated from the first phase of learning the Chahta language.

Pictures above is the Hugo class. Top row, left to right: Rita Colbert, Debbie Raper, Evelyn Detten. Bottom row, left to right: Lila Kemp, Jane Davenport, Nicholas Charleston (Instructor), Summer Moffitt, Chanel Charleston.



Byington shares music and dance

The Chahta Vlla Preschool children in Bethel enjoyed a visit from Presley Byington who offered a presentation on flute playing and Choctaw dance. The children received a "flute" of their own provided by Leona Rivers as a gift for keeping the Choctaw heritage. The children had a fun musical time.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation February 2015

Durant - Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Broken Bow - Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Idabel by appt.
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

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

OBITUARIES

Stanley Burl (Pee Wee) McKee

Stanley Burl (Pee Wee) McKee, 90, of Orange, Texas went to be with his Savior on Aug. 5, 2014.

He was born on April 12, 1924 in Mud Sands to parents Andrew Jackson and Sarah Beatrice Butler McKee. He moved to Orange, Texas in 1943 and always commented about how he loved this little town. Stanley accepted Christ in 1952 and was ordained to preach on March 9, 1956 at Tremont Baptist Church in Sabine Pass, Texas, also where he pastored his first church. An active member of Silver Oaks Baptist Church, he greeted everyone at the door with their Sunday morning bulletin along with a smile, hug, handshake or encouraging word. As a faithful servant whose time came to retire from the deacon counsel he was recently honored with the title of "Deacon Emeritus."

Stanley was a painter for the majority of his life. After he retired from painting, he began his second career at Lamar University in the maintenance department where he continued with painting and then as a custodian "extraordinaire" until he was 77 years old. He maintained the Student Center which was considered "his building." He was known as Mr. Mac and took an active part in the activities of the university. In 1992, he was nominated for and received the President's Staff award. It was noted in the nomination that if we all had the pride in our work as Mr. Mac does, this university would be an unstoppable force in the Orange community!

He was a volunteer at the Orange Baptist Hospital and soup kitchen in Orange until his health began to fail in June of this year. He loved working in his yard, helping those in need, visiting friends and witnessing as the spirit led. He loved his family and through his example taught them the meaning of respect, humility, and to be a man of your word.

Stanley was preceded in death by his loving wife of 56 years, Mary Evelyn; grandson, Jeremy Grant; and many beloved family members.

He is survived by his children, Jimmy McKee and wife Jeanette, Nan Cooper and husband Dawl, Aleta Boyle and husband Robin, Keith McKee, Sherry Hume and husband Greg; along with 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Interment was at Autumn Oaks Memorial Park in Orange, Texas.



Joe Freeman Taylor

Joe Freeman Taylor passed from this life Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014 in Durant at the age of 61. He was born to Robert Lee & Josephine Lincoln (Wesley) Taylor in Wright City.

Joe loved sports. He loved playing fast pitch softball, running marathons, hunting, fishing, and dancing. He was a devoted member of the Choctaw Academy Church. He was very quick to help someone in need.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Josephine Wesley; and brother, Alford Ray Taylor.

Joe is survived by son, Chad Taylor of Rufe; daughter, Vanessa (Taylor) James and husband Kevin of Durant; grandchildren, Isaiah Eagle Taylor, Jordan Rebekah Taylor, Christian Allen Taylor, Mariah James; sister, Rhoda Mae Taylor; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of special friends.

Interment was at Choctaw Academy Cemetery under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service.



Cathy Nell Manning

Cathy Nell Manning, 54, passed away on Nov. 13, 2014, at Ardmore.

Cathy was born on July 4, 1960, to Bennett Marris and Phillis (Ned) Marris at Talihina. She attended Plainview during elementary and then Jones Academy where she was enrolled in a class to receive her Certified Nurse's Assistant Certificate. She was attending Dickson Schools when she accepted a position with Whispering Oaks Nursing Home. She worked at The Cookie Shop in Marietta for three years. She married David Loma Sr. and from that union, Kimberly and David were born. She then married Winston Jefferson and from that union Amanda and Vanessa were born. After that marriage ended, she married Michael John "Mike" Manning on Nov. 26, 1996. Because of her compassion for the elderly, she took a position with Lakeland Manor of Ardmore and later with Heartland Plaza. She retired in 2009 due to poor health. She always loved caring for her family and to cook. She was an avid George Strait fan.

Cathy was preceded in death by her father; brother, Timothy Marris; and one step-grandchild, Kason Bush.

Cathy is survived by her husband, Michael John "Mike" Manning, of the home; son, David Loma, of Ardmore; three daughters, Kimberly Fixico and husband, Rodney, of Lone Grove, Amanda Jefferson and husband, Fabian Marin, of Ardmore, and Vanessa Mendez and husband, Gilberto, of Ardmore; mother, Phyllis Sampson; step-son, Michael Manning and wife, Leta, of Dickson; four sisters, Sharon Johnson and husband, David, of Del City, Marquitta James of Ardmore, Denanna Sampson of Dickson, and Chastity Christie and husband, Tony, of Dickson; three brothers, Mathew Marris of Ardmore, Ronald Sampson and wife, Terri, of Ardmore, and Danny Sampson; 10 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was at McAlister Cemetery, Overbrook.



Wanda (Sudbury) Lewallen

Wanda Lewallen, 89, of Casa Grande, Arizona, peacefully passed away March 12, 2014 in Mesa, Arizona.

Wanda was born in Paul's Valley on July 17, 1924 to Carl and Inez (Standley). Wanda was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and regularly attended the pow wows in Bakersfield.

Wanda was an avid fan of the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks and would never miss a televised game. Wanda was an active member of the Casa Grande Church of Christ for more than 40 years. Wanda also enjoyed bowling and traveled around the U.S. competing in tournaments. For more than 25 years Wanda was a member of the Democratic Women's Club.

Wanda had many friends and family members that she loved very much and they loved her back. She was an adopted mom, sister, daughter, grandma, aunt and friend to many. When you would go to visit Wanda in her home, the first words out of her mouth after all the hugs and hellos were: "Are you hungry?" If you left Wanda's house hungry, well that was your own fault. She was a wonderful cook.

Wanda was a beautiful person inside and out and the BEST wife, Mom, Grandma we could have ever been blessed with. Wanda was married to Gene Lewallen, the love of her life for 60 years before he passed away in 2002. Wanda and Gene had three children.

She was preceded in death by husband Gene Lewallen; sons, Donnie Gene and Elbert Lewallen of Las Vegas.

She is survived by son Delbert Lewallen of Las Vegas; four grandchildren, Mindi Hauck of Bandera, Texas, Lana Martin of Las Vegas, Lorrie Mueller of Mesa, Arizona and Dustin Lewallen of Bandera, Texas; 14 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on March 17, 2014 at Casa Grande Church of Christ and Wanda was laid to rest next to her beloved husband at Mountain View Cemetery.

We will hold our love and memories of Wanda in our hearts forever. So this is not goodbye, it is only "See you later."



Jeffery Paul Houston

Jeffery Paul Houston, a lifelong resident of Durant, died unexpectedly on Oct. 7, 2014 at the age of 25 in Tupelo. Jeffery was born on Sept. 15, 1989 in Ada, to Rodger Houston and Rose (Hanks) Houston.

Jeffery attended Durant schools and later began his career in the healthcare profession. He was compassionate and loving to his friends and family. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and being outdoors.

Jeffery was preceded in death by his grandparents: Jimmie and Lyna Hanks, Bob and Emma Leikam, and grandfather Loftis Houston; and best friend Cody Blaine.

Jeffery is survived by his mother Rose Davidson and boyfriend Jeff Booe of Durant; his father Rodger Houston and wife Diane of Blue; brother Lonnie Houston of Durant; aunts: Judy Finley and husband Mike of Baytown, Texas, Francis Farrell of Durant, Ellie Grotts and husband Justin of Kingston, Sim Morgan and husband Patrick of Piedmont, Dennie and husband Joe Huffman from Poteau, Lilly and Lloyd Newkirk from Calera; cousins: Courtney, Jordan, and Austin Grotts of Kingston, Ethan and Forrest Morgan of Piedmont; uncles: Richard and wife Dawn Houston from Wasilla, Alaska, John Dodd from Poteau; step-brothers: Cory, Lance Dewett from Durant; step-sister: Michelle Dewett from Durant; he is also survived by his fiancée Ashley Grigg of Tupelo and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Jeffery will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him. He was the kind of young man that anyone would be proud to call son, grandson, nephew, and friend.



Joy L. Flowers

Joy L. Flowers, 73, was born in 1941 in Centrahoma to Cecil and Janie Flowers. She passed away Nov. 21, 2014 at home.

She attended school in Peoria, Arizona. She worked at Motorola for years, then took up truck driving and onto a sheet metal worker. She then moved to Oklahoma and worked at Durant Choctaw Casino where she was a manager, then facility manager at the hotel, then retired in 2010.

She was preceded in death by parents Cecil and Janie Flowers; and brother, Jerry Flowers.

She is survived by brothers Cecil Flowers Jr. of Broken Arrow, Rodney Gale Flowers and wife Leslie of Surprise, Arizona, Ronald Dean Flowers and wife Shirley of Surprise, Arizona; sister Roxie Ann Flowers of Calera; and many nieces and nephews.

She'll be remembered for her love for family, friends and her kindness.



Alice (Cooper) Henry

Alice (Cooper) Henry, of Stigler, was born Nov. 23, 1932 in the Garland Community of Stigler, to Able and Levina Perry Cooper and passed away Nov. 2, 2014, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, at the age of 81.

Alice was a member of Tamaha Freewill Baptist Church for many years until she moved to Spiro where she attended Spiro Nursing Home Church.

She is survived by: One daughter, Betsy Boggs and husband, Ted, of Tishomingo, one son, Jessie Henry and wife, Joy of Pocola; grandchildren, Teddy Boggs and wife Brandi of Gainesville, Texas, Kimberly Boggs of Healdton, Philip Henry and wife, Jessica of Mountainview, Calif., and Kelsey Henry of Oklahoma City; great-grandchildren, Cooper Thomas, Alora Boggs, Tagan Boggs, Britny Johnson, and Finley Boggs; one niece, Jonale Ward of Stigler.

Alice was preceded in death by her first husband, Philip Henry; her second husband, Joe Wilson; five brothers; four sisters. Burial was in Tamaha Cemetery.



Mary Louise 'Madeline' Wilson

Mary Louise "Madeline" Wilson passed from this life on Oct. 9, 2014 in Fort Smith, Arkansas at the age of 72. She was born on Jan. 11, 1942 in Talihina to the late Rev. Pipkin and Rendy (Frazier) Gibson.

Madeline loved to sing, make quilts, and fishing. She also loved doing work at the church, such as cooking and other things.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Pipkin and Rendy Gibson; one sister, Agnes Ward; two brothers, Pipkin Gibson, Jr., and Dewayne Gibson.

She is survived by her sons: Harvey Tom "Ted" Williams and wife Lisa of Durant; Jerry G. Williams of Antlers; one daughter, Ethel Louise (Weegie) Williams and husband Maurice Baker of Antlers; sister, Elaine Gibson Watson and husband Cecil of Antlers; grandchildren: Alyssa D. Williams, Lauren T. Williams, Gabrielle Rebecca Williams, Brett T. Williams, Thomas Lynn Viann, Christopher Nolan Viann, Lauren Nichole Bottoms, Linda Michelle Bottoms, Sapphire Williams, Jerry Williams, Jordan Williams, Woliphan Williams, Heather Dawn Ramsey, Britton Williams, Melanie Williams, Jillian Hernandez, and Joseph Baker; great-grandchildren: Lux Baker, Emma Batiste, Hata-pushick Ramsey, and Omba Ramsey; nieces: Latajah Baker, Johnna Williams, Renelle Richards, Konla Watson, Stacy Emma Watson, Lisa Ward Smith, and Trina Richard James; nephews: Kenneth Williams, Gary Lee Williams, Rodney Richards, Rickey Richards, Jaren Richards, Timothy Baker, Raymond Watson, and Cecil Watson, Jr.; great-nieces and nephews: Blaine Baker, Jaden Hammons, and Tariah Smith.

Interment was at Antlers Cemetery under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service.



James (Mitchell) McCurtain, Sr.

James Mitchell (Mitch) McCurtain, long time resident of Maysville, passed suddenly from this earthly world on Dec. 5, 2014, at the age of 86.

He is survived by his sons James McCurtain and wife, Rita, of Yukon, Troy McCurtain of Duson, Louisiana; and daughter Deana McCurtain Stratton and husband Jerry, of Maysville. Survivors also include sister Jane Reyes and husband Raymond of Maysville, sister Mona Ivey of Hennepin, and brother Paul McCurtain and wife Carolyn of Alex. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Mitchell will also be greatly missed by the many, many friends he had.

Mitchell was preceded in death by his wife, Bernadine; daughter Darla Sue McCurtain Fricker; and sons John Allen and Frankie Dale McCurtain. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Silas and Irene (Overby) McCurtain; and brothers Silas (Bug) McCurtain and Preston (P.J.) McCurtain.

Mitchell was born Aug. 5, 1928, near LeFlore, as the second child of Silas and Irene. Mitchell's early years were spent in the Red Oak, Wister and LeFlore area of eastern Oklahoma where he attended Punksin Center School near Red Oak. At age twelve, the McCurtain family moved to the Maysville area where Mitchell attended Garvin Springs School.

Mitchell entered the trucking industry at an early age and became a professional truck driver traveling the United States and Canada. He also operated a hay hauling business, and was involved in farming and cattle ranching. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and sports enthusiast. Upon retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his fishing buddy Jakob. Mitchell was a devoted father and grandfather to many. He also enjoyed attending Abundant Love Church.

Burial was in the Maysville Cemetery under the direction of John Williams of Winans Funeral Home, Maysville.



Lynn 'Cub' and Carolyn Stephen

Lynn "Cub" Stephen, age 71, and Carolyn E. Stephen, age 64, both longtime Atoka residents, passed away on Dec. 3, 2014.

Cub was born on April 28, 1943 to Ellis and Marbell Stephen at West Allison; and Carolyn was born on March 1, 1950 to Pearl Mae Browning at Farris.

Cub attended West Allison and Tushka High School. Carolyn attended Farris Grade School and Atoka High School. He was a Cement Truck Driver and she was a Home Health Aid, and a cook at the Atoka Truck Stop and Caney Diner.

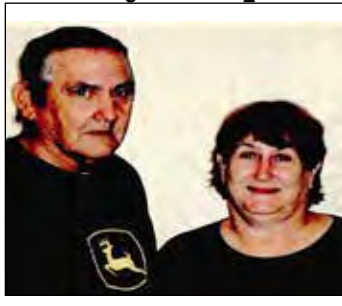
Cub and Carolyn married on Sept. 8, 1967 in Grayson County, Texas. They had 47 wonderful years together.

Cub enjoyed watching westerns and Sunday football, especially the Dallas Cowboys. Carolyn enjoyed gardening, going to the casino, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors: Daughter, Laura Stephen of Atoka; son, Randy Stephen and wife Delorie of Nooksack, Washington; Grandchildren, Courtney Lynn Stephen of Atoka, Chelsie Stephen of Atoka, Brandon Stephen of Nooksack, Wash., Courtney Stephen of Nooksack, Wash., Breanna Stephen of Nooksack, Wash., Erika Stephen of Nooksack, Wash.; Cub's brother Dale "Nub" Stephen and wife Shirley of Stringtown; and Carolyn's special friend Edna Eldridge of Atoka; along with other relatives and many dear friends.

They were preceded in death by: Cub's parents, Ellis and Marbell Stephen; Carolyn's mother, Pearl Mae Browning; Carolyn's grandparents, B.E. and Mae Browning; Cub's brothers, Ron Stephen and Ferman Stephen; Cub's sister, Debbie Hicks; and nephew, Ronnie Hicks.

Interment was in Bentley Cemetery under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service, Atoka.



Garlan 'Sonny' Beal

Garlan "Sonny" Beal, a resident of Bokchito, passed from this earthly life in Sherman, Texas on Nov. 22, 2014 at the age of 88. He was born in Utica to Hugh Lee and Lucina Elizabeth "Lizzy" (Martin) Beal on July 23, 1926. Garlan married Sue Goettins in Durant on Dec. 2, 1950.

Garlan was a dedicated longtime member of the Utica Baptist Church since 1977. He was a master electrician. Garlan loved to work on his farm and could often be found enjoying a good book in his spare time. He enjoyed his family very much and considered them his greatest blessing.

Garlan is survived by his wife, Sue of the home; daughters, Cathy Ross and husband Larry of Sulphur Springs, Texas and Sharon McCleskey and husband Rick of Keota; grandchildren, Chad Springer and wife Mary of Pensacola, Florida, Jason Springer and wife Liz of Odessa, Texas, Matthew McCaskey and wife Krystal of Durant and Sarah Harris and husband David of Keota; numerous great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews; sister, Wanda Lou Russell of Utica.

Garlan was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and Lizzy Beal; sisters, Margaret E. Rose and Wynonna Graham; brother, M.R. Beal; son-in-law, Jerry Springer.

Interment was at Highland Cemetery in Durant.



Janice Irene Edwards

Janice Irene Edwards, 77, of Nowata, passed away Nov. 3, 2014 at her home. She was born Sept. 24, 1937 in Muskogee to Calvin and Daisy (Reynolds) Herndon. Most of her education was in the Claremore School System but she moved back to Muskogee and graduated from Muskogee High School. She continued her education and earned a LPN certificate from Muskogee Hospital. She earned an associate's degree in nursing and then later earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. On Dec. 16, 1955 she married Ray Edwards in El Reno. In 1956 she and Ray moved to Nowata where they have lived since. She was a member of Hillside Christian Church and enjoyed quilting and sewing. She also loved to read and travel. Above all she loved her family. Her husband, children, and grandchildren held a special place in her heart. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Janice is survived by her husband, Ray of the home; two children, Kelly Edwards of Nowata, Jon Edwards and his wife Carol of Collinsville; four grandchildren, Ashley Smith, Taylor Edwards, Andrew Parrett, Sarah Kline; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Calvin and Daisy Reynolds; a son, Phillip Edwards; and a grandson Wylie Christian.

Interment was held in Nowata Memorial Park Cemetery.



Anne Jones Slocum Main

Anne Jones Slocum Main, proud member of the Choctaw Nation and daughter of Original Enrollee Henry Percy Jones, was born Sept. 8, 1928 in Oklahoma City and passed away Dec. 3, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Wayne Warren Slocum (passed away in 1959), and George Frederick Main (passed away in 2004).

She is survived by her daughters V. Anne Slocum, Shawn E. Slocum, R. Paige Slocum, and Alliane Moore Kelly; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



OBITUARIES

Helen Viola McCurtain Taylor

Helen Viola McCurtain Taylor, 92, passed away on Dec. 7, 2014 in Oklahoma City.

Helen was born to Nail Perry McCurtain and Maude Lee Birdwell McCurtain on Dec. 8, 1921 in Poteau.

Helen was raised by grandparents and attended St. Agnes Catholic School in Antlers and Goodland Indian Orphanage.

Helen was a loving wife, mother of six, and grandmother. She was a devout Methodist. Helen was united in marriage to Joseph A. Taylor on April 14, 1945 near Raleigh, N.C. She was loved, not only by her children, but many of her children's friends loved her as their "momma." She enjoyed large family gatherings on the holidays and birthdays. She was the matriarch of five generations and kept a calendar of all birthdays. Helen loved Elvis, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris. She was also a trivia whiz on 40's to 60's songs, movies and TV shows. Helen worked for two public laundries for 26 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Lester, Clyde, Floyd and Woodrow McCurtain; sister, Irene McCurtain; husband, Joe; son, Matthew Taylor; daughter, Ruby Choate; and five grandchildren, Brandon Choate, Shyana Taylor, Joe D. Coleman, Dewayne Taylor, and Kimberly Smith.

Helen leaves to cherish her memory two daughters, Priscilla Coleman of Broken Bow and Sandra and husband, K.A. Denton of Washington; two sons, Perry Taylor and Kim Taylor and wife, Gloria all of Oklahoma City; one brother, Bill Skelton and wife, Debbie of Hodgen; 22 grandchildren; 65 great-grandchildren and 29 great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Interment was at Watson Cemetery at Oak Hill Community.

Virginia Lea Ward

Virginia Lea Ward, 87, of Cameron, passed away Dec. 2, 2014 in Cameron. Virginia was born Sept. 5, 1927 in Hughes to Martin E. and Ethel E. (Lewis) Duncan.

She was a seamstress and a rancher's wife. Virginia was a loving mother and grandmother. She loved to sew and bake. She took care of everybody and loved her family. Virginia was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ernest; grandson, Justin Ward; great-grandchildren, Emily Cox, William "Liam" Lyon; brothers, Joe Barrick, Earl Duncan; sisters in law, Shirley Duncan and Mary Barrick.

Survivors include her children, Sandra and Joe Cox, Ricky and Trina Ward all of Cameron, Wayne and Cissy Ward of Wister; 16 grandchildren of which the grandsons were pallbearers; granddaughters, Sandy Pendergrass, Sharon McEnturff, Karen Fletcher, Jamie Jarvis, Whitney Lyon, Makayla Ward; 39 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren; sister, Jane Brown of Fanshawe; brothers, Eugene Duncan of Fanshawe, Marshall and Helga Duncan of Red Oak; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, loved ones and friends.

Interment was in Greenhill Cemetery, Cameron.

Fannie A. Heath

Fannie A. Heath, 94, of Naples, Florida, passed away on Nov. 12, 2014.

Born in Hugo on Jan. 17, 1920, she spent her childhood and young adult life in Oklahoma. After World War II, she moved her daughters, the late Doris J. Weise and Glenda J. Estep from Oklahoma to Rhode Island to marry her late husband, Russell E. Heath. Russell and Fannie raised their children in Barrington, Rhode Island.

Fannie was a self-taught seamstress and taught sewing classes in the adult education program at a local high school. She created numerous intricate needle works, which hang in her children's and grandchildren's homes all over the country. She was an avid golfer, having taken lessons at age 60 and she played often until her 85th birthday.

After Russell passed away she moved from Rhode Island to Florida to be near her daughter Doris (Dodie) and her husband Richard, also of Naples.

She was the matriarch of her family. She presided over five generations of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. They were her joy. She laughed often and enjoyed her life. She was an avid gardener and did crossword puzzles constantly. She had a full and happy life and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

The family plans a private graveside service in Rhode Island in the summer of 2015. If so inclined, donations in her memory can be made to HarborChase Memory Care of Naples, Florida, or to Vitas Hospice.

Ted W. Key, DDS

Ted W. Key, DDS, passed away on Nov. 28, 2014 at the age of 96. Beloved husband of the late Jane Key; son of the late Joseph and Lillie Owens Key; brother of the late R.J. (Smockey) Joe Key; uncle of Sheilla Brashier, Randy Key, Ted Key and Danny Key, great-uncle to Chad, Kyle, Stephen and Michael Key and Cyndie Key Crowley.

Dr. Key lived a long and exceptional life. He and his brother, orphaned young, spent their early years at the Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home in Hugo. It was an orphanage and board school for Native American children in Southeast Oklahoma. Dr. Key was proud of his Choctaw heritage. Through values instilled as a youngster, he went on to graduate from college and then entered dental school during World War II. Upon graduation from St. Louis University School of Dentistry, he entered active duty as a Navy Dental Officer. He continued his service in the Navy Reserve and retired as a Commander.

In private dental practice, he was active in both the local and state dental societies. He was elected as the 1972 President of the St. Louis Dental Society. His many accomplishments, kindness, and generosity are his legacy.

Committal Service was held at 10 a.m., Dec. 8, 2014, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. Arrangements were handled through Bopp Funeral Home in Kirkwood, Missouri.

James Tekubie

James Tekubie, 61, passed away on Dec. 5, 2014 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. James was born Feb. 27, 1953 in Coalgate.

James was preceded in death by parents James Sr.; mother Rosie Tekubie; sister Barbara; brother Wallace; grandmother Lula.

Survivors include: Wife Mary; daughters Kelly and Jodie; two step-daughters Cassie and Macie; nine grandchildren; one son Charles Tekubie; and sister Emma; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He enjoyed playing darts, softball and football. His favorite teams were the Pittsburgh Steelers and OU Sooners and of course Coalgate Wildcats. Hunting and fishing were his passions, as well as friends and music. He was a quiet but sturdy man.

Annie E. Campbell Hutchison

Annie Elizabeth Campbell Hutchison passed away March 3, 2014 at her home in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Elizabeth was born Sept. 10, 1924 to Eddy County, New Mexico pioneers Dillard F. and Sarah Ann (Hill) Campbell on the family ranch on Rocky Arroyo, New Mexico.

Having been born into ranch life, Elizabeth could most often be found in the presence of her father searching out stray cattle, branding, milking their many dairy cows or working in the vegetable gardens.

In 1942, Elizabeth and her cousin Marjorie Shafer moved to Carlsbad to find jobs. Elizabeth worked at the American Bank of Carlsbad. A year later, she met Army Master Sergeant Perry L. Hutchison; they were married in 1943.

She won many cake-baking contests and horticulture exhibits. She taught herself to sew and fashioned the most beautiful creations for herself and her two daughters. She knew every family member's favorite foods and desserts and always had them ready whenever they visited. She especially loved Damson plums that she used to make the jelly that all the grandchildren so dearly loved. Most did not realize until they were adults that there was anything other than her beautiful plum jelly. When she was forced to withdraw from cooking in her last years, the precious jars of jelly were jealously guarded.

Perry and Elizabeth were active in the Eddy County 4-H organization for over 50 years. Elizabeth valued her Choctaw heritage; she considered it a privilege to be included in the rolls of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Elizabeth and Perry were married 66 years when he preceded her in death in 2009. She was also predeceased by her parents, brothers James Dexter Campbell and Jack Dillard Campbell as well as her sisters Frances Hamilton Campbell, Wilma Campbell Truitt, Cleo Campbell Sanders and infant granddaughter Amy Elizabeth Hutchison.

She is survived by: Sarah Hutchison Almy and husband Fred of Evergreen, Colorado, Susan Hutchison Jones and husband Robert of Memphis, Tennessee and Anchorage, Alaska, and W. Craig Hutchison and wife Dianna of Carlsbad, New Mexico. She is survived by seven grandchildren: Scott Almy and wife Renee of McKinney, Texas, Jonathan Almy and wife Jennifer of Heath, Texas, David Jones and wife Maureen of Severna Park, Maryland, Daniel Jones and wife Tracey of Tucson, Arizona, Whitney Hutchison and Jack Stiles of Carlsbad, New Mexico, William Hutchison of Las Cruces, New Mexico and Emily Hutchison of Carlsbad, New Mexico. She is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren: Ryan, Morgan Elizabeth and Matthew Almy; Meredith and Dylan Almy; Brendan and Campbell Jones; Hayley, Calvin and Alexandria Jones; and Rebecca and Amber Stiles. Elizabeth is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

It is difficult to put into words what Elizabeth Campbell Hutchison meant to all of us. She was full of energy, optimism and love. Her light will live on for generations to come.

Timothy James Roberts

Timothy James Roberts, 65, died Dec. 15, 2014 at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma.

He leaves his son Richard James Roberts and his wife Tina Roberts; granddaughter, Jordan Garnica and husband Carlos Garnica; daughter, Dana Renae Roberts; mother, Billie Ruth Roberts; brother, Billy Jack Roberts and his wife Patsy Roberts; sister, Rutha Jane Thomas and her husband Lyman Thomas; sister, Virginia Kay Green and her husband Jimmy Green; four nieces; seven great-nieces; three nephews; and three great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack B. Roberts.

Born in Durant, Tim graduated from high school and later went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He also worked at the Durant Plastic Factory, as a Bryan County Sheriff's Deputy, and finished out his last working years as a warehouse worker at Choctaw Wholesale.

Tim enjoyed hunting, fishing, and had a great passion for gardening.

On behalf of the entire Roberts family we would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the Burial Assistance of Timothy James Roberts. We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Houston and Mrs. Stephens of Durant Tribal Burial for the caring and wonderful assistance during our hardship.

Richard Overton Beams

Richard Overton Beams, Jr., 79, of Blanco, died Nov. 19, 2014 at his home near Blanco.

He was born on April 1, 1935, in McAlester to Richard O. and Marietta (Kindrick) Beams, Sr. Following the death of his mother when he was three years old he was raised by his loving grandmother, Mrs. W. J. Kindrick and his uncle and aunt, Holmes and Edna Beams Colbert, in Pounds Valley. He attended first grade through eight grade school at Madge school, then his upper grades were completed at Pittsburg and McAlester.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in July of 1952 and served in the light weapons infantry during the Korean War. He was wounded by enemy gunfire on May 29, 1953 and was awarded the Purple Heart medal. He also earned the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, a good conduct medal, the combat infantryman badge, a 50th Anniversary Korean War appreciation medal and received an expert small weapons award for various weapons.

He married Linda Coxsey on Sept. 3, 1958 in Red Oak. Richard worked as a truck driver for Dolose Concrete for 26 years. He was a member of the Grand Ave. (First) United Methodist Church, where he was baptized, and was a lifetime member of the McAlester Round-up Club. He also belonged to the McAlester Elks Lodge, was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Beams of the home; children, Rick and DeAnna Beams of McAlester, Bubba and Rhonda Beams of Choctaw, Marietta and James Sensibaugh of McAlester, Dawna and Daniel Lalli of Krebs; grandchildren, Reina and Ryan Owens, Brooke and Greg Young, Shane Martin, Randal and Barbara Beams, Royce Beams, Rachel Beams, Kyle and Teri Sensibaugh, Rejeina and Andy Halliburton, Jesse Lalli, Jr. and Melissa Kost, Priscilla and Adam Hayes; and great-grandchildren, Zane and Cruz Richard Owens, Rhys Beams, Cora Rose Young, Cameron and Bella Sensibaugh, Dillon and Hanna Halliburton, Lane Sensibaugh, Drake Lalli, Keeley Hayes and Ayden Hayes; sister, Carole Ann Beene of McAlester; brother-in-law, James R. Coxsey and Phyllis; special niece, Sandra and Bobby Watkins; cousins, Todd and Theresa Godfrey; special friend, Odell Turnage of Mounds.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother, Hazel Mullen Beams; two sisters, Billie Smith and Bette Duff; nephews, Buddy Coxsey and Charles Lon Smith, Jr.; brother-in-law, Joe Beene; a special friend, Judy Turnage; and a special father figure, E.F. "Doc" Coker.

Interment was at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Scott Nelson Hammond

Scott Nelson Hammond, age 43 of Boulder City, Nevada, passed away suddenly on Oct. 23, 2014. He was born during a snow storm on Jan. 8, 1971 in Enid, to Captain James Nelson Hammond and Sheryl Renee Folsom Hammond. Shortly after he was born the family was transferred to Las Vegas. Scott attended Clark County Schools, and graduated from Boulder City High School where his mother taught. He went on to serve with distinction in the United States Navy. During his enlistment, he worked as a fireman on the USS *O'Bannon*, part of the Baltic Sea Mission, which made them the first military men to be welcomed in any Russian ports.

Scott loved playing sports, video games, and going fishing. He had a passion for astronomy and enjoyed viewing the magnificence of the Colorado and Utah heavens. As a man of Native American heritage, he valued his membership in the Choctaw Nation. He had a strong faith that helped him through tough times and was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

Scott is survived by his parents James and Sheryl Hammond; two brothers James Hammond and John Hammond; uncles and aunts Jerry and Sandra Hammond, Jack and Julie Hammond, Joe and Tresa Hammond, Nancy and Richard Woods; and numerous cousins in Oklahoma and Nevada. He is preceded in death by his grandparents Jack and Lucy Hammond and Robert and June Folsom.

Burial was at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Family and friends can sign an online memorial guestbook at www.bouldercityfamilymortuary.com.

Mary Jo Summerville

Mary Jo Pace Belzung Summerville, beloved wife, mother, grandma and mawmaw passed away peacefully on Nov. 28, 2014 at the age of 69.

Mary Jo was born on March 3, 1945 in Winfield, Kansas to Ray Pace and Zuleika Pace. She graduated from St. Anne's Catholic School in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1963.

Mary Jo married Robert James Belzung in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1964. They had two children together, Bobbie Peterson Cate of Denison, Texas and Monique Ann Belzung of Irving, Texas.

In June of 1982 Mary Jo married the love of her life, Arthur F. Summerville, in Irving, Texas, the man she would spend the next 32 years of her life with. Arthur brought two sons to the marriage, Arthur Dean Summerville and Patrick Joseph Summerville, whom Mary Jo loved and considered as her very own.

Mary Jo will always be remembered for her love of life and helping others. If she couldn't help in other ways, then she would cook. Her cakes, pies, cookies and cinnamon rolls were known far and wide and were always in demand. Mary Jo never met a stranger and no one ever left her house hungry or without a "to go" box.

Mary Jo had a very active part in her husband's vintage sports car racing hobby both as "crew" and support of other racers. Even as her health began deteriorating over these past few years, her determination and strength of will never did.

Above all else, she loved her 18 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and enjoyed being a part of their lives.

Mary Jo is survived by her husband, Arthur of Denison, Texas; daughters, Bobbie Peterson Cate of Denison, Texas, and Monique Ann Belzung of Irving, Texas; sons, Arthur Dean Summerville of Valley View, Texas, and Patrick Joseph Summerville of Lake Charles, Louisiana; 18 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her parents and granddaughter, Brittney Rae Lefevre.

Bill Wolf

A Celebration of Life service for Bill Wolf, 70, was held on Dec. 6, 2014 at the Kemp Baptist Church in Kemp, with John Wolf officiating.

Bill was born Feb. 15, 1944 in Ardmore to Bill and Juanita (Peters) Wolf and passed from this life on Nov. 29, 2014 in Denison, Texas. Bill was of the Chickasaw/Choctaw tribes and was very proud of his heritage. He married his high school sweetheart, Johnita Kay Fesler, on April 4, 1963 in Clayton, New Mexico. Bill worked as a house mover for many years.

Bill was preceded in death by his father; an infant brother, Billy Joe Wolf; and granddaughter, Cheyenne Noel Wolf.

He is survived by his wife of 51 blessed years, Kay, of Denison, Texas; sons, William Wolf of Denison, Texas, Richard Wolf and his wife, Mary of Katy, Texas, John Wolf and his wife, Tonee of Hugo, Justin Wolf and his wife, Franny of Denison, Texas, and Abel Wolf of Helena; his mother, Faye Wolf of Dumas, Texas; brothers, Gene Wolf and his wife, Eva of Kingston, Lynn Wolf and his wife, Gabriella of Mustang, Darrell Wolf and wife, Jo Helen of Dumas, Texas, and Ricky Wolf of Dumas, Texas; 20 grandchildren; six and a half great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of Guardian Hospice for their loving care provided to Bill during his time of need.

Services are under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman, Texas.

Donald W. Nail Sr.

Donald W. Nail Sr. was born April 1, 1931. He died Nov. 8, 2014 at the VA Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado at the age of 83.

He is survived by his wife Ann Nail; his son Donald Nail Jr.; his brother Joe Nail; and his sister Betty Nail.

He was a Marine and veteran of World War II, an Army veteran of the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. He retired as a Lt. Col.

Teddy C. Cox

Teddy C. Cox of Elwood, Indiana, passed away Dec. 8, 2014 at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis after an extensive illness.

He was born to Iva Bernice Nelson Cox and William Russell Cox in Okmulgee on Sept. 18, 1946. He served two terms in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. In 2011 he retired from the Securitas Corp. in Houston, Texas. He was a devoted family man and loved spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Lisa M. Cox; two sons, Ted Jr. of Richmond, Texas and Christopher of San Antonio, Texas and their respective families; three step-grandchildren, April, Christopher and Tanya; brothers Nelson Cox of Montgomery, Texas and Robert Foster of Edmond.

He will be dearly missed by all.



EDUCATION



Senior Class -- Back Row: Skylar Perkins, Kendall Carpenter, Audrey Jacob, Trista Winnett, Valerie Powell, Mike Fryer, Cole Osborn
Front Row: Philisha Austin, Cecilia Armandariz, Trish Singleton, Melissa Kindred, Vonna Shults, Anita Lee, Sheila Harbin, Becky Parker (instructor), Jack Hedrick (instructor).

Introduction to Business -- Left to Right: Wanda Vanderveen, Remona Feuerhelm, Ashley Crawford, Warren Choate, Weslee Akins, Tina Clem, Janita Jeffreys, Heather Mize, Thelma Prewett, Dannielle Branam, Jennifer Rushin, Leah Williams, Bryce Nash, Instructor Brenna Cody.

Introduction to Management -- Left to Right: Instructor Shawn Young, Gairidi Moores, Tracy Rogers, Jerri Knight, Carrie Gray, Claudine Williams, Chuck Tillman, Trent Gibbs, Shera Freeman.

Choctaw University Graduating Class of 2014

By BRANDON FRYE
Choctaw Nation

Students graduated from Choctaw University (CU) during the 2014 commencement held at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant on Dec. 11.

Attending graduates, as well as students who had reached other milestones in their studies, participated in the ceremony. Each student received a medal, a certificate, and a gift from their instructors.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to watch them grow and develop," said Becky Parker, Choctaw University Supervisor. "They are learning more than just knowledge, they are learning to think differently, to apply these new tools in effective ways, and to look at problems strategically. It's impressive to see how much they have accomplished

in such a short amount of time."

CU is a professional development program of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO). The program is designed to align with the mission of the Choctaw Nation: to enhance the lives of all members through opportunities to develop healthy, successful, and productive lifestyles.

The program has two series, the Continuing Education Series and the Leadership Series. The purpose of the Continuing Education Series is to provide all CNO associates the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Participants have a year to complete the requirements of the program they've enrolled in within the Continuing Education Series.

The Leadership Series is a four-year program and develops strong,

effective current and future leaders for the Choctaw Nation.

"What is important to me as a tribal leader is we are going to need leaders in the future," Chief Gary Batton said. "It is nice to know that the tribe is in good hands, that we have leadership that will step up and is Choctaw leadership. That is what I want to see."

Kelly Johnson, CU instructor and event planner for the graduation, said 350 students and their supporters attended the event. "I think everyone in our department realizes how much these associates deserve to be recognized for their hard work during the year," she said.

Carrie Gray, with the Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) program, graduated with an Introduction to Management

certification.

"I saw Choctaw U as an opportunity for personal growth, which would lead to better serving the tribal members," Gray said. "CU provided insight into leadership roles I may not have seen or dealt with, and that contributed to the development in my leadership capabilities."

Through CNO's partnership with Southeastern SOSU, students can earn college credit for the courses they complete. Choctaw U can award up to 57 hours of col-

lege credit for courses being taught at CNO by Choctaw University faculty.

"Choctaw U is so much more than the curriculum we teach," Parker said. "It is an opportunity to network with other associates, to learn more about the Choctaw Nation and the Choctaw people, and to develop one's own self-awareness."

Chahta Ohoyo Tikba Hikia, Choctaw Women Leaders

For Native American women in McCurtain County

If you are looking to improve your leadership skills, gain knowledge in home ownership, entrepreneurship, and energy efficiency, then you will want to attend the Choctaw Women Leaders monthly meetings.

You must have a CDIB card, live in the McCurtain County area, and be willing to attend monthly meetings to receive the required training.

The program is made possible through a U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture grant and a partnership with Choctaw Outreach Services and the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation.

If you are interested in applying, stop by the Choctaw Nation Tribal Services office in Hugo to pick up an application.

Brochures and applications have also been placed at Broken Bow and Idabel Choctaw Nation Community Centers, clinics, and Wellness Centers. All applications must be emailed to mress@choctawnation.com or faxed to (580) 326-0115 by the Jan. 30, 2015, deadline.

For more information, please call Joey Tom or Melissa Cress at (877) 285-6893.



National Indian Educator of the Year Debra Billy (center, with certificate) is shown with (left to right) Hayes teachers Ofelia Flores and Vickie Bonner, her son Toby Billy and grandson Mark Billy, State Superintendent Janet Barresi, Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Education Jim Parrish and Lincoln Harjo. Mrs. Billy was recently recognized at the Oklahoma State Board of Education meeting at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Choctaw Nation Head Start, preschool 2015-16 recruitment begins

The Head Start Program of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is recruiting prospective students for the 2015-2016 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 three, but not yet five years of age by Sept. 1, 2015. 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 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 online at choctawnation.com. Also, you may contact the Durant Administration office at (800) 522-6170, ext. 2219 or 2555.

CHOCTAW YOUTH WORK PROGRAM

APPLICATION AVAILABLE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

Applicants must be 16 years of age on or before Monday, June 8, 2015 to meet eligibility requirements. Applicants 21 years of age who turn 22 years of age on or before Monday, June 8, 2015 are not eligible to participate in the Youth Work Program.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
1-6-15	VALLIANT	9:00 AM
	WISTER	12:15 PM
	RED OAK	7:45 AM
1-8-15	EAGLETOWN	9:00 AM
	RATTAN	11:00 AM
1-12-15	TALIHINA	9:00 AM
	IDABEL	11:20 AM
1-13-15	HEAVENER	9:00 AM
	CADDO	9:15 AM
	HUGO	10:00 AM
	BENNINGTON	10:15 AM
	HOWE	11:00 AM
	FT. TOWSON	12:00 PM
	WRIGHT CITY	1:15 PM
1-14-15	BATTIEST	8:00 AM
	SMITHVILLE	9:30 AM
	ANTLERS	10:00 AM
	BOKOSHE	10:00 AM
1-15-15	MCCURTAIN	10:00 AM
	BOSWELL	8:30 AM
	CAMERON	9:15 AM
	COLBERT	9:15 AM
	ARKOMA	11:00 AM
	ACHILLE	11:45 AM
1-16-15	ROCK CREEK	1:00 PM
	BROKEN BOW	1:30 PM
	LE FLORE	9:05 AM
	DURANT	9:45 AM
1-17-15	SILO	1:40 PM
	POTEAU	12:30 PM

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
1-20-15	KINTA	9:20 AM
	MOYERS	9:30 AM
	QUINTON	11:05 AM
1-21-15	HAWORTH	9:00 AM
	VISIONS ACADEMY	9:00 AM
	TUSHKA	11:15 AM
	PANOLA	11:30 AM
	WILBURTON	1:20 PM
1-22-15	SOPER	8:50 AM
	WHITESBORO	9:15 AM
	CANEY	11:30 AM
1-26-15	ATOKA	1:00 PM
	TUPELO	9:20 AM
1-27-15	CALVIN	11:15 AM
	COALGATE	1:25 PM
1-28-15	SPIRO	9:00 AM
	HARTSHORNE	10:00 AM
	STIGLER	11:00 AM
	KEOTA	1:30 PM
2-4-15	CLAYTON	9:05 AM
	BUFFALO VALLEY	10:15 AM
	CROWDER	12:35 AM
2-10-15	CANADIAN	1:30 PM
	PITTSBURG	9:00 AM
	KIOWA	10:00 AM
2-18-15	SAVANNA	11:20 AM
	PANAMA	9:00 AM
	POCOLLA	11:00 AM
TBD: Calera, Choctaw Interlocal, Haileyville, Indianola, McAlester, Stringtown, Stuart, Victory Life Academy		

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
WIOA Employment Training
P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702
Phone (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-2923

Apply Now Online Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department

Students may now apply for scholarships and grants online at the Higher Education and Grant Program website, www.choctawhighered.com. Renewing students may email spring schedules and up-to-date transcripts to hepapplications@choctawnation.com.

For more information visit the Higher Education website <http://www.choctawnation.com/services/education/higher-education-and-grant-program/> or call 800.522.6170.

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

The class will meet each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10-per-day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE/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 Kathy Bench at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Haskell County
Beginning date and time
February 23, 2015
Monday and Wednesday
9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Center
2208 E. Main, Stigler

Tuesday and Thursday
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex, South Bldg.
1st Floor
529 N. 16th, Durant

Latimer County
Beginning date and time
February 24, 2015
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00am – 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Center
515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton

McCurtain County, Broken Bow
Beginning date and time
February 24, 2015
Tuesday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
210 Chatah Rd., Broken Bow

Bryan County, Durant
Beginning date and time
February 24, 2015

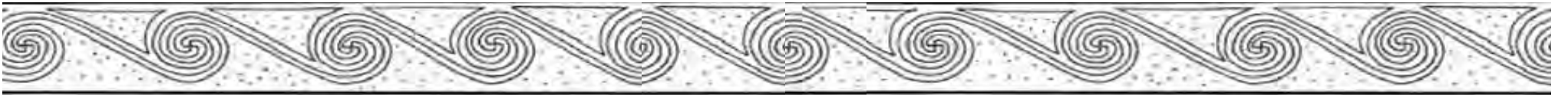
Choctaw County, Hugo
Beginning date and time
February 23, 2015
Monday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Center
408 N. "M" Street, Hugo

SCHOLARSHIPS

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SCOTT WESLEY, SCHOLARSHIP SPECIALIST
1-800-522-6170 x2546



Iti Fabussa

Choctaws and the War of 1812: A high point in relations with the U.S.

Part 1 of 2

January 8th marks the 200th anniversary of the end of the Battle of New Orleans. This battle was the final engagement in the War of 1812. During this war, which actually lasted from 1812-1815, the United States fought against Great Britain and its allies to maintain the independence that it had won 20 years earlier in the American Revolution. The War of 1812 was eventful. It saw the United States attempt to invade Canada and it saw British troops invade Washington D.C. and burn the White House. The U.S. National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner", was written during another battle in which U.S. forces repulsed an attempted British invasion of Baltimore. Ultimately the United States, with its allies won the war, and gained recognition as a world power. Within the Southeast, the Choctaw people played a significant role in U.S. victories both the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans.

For the Choctaws, involvement really began in 1811. During that year, a delegation from the Shawnee Tribe, made up of Tecumseh, Seekabo, and 20 mounted Shawnee warriors visited Choctaw country. Tecumseh wished to create a unified Native American confederacy to check the continued expansion

of the United States into tribally held lands. He visited many tribes to seek their participation. In 1811, his delegation traveled from Choctaw village to Choctaw village. At each settlement, Tecumseh gave impassioned speeches about Anglo-Americans taking Native American land and marginalizing native people. He urged Choctaw people not to participate in inter-tribal wars, but rather to join an independent, pan-Native American confederacy and to fight on the side of Britain in the upcoming war between Britain and the U.S. Seekabo, who spoke four languages, translated these speeches into Choctaw. Choctaw Chief Pushmataha traveled to many of these talks, speaking after Tecumseh, he gave counter arguments to Tecumseh's proposal. Pushmataha took the position that the United States was an ally of the Choctaw people and that if the Choctaws attacked American settlements, the Choctaw Nation would be destroyed. At each meeting, the Choctaw people sided with the words of Pushmataha. After speaking at a number of Choctaw villages without success, the Shawnee were eventually ordered by a committee of Choctaw chiefs to leave the Choctaw Nation.

The Shawnee delegation left for the Muscogee "Creek" Nation, to seek their support against the U.S. The Shawnees were escorted to the Muscogee border by a party of Choctaws that included David Folsom. In crossing the Tombigbee River, this joint Choctaw/Shawnee party was attacked by a Muscogee war party. After hours of fighting, the Choctaw and Shawnee were victorious, although a number of warriors killed on both sides and a number of Choctaw horses were stolen. Tecumseh's party went on to speak at the Muscogee villages. The Choctaws went to the Black Warrior River valley and attacked a Muscogee village in retaliation, recapturing their stolen horses in the process.

Tecumseh's pleas for a pro-British pan-Indian alliance were well received by a number of Muscogee, whose lands were being encroached upon by Anglo-American settlements on every side. At this time, Muscogee society saw increasing disagreement between traditionalists, known as the Red Sticks, who wanted to maintain a unique Muscogee lifeway, with other tribal members who favored assimilation. By mid-1813, disagreement escalated into violence, in which Anglo-American forces became involved. This conflict, called the Creek War, was one theater of the much broader War of 1812.

In the summer of 1813, a war council was held between Muscogee Red Stick leaders and a number of Choctaw chiefs including Pushmataha, Moshulitubbee, and Yowanee Mingo. The

Red Stick leaders sought the Choctaw people as their ally in war with the U.S. Pushmataha spoke for two days at the council, urging peace. The council ended with the Choctaws still in favor of peace, and the Red Sticks still in favor of war.

It was impossible for Choctaws to remain neutral in the conflict. About 30 Choctaw warriors and their families, from the towns of Yannubee and Patchelchovoka moved in with Muscogee Red Stick villages on the Black Warrior. Red Stick leaders sent notice to the Choctaw village of Fvkitchimpona (located on the Choctaw / Muscogee border) to abandon their town or be considered enemies. Initially, the Red Sticks, armed by the British, had military success against U.S. defenses in the area. Against Tecumseh's original urgings, they killed a number of women and children. Local U.S. settlements went into hysteria.

Pushmataha approached U.S. General Flournoy offering to form a company of Choctaw warriors to fight for the United States against the Red Sticks. He reasoned that with war all around them, young Choctaw men would end up fighting for one side or the other, and he wanted them to fight for the United States. Initially, Pushmataha's offer was refused, but it was later accepted. Around this time, two of Pushmataha's nephews were murdered by U.S. citizens who saw nothing but the color of their skin. The murders cooled Pushmataha's fervor for the U.S. somewhat, but he never dropped his support.

Part 2 continued in February Biskinik.

Unless otherwise noted, the above information is summarized from "The Creek War of 1813 and 1814" (Halbert and Ball 1895).



Photo Provided
Caleb Sullivan and Raven Baker participating in the bicentennial reenactment of the Battle of New Orleans.

Choctaw family making waves with its music

By ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation

Jerry Tims is "Movin' On" through the music world – and a big part of that move comes from the talented voice of his daughter, Sierra.

Under the name of Jerry Tims Music, Jerry (a Choctaw Nation member and employee of Choctaw Nation Social Services) has released his third studio album titled *Movin' On*.

The 10-song album follows *Chosen* and *Keep Pressing On* and all three are influenced by Tims' Southern gospel upbringing with a mix of popular music from the past three decades.

"The feedback that I get is that it is contemporary, it has some mainstream country but we also have hymns in there," Tims said. "It covers about four genres."

The versatility of Tims—and the sheer power of 17-year-old Sierra Tims' voice—makes the father-daughter duo a potent mix in the growing world of Choctaw music.

Sierra's studio performance of "I Need You," a thoughtful, contemporary inspirational song, garnered 500 views on YouTube on the first day of release.

"It feels really cool that we are able to get our songs out there and minister to people, that's what it is all about," she said. "My dad has helped me a lot and encouraged me to never give up. It's fun to travel and spend time with him."

She has gone to Nashville with her father several times



Photo Provided

to record professionally and take part in photo shoots for the albums.

"I'm glad he took me," she said. "It was once in a lifetime and something I will always cherish."

Sierra will graduate high school soon and plans to study physical therapy at University of Oklahoma. As for her musical talent, she says, "You never know what the future holds."

The Tims family, who live in McCurtain County, are in the process of joining the Choctaw Artists Registry. Jerry has been a regular fixture in the Sunday lineup at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival. Daughter Sierra has joined him onstage in recent years.

"Our goal is just to create good music," Tims said. "It's something to be proud of."

Tims is getting a boost from those in the music world, recording a song on *...Movin' On* with recording artist Weston Hinson. Tims often performs live across Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas with band members Robert Nichols, Daniel Hines, Jarvis Watson and Ron Ferrier.

His music is available at www.jerrytimsmusic.com.

Tvshka Homma wins stickball tournament



Tvshka Homma Ohoyo - The women members of the co-ed stickball team helped Team Tvshka Homma to victory.

Team Tvshka Homma took first place at the Alabama-Coushatta Tournament in October. They defeated Night-Hawks 5-1, Bok Cito (MS) 6-2 and Alabama-Coushatta 12-4. Scoring leaders were Billy Eagleroad, Jerry Ludlow, Trey Lilley, Boomer Factor, Teddy McMillan, Will McMillan, Jeanette James and Dalton Gaines with a pole tap.



Team Tvshka Homma coaches accepting their first-place stick bags at Alabama-Coushatta, Texas.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Pronoun: we - il, e

The Choctaw language has two pronouns for 'we'. 'Il' precedes words that begin with a vowel.

Il ia. We are going.

Tvmaha il ia. We are going to town.

Tvmaha il ia tuk. We went to town.

Il atobbi tuk. We paid (for) it.

Aheka il atobbi tuk. We paid the bill.
Chim aheka il atobba chi. We will pay for your bill.

Il impa chi. We will eat.

Tabokolkma il impa chi. We will eat at noon.

Il impa tuk. We ate.

'E' precedes words that begin with a consonant.

E chompa tuk. We bought it.

Kaa himona e chompa tuk. We bought a new car.

Ilefoka himona e chompa chi. We will buy new clothes.

E hoyo tuk. We searched/looked for it.

Issi chito e hoyo tuk. We searched/looked for a big deer.

Tanampo chito e hoyo chi. We will look for a big gun.

E hochefo tuk. We read it.
Biskinik e hochefo tuk. We read the Biskinik.

Holisso e hochefa chi. We will read the paper.

www.choctawschool.com

Jones Academy Christmas



Chief Gary Batton with a group of elementary students and some of their older student-tutors during his Christmas visit to Jones Academy. The night before, the students received three gifts each, and soon they would be travelling home to be with family.



Suzanne Heard receiving her 15 year service award. Heard is a tutor at Jones Academy and has worked with the students for years. The library at Jones Academy is named after her mother, original enrollee Irene Heard. She is much more than the first Choctaw Princess. Her life has been dedicated to helping others and she has a great love for her tribe.

You are cordially invited to attend . . .

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Legal Assistance Events

Samantha Guinn, a licensed attorney, will be available to provide assistance with simple legal documents. This service is **free** to all Choctaw members. Examples of matters she may be able to assist with are:

- Family law (adoption, divorces, custody, child support)
- Drafting a simple will, power of attorney, or living will
- Contracts and leases

February Community Center Schedule

- 2/5 Talihina
- 2/12 Durant
- 2/19 Idabel
- 2/26 Antlers

March Community Center Schedule

- 3/5 Hugo (at the field office)
- 3/12 Pocola
- 3/19 Caney
- 3/26 Broken Bow

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Please call ahead during winter months to confirm events have not been canceled due to inclement weather. Currently we are not providing representation in court or assisting in criminal matters.



CULTURAL GATHERINGS

Marietta



Chief Gary Batton, David Shelton II, Dylan David Shelton, and David Shelton.



Caroline Fielder with new T-shirt.



Tiajuana Cochnauer makes Christmas stockings with traditional designs.



Our two visiting artists at the Georgia meeting are cousins – Richard Johnston and Tiajuana Cochnauer.



Chief Gary Batton, Paul "Choctaw" Vancil and his daughter, Tammy Cohen, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. Mr. Vancil is a familiar face from Sunday gospel singings at the Labor Day Festival and he sang for the group in Georgia.



Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. are pictured with Melvin Turner and daughter Tamaya Turner. Tamaya was a member of Pope High Schools 2012 5A state championship softball team and earned a scholarship to Savannah State.



Malinda Steve performs the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



Leana receives a Choctaw Nation basketball for her assistance in drawing door prize names.



Miles Prince practices playing his new flute with a little help from flute-maker Presley Byington.

Tampa



Front from left, Kai, Koah and Kira Lindsey; back from left, Trent Brendel holding son Charlie, Dana Brendel, Carrie Brendel, Chief Batton, Tina and Eric Lindsey, and Assistant Chief Austin.



Young Emma Thomas with Mandy Lawson.



Billy Eagleroad teaches a young Choctaw to use stick-ball sticks.

Photos by Lisa Reed



Choctaw Nation Cultural Services' Debbie Damron weaves a belt on her hand-made loom.



Cousins Charlie Brendel and Kai Lindsey at the Florida meeting.



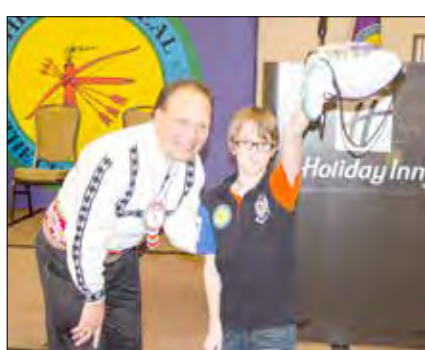
Chief Gary Batton visits with Mary Morgan and son Ron Morgan. Mary is a former Hugo resident.



Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin with Lindsay Gutfleish, Victoria Brock and Michael Gutfleish.



Marine Cpl. Kalene Barker and her dad, Wade Barker, attend the Tampa cultural meeting while she is home on leave. She is based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Chief Gary Batton presents a football to Kyan Morgan in Tampa.

Upcoming cultural events

January 2015 • San Antonio, Texas; San Bernardino, California; Fresno, California
February 2015 • San Diego, California; Phoenix, Arizona

If you are not receiving your letter informing you of upcoming cultural events in your area, please give us a call. We'll make sure your contact information is correct.

800.522.6170, ext. 2116, 2409 or 2310

Dates and locations are subject to change.