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CHOCTAW NATION

# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2012 Issue



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

## Choctaw Days in Nation's Capitol

### Council holds June session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session June 9 at Tvshka Homma.

In the meeting the Choctaw Nation Boys and Girls Club application for a grant was discussed, this year marking its 15th anniversary, having 580 members at the Broken Bow location. The organization conducts several programs, including drug eliminations programs and diabetes awareness. The program promotes academic success, good character, good citizenship and healthy lifestyles.

The Summer Youth Program has grown since last year, gaining 200 more participants. Students are allowed to work five weeks, 40 hours per week, and the program houses 40 counselors to aid participants. This program, directed by Angela Dancer, exists to enhance the lives of all members and help them grow proud, strong and independent.

Council members approved the following items on the agenda, among several other issues:

- Grant program budget allotted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (Choctaw Legal Assistance for Victims).
- Grant program budget allotted by the U.S. Department of

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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.

### Military honored at second annual event

By **LISA REED**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C., opened on the first day of summer with the multi-colored lights of prisms dancing on a celebration of Choctaw culture.

The sun's rays burst through the unique windows of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), adding their rainbows to the vibrant colors of traditional Choctaw clothing and jewelry. Dancers filled the circle and performances ranged from singing to flute playing during the four days of the festival, June 20-23.

The ceremonies didn't stay within the walls of the NMAI. As part of this year's focus on Choctaw military history, delegations traveled to honor veterans at Arlington National



Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, right, and Councilman Thomas Willis-ton, center, place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony June 21 at Arlington National Cemetery.

See event photos on Pages 12-13

Cemetery, the Congressional Cemetery and the war memorials.

Stickball exhibitions were held near the reflecting pool by the U.S. Capitol building. Visitors to this national landmark were drawn by the sound of the drums and whoops of the players. They were thrilled to watch the Choctaw men and women

playing the centuries-old game.

Inside the museum, displays also held information on the Choctaw Code Talkers and each of the featured artists – Jane Semple Umsted, D.G. Smalling, Paul Hacker and Theresa Morris – created new works honoring veterans. Smalling, the great-grandson of Code Talker Calvin Wilson, gave a presentation on the Choctaw Code Talkers daily in

See **CHOCTAW DAYS** Page 12

## BISKINIK honored

By **LISA REED**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's newspaper, Biskinik, has joined the ranks of other outstanding tribal programs and ventures and has been recognized for its efforts with eight awards from the Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

OPA held an awards presentation program June 8 at the Reed Center in Midwest City as part of its three-day annual convention. The contest drew 937 entries from 98 newspapers and was judged by members of the Nevada Press Association. The top winners in each of the 10 divisions took home the Sequoyah

Award, 120 first place plaques were presented during the banquet and newspapers receiving second, third or fourth place received certificates.

The Biskinik competed in Division 8, which is for Sustaining Memberships. First place awards were received for In-Depth Enterprise, a continuing series of history/culture columns provided by the Choctaw Nation Cultural Services department; Editorial Comment; and Community Leadership for the informative manner water rights is-

Tribal newspaper recipient of eight Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper Contest awards



sues are presented to keep readers up-to-date. Other awards included two third places – News Writing and Sales Promotion. The Biskinik entered its pages of Labor Day infor-

mation and brochure in the Sales Promotion event. The Biskinik also placed fourth in Sports Coverage for stickball and Labor Day tournaments, Advertising and Personal Columns by Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

The Choctaw Nation's newspaper is mailed to more than 80,000 tribal

See **BISKINIK** Page 5

### Stickball team takes top prize

By **SHELLEY GARNER**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Team Tvshka Homma, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's official stickball team, captured the first place trophy at the First Annual Chikasha Stickball Tournament on May 19. The tournament was hosted by the Chickasaw Nation at their ceremonial grounds in Kullihoma, Okla. Team Tvshka Homma, team Okla Hannali (community Choctaw team), and team Chikasha To'li (Chickasaw Nation) competed.

Jeremy Wallace, Chikasha Kaputcha To'li' Coach, presented the trophy to Josh Riley, representative of team Tvshka Homma, at the Jim Thorpe Native Games on June 10. Teams Okla Hannali and Chikasha To'li took second and third places respectively. Selected members from all teams participated in the Jim Thorpe Native Games in Oklahoma City on June 15 and 16.

Choctaw stickball was recently featured as integral part of Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., on June 21 and 22. Several members of team Tvshka Homma, as well as other Choctaw tribal members, participated in exhibition games at the Reflecting Pool on the National Capitol grounds to demonstrate the basics of play and educate about the long-standing tradition of stickball. Team Tvshka Homma's next competitive game was at the World Series of Stickball hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Philadelphia, Miss., on July 7.

To learn more about stickball, visit the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Cultural Services Division website at [www.choctawnation-culture.com](http://www.choctawnation-culture.com).

See photos from Cultural Service's recent Stickball Camp on Page 10

# Getting ready for Labor Day Festival

## Combined efforts have extraordinary results

From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle



The summer days are passing quickly which means our Labor Day Festival is just around the corner. The festival has grown tremendously over the years and is now one of the largest events in the area. Drawing thousands of visitors a day, the festival has a major economic impact on nearby towns where most business owners spend months preparing for the increase in customers. The revenue earned during this time is a significant amount of many local businesses' income for the year.

Our staff has also been busy ordering supplies and making plans for the five days at Tvshka Homma. Crews have visited the Capitol grounds and started getting their areas ready. The behind-the-scenes preparation, coordination and just plain elbow grease aren't always evident to those who are enjoying what the festival has to offer. It takes tremendous teamwork and I've witnessed the extraordinary results of their efforts year after year.

The Princess Pageant on the festival's opening night is a very fitting start to the holiday weekend. The young ladies have traveled from every district in our 10 ½ counties to compete for the titles of Sr. Miss, Jr. Miss and Little Miss. They exemplify the Choctaw Nation. They walk onstage with such poise, wearing traditional dresses and jewelry, carrying shawls, baskets or fans, all often made by family members in the audience. Each of the young ladies is a beautiful, dignified representative of our districts and it's always a tough job for

the judges.

The pageant is just one of several opportunities to enjoy our heritage and culture. The Choctaw Village, open Saturday and Sunday during the festival, is a great place to learn about how the early Choctaws lived, the housing, food, clothing, pottery, baskets, arrowheads and everyday tools. Among the many activities in the circle are social dancing, games and storytelling.

New, permanent lights have been erected on the stickball field, ready for our second annual tournament. The Tvshka Homma team recently won first place in a tournament hosted by the Chickasaw Nation and will participate in its third World Series of Stickball in Philadelphia, Miss., this month.

The revival of stickball among our tribal members is not



only an example of our own cultural reawakening, it has strengthened our bond with other tribes.

The round of stickball games will begin Friday night along with the annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow on the Capitol lawn, the first games of fast pitch at the softball field, and the first of a great lineup of entertainers in the amphitheater.

The Assistant Chief, Tribal Council and I hope you are able to attend this year's festival with your family. There really isn't a better time or place to experience Choctaw tradition and all-around fun.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Councilman Thomas Williston and Assistant Chief Gary Batton lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.

## Choctaw Days focuses on culture, military history

*Event spreads knowledge of tribe around the world*

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The duties of Assistant Chief have provided many opportunities for me. This year's Choctaw Days is one of the most memorable. I felt as if we were experiencing the rebirth of our culture. The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian was filled with men and women in traditional Choctaw dress. From the time the museum opened until it closed, thousands of people from all over the world witnessed Choctaws making baskets, pottery and jewelry.

Table after table filled the Potomac Atrium with information on our language, history, beautiful artwork and flutes. Choctaw stories were told to the children. Some were funny and some serious, but all were told in the Choctaw way of teaching a life lesson. I saw people taking pictures of our posters so they could remember the interesting facts they were reading.

Choctaw Days paid special tribute to our military history. It was very moving to hear our country's National Anthem sung in the Choctaw language by Sarah DeHerrera, a tribal member who traveled to D.C. from her home in California to be a part of the event. Several descendants of the Choctaw Code Talkers also attended, flying in from as far away as the state of Washington.

I enjoyed hearing them talk about their father, grandfather or great-grandfather. These men gave their all for their country, as have so many who have followed in the steps of Choctaw warriors for centuries.

The humbling story of the small group of Code Talkers remained on my mind as I, along with Councilman Thomas Williston, was honored to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. Riding in the shuttle through the cemetery, seeing row-upon-row of tombstones, is a very sobering experience. And there are no words to describe how I felt as we set the wreath in its place of honor.

We are often faced with problems, and to us they may seem insurmountable at the time. I felt very lucky to be a Choctaw from Oklahoma. I thanked God for the men and women who have been able to return home from fighting. I was thankful our Code Talkers returned to raise families and I prayed for all who never came home or were wounded in battle.

Later that day, my son, David, and I joined other Choctaws in a game of stickball, the "little brother of war." We played with the soaring dome of the Capitol building in the background and enjoyed every minute of it.

Sharing the culture of our tribe is done best when we are living it.

participants with access to special matched savings accounts in which qualified participants receive support from the federal grant and Choctaw Nation to encourage participants to save earned income for the purchase of a home, business capitalization, or to attend higher education or training.

- Budget for fiscal year 2012-13 as set by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start for the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program.

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

## Chaplain's Corner

### By the way of the cross

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of salvation or conversion. The Bible teaches that God is a Holy God and He is a righteous God. He hates sin. Sin separates. Sin brings the wrath of God upon the human soul. A man separated from God cannot and will not find God until he finds the way back to God.

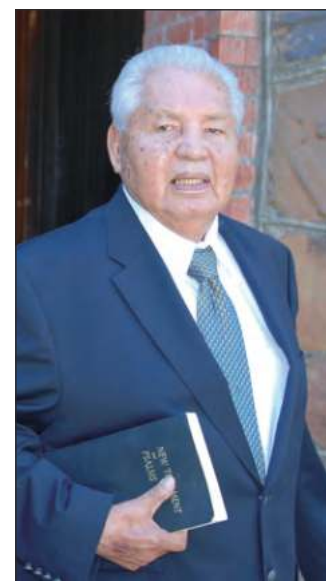
Jesus Christ made the way back to God by his death on the cross. He purchased man's redemption by the shedding of his blood. His death and resurrection completed God's plan of salvation. You cannot think your way back to God. You cannot worship your way back to God because man is a spiritual rebel. You cannot moralize your way back to God, because you are spiritually dead in sin.

Now when we think on these things, these questions come to us: What shall we do? Where shall we begin? What is our road back to God?

There is only one way back to God and that is by the way of the cross. Jesus said each of us must accept His plan of salvation personally. He said in Matthew 18:3: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven." Jesus demanded a conversion. This is how to begin! This is your way back to God.

Now what takes place between the sinner and God through Jesus Christ, which Jesus called conversion? There are many people who confuse conversion with the keeping of the law. The Law of Moses is set forth in the Bible and the purpose of the law is made clear. We read in Romans 3:19: "Now, we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." The law has given a revelation of man's unrighteousness, we read in the 20th verse of Romans 3: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; ..." It is impossible to be converted by the keeping of the law. We read the rest of verse 20 of Romans 3: "... For by the law is the knowledge of sin."

The law is like a mirror. We see ourselves as sinners, and the law condemns but does not convert. It points the finger but does not offer mercy. There is no life in the law. There is only death, for the law said "... the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4) There are those who say that their religion is the Sermon on the Mount but



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

it is impossible to live up to the Sermon on the Mount. Why? We read in Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Examine or look into your own heart honestly before you say a religious conversion is all right for some but not for you. Probably there is more confusion about this subject "conversion." What is conversion? What is involved in it? Why must you be converted in order to go to heaven? The word conversion means: to turn around. To change one's mind. In the realm of Christianity it has been explained as: to repent. To be regenerated. Conversion can take many different forms. It may follow a great crisis in a person's life. Conversion can be as sudden as the conversion of pagans who transfer their affection and faith from idols of stone and wood, to the person of Jesus Christ.

Not all conversions come as a sudden, brilliant flash that we call a crisis conversion. There are conversions that come at a moment of a long period of gradual conviction of their need of the plan of salvation. This process results in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal savior and in the yielding of his or her life to him.

Repentance and faith are involved in conversion. Repentance is the starting point in conversion, the turning from the former life. Faith is turning to Jesus Christ, the objective point of conversion. Then, there is another point of conversion, the new birth – we are born again or we are regenerated.

Now in order to get to heaven, Jesus said: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) True conversion will involve the total mind, the

total affection, and the total will.

There have been many people who believe the entire Bible. They believe all about Jesus, but they have never been really converted to him. Jesus demands a change in the way you live – and if your life does not conform to your experience, then you have every reason to doubt your experience.

There will be a change in your emotions when you come to Jesus – hate and love will be involved, because you will begin to hate sin and love righteousness. Your devotion to him will know no bounds. Your love for him cannot be described. In conversion as you stand at the foot of the cross, the Holy Spirit makes you realize that you are a sinner. He directs your faith to the Christ who died in your place. You must open your heart and let him come in.

At this moment the Holy Spirit performs the miracle of the new birth. You actually become a new creation. You become a partaker of God's own life. Jesus Christ, through the spirit of God, takes up residence in your heart. God has made the way of salvation so plain and I read in Isaiah 35:8 that "...The way faring men, though fools, shall err therein." No man shall ever be barred from the kingdom of God because he did not have the capacity to understand. The rich and the poor, the sophisticated and the simple – all can be converted. To sum it up, conversion simply means that you are changed by the spirit of God. A converted person may even withdraw from his worldly companions, not because he despises them, for many of them will be very decent, but because there is more attraction for him in the fellowship of other Christians of like mind. The converted person will love what he once hated, and hate what he once loved. There will even be a change of heart about God. There will be reverential fear of God, a constant gratitude to God, a dependence upon God, a new loyalty to Him. Righteousness and living the Christian life will be placed above all other concerns, for pleasing Christ will be the only thing of real importance.

Today, you can become a new person by trusting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. You can trust him as your Savior right now, by faith. Will you do that today?

Pray for America. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our men and women in armed services.

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

Justice for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program (Choctaw Project SAFE), which assists in elimination some of those challenges by supporting projects designed to address and prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

- Application to the Native Asset Building Initiative, which will enable individuals and families to become economically self-sufficient for the long-term by providing

# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent, Inc. drilling space

To the heirs of original enrollee Daniel Sanders and heirs of Mary Sanders (Fobb): Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent, Inc. has filed an application for a Multiunit Horizontal Well Cause CD No. 201203476-T in the 640-acre horizontal drilling and spacing units formed for the Sycamore, Woodford and Hunton separate common sources of supply in Sections 3 and 10, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, McClain County, Oklahoma. The surface hole will be in Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 3 West with laterals in Sections 10 and 3, Township 6 North, Range 3 West and the bottom hole will be in Section 3, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, all in McClain County, Oklahoma.

Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent, Inc. is also seeking to establish 640-acre horizontal spacing units for the Sycamore, Woodford and Hunton common sources of supply in Sections 3 and 10, Township 6 North, Range 3 West, McClain County, Cause CD No. 201203475-T. They will be vacating 80-acre standup and 160-acre Hunton units. The Andrews #1 well is producing from the Hunton and that spacing will not be vacated.

The hearing is set for Aug. 13 at the Corporation Commission, Eastern Regional Office, 440 South Houston in Tulsa at 8:30 a.m. For information concerning this action, contact Ron M. Barnes, Crutchmer and Barnes P.L.L.C., 1648 S. Boston Ave. Ste. 100 Tulsa, OK 74119 or at 918-382-8686 or contact Beverly J. Brown, Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent, Inc., One Williams Center, Ste. 1900 Tulsa, OK 74172 or at 918-582-2690.

## Thank you for commitment to education

The story goes that one of my relatives donated the land for the Denison Commentary in Idabel, which is where my family hails from. My great-grandmother was a full-blood Choctaw; my grandfather, Henry C. Denison, and my grandmother, Vollie Dyer, married in Idabel June of 1914.



My mother, Edith H. Denison, was born the following year. My mother married Lloyd E. Westbrook in June of 1932, also in Idabel. Both parents, now deceased, are buried in the Denison Commentary, along with my aunt, Lavern Howard Willis. As you can see, my roots are in McCurtain County. I am proud of my Choctaw heritage.

I would like to acknowledge the Choctaw Nation for its commitment to higher education and for providing grants for my educational journey. I just graduated in June from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., with a Doctor of Ministry degree. Thank you, Choctaw Nation.

I have been in Christian ministry for the past 25 years. I serve as a local pastor in Montclair, Calif., and a police chaplain. I am using my education to train young ministers at the King's University, Van Nuys, Calif.

**Vicki J. Brobeck**

## Compliments to Choctaw Conference from Jena Band

I would like to take this time and thank you for allowing your cultural department and Ms. Sue to participate in our first Choctaw conference of the three Choctaw tribes. It was a huge success. I really felt a relationship with both Oklahoma and Mississippi Choctaws at the end of the day, as we are really one tribe. We were shown how much our customs, language and traditions are much the same, we are just located in different states, but our beginnings were the same.

**Chief B. Cheryl Smith,  
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians**

**Gregory E. Pyle**  
Chief

**Gary Batton**  
Assistant Chief

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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.

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



BISKINIK 2012

## Thank you for educational assistance

I have signed an employment contract with the Iowa Nation of Oklahoma, Perkins Family Clinic, to become a full-time employee once I am certified and licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner.

I cannot thank all of you from the Career Development Program and the CDIB Administration office enough for your assistance for my higher education and employment.

**Bethany "Crolee" Rollins**

## Appreciative of Choctaw Color Guard

On behalf of our entire family, we would like to say thank you or the service the Choctaw Nation Color Guard performed on behalf and in honor of our brother. The professionalism and 21-gun salute was just beautiful. We so much appreciate their being able to attend, due to short notice.

Our family will always be grateful to the Color Guard for making this service so special, from Mike and Myra Pierson and family of Tuttle, Okla., Verda and son David Haines of Tuttle, Jon and Kathy Thompson and family of Blanchard, the Spencer family of Tuttle, the Pickens family of Tuttle and Betty Wolfe and family of Moore.

## Thank you for financial help

I would like to say thank you to the Choctaw Nation for all of the financial help that allowed me to enter the LPN program at KTC-Poteau. I just graduated on June 14 at the age of 58, so it is never too late to pursue a dream, and thanks again to the Choctaw Nation for making it possible. A special thanks to Cynthia and Bryan Martin, Choctaw Career Development counselors at KTC and CASC in Poteau. They do a great job guiding Choctaw members in getting the help they need.



**David Carmack**

## Thank you for medical help

On Nov. 14, 2011, my wife Linda was exhibiting symptoms of a heart attack at our home in Tushkahoma. Linda is blonde and fair, with no CDIB, but I decided to bring her to the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina because it is nearest to us. On the way, I called the ER to inform them of our situation and she was admitted without hesitation.

After stabilizing her condition and conducting a battery of tests, attending physician, Dr. Work, recommended she be flown to OSU Medical Center in Tulsa, where they have a top cardiovascular team, which I found out later to be absolutely true.

Nov. 16, Linda underwent triple bypass surgery and we brought her home Nov. 23. Needless to say, Thanksgiving 2011 was indeed a day of Thanksgiving for our family.

Linda is fully recovered and doing great. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Work and the staff of the ER at the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center in Talihina, and the Choctaw Nation.

**Folsom White**

## Amanda graduates

Amanda Kay Warlick, daughter of Bob and Lauren, graduated from California State University Fullerton in May of 2012. She earned her bachelor's degree in communication, with an emphasis in entertainment studies.

Amanda would like to thank the Choctaw Nation department of Higher Education for its financial support through scholarships over the past four years.



## Victim Assistance program holds annual training

The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance program, along with Dianne Barker-Harrold, Unified Solution Tribal Development Group held its annual training for Victim Service Providers on April 23 during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The training was held in the Choctaw Nation Tribal Services Center located in Hugo. Those in attendance were from the Oklahoma Department of Human Service (Adult Protective Service Unit), Choctaw Nation Finance Department and other tribal programs. The attendees were trained on sexual assault awareness, elder abuse and teen bullying.

The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance program collaborates with many different tribal and non-tribal agencies within the Choctaw Nation service area to provide crime victims with immediate Victim Assistance during their time of crisis. The program is part of the Choctaw Nation Victim Services Unit, under the division of Choctaw Nation Outreach Services. The program is located in Hugo but provides services throughout the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma service area. To contact the Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance program by phone, call 877-285-6893 ext. 6038 or ext. 6036 or by email at vperez@choctawnation.com or lgoodwin@choctawnation.com.

*Come save your  
spot for Labor Day!*

The opportunity to reserve/mark your RV or tent area for the 2012 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma will open on **Aug. 25, 2012**, no sooner.

If you have any questions, please call grounds keeper Clifford Ludlow at 918-569-4978.



## Events

### FSA County Committee nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that USDA will soon begin accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma. The nomination period is June 15 - Aug. 1, 2012. Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age can be nominated as a candidate. Tribal members are considered landowners if their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA. All nomination forms must be received in a County FSA Office or postmarked by Aug. 1, 2012. Voting takes place between Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, 2012.

For more information about the election or to obtain an election map, you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant at 580-924-4131 ext. 2, which serves as the local FSA contact office for the Choctaw Nation.

### Mountain Fork Gospel Singing Convention

The Mountain Fork Gospel Singing Convention meets on the third Saturday of July and January. The event will be held at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Smithville on July 21 starting with a morning singing at 10 a.m., a potluck meal at noon and an afternoon singing at 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Ben and Helen Caldwell, President and Vice President, at 580-244-7370 or Meg Scott, Secretary/Treasurer, at 580-244-3073 or at P.O. Box 154 Smithville, OK 74957.

### OILS Free Wills Clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) will be holding a Free Wills Clinic. We will prepare your will at this clinic on July 31 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center located at 1632 George Nigh Expressway in McAlester as well as Aug. 6 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center located at 2408 E. Lincoln Rd. in Idabel.

To register for the clinic, call 800-658-1497 or 580-272-0038. Registration is limited, so call as soon as possible.

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

### Baker family reunion

All descendants of Noel S. and Roxie Loman Baker, their families and all relatives are invited to the Baker family reunion, which will be held July 27-28, 2012 at the Choctaw Nation community center in Durant, located three miles south of Durant at 2750 Big Lot Parkway, behind the Big Lots warehouse off Enterprise Rd.

For more information, contact Mary Dale Frazier at 580-298-9842; Tony Bowers at 2260 Woodlake Rd. Denison, TX 75021; Jim Baker at 608 W. Cheyenne Stillwater, OK 74074, or 405-377-6826, (cell) 405-612-1099; or Cora Frazier Stewart at 918-812-8839.

### Roberts family reunion

The Roberts family reunion will be held Aug. 25 at the Coalgate Community building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Admiration for Chief Pyle

On May 24, 2012, I graduated from Harvard University. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the leadership of the Choctaw Nation for making this possible. In particular, I would like to thank Chief Pyle. Like him, I came from a very modest background. It was his inspiration and example that enabled me to realize that through hard work and determination, I could achieve my goals. I will never forget, and I shall be eternally grateful.



**Shannon Morrow**

## Scholarship assistance

I recently graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations. I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the past four years of scholarship funds it provided. The support has been greatly appreciated.

**Tandra Worthen**



## Seeking relative

My name is Avo Brown. I am trying to find Hettle Rose, a sister to Richard Monds. She had a son, Charley Rose; he was a doctor in Texas.

If you have any information, my address is 10321 Restful Dr. Mulberry, AR 72947 and my phone number is 479-997-1215.

## Labor Day RV Gate Check-In Times

Check-in times for RVs will be as follows. Please make arrangements to arrive and check in at your respective RV gate during one of these times.

**Wednesday (8/29) 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.**  
**Thursday (8/30) 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.**  
**Friday (8/31) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.**  
**Saturday (9/1) 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.**  
**Sunday (9/2) Noon - 10 p.m.**

# Plan fun and healthy picnics this summer

July is National Picnic Month. Whether you are going to the park, the foot hills or the beach, a picnic is a wonderful way to share time and make memories. When picnicking not only can you savor good foods, there are also a lot of fun activities too to be enjoyed:

- Taking a walk or hike to your picnic location
- Playing catch with a football, baseball or any type of ball
- Playing Frisbee
- Take a nature hike and pick flowers
- Play with the kids on the playground

Whatever activity you decide to do will be beneficial for your heart, mind and soul. When packing a picnic

there are a few things to remember to keep the food fresh and safe.

- To keep cold foods colder than 40°F, when packing a cooler try some of these tricks:
  - Take only the amount of food you think you will use (proper portions)
  - Make sure all the food is cold when placing it in the cooler.
  - If the food can be frozen, freeze it and then place in the cooler.
  - Pack the food so to limit any free space and layer with ice, freezer packs and or frozen bottles of water.

Below is a cool and refreshing fruit salad, from Better Homes and Gardens, which would be a wonderful addition to any meal.

## Recipe of the Month

### Fruit Bowl Salad with Honey-Mint Dressing

Makes 9 servings

- Ingredients:**
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh mint
  - 2 tablespoons lime juice
  - 2 tablespoons orange juice
  - 2 tablespoons honey
  - 1 small cantaloupe melon
  - 1½ cups strawberries, hulled and halved or quartered
  - ¾ cup red seedless grapes
  - 4 kiwifruit, peeled and cut into ½ - inch pieces

- Directions:**
1. For the dressing: in a large bowl, whisk together mint, lime juice, orange juice, and honey. Set aside.
  2. Cut cantaloupe in half

and remove the seeds. Use a melon baller to scoop out fruit. Add melon balls, strawberries, grapes, and kiwifruit to dressing in bowl; toss lightly to coat. Serve immediately or cover and chill up to 3 hours.

**Nutrition Facts:** Per 1 cup serving:  
 Calories: 68, Protein: 1gm, Carbohydrate: 17gm, Dietary fiber: 2gm, Vitamin A: 1409IU, Vitamin C: 64mg, Folate: 24ug, Sodium: 9mg, Potassium: 294mg, Calcium: 20% DV.

For more information please contact: Erin Adams, RD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center. 800-349-7000 ex - 6959

# Make celebrations fun, healthy and active

10 tips to create healthy active events

Eating healthy and being physically active can be a fun part of parties and events. Great gatherings are easy to do when tasty, healthy foods from all the food groups are offered in a fun, active environment. Above all, focus on enjoying friends and family.

### 1. Make healthy habits part of your celebrations.

Food and beverages are a part of an event, but they do not have to be the center of the occasion. Focus on activities to get people moving and enjoy being together.

### 2. Make foods look festive.

Decorate foods with nuts or seeds or use new shapes for vegetables. Add a few eye-catching fruits to a favorite dish, serve up a new recipe, or add a sprinkle of almonds or green onions to add just an extra something.

### 3. Offer thirst quenches that please.

Make fun ice cubes from 100% juice or add slices of fruit to make water more exciting. Create a "float" by adding a scoop of low-fat sorbet to seltzer water.

### 4. Savor the flavor.

Take time to pay attention to the taste of each bite of food. Make small changes in your old recipes or try dishes from another culture to liven things up.

### 5. Use ChooseMyPlate.gov to include foods from the food groups for your party.

Offer whole-grain crackers, serve a spicy bean dip and a

## WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

veggie tray and make fruit kabobs, layer yogurt and fruit to create a sweet parfait. Use whole grains and veggies to make a savory, healthy salad.

### 6. Make moving part of every event.

Being physically active makes everyone feel good. Dancing, moving, playing active games, wiggling, and giggling add fun to any gathering.

### 7. Try out some healthier recipes.

Find ways to cut back on sugar, salt, and fat as you prepare your favorite recipes. Try out some of the recipes on ChooseMyPlate.gov.

### 8. Keep it simple.

Have others participate by contributing a prepared dish, helping with the clean up, or keeping the kids active and moving.

### 9. Shop smart to eat smart.

Save money by offering foods that fit your budget. Buy in-season produce when it costs less and tastes better. Plan in advance and buy foods on sale.

### 10. Be a cheerleader for healthy habits.

It's never too early for adults to set an example. Keep in mind that child follow what the adults around them do—even at parties.

Go to [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov/bday/celebrate.aspx](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov/bday/celebrate.aspx) for more information.

# NURSERY NEWS

## Amaziah Doyle



Amaziah Joel Doyle was born at 8:15 a.m. on Dec. 29, 2011, at the Choctaw Nation Health Center in Talihina, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 18.25 inches long. Proud parents are Christy and Lawrance Doyle. His brother, Lawrance II is happy to welcome him to the world. Grandparents are Jamee and Leon Page of Jay, and Richard Doyle of Sulphur Springs, Ark. James Turnbull of Jay is his great-grandpa.

## Allie Cross



Allie Danielle Cross was born at 4:09 p.m. on April 11, 2012, in Tulsa. She weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Welcoming her to the world are proud parents, Shawn and Nettie Cross of Jenks; grandparents, Ronnie and Therese' Scarberry and Eugene and Sandra Cross; and great-grandparents, Ilene Scarberry, Erman and Nettie Sands, Lucille Stovall and Clifford Cross.

## Anna DeGiacomo



Anna Gayle DeGiacomo was born on Jan. 4, 2012, in Tulsa. Her proud parents are John and Ande DeGiacomo. She is the granddaughter of Sarah Weger-Hipsher and Terry Hipsher and the great-granddaughter of the late Woodrow and Orah Hardy. Her brother Aidan also welcomes her to the world.

## Benjamin Coxsey



We thank the Lord for the blessings He has bestowed in 10 little fingers and 10 little toes. Benjamin Lee Coxsey was welcomed into this world at 8:14 p.m. on Feb. 11, 2012, in Durant. He weighed 7 pounds 4.5 ounces and was 20.5 inches long, but he has grown much since. His proud parents, Melissa Stevens and David Coxsey, thank God for the privilege of raising this little angel.

## Nashoba Supernaw



Nashoba Waylon Supernaw was born at 3:58 p.m. on May 23, 2012, at the Claremore Indian Hospital weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 21 inches. His proud parents are Casie Renee and William "Son" Supernaw IV. He is the first child for both parents. He is the grandson of Barbara Jefferson-Lester and the late John Lester. He is the great-grandson of the late Theodore "Teddy" Jefferson and Dorothy Wilson-Jefferson. He is the great-great-grandson of the late D.W. and Edith Wilson, as well as the late Perry Jefferson and Evalina Winship-Jefferson. He is also the great-great-grandson of the late Willis Wilson and Anna Shoney-Wilson.

## Cam Marable



Cam Luke Marable was born at 8:56 a.m. on Feb. 29, 2012, in Talihina. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and measured 19.7 inches long. Welcoming he to the world are proud parents are Denis and Wendy Marable of Bethel; sister Tori; brother Kaden; grandparents, Eugene and Sandra Cross, Kay and Rick Wilson, and Mike and Mary Marable; and great-grandparents, Lucille Stovall, Bill Marable and Clifford Cross.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28, except for:  
**Aug. 1:** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)  
**Aug. 8:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed** Aug. 29-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 3 & 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: Aug. 1-28, except for:  
**Closed** Aug. 29-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 10 & 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28, except for:  
**Closed** Aug. 29-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 17 & 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28, except for:  
**Closed** Aug. 29-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 1 & 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.  
 Staff will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon.

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

- Antlers:** 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443
- Durant:** 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
- McAlester:** 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
- Poteau:** 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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.

## Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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

# Cleaning coils can conserve coin

A dirty evaporator coil can greatly diminish cooling efficiency. Evaporator coils should be cleaned periodically to ensure your air conditioner is efficiently blowing cold air.

Evaporator coils in homes and commercial buildings are located inside the building and are generally difficult to get to. Because of this evaporator coils are seldom cleaned in normal preventative maintenance programs. Failure to clean the evaporator coil can result in damaging and costly freeze-ups (see picture)

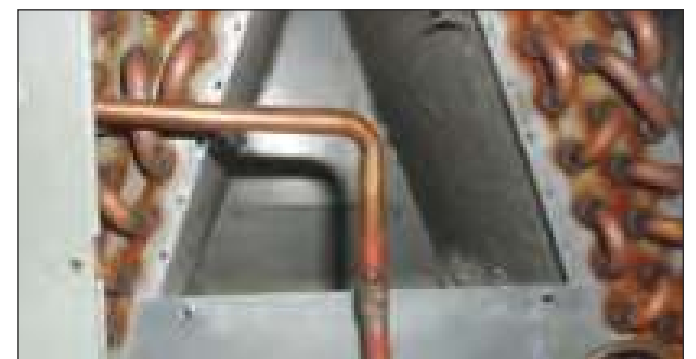
The evaporator coil is located in the airstream of your HVAC equipment and 100 percent of the air that heat or cools your home or commercial building travels through this evaporator coil. This means that a dirty evaporator coil adversely affects your cooling and your heating system.

A dirty evaporator coil can greatly diminish cooling ef-

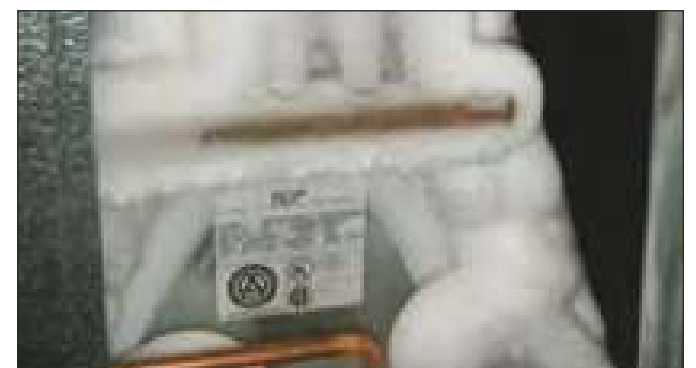
ciency and make it appear as if you need a new air conditioning unit. Fortunately, a good evaporator coil cleaning can restore your system to operate as if it were new.

Dirty evaporator coils will restrict air flow and make it all but impossible for your air conditioner to properly heat or cool your home. An air conditioning system with a dirty evaporator coil will need to run longer to cool your home and it will also have to run longer to heat your home. This cost you money in wasted energy dollars.

In addition to reduced efficiency, dirty evaporator coils are a major cause of poor indoor-air. The primary reason for this is the coils produce condensation, and when added to caked-on dust and dirt, becomes a haven for mold and mildew. These combinations of contaminants are unhealthy in homes, office buildings, schools and commercial buildings.



A clean and efficient coil.



A dirty and inefficient coil.

Information submitted by Doug Wood, Choctaw Nation Energy Manager.

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

# Marilynn Mitchell sparks energy with Choctaw Center

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Elders are of high value and significance to Choctaw culture. They link the past with the present, keeping aspects of heritage alive in the coming generations.

Choctaw senior Marilyn Mitchell is a woman who values this connection of past to present and future. She is very instrumental in keeping elders involved with the Choctaw Nation and helping share their stories, and like so many of those Choctaw elders, has an intriguing story to tell.

Like many Choctaws, she was born in the Talihina Indian Hospital and mainly raised in Durant. Her parents, A.D. Mitchell and Elizabeth Moore-Mitchell, were school instructors, her father a coach and teacher and mother a home economics teacher and school lunch consultant.

They were attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) during wartime and later married. Because of a lack of instructors, schools hired them to teach before they graduated. Schools would call on her parents, then "they would go teach somewhere, and then come back and go to school, if there was another call they would go," said Marilyn. This led her to spend a great deal of time involved in sports and associating with educators.

Instead of riding a bus to school, she rode in a car pool of teachers, one of which was Lucille Belvin, the wife of former Choctaw Chief Harry Belvin, who was also Bryan County Superintendent. Marilyn and her parents became good friends with the Belvins, and began going on outings such as fishing trips and Choctaw meetings.

One such occurrence that stands out in her mind was during an annual Labor Day Festival on the Choctaw Capitol Grounds. It was a much smaller celebration in



**Councilman Ted Dosh and Marilyn on stage as senior officers are sworn into office.**

1949 than it is today, but as a little girl, she remembers it fondly. She and her parents were able to sleep in the Council House, on cots, along with the Belvins, an act she counts a privilege.

Marilynn was also introduced to notable basketball coach, Bloomer Sullivan, for whom the gym at SOSU is named. Her father played for him and modeled his coaching style after Sullivan. "Dad was a true full-blood Choctaw athlete and talented in many sports," said Marilyn as she proudly spoke of her father.

The basketball atmosphere was one she became accustomed to and played very early in her life. "I grew up sitting on a basketball at his games," said Marilyn referring to following her father's career at Paoli, Cobb, Amber and Mead.

Marilynn's parents were not the only strong influence in her life; her grandmother, Lou Ella Battiest-Mitchell, served an important role in developing her knowledge and pride of her Choctaw heritage. Marilyn's time with her grandmother was full of memories.

Lou Ella had a horse-plowed garden, as well as chickens and a milk cow. Marilyn remembers helping her tend to the garden, canning produce, churning butter and tending to chickens. "We rode a bus to Caney attended church services under a brush arbor with singing and dinner on the ground," mentioned Marilyn as she talked about activities with her grandmother. "We went to overgrown grave sites of family to clean off graves," she added.

Lou Ella was a proud Choctaw and taught Marilyn the Lord's Prayer in Choctaw, as well as Choctaw songs. "When Indian family and friends came to her house, Choctaw was spoken. I was never forced to speak Choctaw, but I wish I would have," said Marilyn as she talked about her grandmother's Choctaw roots. "She was so influential as a grandmother and a Choctaw. She was really important to me," she continued. This was because she never knew her grandfather, original enrollee Isaac

Mitchell, as he died in 1917 during the flu epidemic.

She lived with Lou Ella after completing high school at Durant and began her education at SOSU, where she was a cheerleader and still associated with Coach Sullivan. During this time, she went to work part-time for attorneys during college, which turned out to be the start of a long legal career. After four years as a cheerleader, she married her high school sweetheart, Joe Lee Byers.

They moved to Kansas and 11 years later, had a baby girl named Pamela. The family then moved to Garland, Texas, to be closer to family, where they would stay for 30 years, however she and Joe divorced in 1983. During this time Marilyn continued her career as a legal secretary, trial assistant and paralegal.

Her natural knack for leadership began to shine in her career. While in Kansas, Marilyn was a charter member and first president of the Garden City Legal Secretaries Association. After moving to Texas, she took her talent for motivating and organizing colleagues with her.

She created the Legal Link, which was a newsletter for the Mesquite/Garland Legal Secretaries Association. While serving as its president, the organization won the Altrusa award for their volunteer work with the girls at the Dallas County Juvenile Home. It is a prominent commendation bestowed on organizations that make a positive impact on their communities. She even became the Mesquite/Garland Legal Secretary of the Year.

After a successful career, Marilyn moved back to Durant. She had remarried the late Leslie Ben Moorman of Denton. Pamela had married, earned her master's degree, and grandchildren were on the way.

After her husband's death in 2009, Marilyn took her lively personality and energy to the Choctaw Nation Community Center and did what she had done all her life: light a spark of activity.

She began attending the Choctaw Senior gatherings at their Community Center in August of 2009 and went on a trip to Nashville in December. Within that time, she had socialized a good deal, and was asked by Monica Blaine, a coordinator for senior activities for Choctaw Nation, to assist with the trip. Marilyn was a natural.

As she got to know everyone even better on the trip, the seniors took favor of her charisma and, "Low and behold, when March came around, when they elected officers, they asked me to serve. I didn't know I was qualified," Marilyn said laughing. "They put me in and I'm still here," she said with a giggle.

Being the president of a group of approximately 120 Choctaw seniors can be an in-depth duty. Not only does Marilyn plan, organize and coordinate events, but she also must keep usual activities fresh and fun. "Our officers and senior volunteers are wonderful. I dream up things to do, they implement it and do a fine job. We are grateful for our Councilman, Ted Dosh, who is always generous and supportive of our activities," stated Marilyn.

Accomplishments and challenges during her career lend a high dose of experience in this aspect of keeping everyone involved and included. "My legal career has helped me a lot just in my life. It helps you to analyze things better; be aware of both sides... especially if you are in a capacity where you are leading people," said Marilyn. "More importantly, I have a strong and powerful faith in the Lord. I pray to be an example and possess positive leadership qualities all while maintaining a friendly and fun personality," she continued.

She has learned to play off the strengths of those around her. She knows where others will shine brightest, and places them in positions where they will do just that. She attributes many of the successful events to her team of officers and efforts of the group as a whole. They are the life-blood of the organization in her eyes.

"We have the pledge of allegiance, exercise, singing, announcements, programs and prayer every week with some variations," said Marilyn as she explained the usual happenings. She then continued to tell of special events, like Going Green Garden, cookouts, Spring Fling and Senior Prom, where the seniors



**"Indian Elvis" gives Marilyn a good laugh at the Senior Spring Fling.**

dressed to impress and relived a night like a high school prom – complete with prom pictures.

The group of seniors, under Marilyn's leadership, has hosted an Elvis dance, where a Native American Elvis impersonator came to sing as the seniors danced. They have hosted an autograph party with prizes where everyone could accumulate signatures and get acquainted.

These events, combined with a host of fundraising activities and trips, make for a very busy group of Choctaws, and that is just the way Marilyn likes it. Much like during her career, she liked to keep everyone involved and informed.

Being in the position of president requires her to get to know all the members of her group quite well, an aspect in which she takes delight. Marilyn is interested in the history of the Choctaw Nation, and asks, what better way to learn history than from those who lived it?

She talks with her group, learning their past and lineage, sometimes even doing write-ups for others to read and learn. She has always been fascinated with her heritage and has continued to research her family history in order to preserve her ties to the Choctaw Nation.

"I'd love to search back to Mississippi... back to a Choctaw name," she said, speaking of her research. She would like to document and preserve as much as she can so her family will have access to information about their heritage.

In an effort to get closer to her past, she traveled to the Nanih Waya Mound in Mississippi – the location believed to be the origin of the Choctaw people.

There, she climbed to the top of the mound, removed her shoes and felt the sacred earth beneath her bare feet, experiencing a great connection to her ancestors.

After her visit, she wrote a short narrative describing her experience. In it she says, "As I solemnly climbed the stairs, I viewed the terrain about me to see the trees and hills and imagine what my ancestors felt as they, too, made their voyage to the top of the mound... on that day, I was living in the 1700s."

In her present, Marilyn is a strong link between the past and the future... Keeping things energized and entertaining all while serving the Choctaw Seniors of District 9.



**Marilynn shares a dance with her grandson, Weston Smith, at the senior prom.**

## Travel Plazas, Southeastern Electric Co-Op partner with direct-pay kiosks

By **LARISSA COPELAND**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Soon, residents throughout the Choctaw Nation will have added options and flexibility when it comes to paying their utility bills. Choctaw Nation Travel Plazas have partnered with Southeastern Electric Cooperation to add direct pay site kiosks inside two of its stores in Calera and Atoka.

"We were looking to give our members the ability to be able to pay their bills 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Randy Cloyd, director of office services for Southeastern Electric Co-Op. "Other than going online to pay, there was no other way for people to do that."

Acknowledging the fact that not all the customers have access to the internet, the idea of a pay kiosk came to mind. "We just wanted to find a way to make it easier for our members to pay their bills," Cloyd said.

Cloyd says he wanted a high traffic location with 24-hour access as a location to place the kiosks. Then a light bulb came on, he says. "Choctaw Travel Plazas. I called [Councilmen] Ted Dosh and Anthony Dillard and told them my ideas and they said the tribe might be interested in partnering with us."

Upon hearing the idea, Travel Plaza Director Lisa Byington felt it would be a good fit for the stores and an added convenience for the customers. "Since we're open 24 hours, people can come in a pay their bills any time

that's convenient for them," she says. "They don't have to hurry down [to the utility company or other businesses] to make payments during their business hours. They can pay them on their own time at the kiosks. We were happy to be able to provide this service to our customers."

So, the Choctaw Nation and U.S. Payments, the company providing the kiosks, then made an agreement for placement in the Calera and Atoka locations.

The self-serve payment kiosks accept check, credit card, and cash, have clear instructions and touch screens, and provide receipts to customers at the time of service.

Patrons will also be able to make payments to dozens of other utility providers and companies on the same kiosks. Usage fees, payment types, and posting times vary and are determined by each company offering the service. Customers making Southeastern Electric Co-op payments will have no fees assessed to use the service and payments are posted immediately.

According to Byington, kiosks in additional travel plazas are a possibility. "We will see how these two work out over the next few months and if it does go over well, we will look at eventually placing them in all of our other travel plaza locations," she said.

The kiosks in the Calera and Atoka Travel Plazas should be delivered and ready for business this summer.



### HELP WANTED

Seeking Choctaw CDIB members!

Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla., is looking to increase our Choctaw applicants' database for the following:

#### FULL-TIME POSITIONS

Please submit applications and resumes for positions such as

#### Hotel Shift Managers

#### Call Center Manager,

#### IT Positions

#### Commercial Laundry Technician and supervisors for varied departments

#### and numerous part-time positions

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act.

Please attach copy of CDIB Card if applicable.

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office.  
4216 Hwy 69/75, Durant, OK

or

online @ <http://careers.choctawnation.com> for jobs with any of our Choctaw Casinos.

## BISKINIK

*Tribal newspaper honored with eight OPA awards*

**Continued from Page 1**

members every month. Its name aptly reflects the legend of the Choctaws' "little news bird." Biskinik would live around Choctaw homes and let them know when someone was approaching, tapping out messages on trees. The small, watchful yellow-bellied sapsucker would also accompany hunting or war parties.

The Biskinik strives to continue keeping the Choctaw members abreast of current events, beneficial information on healthy lifestyles, opportunities to improve education, program benefits and news from Choctaws around the world to share with others. Its office is located in the tribal headquarters in Durant with five staff – Editor Lisa Reed, Assistant Editor Larissa Copeland, Reporter/Production Assistants Bret Moss and Chrissy Dill and Purchasing Coordinator Karen Jacob. The Biskinik is a division of the Public Relations Department under Executive Director Judy Allen and includes many PR activities on its daily schedule.

Press releases and on-the-spot news are also posted to the Choctaw Nation's Facebook page and in the News Room on the Choctaw Nation's website, [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com).

New technology has provided many opportunities to provide digital communication and another way for Biskinik to spread the news.

## PEOPLE YOU KNOW

### Fred named Collegiate Lacrosse All American

Fred Whistle III was recently named Collegiate Lacrosse All American. His father would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping make this possible for his son. Fred attended Grand Canyon University on an academic scholarship provided by the tribe and he will graduate this summer.

### Maci to attend national hockey festival

Maci A. Hoskins, daughter of Mike Hoskins and Patricia Hill-Hoskins, has been selected to attend the USA Hockey National Select Festival.



Maci, a 15-year-old Oklahoma City youth hockey player, will represent Oklahoma this year at the 2012 USA Hockey's Girls National Select Festival Camp, which will be held in July at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn. Maci has played for the OKC Youth Hockey Association since 2001, and this past season played on the Alliance Lady Bulldogs 16U girls team out of Dallas. Last March, she participated in the Texas Affiliate Camp, where she was selected from the pool of players to advance to the Rocky Mountain District Camp, where the top 3 percent of the players in the district participated in skill evaluation sessions with hopes of advancing to the USAH Select Festival. Maci was among those selected to advance to the 2012 USA Hockey Select Festival Camp, where she and the other U.S. athletes will showcase their talent in front of many scouts from Division I and III colleges as well as junior teams and prep schools from around the country. Congratulations and good luck to Oklahoma City's Maci Hoskins!

### Lenis' birthday a success

Lenis Wesley celebrated his 84th birthday on June 3 at Goodwater Church in Sobol. His children provided free lunch after church service that day. After lunch, there was a singing and Johnny Calwell served as the emcee. Everyone had a great time wishing Lenis a happy 84th birthday, and they all wish him many more birthdays to come. Happy birthday, Lenis, from your daughter, Nadine Wesley.



### Happy birthday, Margaret

A birthday singing in honor of Margaret Billy's 91st birthday was held May 5. Her birthday was May 2. Her children and family had a gospel singing at her home in Sobol. They provided a free supper for everyone, and they are all looking forward to next year's event. They wish Margaret many more birthdays, from her children as well as Lenis Wesley's children.



### Regina places in grappling competition

Congratulations to Regina Arnold, who took home second place at the North American Grappling Association in Dallas. It was her first grappling competition and her family is very proud of her.



Regina, the daughter of Tracey and Robert Risner of Eagletown, is 28 years old and grew up in Eagletown. She serves as the Wellness Outreach Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation Wellness Center in Hugo. Her whole family lives in McCurtain County. She moved out of the county to pursue her health and physical education degrees at OSU Stillwater, where she graduated with her bachelor's and then continued to receive her master's degree in secondary education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She landed a job with the Choctaw Nation Wellness Center in Durant and was transferred to the Hugo Wellness Center when it opened.

Regina trains with Oklahoma Combat Sports of Poteau in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, The Pit of Poteau in Hawaiian Kempo and she teaches cardio kickboxing at the wellness center. She signed up in the Novice division at North American Grappling Association and was bumped up to the beginner division, where she came in second. She will now compete in the intermediate level at her next NAGA competition.



## District 12 crowns Choctaw princesses

Choctaw Nation District 12 held its annual Princess Pageant on May 25. Representing District 12 for the 2012-13 year are Miss Choctaw Nation Raven Ott, Junior Miss Neiatha Hardy and Little Miss Chayenne McCoy. The princesses will represent District 12 at the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant at Tuska-homa on Aug. 30.

### Happy birthday, Nayukpa

Happy 11th birthday to Nayukpa Ramsey on May 21. She is the daughter of Michael and Heather Ramsey of McAlester. She has an older sister, Pakanli Faye Ramsey, and two little sisters, Emma Ray and Hatapushik. Her proud grandparents are Jon and Sherry Foster and Janet and Matthew Sam and Thomas Billy.



### Family birthday wishes

Family birthday wishes from their mother, sister, grandma and aunt, Janice Ward, for July and August. She hopes they all have a wonderful day and many more to come.

Happy birthday to Janice's sons Rusty and Dusty on July 2, nephew Lucas on July 3, sisters Cendy and Wendy on July 4, brother and nephew Buddy and Brandon on July 8, nephew Charlie on July 14, sister Sue on July 16, niece Summer on July 19, granddaughter Tina on July 22, sister Dorthy on Aug. 3, sister Gail on Aug. 8 and sister Lee on Aug. 14.

### Alexandria turns 1

Libni and Brenton Coffman are proud to announce the first birthday of their daughter, Alexandria Ivy Coffman, who was born in McAlester on the fourth of July in 2011. She is the first grandbaby of the proud grandparents Ivy Altamira, Vickie Patrick and Ernie Coffman. Alexandria's great-grandma, Susana Olvera, is coming from Mexico to join the celebration as well.



Her loving family in the U.S., Mexico and France want her to know how much they care about her and they wish her a great, blessed life. Happy birthday, Alexandria! You are a blessing to your family.

### Happy birthday, Sydney

Sydney Anderson-Cullum celebrated her ninth birthday on June 24. Sydney enjoys acting, dance, cheer leading, learning Choctaw, singing in the church choir and modeling. She attends Moore Schools where she is in the Choctaw Nation STAR program. Her recent modeling job will be in the Tyson Chicken Nugget ad, which will be in People magazine's July 16th issue, Parent magazine's August issue and in Times Square in New York City from July 16-22. Sending her birthday wishes are her mom and family.



### Happy birthday, Roslyn

Roslyn Faith Reese celebrated her first birthday on July 7. Roslyn is the daughter of Destiny Pebworth and the late Weston Reese of Stringtown. Her maternal grandparents are the late Barry Pebworth and Sonja Pebworth of Stringtown. Her paternal grandparents are Pamela and Tommy Reese of Stringtown. Uncle and aunt Matt and Jenna Pebworth of Stringtown and uncle Lucas Reese of Stringtown all wish her a happy birthday. Roslyn is the great-granddaughter of Wade (Sonny) Pebworth of Stringtown and Margarito and Monika Torres of California. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Thomas Jefferson Pebworth.



### Record attendance for 25th annual Lewis Armstrong family reunion

Submitted by: Patricia Gayle Armstrong Sapp

June 9 was the 25th Lewis Armstrong family reunion, held at Harmony Elementary Cafeteria. There were five states represented this year. Some attendees had not been present for 20 years and this was the first year for others. Some enjoyed eating catfish on Friday night at the truck stop and Mexican food at El Adobe for a change on Saturday night. It was so nice to meet the first-timers and we sure hope they make it back often.

Attendees included: Virgal and Marva Armstrong of Cotton Wood, Ariz.; Richard and Patsy Jones, Caleb, Jamie, Railey, Asher, Josh, Brittany and Elijah Berney of Shreveport, La.; Starla Hayes of Benton, La.; Gary L. and Eva Armstrong, Dan and Tabitha Armstrong, Marvin and Joy Cochran, Darrell and Marleah Cochran and Hildred Marlow, all of Atoka; Sarah, Emma and Lily Johnson of Blanchard; Brenda Brown of Choctaw; Tom and Reva Harrold; Floy Crawford of Jones; Sherman and Deloisse Armstrong and Donita Martin-Price of Lehigh; Bill Armstrong, Faye Ayers, Adam and Adalynn Klein, Brandon, Rachel and Megan Seals and Pam Tipps, all of Mustang; Darrell and Gayle Sapp of Oklahoma City; Gary W. and Lori Armstrong, Chandra and Daylan Potter and Presli and Ciara Sherrard, all of Tushka; Darrell G. and Leslie and Lexie and Laynie Sapp of Tuttle; Scarlet, Brooklyn and Corey Swails II of Yukon; Neal and Ann Armstrong of Corinth, Texas; Rick Armstrong of Enumclaw, Wash.; and Dick and LaDon Wagner of Lynnwood, Wash.

We had lots of good food, picture-taking, visiting and got to look at pictures taken from years gone by. Our reunion started in 1985 at Boggy Depot, moved to Cedar Circle and now to Harmony Elementary. Over the years, we have lost a lot of our loved ones, but they live on in our memories and the pictures we share each year.

The eldest attending this year was Hildred Marlow, who still looks great. The youngest attending was Elijah at 10 months old and crawling around really well. The ones traveling the furthest were Rick, Dick and LaDon, all from Washington.

On Saturday afternoon, Bill Armstrong played his guitar and sang, which was very enjoyable, and a few played dominoes. We want to thank Gary W. and Lori for always having everything open, cooked, warmed up and ready to go, and Pam for mailing out the cards letting everyone know the date and times. Our reunion is always held the second weekend in June and always at Harmony Elementary Cafeteria.

### Happy birthday, Mark

Happy 30th birthday to Mark Dean Tushka on June 12. Wishing him happy birthday are his brother, Eric, and his sister, Patty Tushka; his mother, Peggy Tushka of Broken Bow; and his grandparents Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow.



### Happy birthday, Bryant

Bryant Morris will turn 12 years old on June 9. Bryant's favorite sport is baseball and he is chosen every year to play on the all-star team. His family cares so much about him and they wish him happy birthday, from mom, dad, Jason, Trish, brother Kendal and Grandpa Eldon.



### Happy birthday, Buddha

His mother would like to wish her favorite son, Caden Nelson, a very happy ninth birthday. She and Akierra say he is awesome and they hope he has lots of fun on his special day.

### Happy birthday, Princess

Her mother would like to wish her beautiful and favorite daughter, Akierra Nelson, a very happy eighth birthday. She and Caden hope Akierra has a super fun day on her birthday.

### Happy birthday, Garrett

Garrett Morris turned 39 on July 4, and his mother and family would like to wish him happy birthday. While he was growing up, he played soccer and coached soccer in high school and junior college. He still plays on several adult teams as does his wife, Erica. His 4-year-old son, Gavin, plays soccer, too. Garrett is proud of his Choctaw heritage as are all of the Morris'.



### Happy ninth birthday

Trystan Ingle celebrated his ninth birthday in Branson, Mo., on July 22. Trystan is the son of Larry and Michelle Ingle of LeFlore and the grandson of Melanie Morris of Talihina and the late Larry Ingle Sr. of LeFlore. Happy birthday, Trystan, from dad, mom and little brother Tucker!



### Happy birthday, Jerimiah

Happy birthday to Jerimiah Octaui-ano. He is the fourth generation of his grandfather, Henry Clay Cochnouer, who was an original enrollee.



### Happy birthday, PaPa

The family of Jess Youngblood would like to wish their amazing PaPa a happy birthday; they say he is the best grandparent a kid could ever want and they love spending time with him. They would like to tell him thank you for always making them feel like the most important thing in his life and for always giving so much of himself to the entire family. He is a treasure to them all, and they all hope he has a wonderful birthday. Love, Sydney and J.D.



### Casey-Ward cousin reunion a success

Those attending the Casey-Ward cousin reunion on June 9 were: Johnnie and Chelsea Bourne of Spiro; Wally and Loretta Thames of Bartlesville; Chad, Zac and Traci Arnold of Avant; Bettie and Melvin Reynolds of Tulsa; Bob and Anna Denny of Edmond; Ron and Brenda McCelland of Ft. Smith, Ark.; Sammie Hankins of Kentucky; Garlena and Mike Vickers of Heavener; Haleigh, Cindy, Jasty and Michael Vickers of Conway, Ark.; Lakota and Sada Vickers of Heavener; John and Sue Geampietro of Spiro; Geneva Neal of Ft. Smith; John Casey of Spiro; Laura Rodgers of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Raymond Lester and Dustie Harris of Sallisaw; and Sherry and Skip Butler of Spiro. A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all as well as a great time looking at old family pictures and visiting. The family met at the Choctaw building in Spiro. The next reunion will be held the second Saturday in June 2013 at the Spiro Choctaw building.

# LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 3 • TVSHKA HOMMA, OKLAHOMA

## Chief Pyle's Youth Fitness Challenge

Plyometric Boxes • 40 Yard Dash • Sled Pull • Agility Drills

**Friday, August 31**  
on the Council Chambers lawn

Event is for youth 8 to 18 years of age

Registration at 5 p.m. – Contest starts at 6 p.m.

A T-shirt will be given to each participant who finishes the challenge. This event is for anyone looking to improve their fitness level and have a great time doing it. It is open to all fitness levels, athletes to non-athletes. For more information, call Jason Campbell at 800-522-6170, ext. 2787.

## Tough, Tough Choctaw

**Saturday, September 3**  
on the Council Chambers lawn

Registration at 4:30 p.m. • Contest starts at 5:30 p.m.  
Prizes awarded for first and second places.

Anyone under 18 years of age must have parent sign waiver. Free T-shirts to participants. For more information call Jeremy Loper at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2407, or e-mail jloper@choctawnation.com.

## Dominoes & Checkers

**Sunday, September 2**  
in the Cafeteria

There will not be a separate kids tournament this year. All entrants will play in the same tournament. Numbers will be drawn for opponents.

## Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment / Youth Advisory Board Labor Day Schedule

**Saturday, Sept. 1**

Crafts at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., & 4 p.m.  
Closes at 5 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 2**

Crafts at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., & 1 p.m.  
Closes at 3 p.m.

\*Crafts include Native American bracelet, fall bag, patriotic magnets, visors and wooden maracas.

## Horseshoes

**Saturday, September 1**

Registration 8 to 9 a.m.

Single elimination tournaments begin at 9:30 a.m.

Men, Women, Youth (up to 13) and Seniors will start at the same time and play concurrent.

There is a limit of 32 women and children, and 64 men (seniors play with the men's group). A singles tournament will be held for women, youth and men (seniors), a doubles tournament for women and men (seniors), and a ringers championship for women, youth and men (seniors).



## 3-on-3 Basketball

**September 1**

- Category / Division
- Kids Co-ed 10-13
  - Teen Co-ed (HS only)
  - Men - Young Guns
  - Men - Old Timers

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form by August 28, 2012, to:  
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball  
P.O. Box 1909, Durant, OK 74702

## 10TH ANNUAL CHIEF PYLE LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNEY

Date: Sunday, September 2nd, 2012

Event Details: This is a 9-hole tournament...  
Registration: \$100...  
Prizes: \$1000...  
Contact: Neal Hawkins...  
Phone: 580-924-8280...  
Email: nhawkins@choctawnation.com

Mail entry to: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
10th Annual Chief Pyle Labor Day Golf Tourney  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Rebecca Hawkins



## Choctaw Nation Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

**Saturday, September 1**

First 12 teams accepted  
Maximum 10 players per team

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry to:  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Co-ed Volleyball Tournament  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Rebecca Hawkins

Deadline for entries:  
4:30 p.m. August 10  
For more information:  
580-924-8280, Ext. 2212 or 2258

## Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival



## 5k Run

Race Begins at 8 a.m.

**September 1**  
Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma

Race day registration is from 6:30-7:45 a.m. north of Crossroad Cafe on U.S. Hwy. 271, 5 miles north of Clayton. All entries must be postmarked by Aug. 27.

### Age Categories and Awards

Age 12 & under • 13-15 years • 16-19 years and succeeding 5-year age brackets up to 70 and older for women and 75 years and older for men.

Top three finishers in each age bracket for men and women will receive medallions.

### RACE DIRECTOR

Neal Hawkins – 580-924-8280, Ext. 2319  
Race Coordinator – DG Productions, LLC

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that although police protection will be provided, there will be a possibility of traffic on the course. I assume the risk of running traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with running this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including extreme cold and wind, and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I agree to yield to all emergency vehicles. I also am fully aware that baby strollers and wheels of any kind (except competitive wheel chairs), animals (aside from canine participants in canine and human race) and head phones are strictly prohibited and I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive and release and discharge any and all race sponsors, race officials, volunteers, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma employees and volunteers, tribal police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind of nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants full permission to sponsors and/or agents authorized to them to use any photography/videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose.

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver must be signed Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications for minors accepted only with a parent's or guardian's signature.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Age as of September 3, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (M/F) \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one T-shirt size only  
(Adult) S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and send entry form to:

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**  
Attn: Neal Hawkins  
5KM Road Race/Walk  
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210



## FAST PITCH

**August 31-September 2**

at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds  
in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma

– Deadline for entry is August 10 –

For more information, please call 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170, ext. 2224, or fill out the application below and return to our office.

Name of team \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:

Men's team *or* Women's team

and return to:  
Larry Wade  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702-1210

# EDUCATION

## Congratulations, **CLASS OF 2012!** *Jones Academy*



**Alyssa Michele Trujillo**, age 18, is the daughter of Michelle Hamilton and Harold Trujillo of Chamisal, N.M. She is a member of the Pueblo of Picuris tribe in Penasco, N.M. Alyssa transferred from Penasco High School her senior year. She took all of the Oklahoma End-of-Instruction tests required by the state and met the standards for graduation. Alyssa is planning to attend Northern New Mexico College this fall to complete her general studies.



**Joshua David Sam** the 18-year-old son of Morris Sam of Hartshorne and Germaine Sam of Baldwin Park, Calif. His grandparents are Cornelius and Norma Sam of Salonia Community, and the late Jerry and Roberta Jean Ornelas. Joshua is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was a participant in the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, the JA Writers Journalism Club and the varsity track team. Josh received the Robert Woods Scholarship for his academic and athletic achievements. He plans to attend the Dallas Institute of Art to pursue a career in graphic arts.



**Martina Daryl Delaware**, age 18, is the daughter of Jerry and Josephine Williams of Hartshorne. Martina is a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma. She has attended Hartshorne Public Schools for three years and was on the varsity basketball and softball teams. After high school, Martina plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College and major in psychology.



**Mariss Lynn Smith** is the 18-year-old daughter of Michael and Jerri Harshbarger of McAlester. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Mariss was active in the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board while a resident of Jones Academy. In the fall, she will attend classes at the Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester and study nursing.



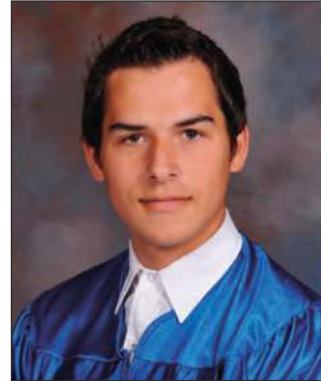
**Lucinda Fay Roberts**, age 18, is the daughter of Suzette Roberts of Tuskahoma and the granddaughter of the late Robert and Frena Snyder. Lucinda is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She has attended Hartshorne Public Schools for six years. Lucinda was a member of the Hartshorne High School Band and Color Guard for four years. She is planning to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College and pursue a career in music.



**Courtney Nicole Wallace**, age 18, has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public Schools since the sixth grade. Her guardians are her maternal aunt, Tonya Wallace, and her grandfather, J.D. Wallace of Oklahoma City. Courtney is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She lettered in fast-pitch softball and made the principal's honor roll. Courtney was also active in the Jones Academy FFA hog show program. She plans to enroll at Oklahoma City Community College.



**Loreanna Rose Williams** is the 18-year-old daughter of Stacy Lefler of Logan, Utah. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Loreanna became a resident of Jones Academy her senior year of high school. She transferred from Van Buren, Ark. Loreanna met all of her Oklahoma End-of-Instruction tests requirements for graduation. She was a member of the Hartshorne High School Choir. Loreanna plans to be gainfully employed this fall and enroll at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Sante Fe, N.M., the following spring. She is interested in becoming a museum curator.



**David Lee Gordon** is the 19-year-old son of Glenn and Mickey Gordon of Tulsa. David is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He has been a resident of Jones Academy and attended Hartshorne Public Schools for three and a-half years. He has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.



**Tasina Genyia Lone Elk** is the 18-year-old daughter of Emory and Riva Red Feather of Pine Ridge, S.D. She is the granddaughter of Genevieve Chase In Sight of Pine Ridge. Tasina is a member of the Oglala Sioux Indian tribe. She has been a student of Jones Academy and attended Hartshorne Public Schools for four years. She was a member of the Hartshorne High School Choir for three years and a participant in the Learn and Serve Program at Jones Academy. Tasina was voted the Most Helpful Student at Jones Academy two years in a row and designed the logo for the Rhythm Nations Against Bullying Program. Tasina is planning to join a branch of the armed forces and serve her country.



**Shane Richard Black** is the 18-year-old son of Kawa Black Jr. and Sharon Newbreast of El Reno. He is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma. Shane has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public Schools since eighth grade. He was selected as Jones Academy Outstanding FFA Student this year. After high school, Shane will attend Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall with plans to major in psychology.



**Edward Allen Gaddis III** is the 18-year-old son of Edward Jr. and Nadine Gaddis of Poteau. He is the grandson of Stacey Lefler of Logan, Utah. He is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Eddie participated in the Hartshorne High School Band. He will attend classes this fall at Carl Albert State College in Poteau to study culinary arts with plans to become a professional chef.

## Jones Academy students chosen as Boys, Girls State delegates

Two Jones Academy students were selected as representatives of the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State camps this summer. Melissa Sam was nominated as a Girls State delegate for Hartshorne High School at the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman. Justin Jefferson was the Boys State representative at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla.



These symposiums were held concurrently during the week of May 26 through June 2. During the conferences the students were tutored on the workings of state government and developing leadership skills. The delegates were also encouraged to participate in public service and practice good citizenship. In several sessions, guest speakers and state representatives spoke to the students about civic duties and making a difference in life. Governor Mary Fallin and former Governor George Nigh lectured at the Norman congress.

Students were also challenged to participate in simulated campaigns by running for political office. Melissa was in a race for State Treasurer while Justin was active in an election for a judicial position. Both Melissa and Justin expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were grateful for the opportunity.

## Nunn participates in page program

According to the Oklahoma House of Representatives High School Page Program website, hundreds of students from across the state have the opportunity to take part in the yearly intern program during the legislative sessions. This year, Jones Academy student Billie Jo Nunn was selected to serve as an intern from April 16 through 19. Some of her duties included running errands, delivering supplies, and dispatching messages and documentation to various parts of the capitol. Pages also participated in the House Page Mock Legislature during the week. Billie Jo reported that the experience taught her more about how legislation works and how laws are passed.



**ARE YOU CHOCTAW?**

.....

**Do you need a CDIB card?**

**How about a Tribal Membership/Voter Registration card? Or even both?**

**Have you lost any of your cards and need a replacement?**

If so, you can now access our applications online at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com)

## Jones alumni earns bachelor's degree

Former Jones Academy student Sunny Clifford has received her Bachelor of Arts in Literature/Communications from Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, S.D. Her graduation date was June 24. Sunny and her twin sister, Serena, were 2003 graduates of Hartshorne High School. Since graduation, Sunny has been gainfully employed as park ranger for the National Parks Service in Pipestone, Minn., and the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (tribal parks) in the south part of the Badlands National Park. This region is slated to be one of the first tribal national parks.



Sunny attended a decentralized college and had to travel, sometimes over 80 miles, one way to get to school. She rarely missed class and maintained a 3.82 GPA throughout her college career. Sunny also studied literature abroad in England at Oxford in the summer of 2011. She spent time in London and Paris, in her own words, "doing hands-on literature."

Her immediate plans include becoming a teacher of English and working as a park ranger in the summers. She is the first person in her family to attain a bachelor's degree. She considers it an honor to share her accomplishments with the Choctaw community, and she is grateful for the opportunities afforded her by the tribe and by Jones Academy.

## Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>AUGUST</b>				1 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	2	3 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	4
	5	6 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. <small>Civic Day (Canada)</small>	7 Antlers by appt.	8 Tuskahoma 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Talihina by appt.	9	10 Wright City by appt.	11
	12	13 Crowder by appt.	14	15 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	16	17 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	18
	19	20 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	21	22 Poteau 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	23	24 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	25
	26	27 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	28	29 Wilburton 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	30	31	
	2012						

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



# Choctaw Nation Upward Bound program provides students with skills, motivation to succeed educationally

By **CHRIS DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation endorses educational success in its student population, seeking to continually provide them with opportunities to aid in completion of their plan for the future. The Choctaw Nation Upward Bound program assists high school students by introducing them to activities they will experience at college as well as providing guidance and counseling to help them shape their future.

Upward Bound is available to all interested students, not just Native American or Choctaw members, and comes at no cost to participants. Currently, the program has 56 active students. High schools served by the program include Antlers, Atoka, Broken Bow, Canadian, Hartshorne, Haworth, Idabel, Indianola, McAlester, Pittsburg, Rattan and Wilburton, and the program is held at Eastern Oklahoma State College.



When classes are finished for the day, students have some fun time. Participants pictured decided to have a game of volleyball.

lege degree in the future.

Upward Bound seeks the student whose potential abilities may be nurtured and encourages and motivates the student to apply their talents and energies to achieve long-term educational success.

Tim Amos, Director of Choctaw Nation Upward Bound, has plenty of experience in helping prospective students, having worked for the tribe for 16 ½ years and Upward Bound for 15. With the help of three full-time employees, it is his responsibility that the program runs smoothly and help participants as much as possible.

Some of Amos' duties as director include hiring summer teachers and tutors/mentors, overseeing the staff, conducting recruitment presentations and interviewing potential new participants, he said.

"I also enjoy living in the dorms during the summer with the students," said Amos. This enables him to get to know the students better on a personal basis, "rather than them seeing me as the guy who makes the rules," he explained.

The purpose of the Upward Bound program is to generate in students who are in grades 9-12 the skills and motivation necessary for successful completion of high school and enrolling and graduating from a postsecondary educational program. "The main goal of Upward Bound is to get our students



(2010) Photos provided

through high school, into college and graduate college," stated Amos.

If the student is a Choctaw member, Amos provides further assistance. "We refer our students and their families to other programs within the Choctaw Nation that would benefit them," he said.

Upward Bound is a highly successful pre-college preparatory program for high school students. Challenging academic instruction,

individual tutoring, academic and career counseling and guidance are offered to participants as well as enhanced core curriculum and college credit hours to those students who qualify.

Participants also have the opportunity to attend field trips that help them relate to the curriculum and explore their career options. These trips can cover many areas, including educational, motivational, career, social and cultural enrichment activities to better prepare students for their future college experience.

Depending on the educational attainment level of the individual student, enrichment courses are offered at EOSC in the following subjects: Pre-Algebra through Calculus, Laboratory Sciences, Computer Sciences, English Composition and Writing, Foreign Language, Literature and various other college courses. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 12 credit hours through Upward Bound before they enroll at the school.

"The favorite part of my job for me sometimes comes after the students have graduated college or are still in college," explained Amos, "when they come back and say that if they had not been in the Upward Bound program, they probably would not have even gone to college, yet alone graduate."

Amos said the program shows students that there are people out there who care about them and want to see them succeed.

To apply for Upward Bound, a student and his or her parent/guardian must complete and submit an application to their school counselor with a transcript. Students selected will currently be in the ninth through 11th grade. Recommendations of school counselors and teachers are considered in the selection process.

The program staff strives to choose applicants who are genuinely interested in improving their chances for success in secondary and postsecondary education by working hard and preparing themselves for college while in the Upward Bound program. Amos said recruitment through school counselors begins in late August.

If you are interested in learning more about the Choctaw Nation Upward Bound program, you may contact Tim Amos at P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702-120 or at 800-522-6170 ext. 2297 or 2302.



Students conduct an experiment in a biology lab during class time at Upward Bound at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

## Kara graduates

Kara Synhorst graduated with honors from Ironwood Ridge High School in Oro Valley, Ariz. In high school, Kara was active in visual arts, especially photography, and was voted most artistic by her classmates.



At church, Kara was an active member of her youth group and was lead soprano of the Praise Team Choir. This summer, she will go on her second mission trip to Crownpoint, N.M., in the Navajo Nation and perform home repairs.

This fall, Kara will attend Southern Methodist University and will be a part of the Hilltop Scholars program.

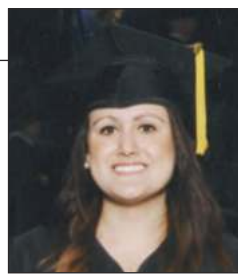
Kara is the granddaughter of Charles McClure of Dallas and the great-granddaughter of original enrollee, the late Ruby Marx McClure.

## Mya graduates

The family of Mya Dawn McBrayer want to congratulate her on her recent graduation.

Mya graduated from Rogers State University on May 5 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Molecular Biology. She is the daughter of Dustin McBrayer and Toni Wray, both of Idabel. She is the granddaughter of Harold and Ruth McBrayer and Mac and Claudia Wray and the late Melba Wray, all of Idabel.

Mya has been accepted into the University of Oklahoma Health Science Program in Tulsa, where she will study Occupational Therapy.



## SAP announces two upcoming scholarship opportunities

### Tvshka Chunkash (Heart of a Warrior) Scholarship

This is a \$1,000 scholarship created by Capt. Teri Scroggins and provided through the Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advise-ment program. Offered on behalf of all the veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, this award is presented every fall to a student whose life and educational goals have been affected by these wars and the veterans who have served in them. This scholarship is awarded to one student at the beginning of every fall academic year, and presented at the CNO Veterans Day ceremony, on Nov. 12, 2012, in Tushka Homma, Okla.

To be eligible to apply, students must be a member of SAP, attending an accredited college or university and submit an essay. The essay should be an original 500-word essay discussing the following topic: Is there an individual, event, or story from the wars in either Iraq or Afghanistan that has impacted your life? Please explain how this individual, event, or story may or may not have impacted decisions on your education and/or future goals.

### Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship

Two students will be selected this fall to each receive a \$500 scholarship. Last year's recipient and the first ever recipient of this prestigious award was Sara Higley of Keota. Sara graduated in May 2012 from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

This competitive award is a \$500 scholarship available to Choctaw students majoring in Criminal Justice or Social Work. In addition to being Choctaw and majoring in one of the two fields, candidates must be a resident of the 10 ½ counties tribal service area, have at least a GPA of 2.5, submit an application and write an essay describing, "Why do you want to obtain a degree in social work or criminal justice? What does it mean to you to be Choctaw and how will you apply the social work or criminal justice degree to your Choctaw community?"

More information about both scholarships, including the applications, can be found at <http://www.choctawnation-sap.com/cnoscholarship.shtml> The deadline to apply for both of these scholarships is Aug. 1, 2012!

## To the Youth of the Nation

By: **Jennifer Williams**  
3rd place, YAB Scholarship 2012

I became a part of the Youth Advisory Board my freshman year of high school. I helped start the Idabel YAB and saw it continue to grow. We searched for different and new things to do in Idabel. Before long, we had over 35 members in our Idabel YAB. We hosted trash pickup days at local parks, tobacco compliance checks, senior citizen proms, we made Thanksgiving dinner for the JOM and put on puppet shows at the elementary schools. We did a lot of after-school tutoring at the elementary schools, too. As a freshman, having to step up and lead the group was a learning experience for me. Little did I know that I was growing to become a leader.

After the Idabel YAB merged with the Broken Bow YAB, I lost my group. My fellow members didn't want to go anywhere near Broken Bow and work with our county YAB. That was a difficult time for me as a leader of a new group because of the loss of my local group. I had to learn how to adjust and adapt to the situation. All the things we did in the Idabel YAB were not possible with the county group because we were too far apart. So I had to find other things for us to take on. We partnered with groups and made videos that spoke out against abuse and passed ordinances in towns against social host houses. We brought attention to the Great American Smoke Out each year by displaying scenes and posters on heavily traveled areas of our city. Lately we have been raising money for the new Veterans Museum and Water for Life to help bring clean water to people in Africa. Anything that we can help within our county, we grab onto the chance to make a difference.

I say all of this because without YAB, I never would have been able to go to Chicago and attend a great leadership camp, or have been able to help pass a social host ordinance, make friends from all over the state, or go to the State Capitol to celebrate the Choctaw Nation's accomplishments.

YAB is growing bigger and better and I cannot wait to see what it will do statewide. Through YAB, I have had the opportunity to put my name out in the community and participate in many worthwhile causes. I hope to be able to be involved with YAB in the future. I know being involved with YAB has definitely changed my future as well as my life.

The STAR Program staff would like to remind all parents with students in second through 12th grade that the deadline to have documents submitted is approaching. The deadline for children to be awarded for the Spring 2012 semester is October 1. Required STAR forms are listed below:



1. Required STAR forms are listed below:

- STAR online application (one-time application)
- Grade and attendance verification form (to be completed and returned once per semester)
- Copy of the spring semester report card

There is also a new policy change within the STAR Program. Previously, for students enrolled in Honors classes, we have counted C's as B's and B's as A's. Unfortunately, due to the national growth of the program, we feel this is no longer a fair standard that we can equally apply to all of our students. Therefore, at this time we will be awarding based solely on the actual grade listed on the report card. We do regret the negative impact that this may cause to some students, but believe it to be in the best interest of our students as a whole.

For more information about the STAR Program, please visit [star.choctawnation.com](http://star.choctawnation.com) or call 800-522-6170 ext. 2787.

## Pike-Pierce now a homeowner with help of CAB program

Congratulations to the Pike-Pierce family for becoming new homeowners!

Concerned about supporting her family, Beth Pike-Pierce joined the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program in April 2010. "When I first became acquainted with CAB, I was a single parent providing for two children. I wanted to be self-sufficient and responsible for my family. I did not want to rely on family members or the government to help me support my family. CAB provided an opportunity for me to help my family in a short amount of time with an awesome return: a safe home. Although I was relying on the CAB program for assistance, I was still being held responsible and able to contribute my part," said Beth.

Beth opened her CAB account with \$50 and saved at least \$25 each month. Some months, she was able to save more. In two short years, she had reached her goal of \$2,000, which was matched with an additional \$6,000.

While she was saving, Beth received training that prepared her to become a homeowner. "I learned about credit scores and rating, applying for a home loan and the different title fees, insurance, etc. I learned that it is very important to 'shop' for a home loan, since banks and companies offer different options," she said.

Budgeting and saving money can be a struggle, especially for single parents, but CAB was able to help Beth with the encouragement and discipline she needed to reach her financial goals. "The most important thing I learned from participating in CAB is how important and helpful it is to save money. Although I did grow up with learning to save, when you are on your own, it seems extremely difficult to save any amount of money. With CAB, you are held accountable and are able to save a minimum amount or contribute more, depending on your financial ability," explained Beth.

Beth is an educator with the Little Dixie Youth Build program and has been able to pass on what she has learned to her students. "Another wonderful thing I learned from CAB is budgeting and how to set attainable goals. While taking the financial class, we participated in several goal-building activities and were given a super-efficient budget sheet. As an educator, I have since transferred setting attainable goals into a Power Point lesson and presented it to learners. I also offer the budget sheet to interested students," she said.

For more information about how the CAB program can help you reach your financial goals and dreams, go to [choctawcab.com](http://choctawcab.com).

## COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



## Enroll now at Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2012 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come join us! Be a part of the future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial assistance for all grades (1-12)
- Rewards for academic achievement
- High school graduation expenses paid/scholarships
- Career counseling/college and post-secondary preparation
- Voc-tech training
- Summer Youth Work program
- Medical and counseling services provided
- Alternative education program
- Traditional/cultural activities
- Recreational activities and educational trips
- Agriculture program

Please call for a tour or an application at toll free 888-767-2518 or access [jonesacademy.org](http://jonesacademy.org) or write to:

Jones Academy  
HCR 74 Box 102-5  
Hartshorne, OK 74547



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

A group of Jena Band of Choctaws travels from Louisiana to attend the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's first stickball camp. Sitting are Christopher Darby and Lane Norris. Standing, first row, are Dustin Guin, Teddy Hartley, Kaitlyn Masters and Maura Allen; second row, Jacob Kimball, Katelyn Hartley, Awstun Chapman, Nathan Stephens, Jena Band Tribal Princess Abby Guin, Chyenne Fisher and Candess Chapman; back row, Jena Band Councilwoman and Cultural Director Dana Masters, Choctaw Nation Councilman Thomas Williston, Choctaw Nation Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom, Choctaw Nation Councilman Tony Messenger and Hailee Roberts.

The place to be? Apparently ...

# Stickball camp

Summer fun in the sun

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The temperature – 100. The hottest thing – a stickball.

The Choctaw Nation's first ever summer stickball camp for youth was attended by close to 200 boys and girls on each of its two days at Tvshka Homma in spite of sweltering heat.

Buses rolled in early June 24th and 25th, bringing the young people in from all directions. The coaches split the attendees into five groups – age 8, 9, 10, 11-12 and 13-up – to teach the fundamentals.

Instructions such as “move side to side,” “communicate!” could be heard repeatedly and the kids responded with an obvious desire to become stickball players. They raced for the ball, learned to catch and throw, and to take it away from an opponent.

“We plan to keep the camp going every year and as a result, we will have more teams,” said Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom. “The kids are enjoying learning the sport or working on becoming more skillful. The coaches will help them



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Stickball Camp Coach Kerry Willis watches with a smile as the kids try to be the first to grab the ball with their sticks.

develop their own talents.”

A group from the Jena Band of Choctaws traveled from Louisiana to attend the camp, bringing 13 of their youth from age 8 to 15. They arrived Sunday, June 24, to attend the June 25-26 camp.

“We are excited to be a part of the camp,” said Dana Masters, Jena Band Councilwoman and its Cultural Director. “The three tribes (Oklahoma,

Mississippi and Louisiana Choctaws) have been working a lot together.”

“The revitalization of our games is a huge accomplishment,” Folsom added. “It's good to see all our kids involved and wanting to learn.

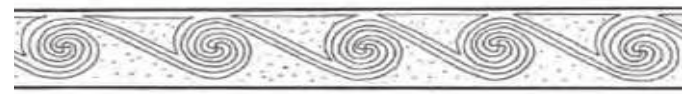
“Someday, we will see them walking around with sticks as naturally as they do today with basketballs or baseballs.”

# Choctaw Tattoos

Tattoos (“hakshup in- chuwa” in the Choctaw language) are a fairly popular topic at the Choctaw Nation historic Preservation Department. Staff are contacted at least once a month by people who are interested in learning about Choctaw tattoos. Some just want to add to their general knowledge of Choctaw traditional culture, while others may be interested in getting tattoos that express their Choctaw identity or that connect them with ancestors who wore tribal tattoos in the past.

For our ancestors, tattoos had a deep significance. Young men had to earn the right to wear a tattoo by overcoming an enemy on the battlefield. After returning home, such a young man would be given a warrior name and tattoos so that everyone saw him would recognize him as an accomplished warrior who had risked his life to protect his community. Back on the battlefield, a tattooed warrior would be immediately recognized as a powerful fighter. He might be avoided by some enemies, but others who wished to test themselves or who enjoyed a good fight, might very well seek him out.

Southeastern tribes made their tattoos by first tracing the designs on the skin, using charcoal to make the designs visible. Then, a bone needle or a garfish tooth was employed to put many small punctures in the surface of the skin within the area that had been traced, until the blood started to flow. Right after the punctures were made, the skin would be rubbed with a pigment. Some of this pigment, would become lodged in raw, exposed portions of the epidermis, making a permanent, colored design in the person's skin. One of the most common pigments was made from the soot that is created when pine sap burns. This made a bluish tattoo. Other tattoos worn by South-



## Iti Fabussa

eastern warriors were red or black. Being tattooed in the traditional way usually made people physically sick for a few days (Du Pratz 1758).

It was common for a proven Choctaw warrior to have his family symbols tattooed on his stomach, chest or arms. Unfortunately, we don't know a lot about the specific designs of these tattoos. To the author's knowledge, only one surviving depiction exists of a tattooed Choctaw warrior (Fig. 1). His tattoo is a simple geometric design that goes around his neck, and down onto his chest. It is possible that other Choctaw warriors may have had much more elaborate tattoos, like their Muscogee neighbors to the east. William Bartram described Muscogee warrior



Fig. 1, Choctaw warrior with painted face and tattooed neck and torso (De Batz ca. 1732).

tattoos in the following way: “...commonly the sun, moon, and planets occupy the breast; zones or belts, or beautiful fanciful scrolls, wind around the trunk of the body, dividing the body into many fields or tablets, which are filled with representations of animals or battle...” (1853:19).

Warriors were not the only members of Choctaw society that wore tattoos. Women from the

Sixtowns district commonly wore blue facial tattoos that consisted of straight lines running from the corners of the mouth down the side of the chin (Fig. 2). Choctaw bone-pickers also had their own distinguishing tattoos, or possibly brands. Presumably, the bone-picker tattoos were distinct from those of the warriors, but we currently know absolutely nothing about their specific design.



Fig. 2, Sixtowns Choctaw women with facial tattoos (Bodmer 1834).

## Housing Authority holds Heritage Day

Staff at the Housing Authority in Hugo set aside June 13 to celebrate Choctaw culture. They enjoyed traditional, arts and crafts, artwork, dancing and learning about stickball.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED  
Doris Ross cooks a pot of pashofa to add to the day's traditional lunch items.



Shelley Garner, right, demonstrates how to make a corn husk doll for Valerie Powell.

**Healthy Male Research Subjects Needed**  
We are looking for the following:

- Ages 18-50
- American Indian volunteers w/ CDIB Card
- High school graduate or GED
- Read and speak English fluently
- No history of brain injury, substance abuse, or mental illness

Time Commitment: One 90 minute session  
If you are interested in participating in a research study of computerized tests examining attention, memory, and reasoning that will aid men and women in the Armed Forces please call 918.448.6796

**Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic**  
Sponsor Institution: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Study PIs: C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D. and Myron F. Weiner, M.D. Contact PIs @ 214.648.4427  
Participants will be compensated for their time upon completion of the study visit with a \$50 gift card to Wal-Mart.

**MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT & PERSONAL GROWTH**  
The Management Training Program provides on-the-job experiences that will teach you about the daily responsibilities and activities of being a manager. You will be given the unique opportunity to work within various departments to develop an understanding of the skills required for a management career while gaining exposure to multiple aspects of our business.

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To be eligible for consideration, you'll need to:

- Display strong teamwork abilities
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- Have basic computer skills
- Complete required application and essay
- Have mobility within the 10+ counties of the Choctaw Nation

Choctaws will be given preference.  
Pre-employment testing and/or formal education may be required for specific areas of management training.

**CHOCTAW CASINOS**  
Take the first step today by contacting your local HR department for more information.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Anonti, falamvt ish vla chike!

Pronounced:  
Ah-non-teh, fah-la-maht ish ah-la che-keh!

You come back again!

Word Meaning:  
anonti – again falamvt – return ish – you  
vla – to arrive chike – will be, may be

### Ome, chi pisa la chike!

Pronounced:  
O-meh, che pe-hn-sa la che-keh!

Yes, / Very well, I will be seeing you. *or*  
Yes, / Very well, I will see you later!

Word Meaning:  
ome – yes chi – you pisa – see  
la – I (changed from li to la for future tense)  
chike – will be, may be

Note: “Ome” **cannot** be used to answer a question in the affirmative. To answer a question, we respond with “A, sa hochchifo yat Bob.” – Yes, my name is Bob.”

“Ome” is used to respond in agreement or acknowledgment to a statement, conversation, or leave-taking expressions.

www.choctawschool.com

The adult shirts will be \$12 and children's are \$10 at the festival.  
Mail outs are \$15 to cover shipping.



**Festival T-Shirts & Souvenirs Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

✓	Item	Quantity	Total Price
<input type="checkbox"/>	A - Waterproof drawstring backpack with Seal - can be worn as a backpack or carried - \$10.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	B - Labor Day Shirt - Grey - \$15.00	Size _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	C - Labor Day Shirt - Yellow - \$15.00	Size _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	D - Labor Day Cap - White - \$12.00	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	E - Labor Day Cap - Black - \$12.00	N/A	

T-shirt sizes available are:  
Children - (2-4), (6-8), (10-12), and (14-16)  
Adult - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

Postage and handling is included.  
Order Total \_\_\_\_\_  
To order, send payment (No Personal Checks) with completed form to:  
Labor Day T-Shirts  
PO Box 1210  
Durant OK 74702

# OBITUARIES

## Warren Kemp

Warren V. Kemp, 41, of Fort Towson, passed away on May 10, 2012, in Tulsa.

Warren was born May 12, 1970, in Oklahoma City, the son of Will V. Kemp and Lila (Lewis) Kemp and had lived in the Fort Towson area since 1988. Warren graduated from Atoka High School in 1988. He married Tammy Parrish in Fort Towson on Feb. 26, 1996. He enjoyed sports, liked to talk and play softball and enjoyed attending pow-wows and singings. Warren was proud of his Choctaw heritage and had worked for the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority for 16 years.

He is survived by his wife Tammy Kemp; son Joseph Wilmer Kemp of Ft. Towson; daughter Kimberly Dawn Kemp of Ft. Towson; parents, Will and Lila Kemp of Ft. Towson; three aunts, June Baker, Carol Kemp and Wanna Moore, all of Oklahoma City; cousins, Rondel Kemp and Darren Kemp of Oklahoma City; along with many other relatives and friends.



## Jeanette Jones

Jeanette Cole Jones, 90, of Oklahoma City, passed away May 5, 2012, at an Oklahoma City nursing home. She was born on Sept. 20, 1921, in Wewoka, to Sampson and Sara Brown Cole. She graduated from Gerty High School and attended Oklahoma City Community College. She married Thomas Jones. He preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 1997. Mrs. Jones was a licensed practical nurse at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City. She was of the Baptist faith and a domino player.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and children, Patricia Moore, Rosa Lee Gilbreath and Jimmy Moore.

She is survived by son, J.R. Moore with wife Kathy of Moore; daughters, Patty Timmons with husband David of Gerty, and Kandi Allman with husband Michael of Ada; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and other loving relatives and friends.



## Dewayne Gibson

Dewayne Carl Gibson, 62, passed away on June 11, 2012, in Tulsa. He was born Feb. 24, 1950, in Hugo, to Rev. Pipkin Phillip and Rendy (Frazier) Gibson. Dewayne was a member of the Bobb-Myers United Methodist Church. He enjoyed fishing, walking his dog Lunka, watching Rick and Rodney play football for Jones Academy and watching his nephew Jaren Richards play football during the 2008-2010 seasons. Dewayne loved life and he loved spending it with his family and friends.

Dewayne was preceded in death by his parents; and brother Pipkin Gibson Jr.

He is survived by his sisters, Mary Wilson of Antlers, Agnes Ward of McAlester, and Elaine Gibson of Antlers; brother-in-law Norman Going of Smithville; nieces and nephews, Latajah Baker and son Blaine of McAlester, Jaren Richards of Durant, Timothy D. Baker of Antlers, Rodney Richards and his children, Tara, Ayliah, Shayla and Jaylen of Antlers, Rick Richards with wife Cheryl and their children, Pipkin, Brianna and Justin of Idabel, Renelle Richards of Chickasha, Ted Williams with wife Lisa and their children, Bret, Lauren, Gabriella and Alysia of Durant, Jerry Williams of Main, Weegie and Maurice Baker and their children, Jill, Bretton and Melanie of Durant, Vanessa Williams Johnson and her children, Jordan, Jerry and Sapphire of Durant; great-nephew Jaden, son of Randy and Christy Hammons of Rattan; great-niece Taria Smith, daughter of Dusty Smith of Antlers; step-nieces and nephews, Andrea Going and her children, Gavin, Andrew, Misty and Kayla of Dequeen, Ark., Collette Ludlow with husband Daryl and their children, Sarah, Ashley, Matthew and Gabrielle of Smithville and Broken Bow, Lance Going with wife Chandia and children Alexander, Damario and Alysia of Broken Bow, Brian Going with wife Nanju and their children, Scott, Joseph, Shaun, Katie and Brian of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with Brian stationed in Afghanistan, and Jon Going with wife Cristal and their children, Sarah and Zachary of Dallas.



## Shirley Elliott

Shirley L. Elliott, 79, passed away on May 15, 2012, in Oklahoma City. Shirley was born in Ada to Jane L. (Bigger) and James A. Elliott. She graduated from Pleasant Grove High School in Seminole. She received a B.S. Ed from East Central State College (now East Central University) in 1954, in Ada and an M.E. from Loyola University in 1962, in New Orleans.

She attained 30 additional graduate hours as well. During her summers, she would pursue these additional credit hours at such schools as the University of Southern Mississippi, Central State College (now Central State University) in Edmond, Louisiana State University and the University of Oklahoma. Learning was as important to her as teaching and she always enjoyed meeting and working with the younger students because it helped her relate to the students she was teaching. She taught 3 years at Butner High School in Wewoka, before moving to Louisiana. In Harvey, La., she taught business education at West Jefferson High School from 1956 to 1964, and later served at the school as counselor for three years. Then she moved to L. W. Higgins High School in Marrero, La., where she served as an assistant principal from 1967-1975 before returning to West Jefferson High as assistant principal for another 20 years. Ms. Elliott retired from West Jefferson in 1994, and returned to Oklahoma, the land she always loved. She was especially proud of her Choctaw heritage. After returning to Oklahoma, she worked for 10 years with H&R Block. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Iota Chi Conclave, Kappa Delta Pi, Delta Kappa Gamma, Louisiana State Teachers Association and Jefferson Parrish Principals Association. She enjoyed playing duplicate bridge and she was an accomplished artist and quilter.

Shirley is survived by brother James Elliott with wife Joyce of Tecumseh; and sister Leota with husband Dr. Ted Violett of Eufaula.



## Charles Wear

Charles T. Wear, 62, of Paris, passed away at 6:40 p.m., on March 16, 2012, at Paris Regional Medical Center-South. Charles was born April 15, 1949, in Lamar County to William Bailey and Gracie Mollie Honnel Wear. He married Bettye Sue Love on Aug. 8, 1969. Mr. Wear was an insurance salesman for American National Insurance Company for 22 years, retiring in May of 2011. He was a member of the Paris Church of God.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Jimmy Ward.

Mr. Wear is survived by his wife, Bettye Wear; daughters, Angela Schroeder with husband Steve, and Priscilla Darnell with husband Wes; grandchildren, Paul Dalton Darnell, Conor Jace Darnell, and Brianna Brooke Schroeder; brothers, Billy Wear with wife Nancy, Melvin Wear with wife Wanda, Raymond Wear with wife Lisa, Donald Wear with wife Ruth, and Bobby Wear with wife Joy; sisters, Lemmie Mae Chennault, Juanita Hooten and Greta Baker with husband Bobby; and several nieces and nephews.



## Joy Rastall

Joy Bernice Rastall, 78, an aircraft assembler, passed away on May 16, 2012, in Fort Worth. Joy was born May 23, 1933, in Wapanucka to Reeves Bruce and Hazel Harrison Bigger. Joy was a member at large of the order of Eastern Star, Crowley Chapter.

Survivors include her husband, RH Rastall of Crowley; son Rodney L. Rastall with wife Regina of Memphis, Tenn.; grandchildren, Sophie and Lucas of Memphis; nephew Bobby Joe Bigger of Crowley, La.; sister Helen Niles with husband Jerry of Corpus Christi, Texas; and extended family and friends.



## Emanuel Gage

Emanuel "Buck" Gage Sr., 89, of Martinsburg, W.V., passed away on June 19, 2011, at the Carolina House of Durham, N.C. after a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's dementia.

He was born on Sept. 25, 1921, in Keota, and was the son of the late Monroe Gage and Ethel Cole Gage. Buck attended and was raised at Jones Academy by the Choctaw Nation. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Infantry, 45th Division, serving in World War II. He was honorably discharged and awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He considered Martinsburg, W.V., his home and was well respected within the community. He was an avid hunter and sportsman. Buck retired from E.I. DuPont with 35 years of service. He was an honorable man who loved his family and friends. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and his service to his country.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Mary Jeanette Meiser Gage.

He is survived by son Emanuel "Bucky" Gage Jr.; wife Amy; grandson Hunter James Gage of Saginaw, Mich.; and daughter Patti Szymborski with husband Tom of Durham, N.C.



## Gertrude Curtis

Gertrude Logan Curtis, 78, passed away on April 9, 2012, at her home in Ada. She was born on Sept. 12, 1933, in the Lula Community in Pontotoc County, to Roosevelt Logan and Elzona Colbert Logan.

Gertrude attended Napier Public Schools and was a member of Reaper Baptist Church, where she served faithfully as an usher.

She married Walter Curtis Jr. in 1958, in Ada. Together they raised three children. Walter passed away on Aug. 17, 1988.

She worked as a caregiver of children and the elderly most of her adult life. Her true passions were caring for her children, parents and many other family members and the joy she found in serving the Lord. She enjoyed fishing, watching ballgames and playing Yahtzee and dominoes.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and stepfather, Jodie Brown.

She is survived by her two sons, Urban J. McCarther with wife Charlene, and Michael Curtis with wife Maria, both of Oklahoma City; daughter Elzona Curtis of Ada; brother Clifford Logan with wife Shirley of Dallas; sister Bernice Gordon of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

## Charles Pickens

Charles Johnson Pickens, 65, passed away on March 29, 2012, in Norman. Charles was born Nov. 23, 1946, in Concho, to Charles J. and Minerva (Gibson) Pickens. He was raised in Blanchard and South Oklahoma City. Charles worked for Climatemasters in Oklahoma City for several years. He attended college at Haskell for four years and graduated from there. While in attendance at Haskell, he played football for the school. On June 18, 1968, Charles joined the U.S. Army. While in Vietnam, he was dropped in the hot zone and was missing in action for about two months. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Good Conduct Medal and Expert Rifle. He was honorably discharged Aug. 14, 1978, with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Charles was active with the Veterans and he enjoyed movies, pow wows and all sports, especially football.

Charles is preceded in death by his parents; brother Kirk Pickens; and grandmother Magdelene Edwards.

Survivors include his siblings, Betty Wolfe of Moore, Eugene Pickens of Wilson, Kathy Thompson with husband John of Blanchard, Verda Haines, Maynard Spencer and Myra Pierson with husband Mike, all of Tuttle; and numerous nieces and nephews.



## Marcus Battiest

Marcus Ray Battiest, 64, of Downey, Calif., passed away on April 19, 2012. He was born on June 28, 1947, in Talihina, the son of Marcus and Rachel Watson Battiest.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Kenny Battiest; sisters-in-law Georgia Nehka; and cousin Carrie Louis.

Marcus is survived by his daughters, Lisa Marie Battiest and Sheryl L. Battiest; granddaughters, Erica Marie Battiest-Andrade, Hessica Angel Battiest, Natalie Rose Battiest and Desiree Battiest, of Oklahoma; son-in-law Sergio Andrade; great-grandson Christian Battiest-Andrade; sisters, Naomi Carrillo and Oleta Martinez, both of Oklahoma; sisters-in-law, Serena Bond and Betsy Bond, both of Oklahoma; many cousins, nieces, nephews; and many friends and coworkers.



## Curtis Lewis

Curtis Harold Lewis, 78, of Heavener, passed away on March 29, 2012, in Tulsa. He was born on Sept. 3, 1933, in Petros, (Hodgen) to Raymond Curtis and Lillie Belle (Kelley) Lewis. Curtis worked in the coal mines.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Donald Lewis; sister Betty Allen; and nephew Joey D. Byrd.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Hall with husband Jeff of Heavener; grandchildren, Kelley and Jennifer Sayahnejad of Wichita, Kan., Samantha and Adam Cox of Gainesville, Texas; great-grandsons, Thomas Cox, Waylon Cox, Owen Cox and Cooper Sayahnejad; sister Ema Mae and R.B. West of Heavener; and niece, Sharon Evens of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., along with other relatives and many friends.

He was laid to rest in Hodgen Cemetery following a full military service and 21 gun salute.



## Lynn Perry

Lynn Allen "Dick" Perry of Heavener, passed away on May 6, 2012. He was born June 2, 1941, in Talihina. Dick was the son of original Choctaw enrollee Raymond Perry and Lula (Thorne) Perry, a Cherokee.

Dick had lived in Heavener since 2009. Prior to living in Heavener, Dick had called the mountains south of Heavener home, as he dwelt in his primitive cabin near Cedar Lake. Although he preferred to live alone, once you gained his trust and respect, one could not have a finer individual to claim as a friend.

He cherished the times he spent visiting with his many friends around the country. Dick quietly went about serving other folks. He was the type of person who would come by just to "check on you" to see how you were doing. If you had a need, he would help you any way he could. Dick was devoted to documenting his Indian ancestry and had a truly amazing knowledge and memory of the times and events that shaped his family's lives.

He is survived by his daughter, Tasha Rust Callahan and her daughter, Haven of Heavener; sisters, Mona Lea Perry of Belton, Mo., and Patricia Caughern of Heavener; and brother Charles Hardy Perry of Hodgen.

## Rachel Shomo

Rachel Shomo, 78, of Broken Bow, passed away on June 15, 2012, at her home. She was born April 28, 1934, in Broken Bow, the daughter of the late Green and Luanna (Billy) Ale-mohtubbi.

Rachel was a member of Kulli Chito United Methodist Church in Broken Bow. She was a homemaker, and enjoyed sewing, baking and spending time with her grandchildren and family.

She was preceded in death by her husband; brothers, Elus Ale-mohtubbi and Preston Billy; sister Virgie; and grandchildren, Shane Michael Tollison and Mathew Wayne Tollison.

She is survived by her sons, Glenn Tollison with wife Julie, and Raymond Tollison with wife Angela, all of Broken Bow; daughter Janis Anderson of Broken Bow; sister Eula Lufkin of Ada; eight grandchildren, Raymond Jr., Cody, Brandon, Amy, Renea, Porshla, Shawnee and Angenia; six great-grandchildren, Ricky, Isaiah, Breanna, Jessica, Kylie and Gabriella; special friend and cousin, Iris James; and a host of other family and friends.



## Glenda Loma

Glenda Jean (Wade) Loma, 62, of Pickens, passed away on June 7, 2012, at her home. She was born Jan. 11, 1950, in Battiest, the daughter of the late Carlo and Esien (Cobb) Wade. Glenda was affiliated with the Baptist faith. She was a nurse aide, enjoyed quilting, helping others in need and loved to take care of her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister Betty Sullivan; grandmother Jincy Ingram; aunts, Geraldine Jones and Nora Long; cousin Eastman Wade; uncle Sam Rivers; brothers-in-law, Ryman Battiest and Winston Davis Jr.; son-in-law James Reynolds; mother-in-law Sarah Obe; and several aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her husband, Edward Loma of the home; son Daniel with Dawn Loma of Stillwater; daughters, Alicia with Bobby Noah of Pickens, and Rhonda Reynolds of Battiest; brothers, R.C. with Dona Wade of Las Vegas, and Cecil with Adrienne Wade of Noble; sisters, Mary Jane Battiest of Wright City, Minnie with Larry Spearman of Gardena, Calif., Nancy with Ron Smith of Slaughterville, Matilda with Jimmy Paxton of Valliant, and Marilyn Thomas of Idabel; grandchildren, Kasi Jo Noah, Mckenzie Loma, Alexis Reynolds, Seneca Loma, Derek Noah, Brennan Long and Taylor Long; aunts and uncles, Jerry and Sally Ingram of Illfield, N.M., and Leona Rivers of Battiest; special nieces and nephew Keosha Ludlow, Nakisha Ludlow, and Jerry Ludlow; a special friend, Rusty Storm Stuart; and a host of other relatives and friends.



# Choctaw Days

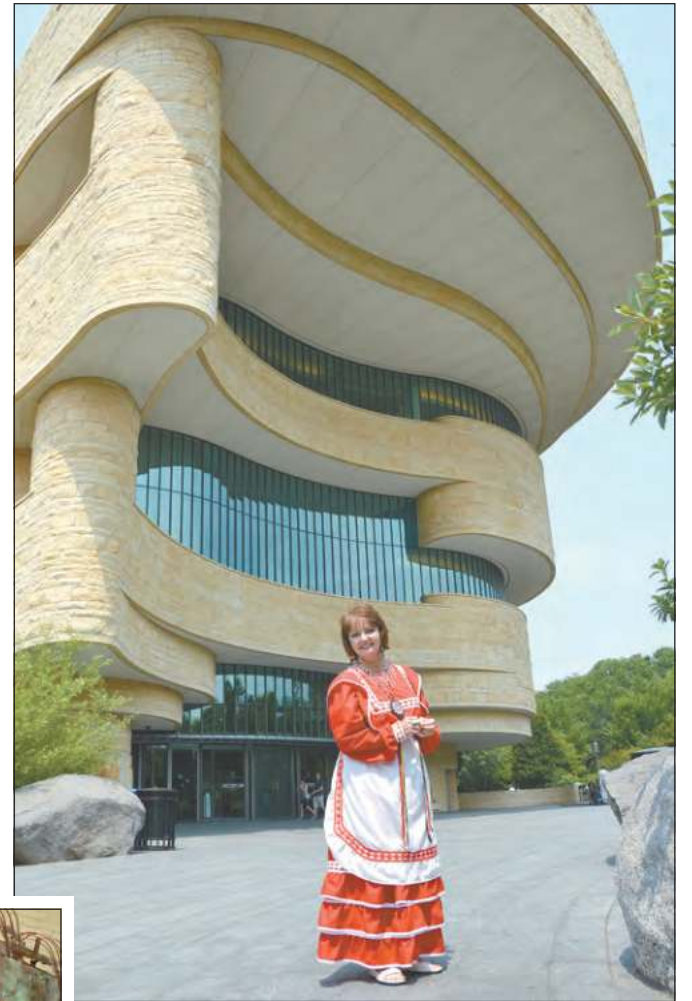
JUNE 20-23 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Juan Graciano, far right, along with son, Tony Graciano, and grandson Hunter, all of Delaware, are all smiles along with Assistant Chief Batton, and Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Thomas Williston.



Paul Hacker presents one of his handmade knives to NMAI Director Kevin Gover.



The beautifully detailed NMAI building towers behind artist Jane Semple Umsted.

## CHOCTAW DAYS

Continued from Page 1

the Rasmuson Theater. Also in the Rasmuson, members of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Theatre Department brought "To Us It Wasn't Code" to the stage every afternoon. The young performers, all Choctaw, acted out the story of how Choctaw soldiers in World War I became the first to develop a code with their native language.

During a special presentation on June 20, Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco (Ret.) of the Military Warriors Support Foundation and Assistant Chief Gary Batton surprised James Rivera of Jacksonville, Fla., with the keys to a new home provided by the program Homes 4 Wounded Heroes. Rivera, who was a sergeant in the Marine Corps, was driving a Humvee in Iraq that was hit by an improvised explosive device in 2004.

The veteran had no idea he was to be the recipient of the new home. Emotions played out on his face, beginning with shock and gradually as realization replaced surprise, he hugged both Sisco and Batton and thanked everyone for a gift that will make a tremendous difference in his life.

Al Cherry, chief pilot for the tribe, provided information on the Veterans Airlift Command, a program the Choctaw Nation has been involved in for years. The video he played in the Rasmuson Theater gave a description of the many veterans and their families who have been assisted.

The Color Guard posted the flags of our tribe, our state and our nation every morning. They flew over each day's activities, a testament of the Choctaw Nation's long history and its strengths. The fourth flag brought forth was the black MIA/POW flag. As the accomplishments of veterans were honored, it reminded participants of the many warriors who haven't come home.

Yakoke, to our Tvshka Chahta, our Choctaw warriors. Choctaw Days in our nation's capitol has spread the knowledge of what Choctaw veterans have done for our country.



Artist and presenter D.G. Smalling enjoys the Choctaw Days festival. Smalling is the great-grandson of a Choctaw Code Talker.



The Johnsons - Moses, Lena and Bubba - sing Choctaw hymns at Choctaw Days.



Bruce Frazier, Alicia Frazier, Beth Lawless, Chantelle Standefer and Brad Gernand were among those in attendance at the opening night reception. Bruce, Alicia, Beth and Chantell are among the descendants of Choctaw Code Talker Tobias Frazier.



Greg Rodgers plays the flute and Tim Tingle beats on a drum during a presentation at Choctaw Days.



Artist Theresa Morris takes a moment to show off a piece of warrior artwork.



Frankie Dodd, right, of Penn Valley, Calif., takes a break from the activities to spend time with her grandson Steven Cobb, of Chantilly, Va.



Kendra King, originally from Clayton, and Karissa Bowes make a cornhusk doll.



Susan and John Allen Zimmer of Salisbury, Md., have a great time at the festival.



Councilman Ted Dosh, right, and Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco (Ret.) visit with Leslie Croson of Centerville.



Gary Cobb marks a spot on the map.

### Choctaw Nation Labor Day Annual POWWOW August 31, 2012 Tuskahoma, OK

**STAFF**  
 Head Man - Adam Nordwall  
 Head Woman - Yvette Goodeagle  
 MC - Tim Tallchief  
 Head Gourd - Randy Frazier  
 AD - Bill Takes Horse  
 Color Guard - Choctaw Nation  
 Host Southern Drum - RoanHorse  
 Host Northern Drum - The Horses

**SCHEDULE**  
 2:00-5:00 pm Gourd Dance  
 5:00-6:00 pm Break  
 6:00 pm - Gourd Dance  
 7:00 pm - Grand Entry

**ADULT MEN AND WOMEN 19-50 YEARS**

**GOLDEN AGE 50 AND OVER**

MENS - Straight-Traditional-Fancy Dance-Grass  
 WOMENS - Cloth-Buckskin-Jingle Dress-Fancy Shawl

1st - \$500 • 2nd - \$400 • 3rd - \$300 • 4th - \$200 • 5th - \$100

**SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS 13 - 18 years**

**JR BOYS AND GIRLS 7 - 12 years**

Boys - Straight-Traditional Fancy Dance-Grass  
 Girls - Cloth-Buckskin-Jingle Dress Fancy Shawl

Boys - Straight-Traditional Fancy Dance-Grass  
 Girls - Cloth-Buckskin-Jingle Dress Fancy Shawl

1st - \$150 • 2nd - \$125 • 3rd - \$100

1st - \$125 • 2nd - \$100 • 3rd - \$75

Tiny Tots 0-6

Call Willard Polk or Sue Folsom @ 580/924-8280 for more information. Call for booth fee information. PowWow is FREE, bring your own chairs, drums welcome. Princesses are invited  
 \*\*\*ALCOHOL/DRUGS ARE NOT TOLERATED - NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT or ACCIDENTS\*\*\*

**Choctaw Indian Art Show**  
 September 1-2, 2012

*Choctaw Labor Day Festival* Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum - Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma  
 August 30-September 3, 2012



Stickball at the Nation's Capitol.



Brad Joe chants for fun participation in the Stealing Partners dance.



Evaline Steele works her magic with baskets.

# Choctaw Days

JUNE 20-23 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Log on to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Facebook page for more photos of Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Flute player and maker Presley Byington.



Sarah DeHerrera sings the National Anthem in the Choctaw language.



'Bringing in the Colors'  
A tribute to our military history

Photos by  
CHRISSE DILL, LISA REED,  
JUDY ALLEN & BRAD JOE  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco (Ret.) and Assistant Chief Gary Batton present the keys to a new home to Marine Corps veteran James Rivera from Homes 4 Wounded Heroes.



The Choctaw ponies, like Kashi, were a big hit with guests. Trainer Alanna Salisbury, in background, holds the lead rope as a young girl leans in to pet the pony.



Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno, Jr. Miss Adrianna Curnutt and Little Miss Summer Moffitt placed bouquets of flowers at the Vietnam and World War II (above) War Memorials and the grave sites of Pushmatahah and Peter Pitchlynn.



Choctaw Color Guard posts the flags to open each day.



Director of Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States Roland Celette, Councilmen Ted Dosh, Thomas Williston and Anthony Dillard and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Mitsitam Executive Chef Richard Hetzler demonstrates cooking Choctaw-inspired dishes.



Nuchi Nashoba, Ruth Frazier McMillan and Jane Semple Umsted enjoy the reception.



Choctaw historian and storyteller Olin Williams tells a group of children about Tiak Osi's Rabbit Hunt, a tale of a boy's coming of age.



The cast of "To Us It Wasn't Code" – Dustin Curry, Chantelle Standefer, Twahna Kemp-Finley, David Batton and Brenner Billy. The series of short plays is produced by Southeastern Oklahoma State University for this year's Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Les Williston's booth on traditional weaponry and tools is a favorite of visitors at Choctaw Days.

# Entertainment

## August 31 through September 2

### Free to the public



## Friday night

## Saturday night

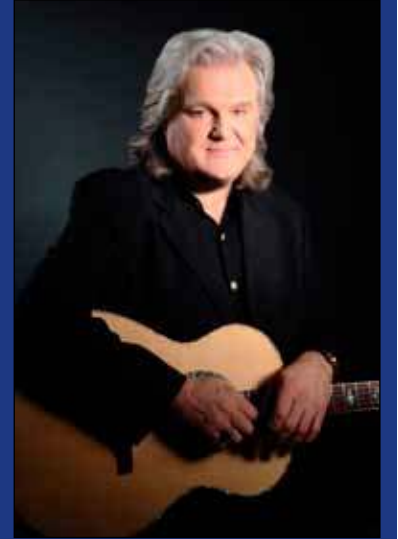
**Hankerin' 4 Hank 5:30 p.m.**

**Ricky Skaggs 7 p.m.**

Hankerin' 4 Hank promises to hold true to the original arrangements and style of Hank Williams Sr. These incredibly talented musicians are taking a step back in time in presenting these tunes in the style that Hank wrote them. You will experience the look and the sound of Hank Williams as he performed in 1951. Hankerin' 4 Hank provides the "Drifting Cowboy" sound that backed Hank, complete with the doghouse bass and honky tonk guitar and steel that so much defined the music of that era.



By age 21, Ricky Skaggs was already considered a "recognized master" of one of America's most demanding art forms, but his career took him in other directions, catapulting him to popularity and success in the mainstream of country music. His life's path has taken him to various music genres, from where it all began in bluegrass music, to embarking on new musical journeys, while still leaving his musical roots intact.



2012 marks the 53rd year since Ricky struck his first chords on a mandolin, and this 14-time Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. With 12 consecutive Grammy-nominated classics behind him, all from his own Skaggs Family Records label, the diverse and masterful tones made by the gifted Skaggs come from a life dedicated to playing music that is both fed by the soul and felt by the heart.

**Sara Evans 7 p.m.**

**Martina McBride 9 p.m.**

Six years after her first studio album, Sara Evans released "Stronger," her newest record that is filled with the kind of gutsy explorations on life and love that have made her one of the most compelling female vocalists of her generation.



Sara's continually remained a favorite at country radio thanks to such hits as "Born To Fly," "Suds In The Bucket," "I Keep Looking," "Perfect," "No Place That Far" and "A Real Fine Place To Start."

Her newest album's lead single, "Stronger," is just the latest jewel in an already stellar career. Sara has earned numerous accolades, including the Academy of Country Music's Top Female Vocalist honor in 2006 and the Country Music Association's Video of the Year prize for "Born To Fly." Her previous studio albums have been strong sellers. Her sophomore set, "No Place That Far," has been certified Gold; 2001's "Born to Fly" is double-Platinum and 2003's "Real Fine Place To Start" and "Restless" are both Platinum.

After two decades in the music business, Martina McBride has made some changes, now signed to Republic Nashville, with new management, a new co-producer and newly-spotlighted song-writing skills, having penned over half the songs on "Eleven," her newest album.



"Teenage Daughters," Martina's debut single for Republic Nashville, was released the week after Country Radio Seminar, and fans immediately recognized Martina's personal stamp in the lyrics. Her follow-up single, "I'm Gonna Love You Through It," wasn't penned by the singer, but touched Martina personally.

In a career that has already taken her to breathtaking heights (four Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year trophies, three Academy of Country Music Female Vocalist awards, a Grammy win, numerous national magazine covers and features and appearances on such shows as VH1's "Divas," "Today Show," "20/20," "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars," Martina is ready to take it up a notch with the help of her new label.

**Josh Turner 9 p.m.**

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store presents Josh Turner, with his deep voice and catchy, while meaningful, lyrics.

The singer-songwriter was months away from scheduled recording sessions when he first heard "Why Don't We Just Dance," which became the debut single from his fourth studio album, "Haywire."

Since earning a standing ovation as an unknown singer on the Grand Ole Opry stage in 2001 with his impressive delivery of "Long Black Train," he has established himself as one of the most identifiable male vocalists in country music.

Josh has sold more than 4 million albums, with his debut album was certified platinum for more than one million copies sold, and his sophomore album, "Your Man," was one of only four country albums to reach double-platinum status in 2006. Six years after his Opry debut, he was inducted into the prestigious organization, becoming one of the youngest artists to receive such an honor.



*Schedule is subject to change. No drugs or alcoholic beverages allowed on tribal grounds.*

**Bring your quilts and lawn chairs and enjoy the Choctaw Nation's exciting lineup this year!**

**Concerts take place at the amphitheater on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.**

## Sunday night



**The Kingsmen 7 p.m.**

If there's one group whose name inspires thoughts of pure, passionate, solid and true music, it's The Kingsmen. They've encouraged and uplifted listeners with their unique style since the conception of the group in 1956. With countless records and compilations sold, Grammy nominations, four Dove Awards and an induction into the "Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame" (class of 2000), "The Christian Music Hall of Fame" (2008), this certainly solidifies The Kingsmen as Christian music's most predominate group. The momentum has not stopped as the group continues to help define the Southern Gospel genre for a whole new generation of music lovers, perhaps more so than any other group.

There aren't too many groups today who can boast the kind of far-reaching legacy that comes with more than a five-decade career as one of gospel music's most influential artists. The Kingsmen emerged in the 1950s with their own distinct style, unleashing music that would solidify them as pioneers in the southern gospel music field. They continue to carry on that legacy today, with their music holding a message of Christ, touring year in and year out to spread their music and that message across the country.

**Britt Nicole 8 p.m.**

**Newsboys 9 p.m.**

A native of Salisbury, N.C., Britt Nicole has always had a heart for reaching people and has long used music as the vehicle to change lives. She began singing in church at age 3 and by the time she was in high school, she was appearing on her church's daily television program and logged a performance at New York's famed Carnegie Hall with her school's advanced chorus.



Boldness is generally associated with youth and they say wisdom comes with age, but rarely does one person simultaneously possess both in abundance. However, Britt isn't your average twenty-something as she clearly demonstrates on her vibrant sophomore album, "The Lost Get Found."

In listening to Britt's music, it's obvious she possesses wisdom beyond her years and a spiritual maturity not often seen in one so young. Yet she's very much the playful girl next door and those equally intriguing sides of her personality merge seamlessly on "The Lost Get Found."

This Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning band has sold close to 8 million units, has garnered five Gold albums and 28 number-one radio hits. Newsboys released their most recent CD on Nov. 15, 2011 - the highly anticipated project, "God's Not Dead." This rock-driven worship album finds front man Michael Tait and his band mates, who have played together for two decades, with some of today's most widely church-embraced modern worship anthems as well as several original and never-before-released worship songs written by some of today's biggest worship songwriters.



Renown for their heart-pumping live concerts, the tight-knit Newsboys unit continues to headline gigs in the U.S. and around the world.