



CNO –  
a ‘Clean  
Community’

Page 5



Labor Day  
festival  
information

Information  
throughout this issue



Choctaw  
Summer  
Camps

Page 11

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CHOCTAW NATION

# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2013 Issue

# Culture at the Capitol

## Choctaw Days’ third installment in Washington, D.C.

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) hosted its third installment of Choctaw Days on June 20 and 21 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. The event is one of the CNO’s largest exhibitions of culture and tradition, aimed to educate and immerse patrons in what it truly means to be Choctaw.

“We are always striving to keep our culture alive and strong. We love to share it near and we love to share it far, meeting new Choctaw faces all along the way,” stated Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

During this time, members of CNO occupied the museum’s large atrium, the Potomac Room, and numerous staples of Choctaw culture were showcased. Aspects of the Choctaw way of life included

■ See more event  
photos on Page 15

stickball, social dances, storytelling, beadwork and ceremonies. Each day consisted of three presentations of time-honored traditions with time to meet cultural experts filling the moments between.

“We are always glad to have the Choctaws in town,” said Kevin Gover, director of NMAI, as he addressed the audience. He went on to mention that Choctaw Days was one of the highlights of the museum during the year. Everyone in the booths are so engaging and happy, which creates a pleasant atmosphere and encourages guests to learn more, said Gover.

“When we heard Choctaw Days was going on, we wanted to make sure we made it out,” stated Brad Rauh from Clemson, S.C., who was

in town with his family for a visit. Patrons of the museum showed a pleasurable reception to the event, everyone enjoying the various exhibitions of Choctaw culture.

Each morning the Choctaw princesses initiated the day’s activities by presenting the Lord’s Prayer in sign language, began the midday production with the Four- Directions ceremony, and concluded the day with a special presentation.

Bead-working classes presented by CNO’s Office of Historic Preservation were offered throughout both days on the third floor of the building. Guests were taught to bead bracelets and make beaded turtles, which were chosen because of their significance to the tribe.

“It is very intricate,” stated Rebecca Gelfond, who is from Maryland, but has family in the Choctaw Nation boundaries. Gelfond’s children, Max and Julia, accompanied her in learning beadwork and

seemed to have a knack for the art. “Given Julia’s fascination and success, I suspect we will be [beading again],” she laughed.

Social dances are an integral part to all Choctaw cultural gatherings and Choctaw Day was no different. Dancers energized the room with their quick steps and bright colors, pulling in members of the audience for impromptu appearances in the Raccoon, Stealing Partners and Snake Dances. “It’s a different, more organic rhythm,” stated Kandall Masada, a ballet dancer from Texas.

Stickball was a favorite of the youth in the crowd. Students from various educational groups would overtake the floor following the presentation to try their hand at the ancient sport, which is responsible for today’s lacrosse. Billy Eagle Road III and Jared “Pinti” Tom gave demonstrations, sharing stories of games with Tvshka Hom-

ma, CNO’s official stickball team. “I was totally fascinated by stickball,” exclaimed Kelly McHugle, a visitor to the event.

Special presentations also graced the floor of the Potomac, including the lively stories of Tim Tingle. An award-winning author, Tingle has the ability to get the crowd energized and active through his stories, which often include a combination of Choctaw lore and history. He told guests of the NMAI the story of how rabbit lost his tail, as well as the saga of Bigfoot and the Choctaw princess.

Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray, beadwork artist and chanter Brad Joe, and Broadway actor Aaron Umsted lent the audience their voices for solo performances at various times during the event. Each performer owned their own sound, but each sang completely in the Choctaw language, creating a totally Choctaw experience.

◆ What’s inside

Columns .....2  
Nursery News .....4  
Food Distribution .....4  
Notes to the Nation .....5  
People You Know .....6  
Education .....7  
Obituaries .....10  
Iti Fabvssa .....14

The Mission  
of the Choctaw  
Nation of Oklahoma

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

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



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Tribal Council members, as well as city, county and state officials, gather on June 28 to celebrate the grand openings of a new travel plaza, pictured top, and a new fire station, both located in Idabel.

## Two grand openings held in Idabel

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation celebrated two grand openings on June 28 in Idabel. Tribal, city, county and state officials as well as several tribal members, local residents and customers gathered for ribbon cutting ceremonies at a new travel plaza on Washington Street and a new fire station on Central Street.

“President Kennedy said a long time ago, ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,’” said District 1 Councilman Thomas Williston, “and my heart tells me after working with Chief Pyle, the council and administration that they have taken that to heart. We can and will make our Choctaw people proud of what we have.”

The former travel plaza, one of the nation’s oldest, has been replaced by a 4,000-sq.-ft. facility that will be open 24 hours a day. It offers Champs Chicken, a roller grill, barbecue sandwiches and a better selection of merchandise on the store side.

Director of Travel Plazas Lisa

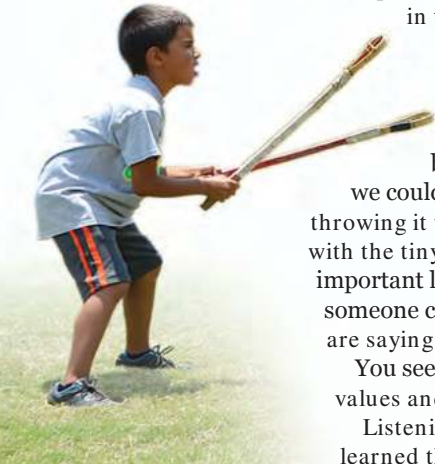
See IDABEL on Page 14



# Stickball taught to young Choctaws

From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The best way to learn stickball is “hands-on training,” and the Choctaw Nation has offered this opportunity to youth the past three years. Each summer, a camp is held at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds for hundreds of students who are coached in the skills of the game.



I enjoyed some of this “hands-on-sticks” training at Tvshka Homma this month with coaches and students. Noah Chaser and I practiced tossing the ball back and forth to each other on the lawn beside the museum until we both began to feel like we could almost catch it. Picking it up from the ground and throwing it to a teammate was easier for me than catching it with the tiny cups at the end of the long-armed sticks. This is an important life lesson to reflect upon – tossing a sentence out to someone can be easier than listening and “catching” what they are saying sometimes, too.

You see, stickball is more than a game; it is a way to teach values and history.

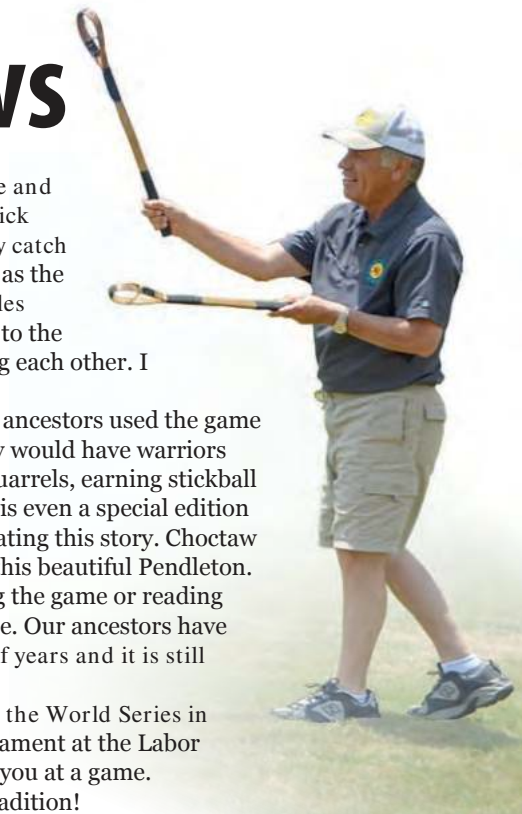
Listening to historian and spiritual leader Olin Williams, I learned that the sticks are different lengths, the cup on the

longer stick slightly larger, representing male and female. They work together, with the male stick protectively encompassing the female as they catch the ball, which is considered the young. Just as the male and female sticks work in unison, couples should be unified in marriage and cooperate to the benefit of their family, helping and protecting each other. I thought this was a great lesson.

Another story about stickball was how our ancestors used the game to solve conflict instead of going to war. They would have warriors compete valiantly on the ball field to settle quarrels, earning stickball the nickname “Little Brother of War.” There is even a special edition Pendleton blanket with a design commemorating this story. Choctaw artist Nancy Southerland-Holmes designed this beautiful Pendleton.

Whether you play stickball, enjoy watching the game or reading about it, this is a part of our Choctaw heritage. Our ancestors have carried this tradition forward for hundreds of years and it is still a passionate sport today.

The Choctaw Nation has a team entered in the World Series in Mississippi each year, and also hosts a tournament at the Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma. I hope I see you at a game. Yakoke to all who continue to carry on the tradition!



## Expansion of CN seen by doubling size of pediatric unit

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

While in Talihina recently, I stopped by the Choctaw Nation hospital to tour the pediatric care unit that has just reopened after extensive renovations. It was outstanding to see the doctors and other health professionals in the spacious new exam rooms and offices, and even better to see the young patients and parents enjoying the beautiful waiting areas.

When told there was “interactive furniture” in the pediatric clinic, I wasn’t sure what that meant, but soon found that the tables reacted to the touch of a hand by lighting up and changing colors. Just as fun, some of the chairs also reacted to body heat by leaving temporary color imprints from a human touch.

The expansion doubled the size of the

clinic, giving it 12 exam rooms, a treatment room and a procedure room. There is a case manager office that will work specifically with pediatric needs.

Parents will be relieved to know that there are two separate waiting areas (well child area and sick child area), so that those seeing the doctor for check-ups and immunizations are not exposed to the children who are ill.

The physical therapy department at the hospital has also expanded to include a separate room for pediatric patients. This means the therapist has more time with young patients and the children are able to better concentrate on their therapy.

The Choctaw Nation Health Services is familiar territory for me. Serving as the hospital administrator and executive of health care were among the jobs I performed before being appointed Assistant

Chief. Improving health care for tribal members is one of the most important goals our leadership has.

My career with the Choctaw Nation has taken me down several paths, and I am thankful for every step. One of the first assignments I had in the tribe was in the purchasing department, so I was able to learn about a lot of different programs and meet many employees through the procurement and delivery process. Later jobs, working as deputy director of housing and then as executive of health services, I was allowed to serve tribal members and their families.

Seeing the growth of the Choctaw Nation and the progress of businesses, services and the interest tribal members have in our tribe, our history and our future make me realize how blessed we all are. Yakoke.



## Biskinik wins OPA awards

By LARISSA COPELAND  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Biskinik, the official publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the recipient of seven awards from the Oklahoma Press Association’s (OPA) Better Newspaper Contest, including top honors in two categories in the sustaining member division – Editorial Comments and Feature Writing.

OPA held an awards presentation program June 14 at the Reed Center in Midwest City as part of its three-day annual convention. Members of the South Dakota Newspaper Association judged almost 900 entries published in the past year from 96 Oklahoma newspapers.

Biskinik submissions for editorial comment were from Chief Pyle’s monthly column. His topics focused on long-standing tribal traditions, the Choctaw Code Talkers and widespread interest in the Choctaw culture, which a judge commented show the tribe “cares deeply about its history.”

The first place feature writing entries included articles on Choctaw basketball player and award-winning dunk artist Kenny Dobbs, young juggler Amon Hayes and the stories of Choctaw elder Olin Williams, which,

according to one judge’s comments, inspire “terrific lessons for the younger generation to pursue excellence and have a purpose in life.”

Other awards received by the Biskinik are:

- Second place in personal columns and photography
- Third place in news content
- Fourth place in sales promotion and community leadership

The Biskinik strives to keep the Choctaw members informed of current events and opportunities, information on healthy lifestyles, education and other program benefits, as well as share submitted news from Choctaws across the nation. Its office is located at the tribal headquarters in Durant with five staff – Media Director Lisa Reed, Assistant Editor Larissa Copeland, Media Specialist Bret Moss, Reporter/Photographer Chrissy Shepard and Purchasing Coordinator Karen Jacob. The Biskinik is a division of the Choctaw Nation Public Relations Department under the direction of Executive Director Judy Allen.



### Chaplain’s Corner

## Peace on Earth

Many are unsure of the way of life we are living and ask, “Where can we find this Peace?”

When we are upset, depressed, and discouraged, where can we find peace?

Peace for the world will be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 9:6: “...and his name shall be called... The Prince of Peace.”

In the same sentence in Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah wrote: “...and the government shall be upon his shoulder...”

Genesis 1:1 of our Holy Bible begins with “In the beginning, God...”

The gospel of John 1:1 begins: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Jesus Christ was the Word and the Word became flesh. We read in John 1:14: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ was marked from the beginning of time to reign. When He comes again, He will come as the sovereign. Sovereign means that whatever He says or does is final; He answers to no one.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. He bought us back with His precious shed blood. He went to Heaven and today He sits at the right hand of God the Father and He is coming back.

The question of who shall rule has been the cause of all our conflicts.

1) Who shall rule in Heaven? 2) Who shall rule in Earth? 3) Who shall rule in the hearts of men?

Two of these questions have already been answered: God ruling in Heaven. He does so now, Jesus said in Matthew 6:9-10: “After this manner therefore pray ye: our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven.”

God’s will is done in Heaven; this is settled. God rules in Heaven, and God shall rule on Earth. He has given His son the right to rule on the Earth. He has given to His son the right to rule on the Earth when He comes the second time. The Scriptures declare in Isaiah 2:3-4:

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

But peace is not due until the Prince of Peace comes. What are we doing today?

We are doing right the opposite. We prepare for wars. At that time we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. We will prepare for peace, because the Prince of Peace will be here and ruling with a rod of iron.

Jesus Christ is not only appointed to reign on Earth, but is also appointed to reign in the hearts of men.

Christ did not come to take away our joy, to work hardship on us or to make us slaves of fear and men whose hearts are full of misery. He came that He might reign in our hearts to give us peace, to make us joyful, happy people. Isn’t that what we are really for?

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans in Romans 5:1: “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We read in Isaiah 26:3: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Let us not make the mistake of trying to find peace, until by trusting in the Prince of Peace, we allow Him to reign in our hearts. This is God’s remedy for all the problems of the heart.

Do you go to church and sing the songs of life, while deep in your heart you know that you have never accepted His invitation to come to Jesus and live?

The church will not give us peace, and I believe in the church with all of my heart. But we cannot go to church forever and sing its songs and go through all the religious rites and still not find peace. The church was not crucified for us. It did not shed its blood as a sinless sacrifice that we might be redeemed from sin; Jesus did that. Nothing else and no one else can bring peace into the human heart.

Listen to Isaiah in Isaiah 57:20-21: “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

Only those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior find peace with God, and it is necessary to commit our life to Jesus Christ as the ruler of our lives in order to experience daily peace of heart.

When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will give you joy and peace in the midst of your trials and troubles.

Have you invited Jesus Christ to come into your heart? Would you like to have Him? You can start now, by being willing to give up your sins and by receiving Jesus in simple, childlike faith. Will you do that?

Continue to pray for America, pray for our leaders, pray for our brave men and women in our armed services. God bless you.

## Tribal Council meets in June session

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

Council members voted to:

- Approve budget modifications for the WIC Farmers’ Market, WIC, and Head Start
- Approve the expansion of the Durant Resort and Casino
- Approve the NAHASDA 2014 Indian Housing Plan
- Approve applications for Tribal

Transit Program, Tribal Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Deployment Assistance Program, and Community-Scale Clean Energy Projects in Indian Country

- Approve an easement for Right of Way and permits for hay baling

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

Over  
18 years  
old?

**Don't forget to update  
your membership card!**

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



# REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

## Choctaw Nation recognized as Clean Community



Choctaw Nation: Lisa Reed

Department of Environmental Quality Deputy Executive Director Jimmy Givens presents the Oklahoma Clean Community award to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The honor is accepted by Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Director of Project Management Tracy Horst while standing in front of a mountain of paper material waiting to be recycled in Durant.

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A ceremony was held June 19 at the Recycling Center in Durant to recognize the Choctaw Nation as an Oklahoma Clean Community.

“Over the last couple of years, The Choctaw Nation has partnered with other communities to hold recycling events during which over 7,000 tires have been collected that would otherwise have ended up in dumps,” said Deputy Executive Director Jimmy Givens of the Department of Environmental Quality. “These events have provided residents and tribal members a safe and effective way to dispose of tires as well as other recyclables.”

DEQ encourages entities to coordinate community-wide cleanups of used tires. DEQ’s Tire Indemnity Fund will pay to haul off old, unused, or abandoned tires. Tire piles can be an eyesore and attract unwelcome pests, such as mosquitoes and rodents. After a community has completed at least one cleanup event, it is then eligible to become an Oklahoma Clean Community.

Givens was very impressed at the interest in the Choctaw Nation’s endeavors and what a broad section of the community has become involved.

“We would also like to recognize those of you who are collaborating with the Choctaw Nation in making this a reality,”

Givens continued from the podium, addressing tribal and city officials in the audience. “We want to commend you for being a partner in resourcing efforts and to encourage you to encourage others to become involved.”

The Choctaw Nation’s Green Team started recycling aluminum cans, printer cartridges and Christmas cards in late 2008.

“It just exploded into a little bit of everything,” said Tracy Horst, director of Project Management and the Green Team. “The Chief, Assistant Chief and Tribal Council have been supportive and the employees have been very active. I can’t say enough about the Going Green team and recycling crew for all the hard work they do.”

A Department of Energy grant kicked off the nation’s full-scale recycling initiative in October 2009 with four employees. The Durant facility opened in December 2010. During that month of December, the facility recycled 14,000 pounds.

The number of staff has doubled and the center is now recycling more than 14 times the original 14,000 pounds each month.

A second recycling facility opened in January in Poteau, partially funded by the Administration of Native Americans. Its two employees are already recycling over 20,000 pounds per month. Horst estimates the Choctaw Nation will reach a total of 5 million pounds of recycled materials by the end of this year.

### Container locations

Facility	Address
<b>District 1</b>	
Idabel Field Office	2408 E. Lincoln Rd., Idabel
Idabel Shopping Center	1421 E. Washington, Idabel
Idabel Health Clinic	902 Lincoln Rd., Idabel
McCurtain City Solid Waste	2302 NE Lincoln Rd., Idabel
Idabel Travel Plaza	2449 E. Washington, Idabel
<b>District 2</b>	
Broken Bow Field Office	210 Choctaw Rd., Broken Bow
Choctaw Gaming Center	1709 S. Park Dr., Broken Bow
<b>District 3</b>	
Choctaw Nation Hospital	1 Choctaw Way, Talihiina
Oklahoma Veterans Center	10014 SE 1138th Ave., Talihiina
<b>District 4</b>	
Recycling Center	304 Kerr Ave., Poteau
Rubin White Health Clinic	109 Kerr Ave., Poteau
Howe High School	21444 E. North Railroad, Howe
The Shoppes on Broadway	3100 N. Broadway, Poteau
Pocola Travel Plaza	3402 "A" Service Rd., Pocola
Poteau Travel Plaza	4105 N. Broadway, Poteau
Wister Public Schools	201 Logan St., Wister
<b>District 4/5</b>	
Spiro Field Office	19400 AES Rd., Spiro
<b>District 5</b>	
Stigler Field Office	120 N. Broadway, Stigler
<b>District 6</b>	
Wilburton Field Office	515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton
<b>District 7</b>	
Antlers Field Office	400 1/2 SW St., Antlers
Push County Collision	1303 E. Main, Antlers
Wright City Field Office	HC 74 Box 1760, Wright City
<b>District 8</b>	
Choctaw Tribal Services	304 Chahta Circle, Hugo
Choctaw Gaming Center	RR 1 Box 17 Hwy 271S, Grant
Hugo Health Clinic	410 N. "M" St., Hugo
Goodland Academy	1216 N. 4299 Rd., Hugo
Kiamichi Opportunities	2204 E. Jackson, Hugo
Hugo Housing Authority	1005 S. 5th St., Hugo
<b>District 9</b>	
Recycling Center	3108 Enterprise Blvd., Durant

**Chukfi and Luksi remind everyone to recycle at the Labor Day Festival Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at Tvshka Homma.**

The Going Green team will be rewarding anyone who brings in 25 plastic bottles and/or aluminum cans with a T-shirt featuring the Choctaw rabbit, Chukfi, and turtle, Luksi.

The booth will be next to the first aid station across from the pow wow grounds.

The Choctaw Nation Utility Authority will also be set up at the booth, sharing tips on how to save energy and natural resources and lower utility costs at home.

### Recycling contests keeping areas cleaner and greener

The Choctaw Nation Going Green team oversaw several recycling contests this spring resulting in cleaner and greener areas in southeastern Oklahoma. One of the most hotly contested was the Great American Cleanup's Red vs. Blue between Durant's fire and emergency crew (red) and the city's police department (blue). The fire department collected over 28,000 pounds of recyclables, coming in ahead of the blue team's 18,000-plus.

Farther northeast in Choctaw Nation country, communities on either side of the mountain faced off in the Battle of the Gowan Mountain Recycling Contest. Wilburton and Red Oak (east) prevailed with 23,965 pounds over Haileyville and Hartshorne (west) with 12,066 pounds.

The contests were a lot of fun with everyone "winning" through the efforts to raise awareness and involvement in recycling.

Choctaw Nation: Lisa Reed

**Firefighter John Vietta tosses an old tire into the Durant Fire Department's recycling bin, helping his team blaze ahead in the Red vs. Blue Recycling Contest.**

## WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

Plastic #1  
With a neck or handle.

Plastic #2  
With a neck or handle.

Cell Phones

Newspaper

Office Paper

Magazines

Aluminum Cans

Print Cartridges

Styrofoam

Shredded Paper

Medicine Bottles

E-Waste  
Anything that runs on Electricity.

Phone Books

Cardboard

Steel Cans

### Choctaw Nation Recycling

3408 Wes Watkins Blvd. Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0488



# Healthcare education at Labor Day Festival

In an effort to keep our tribal members informed of the latest information regarding Health Care Reform, Medicare and Medicaid, presentations will be given on Sunday, Sept. 1, in the Healthy Lifestyle tent at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival. Join the staff in the air conditioned tent for short presentations that will be sure to provide you with valuable health care information which will help you make the right decisions in the upcoming months about your health insurance!

The following presentations will be provided free of charge to anyone who wants to learn more about Medicare and Medicaid plus the new law that affects every American and also hear how to avoid future health tax penalties beginning in 2014.

**How Health Care Reform Will Affect You and Your Family – 1:00-1:30 p.m. and again at 4:15-4:45 p.m.**

Did you know that there are more than 50 million Americans without insurance? President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, also known as Health Care Reform into law on March 2010. This law mandates that every American have health insurance or face a health tax penalty when filing their 2014 IRS income taxes. This presentation will provide you with a better understanding of the new law as well as share the next steps you and your family should take in order

to take full advantage of the new law and avoid unnecessary tax penalties in the future. This is a presentation that you will not want to miss or it may end up costing you in the end. Door prizes will be awarded, and you must be present to win.

**What You Should Know About Medicare and Medicaid – 3:00-3:30 p.m.**

Let the Medicare and Medicaid Specialists help and guide you to ensure you have the best healthcare coverage possible. This presentation will include:


- An overview of the Medicare and Medicaid programs
- The Four Parts of Medicare
- The costs and benefits of having Medicare benefit coverage
- Open enrollment coming this fall and what it means for you
- Who is eligible for Medicaid/SoonerCare benefits
- The income and resource guidelines for Medicaid eligibility will be discussed as well as how to enroll for Medicaid and Medicare.

You might be eligible for free health care and don't even realize it! Don't miss out on this presentation; you could be missing out on low cost or even free health care benefits for you and your family! Door prizes will be awarded, and you must be present to win.

# NURSERY NEWS

**Aria Clark**

Aria Rose Clark was born April 5, 2013, at Loma Linda Children's Hospital in California to Geoff and Autumn Clark. Grandparents are Wallace and Bennie (Benjie) Clark. Choctaw ancestors include Sylvester Wilmon Nanomantube Jr., Sylvester Wilmon Nanomantube Sr., and Wilmon Captian Nanomantube, all of Fort Towson. Proud siblings are Adeline, Greytan and Aspen.



**Sophie Hood**

Sophie Belle Hood was welcomed into the hearts of her parents, Dawn and Richie, sister Cloe, brother Boomer, as well as grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins on Feb. 28, 2013. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.



# CNUA shares money-saving practices

Are you tired of throwing money away? If so, let the Choctaw Nation Utility Authority (CNUA) share some Energy Conservation Practices with you to help you save money.

Since 2009 the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) has been focusing on energy/ water/ gas (utilities) efficiency and utilization. During the last 3 years, the CNO has focused on the utilities and made significant strides in reducing our utility costs both in usage and in our actual cost of utility supplies.

CNUA officially started on March 1 this year, picking up where the utility effort is today and propelling into a new model of centralizing all CNO business decisions regarding utilities: gas, electricity, water, sanitation and communication. The value of centralizing these decisions would be to ensure that CNO applies a consistent business methodology to utility consumption and to maximize their leverage as a very large energy consumer in the region, while in addition maintaining a focus on "green" utility usage and conservation.

For assistance please contact the Choctaw Nation Utility Authority at: 580-326-5031 or stop by at 207 Jim Monroe Rd. Hugo, OK 74743

**'Green' tips**

- One of the most cost-effective ways to make your home more comfortable year-round is to add insulation to your attic.
- Set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower, and the air-conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, health permitting. 3 percent to 5 percent more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees and for each degree the air conditioner is set below 78 degrees
- If you're looking for ways to beat the heat, a ceiling fan can be a great investment for your home.
- Use compact fluorescent lamps. You can lower your lighting bill by converting to energy-efficient low-wattage compact fluorescent lighting and fixtures.
- Clean or replace furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Caulk or tape any leak in ductwork of cooling and heating system.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffee makers, desktop printers, radios, etc).
- Use task lighting: Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.
- Use showers instead of baths (one bath is equal to six five-minute showers).

**Visit with Utility Authority staff during the Labor Day Festival!**

**They will be set up at the Recycling Booth with lots of information.**

# Add more vegetables to your day

It's easy to eat more vegetables! Eating vegetables is important because they provide vitamins and minerals and most are low in calories. To fit more vegetables in your meals, follow these simple tips. It is easier than you may think.

**WIC**  
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

**1. Discover fast ways to cook**

Cook fresh or frozen vegetables in the microwave for a quick-and-easy dish to add to any meal. Steam green beans, carrots, or broccoli in a bowl with a small amount of water in the microwave for a quick side dish.

**2. Be ahead of the game**

Cut up a batch of bell peppers, carrots, or broccoli. Pre-package them to use when time is limited. You can enjoy them on a salad, with hummus, or in a veggie wrap.

**3. Choose vegetables rich in color**

Brighten your plate with vegetables that are red, orange, or dark green. They are full of vitamins and minerals. Try acorn squash, cherry tomatoes, sweet potatoes, or collard greens. They not only taste great but also are good for you, too.

**4. Check the freezer aisle**

Frozen vegetables are quick and easy to use and are just as nutritious as fresh veggies. Try adding frozen corn, peas, green beans, spinach, or sugar snap peas to some of your favorite dishes or eat as a side dish.

**5. Stock up on veggies**

Canned vegetables are a great addition to any meal, so keep on hand canned tomatoes, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, mushrooms, and beets. Select those labeled as "reduced sodium," "low sodium," or "no salt added."

**6. Make your garden salad glow with color**

Brighten your salad by using colorful vegetables such as black beans, sliced red bell peppers, shredded radishes, chopped red cabbage, or watercress. Your salad will not only look good but taste good, too.

**7. Sip on some vegetable soup**

Heat it and eat it. Try tomato, butternut squash, or garden vegetable soup. Look for reduced- or low-sodium soups.

**8. While you're out**

If dinner is away from home, no need to worry. When ordering, ask for an extra side of vegetables or side salad instead of the typical fried side dish.

**9. Savor the flavor of seasonal vegetables**

Buy vegetables that are in season for maximum flavor at a lower cost. Check your local supermarket specials for the best-in-season buys. Or visit your local farmer's market.

**10. Try something new**

You never know what you may like. Choose a new vegetable and add it to your recipe or look up how to prepare it online.

# Exploring outdoors adds change to daily routine

July is a great time to get out and explore the surroundings. Whether in the country or the city fun and interesting components that make up the world we live in and enjoy can be found. Taking time to go out and walk around to explore, learn and enjoy is a fun way to change up the daily exercise routine. This is also a wonderful way to relieve stress. Exercising outdoors can decrease blood pressure and blood sugar, improve heart function and clarity of mind. When going out to explore there are a few different approaches we can take:

- Make a list of specific things you are looking for and then

check them off as you find them.

- Make a list of new things you find or learn about, then keep a journal of your new finds.
- Take along a camera to take photos of new things you find or things you were searching for.
- With children have them make a list of different things they can find with certain colors or shapes.

July is also a wonderful time of year when the garden starts to give us beautiful fruits and vegetables. See this month's recipe to get us outside and to enjoy the bounty of the garden.

**Recipe of the Month**

**Chicken and Vegetable Shish Kabobs**

Recipe provided by Spark Recipes

**Ingredients:**

- 4 Boneless/ skin-less chicken breasts
- 1 Medium, raw green, yellow, orange or red bell pepper
- 1 Medium raw sweet onion
- 2 Small raw potatoes
- 1 Cup barbecue sauce

**Directions:**

1. Cube chicken, bell pepper, onion, and potato.
2. Place all on skewers.
3. Brush with BBQ sauce.



4. Grill until meat is done and potatoes are still slightly crunchy

**Nutrition Facts:**

Makes 8 servings.

Calories - 198.7, Protein - 29.1 g, Carb. - 14.6 g, Dietary fiber - 2.1 g, Sodium - 334.4 mg.

For more information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.




Free help

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

**1 800 QUIT NOW**

784-8669 OKhelpline.com

**Choctaw Nation can aid with loans**



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

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

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

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**ANTLERS**

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28  
**Aug. 7 :** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)  
**Aug. 14:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed** Aug. 29-30 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 2 & 22, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**DURANT**

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28,  
**Closed** Aug. 29-30 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 5 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**McALESTER**

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28,  
**Closed** Aug. 29-30 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 8 & 16, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**POTEAU**

Market open weekdays Aug. 1-28,  
**Closed** Aug. 29-30 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Aug. 12 & 20, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

**CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

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


**WAREHOUSES & MARKETS**

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

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES**

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

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**Choctaw Nation WIC**  
*WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN*

<u>SITE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>DAYS</u>
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



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Kara completes doctorate, thanks Higher Education

I want to let the Choctaw Nation know that on June 5, I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation in Educational Leadership at Portland State University; I will be graduating in the Summer 2013 term. My dissertation research was focused on analyzing means to improve retention and persistence for lower income postsecondary students. I hope to publish the results of my research and continue making contributions in the field with the hope of influencing legislative policy changes to stop the continuing decline in higher education funding that has had such a profound impact on disadvantaged and lower-income students.

I would not have been able to pursue my doctorate without the generous support of my tribe. The scholarships I received enabled me to offset the rising costs of my education. As it became more and more obvious through my research just how sharply higher education funding has been reduced at the federal and state level, I was proud to recognize the generous and vital role my tribe plays in educating our tribal members. Thanks to Larry Wade and the rest of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education program staff for the wonderful benefits you provide.

Kara McFall

## Joshua graduates, thanks Nation

I graduated in Spring 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California State University, Northridge. I made the Dean's Honor Roll twice and received a departmental award for outstanding performance and promise.

I could not have achieved this without help. I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance provided to me through the Higher Education and grant program. I would also like to thank my family for their love and support. I intend to begin graduate work soon, and hopefully with continued support from the tribe and my family, I will be successful once again.

Joshua Ogburn

## Lashay thanks Choctaw Nation

Thank you, Choctaw Nation, for your financial support throughout my higher education. In May, I graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in journalism and a minor in Native American studies. Without the tribe's help, I don't know how I would have been able to manage the high expenses.

While in school, I served as news director at the university's radio station, KRFB. There, I led the newsroom to win two Mark of Excellence awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. I was also honored in my department as an Outstanding Student. I am now working as a news reporter at KIEM, News Channel 3, and I look forward to starting my career in journalism.

None of it would have been possible without the Choctaw Nation's help! Thank you, again!

Lashay Wesley

## Appreciation for GED graduation

I would like to thank Chief Pyle and the Tribal Council as well as Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton for the GED graduation and dinner on May 17. It was the nicest/best graduation I have ever attended.

Ves Stricklin

## Thank you for helping tornado victims

To Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation, thank you for helping the Moore tornado victims. Our grandson, Justin's, home had some damage, but we are thankful he was safe.

Louise Amos



## Mother/daughter dance team thankful for help with education

My daughter and I would like to take the time to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping her meet her dreams. My name is Phyllis Foster Campbell, and my daughter is Davina Elaine Campbell. She has gotten her Bachelor of Science degree from Bridgewater College and has gotten her master's at Virginia Tech in Dairy Science, and she is now getting a master's at Virginia Tech in Public Health. She is doing her internship in Atlanta, Ga., with the CDC, which is an honor.

We both dance with the Red Crooked Sky Dance Troupe, and we have danced all over the United States. We have even gotten to meet and dance for the Dahlia Lama (pictured). We both compete at pow wows all over, and whenever we dance, we represent our family, our tribe and our ancestors. We are active with Cherokee people in some of their ceremonies. We are proud to be Choctaws of the Oklahoma band, and we are proud of our Bohanan family roots. Even though we do not live within the Choctaw Nation, we still represent our people.

Phyllis and Davina Campbell

## Thank you for scholarships

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for the Higher Education grant and scholarship program. With the scholarships I received, I was able to earn an undergraduate degree Cum Laude and a master's degree with distinction from Fresno State. Without the funds I received, the path to those two accomplishments would have been far more difficult.

My great-great-grandmother, Dossie Ricketts, was born in Oklahoma near the Red River while Oklahoma was still Indian Territory. My grandmother, Betty Faye Brooks, was born in Poteau in 1938 and moved out to California in the 1950s. Without my grandma, Betty, none of this would have been possible. Thank you, again, for this opportunity!



Tom Daly

## Seeking friend from past

I am attempting to locate a Mike O. White. I served with him in the USMC starting in January 1967 at MCA's El Toro, Calif. I believe he is of Chickasaw or Choctaw heritage. I also remember that he was from southeast Oklahoma. We were both in an aircraft training school on the base. After completing the classes, we were both transferred to VMGR-352 squadron, where we both worked in the engine shop. I believe that squadron where we took training was in an H&M squadron, but both squadrons were in the same group. VMGR-352 is a C-130 aircraft squadron. Mike transferred to VMGR-152 in Fetuma, Okinawa.

About one year later, I went to MCAS Fetuma, Okinawa. There at that base, the engine shop was in a different squadron, but same group as VMGR-152. Mike had transferred to the air base at Da Nang, Vietnam. There, VMGR-152 had a small detachment of C-130's along with support personnel. I believe he served two tours in Vietnam, and between those tours, he came back to Oklahoma and married a woman who was Native American from southeast Oklahoma also. I had enlisted in the USMC from where I had graduated from high school in Dodge City, Kan.

I was honorably discharged from the USMC in June of 1970. I moved to the Tulsa area in the summer of 1971 and still live there. I realize that is has been a long time, but I want to thank you for any help in attempting to locate Mike White. If you have any information, please contact me at 7401 S. Bushnell Blvd. Broken Arrow, OK 74014, email at lynchdavid@yahoo.com or call at 918-949-1867. Thank you.

David A. Lynch

## Thanks for help with Youth Leadership Summit

We would like to thank Davania and Emily Rowell of Choctaw Nation Project SAFE and Gena Fowler and Penny James of Career Development for their generous donations to our McCurtain County Youth Leadership Summit. Thank you so much, and we really appreciate it.

**McCurtain County Coalition for Change; SPF-RPC**

# EVENTS

## Chahta class held in Tulsa

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

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

## Gospel singing near Antlers

A 15th annual gospel singing will be held July 21 at Black Jack Church, 23 miles east of Antlers, with supper starting at 5:30 p.m. and singing at 7 p.m. Henry James will serve as emcee and Ben Alexander as sound engineer. Featured group, Al Brown and Company, will perform. All singers are welcome to attend and are asked to please bring a covered dish. For more information, contact Lena Priddy at 580-317-7249, Ethel Ishcomer at 580-372-5112 or MaryJo Woody at 580-372-5114.

## Carnes/Pistubbee/Bully/Bacon reunion

A family get-together for the descendants and relatives of Allen Carnes, Elizabeth Cole Pistubbee, all Bullys, and Silas Bacon, who was married to Sophia Jones Jr., will be held Aug. 17, starting at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, located at 2750 Big Lots Pkwy. off of South Ninth Street in Durant. Please bring a covered meat, vegetable or dessert dish; dinner will be served in the late afternoon. Also bring a camera and a notebook in which to write. Please call 580-380-1408 before coming and tell how many people will be attending in your family, please leave a message if no one answers, or email at chahta\_siah@yahoo.com.

## Baker Family reunion

All descendants of Noel S. and Roxie Loman Baker are invited to a reunion Aug. 9-10 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, Durant. A Friday picnic will be held at 6 p.m. and gathering starts Saturday at 9 a.m. with lunch around 1 p.m. Please bring food items to share for both meals. Toni Bowers will bring plates, utensils, cups, bowls and napkins. Pots, pans and utensils are available at the center. For information call Toni Bowers, 903-892-4513; Cora Stewart, 918-812-8839; Mary Frazier, 580-982-8100.

## Intertribal Storytelling Festival

The Intertribal Storytelling Festival will be held Aug. 17 at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance building at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Doors open at 10 a.m. and stories will begin about 11 a.m., closing at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you intend to tell a story or you just want to sit, listen and enjoy the stories and the fellowship of others. Storytellers from all tribes are invited to come and tell your favorite tales and sing your favorite Native American songs.

Concessions will be available, so plan on eating with us.

For more information, please call Stella Long at 405-949-2147 or email at longstella@sbcglobal.net. She will appreciate it if storytellers will call her and let her know they are coming so she can plan the schedule. Come and share your story with everyone!

## Will preparation clinic

The Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will be holding a free wills clinic. OILS will prepare your will at this clinic, held July 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation community center at 2408 E. Lincoln Rd. in Idabel.

To register for the clinic, call 1-800-658-1497. 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 Serves Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call OILS at 1-800-658-1497.



The staff of Choctaw Nation's STAR Program would like to remind all parents with children in second through 12th grades that the deadline for submission of documents is approaching. The final deadline for students to be awarded for the Spring semester is Oct. 1, but awards are processed as soon as all documents are received.

Requirements for all eligibility and incentives given are listed: Students must have Choctaw tribal membership, all A's (\$25 Walmart gift card), all A's and/or B's (\$10 Walmart gift card), perfect attendance (\$25 Walmart gift card), and all students receiving an incentive will also receive a Choctaw STAR Student vehicle decal or certificate.

Required STAR documents are available online and are listed here: STAR application (one-time application), grade and attendance verification form (to be completed by a school official and returned once per semester), and copy of the semester report card. All of these documents may be submitted via mail, email or fax. For more information about the STAR Program, please visit star.choctawnation.com or call 800-522-6170 ext. 2787. You may also visit the STAR Program's Facebook, at facebook.com/choctawnationstar.

**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.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

BISKINIK 2013

## Labor Day Festival T-shirts & Souvenirs

**Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To order, send payment (No Personal Checks) with completed form to: **Labor Day T-shirts, PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702**

✓	Item		Quantity	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	A – polypropylene string backpack, can be worn as a backpack or carried – \$10.00	<u>Green</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	B – Labor Day Cap – \$12.00	<u>Tan</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	C – Labor Day Cap – \$12.00	<u>Black</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	D – Labor Day T-shirt – \$15.00	Size _____ <u>Tan</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	E – Labor Day T-shirt – \$15.00	Size _____ <u>Green</u>	_____	_____

T-shirt sizes available are: Children XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16)  
Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

*(Adult shirts will be \$12 and children's are \$10 at the festival. Mail-outs are \$15 to cover shipping.)*



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Wes graduates Navy OCS

Westley Kyle Holt, son of Mike Holt and Christy Bullard and grandson of Bob and Charlotte Holt and the late Corky and Wilma Bullard, graduated Navy Officer Candidate School at Newport, R.I., on May 10. Now an Ensign in the United States Navy, Westley is stationed in Pensacola, Fla., where he will begin his training as a Naval Aviator.



## Happy birthday, Bill

World War II veteran William "Bill" King turned 90 years old on April 11, and he is still a cowboy. Bill joined the Navy in 1943 until 1946, and he went to the Pacific and was in combat. He attended school at Chilocco. Bill married his wife, Dorothy, and says she is the love of his life. They had two children, Chewelah (King) Fry and Richard King. They have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Bill loves to go to church, work outside and plant gardens and watch them grow.



## Ward/Casey family reunion a success

The Ward/ Casey family reunion was held June 8 at the Choctaw Indian Facility in Spiro. Attendees pictured are: (back row) Richard McIntosh of Long Beach, Calif., husband of the late Patricia Sue Casey McIntosh; Anna and Bob Denny; Rob and Brenda McClelland; (second row) Paul Collins; Johnnie Bourne; John Casey; (front row) Patrick McClelland, son of Brenda and Ron McClelland; Geneva Neal; John Giampietro; and Sue Collins Giampietro. Not pictured are Kenneth and Sue Conrad and Francille Collins.

## Nikki crowned Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma

Congratulations to Nikki Amos, who was crowned 2013 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women. Nikki will be representing the state of Oklahoma and is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation. She was awarded the Eva Lou Russell Scholastic Achievement Award, which was based on her GPA and a written essay. She also received Best Tribal Greeting and Talent Award. Nikki is the 16-year-old daughter of Mike and Vicky Amos of Broken Bow and the granddaughter of Bill and Louise Amos of the Iron Stob community.



### Choctaw Nation Museum temporary closing

The Choctaw Nation Museum located in Tvshka Homma, Okla., will be closed Aug. 19-23, 2013. It will be under construction for a new "Code Talker Theater Exhibit." The temporary closure is for the safety of the public and staff as well.

There could possibly be other closings during August. You are encouraged to call in advance to ensure that the museum will be open. Museum staff apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

### USDA accepting Farm Service Agency County Committee member 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 17 - Aug. 1, 2013. 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, 2013. Voting takes place between Nov. 4 and Dec. 2, 2013.

For more information about the election or to obtain an election map, you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Holdenville, 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Bowden family reunion a good time for all

Descendants from original full-blood Choctaw enrollee Annie Lee Williams Bowden and her husband, Ruben O'Dell Bowden, held their annual family reunion on May 25 at Lake Murray, Martin's Landing. Annie was born Oct. 21, 1905, in Frogville. Together, she and Ruben raised 10 children, all of whom were in attendance at the potluck. A wonderful time was had by all. The family gets together as often as they can and takes pride in their Choctaw heritage. The siblings consider getting together as often as they do a true blessing. Those in attendance were sons, Willie Alan "Bill" Bowden of Ardmore, Robert Bowden of Moore, Bob Bowden of Ardmore, Jim Bowden of Choctaw and Charles Bowden of Ardmore. Daughters in attendance included Gladys Holt of Stillwater, Novella Shebester of Madill, Jean Cullum of Mead, Alta Mapp of Ardmore and Paula Phillips of Newnan, Ga. Others who enjoyed the afternoon were Billy Joe Shebester of Madill; Sherry Lowrey of Lebanon; Ron and Becky Holt of Bixby; Chris Holt, Travan and Tori Holt of Bixby; Frankie Bowden of Choctaw; Dennis and Carol Ann Cullum of Silo; Julie and Daniel Cullum of Silo; Danny and Karen Cullum of Mead; and Jimmy Bowden Jr. of Choctaw.

## Choctaw member helps produce television show

The Producers Guild of America (PGA) Producers Showcase Competition, also called ProShow, is designed to offer up-and-coming producers the chance to work with established producers, financiers and distributors. The project, "The Next Dragon," won in the reality television category for the 2013 ProShow. Oklahoma Choctaw writer Chris York, executive producer Arnie Reyes, producer Phil Abatecola and the show's creator and producer, Janell Villa Smith, were recipients of the award package, which included a development deal with Ryan Seacrest Productions. Finalists were chosen by members of the PGA's International Committee and by representatives from the three development sponsors (Ryan Seacrest Productions, Fox International Productions and Maker Studios.) The finalists received award packages and free admission to PGA's 2013 Produced by Conference in Los Angeles, where they discussed in detail and pitched their projects to producers. "The Next Dragon" team is in development with Ryan Seacrest Productions working to bring "The Next Dragon" to television.

## Sidles appointed IAOM vice president

Damon Sidles, plant manager at Miller Milling Company in Fresno, Calif., was unanimously elected vice president of the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) at the association's 117th annual conference and expo on May 2 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. As vice president, Sidles will be responsible for overseeing preparations for the association's 2014 and 2015 conferences in Omaha, Neb. He is in line to become the association's president from 2014-2015. While serving as IAOM vice president, Sidles will serve as president of the International Milling Education Foundation (IMEF), a philanthropic partner of IAOM that funds a variety of educational programs related to the grain milling industry. Sidles graduated from Kansas State University in 1991 with a degree in milling science and management. He is the son of June and Dick Sidles of Durant. His grandfather, Turner Silmon, was an original enrollee.



## Skullyville Post #4501 honored to participate in tribute wall display

The Choctaw Veterans Association, Skullyville Post 4501 of Spiro, was invited to participate at the displaying of the Vietnam tribute wall on June 19-23 in Stigler. Skullyville #4501 members gladly accepted this honor and were very proud to have had a small part in the presentation of the wall to the public. They were honored to serve as the rifle salute squad for the services as well. The Wyandotte tribe color guard was in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies each day, and they did an excellent job. Pictured left to right are Skullyville Post #4501 members: Ed Hendricks, USMC retired; Commander Paul Perry, USN retired; Joel Perry, USMC; and John Casey, U.S. Army. Not pictured is Jim Fry, USMC. Everyone was in awe of the professionalism and pride that were displayed by everyone that had a part in the displaying of the traveling wall, and they were glad to have had the opportunity to see the wall in person. They all said it was a very moving experience and anyone who has not seen it should make an effort to see it in person.



## Congratulations to District 7 Choctaw Nation princesses, Junior Miss Karen Ann Crosby and Little Miss Lailah R. Walton, who are pictured with Councilman Jack Austin.



## Congratulations to the following for being crowned the 2013-14 District 4 Choctaw princesses: Senior Miss Callie Curnutt, Junior Miss Jordan Carver and Little Miss Amber Battice. The girls are pictured with Councilman Delton Cox, and will be competing in the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant during the Labor Day Festival along with the rest of the district winners.

## Happy 25th anniversary

Deane Pybas would like to congratulate her twin sister, Diane and husband Dennis, on celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on July 7 in Bentley, Kan. Deane and Diane's father, the late John Woodrow Pybas, was a Southern Baptist minister for 41 years and traveled all over Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

## Happy birthday, Joe

Joe D. West of Francis celebrated his 81st birthday on July 18. Joe lives on a part of land allotted to his great-great-grandmother by the Dawes Commission. The home place was awarded a "Centennial Home" sign for the front yard in 2007 by the State Historical Society, presented by then Governor Henry Bellmon in Guthrie.

## Happy birthday, Victor

Happy 30th birthday to Victor Andrew Marquez on July 31. His wife, Katherine, would like to wish him a happy birthday, and says she thanks God he was born and chose to spend his years with her. Happy birthday, Victor!



## Kellee places first, headed to national dance finals

Congratulations to 8-year-old Kellee Marie Williams, daughter of the late Joshua Lynn Williams and Heather Nicole Grant, for qualifying to compete in the 2013 National Dance Showcase Finals in Kennedale, Texas. Kellee, who attends Head to Toe Dance Studio in Durant, placed first in her solo clogging routine to the music of, "Cupid's Got A Shotgun," by Carrie Underwood.



## Miles turns 1

His family is happy to announce that Miles Doyle Zaret celebrated his first birthday on May 29. Miles, who was born in London, United Kingdom, now resides in Chicago with his parents, Selena Corley Zaret and Daniel Zaret, and his cat, Shadowfax. Miles, the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Adam Lawrence, was lucky to have both sets of grandparents attend his party, traveling from Los Angeles and Michigan for his big day. His great-aunt, Nikita Corley, resides in Bokchito. His family is thankful for the support the Choctaw Nation has provided them over the years.



## Plummer sisters turn 84

Happy 84th birthday to Billie Plummer Harrell and Betty Plummer Litton, who will celebrate their birthday on Aug. 7. They were born in 1929 to Edwin Wright Plummer (original enrollee) and Olive Lois Thomas Plummer in Coalgate. Their grandparents were Walter G. Plummer and Minnie Sota Bacon Plummer. Billie currently resides in Lecompte, La., and Betty lives in Cheneyville, La. They are the only surviving siblings of seven. Their families would like to wish them a very happy birthday.





EDUCATION

Program Making a Difference

By **CHRISSY SHEPARD**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

“The definition of ‘posse’ is a group of people who come together for a common goal,” explained Paula Harp, director of the Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) program and the Making a Difference program at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Harp smiled as she described just what the POSSE program does for the youth of Durant and the surrounding area. It is evident the name given to the program is an appropriate fit.

“The main goal of the Partnership of Summer School Education program is to provide academic remediation to students in grades pre-k through second grade,” stated Harp. “It is the goal of the Choctaw Nation to provide a culturally enriched, safe and positive atmosphere for the students that participate in the summer school program.”

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

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

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

inspire and empower the students; build on the strengths of the community; applaud students’ achievements; expand resources; work with communities, schools and organizations in the geographic service area; and plan, implement, expand, coordinate and evaluate the program itself.

According to Harp, the program has several objectives. The children will grow academically through remediation in reading and math; grow socially through cultural services provided; develop emotionally through the afternoon educational activities; feel safe and secure while being supervised by a competent and caring staff; and benefit in a positive manner as they are taught caring and cooperative attitudes.

“We currently have 184 students enrolled in the summer school,” said Harp.

Harp works closely with Durant School administration and staff to develop the curriculum for the summer school, in which she has an advantage because of her background. “Since I am a former teacher, it helps me a lot, because I know what the school day is like,” and since Harp was once a teacher from Durant ISD, the teachers she is now working with are some of her good friends. “We have a great working relationship; we just kind of know what the other is thinking and what we need to do.”

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

the building, summer lunch program, etc.

Harp said Durant Public Schools usually accept around 300 children into kindergarten each year with about 100 of these students who have never gone to school. She described the program as being an exceptional program for children who have never experienced a school environment but are about to enter kindergarten. “Some kids, when they start kindergarten, have never been to school (pre-k) before,” she said, because it is not required. “They may or may not have been taught their alphabet, how to tie their shoes, etc.” During the seven-week period of Jump Start to Kindergarten, those areas are covered, she said. “We teach them quite a few things, so that when school starts, they are ready to go.”

Locating these children throughout the Durant area for Jump Start to Kindergarten proved to be a daunting but rewarding task. “We visited all the Head Starts and the Durant schools and found names for all Choctaw children who fit the age group,” explained Harp.

“The education department employees visited the homes of Choctaw children in the

organized a city-wide mail out. “We were trying to get the word out, whatever it took, we did it,” she said.

When it comes to the future of POSSE, promising plans are being made to expand the service area of the program. According to Harp, next year, the additional seven Bryan County schools will be added to the program: Achilles, Caddo, Calera, Silo, Bennington, Colbert and Rock Creek Public Schools.

By the end of August, the schools are to tell her where the site of the summer school is going to be and who will serve as administrator.

“We’re not in the business of running schools, they’re the experts,” said Harp. “We are just helping to fund the extra expense.”

Harp said the success of the program with the Bryan County schools next summer will determine whether or not expansion into the 10 ½ counties will occur in 2015.

There are 85 schools that are either pre-k through eighth grade or pre-k through 12th grade in the 10 ½ county service area of the Choctaw Nation. “We’ve visited with every single one of them now, and they know what we’re going to do. They’ll have a choice,” said Harp.

“Some schools may already have a summer school program,” she continued, “but the Choctaw Nation will help with funding if they choose to be a part of the program.”

Harp said they have also spoken to other Native American tribes about starting a similar summer school program in their area. “We’re hoping the whole state will get on board, and then we can really see a change in

education in southeast Oklahoma.”

The curriculum chosen for the POSSE students seems to be making an impact by providing various activities to stimulate their minds. This year’s summer school theme is “The Great Outdoor Adventure,” said Harp.

The first two weeks of summer school had a camping theme, the next two weeks an aerospace theme and the last three weeks a Native American theme, in which

help them decide what is next.

The program will be two years old in July, said Harp, and has the potential to reach 4,000 students.

If a student is a participant in Making a Difference, they will have the opportunity to visit college campuses if they wish to do so. “We encourage them to attend college, but we don’t force them,” said Harp, who also encourages students to attend military academies or two-year schools.

Harp said the program has come a long way the past two years in terms of research. “When we first started, this was all pencil and paper. By the time we visited the school, a student could have missed 10 days of school; since we didn’t even know, we could not help,” she explained.

According to Harp, the students are the top priority for Making a Difference. “It is the most rewarding job I have ever had,” she said. “We may be the resource that helps that student. We hope the parents and students will call us to help answer their questions.”

The program gets a multitude of calls, said Harp, whether it is a parent, grandparent, school counselor, superintendent or teacher.

There is no deadline for joining Making a Difference. Harp said they accept applications every day, but believes it is more beneficial for the student to sign up as a freshman rather than a senior.

From children in pre-k to graduating seniors in high school entering college or the workforce, the Choctaw Nation shows the priority it places on education of its tribal members and the community through POSSE and the Making a Difference Program.

If you’d like to learn more about these programs, contact Paula Harp at 580-924-8280 ext. 2452.

“It is the most rewarding job I have ever had.”  
– Paula Harp

“It is the goal of the Choctaw Nation to provide a culturally enriched, safe and positive atmosphere for the students...”  
– Paula Harp

Durant school district and found Choctaw children who are going into kindergarten but have not been through pre-k,” said Harp. “We did it in one afternoon, each of us had a certain number of students to find, and we just went out and did it. It was a great group effort.”

To find children who are not Choctaw members for the Jump Start to Kindergarten program, Harp’s department

schools may already have a summer school program,” she continued, “but the Choctaw Nation will help with funding if they choose to be a part of the program.”

Harp said they have also spoken to other Native American tribes about starting a similar summer school program in their area. “We’re hoping the whole state will get on board, and then we can really see a change in

Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle visited the students and provided each child with their own book.

“Each grade level has a book,” said Harp. At the end of each theme period, the students were allowed to take their books home with them.

Harp said the children take a field trip every week as well. “They really made an impression,” Harp said of the field trip the children attended at the Choctaw Nation Recycling Center. She laughed as she told how the parents were telling her their kids came home saying, “don’t waste water,” telling them how to recycle at home, turn the lights out and clean up the environment.

While POSSE focuses on younger students, the Making a Difference program’s goal is to help Choctaw students, grades nine through 12, graduate high school and have a next step after graduation, whether that is college, a trade school, the military or going right into the workforce.

“We go to the 63 high schools in the 10 ½ counties and visit with students who are Choctaw,” said Harp. “We are trying to make sure that they graduate high school, which is our first goal.”

Once the student graduates high school, it is the Making a Difference program’s job to



Graduates honored

On April 21, a Senior Day was held at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Bennington, Olin Williams serving as pastor. The church was thankful to have Assistant Chief Gary Batton and his family join them for the day. He spoke an inspiring message to the honor graduates. The seniors were presented gifts, then a time of fellowship was had for all with dinner on the grounds. The honored graduates (pictured with Assistant Chief Batton) are Josh English of Victory Life Academy, holding Malachi Valliere, Brittney Williams of Morris, Kimberly Billy of Morris, Patrick Hawkins of Bennington and Morgan Steve of Durant.

Wilson successful soccer player and student

The well-decorated May Wilson joins the UC Irvin Eaters soccer team with ideas of bolstering the backline. Wilson is a 5-8 defender that also spends time as a midfielder, out of Temecula, Calif. She made some pretty quick strides at Chaparral High School becoming the first junior to be named team captain and was also a perennial MVP of the defense. Head Coach Scott Juniper sees this in her play as well.

“May is another defensive minded player who can also play as a holding midfield player. She is comfortable on the ball, can defend equally well on the ground and in the air and should fit right into our program,” said Juniper.

One thing Wilson will enjoy is some stability with four years as an Ant eater. She has spent time with six different clubs plus the Olympic Developmental Pool squad during her last nine club seasons including. She has played under Khoi and Susan Le at Desert United Soccer Club, Larry Draluck at So Cal Blues Soccer Club and Josh Hodges at Legends FC. Wilson was also an under-12 state cup champ with Jenny Lawlor with SWSC and continues playing under Lawlor at So Cal Surge. With Arsenal Soccer Club and coaches Richard Boon and Jason Montgomery, she was a part of the U17 ECNL Championship squad.

The well-traveled and well-accomplished Wilson even excels in the classroom, with honor roll and All-Scholastic Team Award honors. All those factors contribute to a bright future for her and the Ant eater program.

Wilson is the daughter of Dan Wilson, granddaughter of Alvin Wilson, great-granddaughter of George Wilson and great-great-granddaughter of Lola May Harkins Wilson. She is very proud of her Choctaw/Japanese heritage.



Photo provided

Congratulations to the Choctaw language community class in Ardmore, which just completed Phase II of Chahta Anumpa! The class teacher was Lillian Vaughn.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUGUST					1	2 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	3
	4	5 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. <small>Civic Day (Canada)</small>	6 Antlers by appt.	7 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	8	9 Wright City by appt.	10
	11	12 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	13 Crowder by appt.	14 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	15	16 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	17
2013	18	19 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	20	21 McAlester 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	22	23 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	24
	25	26 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	27 Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	28 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	29	30 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	31

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





CAITLIN ALLEN



ANIKA ANTONE



DAWNELLE BAKER



ALEEX CHATKEHOODLE



NATHAN GADDIS



JUSTIN JEFFERSON

# JA seniors begin new journeys

Thirteen Jones Academy seniors were handed diplomas this spring, bringing high school years to a close and opening doors for successful opportunities as their next journeys begin.

Melissa Sam, a member of the Choctaw Nation, is the first student from Jones Academy to be named salutatorian of a Hartshorne graduating class. A ceremony was held May 18. Graduating Jones Academy students included:

**Caitlin Allen**, 18, is the daughter of Kelli McDaniel of Tonkawa and Chauncey Allen of Red Rock. Caitlin is a member of the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma. She has attended Hartshorne Public Schools for four years and was a starter on the varsity basketball and softball teams. After high school, Caitlin plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College to pursue a degree in nursing. Caitlin has received the Eastern Oklahoma State College Academic Scholars Scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year. The grant will award her \$1,000 tuition for up to three semesters as a full-time student.

**Anika Antone** is the daughter of Lorenda Antone from Sells, Ariz. She is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Anika participated in varsity basketball and softball at Hartshorne High School. She received the Jones Academy Principal's Academic Award for classroom excellence. In the fall, she will attend classes at Tohono O'odham Community College in Sells and study business.

**Dawnelle Baker** is the 19-year-old daughter of Brenda and Markos Fernandez of Pierre, S.D., and Jason Charger of La Platte, S.D. She is the granddaughter of Charles Baker and Charlotte LaBlance of Wakpala and Eagle Butte, S.D., respectively. Dawnelle is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She plans to attend Black Hills State University in Spearfish to get her general education courses. From there, she will transfer to the Art Institute of Minneapolis



and pursue a culinary arts degree. Dawnelle wants to be a pastry chef.

Eighteen-year-old **Aleex Chatkehoodle** is the son of Sonja Bacerra of Tulsa. He is a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Aleex participated in varsity football and competitive weight-lifting at Hartshorne High School. He was a resident of Jones Academy for 11 years. Aleex plans to be gainfully employed or enroll in vocational training this fall.

**Nathan Gaddis** is the 18-year-old son of Edward Jr. and Nadine Gaddis of Poteau. He is the grandson of Stacey Lefler of Logan, Utah. Nathan is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was active in the Hartshorne High School Band. Nathan has enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserves and will attend boot camp this fall. He will receive a \$13,000 scholarship from the Navy toward his education. His tentative plans include attending classes at the University of Arkansas in the spring of 2014.

**Justin Jefferson**, 19, is the son of Jeffery and Pamela Jefferson of Bethel. He is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation. Justin participated in varsity

football, powerlifting and track and field at Hartshorne High School. He was a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society, Jones Academy Indian Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. Justin was also selected as the 2012 Boys State Representative from Hartshorne. Justin received the Robert Woods Scholarship from Jones Academy. He has been accepted at the University of Oklahoma for the 2013-2014 school year. Justin wants to pursue a degree in physical therapy.

**Tyler Lena** is from Okemah. His mother and father are David and Ellen Lena. He is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Tyler first came to Jones Academy in August of 2009. He has expressed an interest in joining the Marine Corps or entering the workforce.

**Richard Pedro**, 18, is the son of Melissa Pedro and Derwin Lime of El Reno. He is the grandson of Phyllis and Ed Naranjo of Ibapam, Utah, and Virgil Pedro of El Reno. Richard was on the varsity football team at Hartshorne High School for four years. He also participated in powerlifting. He was the high

school student council vice president and senior class student council president. Richard is a recipient of the Hartshorne Senior Scholarship. He will attend classes this fall at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. He is plans to major in criminal justice and pursue a career in law enforcement. Richard is an enrolled member of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

**Gabriela Rios** is the 18-year-old daughter of Martin Rios of Gillham, Ark., and the late Donna Lou Bond. She is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation. Gabriela was recognized for excellence in English her senior year. After high school, she wants to attend Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and major in psychology.

17-year-old senior **Melissa Sam** is the daughter of Morris Sam of Hartshorne and Germaine Sam of Baldwin Park, Calif. Her grandparents are Cornelius and Norma Sam of Salonia Community and the late Jerry and Roberta Jean Ornelas. Melissa is a member of the Choctaw Nation. She is the first student at Jones Academy to represent the facility as the Hartshorne High School senior class salutatorian. Melissa participated in varsity slow- and fast-pitch softball and served as captain. She was also a member of both the national and Oklahoma honor societies. Melissa received the Mickey Beare Memorial Scholarship and Robert Woods Scholarship. Her post-secondary plans include attending Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and becoming a forensic scientist.

**Dilon Shirley** is the 17-year-old son of Cornelia Tso and stepfather Ray Bochincloony of Lukachukai, Ariz., and Jarrod Shirley of Window Rock, Ariz. He is a member of the Navajo Nation. Dilon has attended Jones Academy since he was in the sixth



TYLER LENA



RICHARD PEDRO



GABRIELA RIOS



MELISSA SAM



DILON SHIRLEY



LACY WALKER

grade. He was a member of Hartshorne High School Band and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. Dilon will be gainfully employed by the Navajo Nation as an apprentice electrician.

**Lacy Walker**, 18, is the daughter of Deanna Ward of Coalgate and Foy Walker of Lehigh. Her maternal grandmother is Naomi Leflore of Lehigh. Lacy is a member of the Choctaw Nation. She participated in varsity basketball and track and field before coming to Jones Academy. She was on academic honor roll and a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society. Lacy finished third in her class ranking. She also had an essay that was published by Creative Communication, a book and online publisher in Smithfield, Utah. Lacy has been accepted at Bacone College in Muskogee where she will



BRITTON WILLIAMS

attend classes in the fall. **Britton Williams** is the 18-year-old son of Ethel Williams and stepfather Maurice Baker of Durant. His maternal grandmother is Mary Wilson of Antlers. Britton is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was a resident of Jones Academy for 10 years. Britton wants to work in the construction industry.



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- Summer Youth Work Program
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Jones Academy, HCR 74 Box 102-5, Hartshorne, OK 74547

### Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma & Five Civilized Tribes Museum Short Story Contest

*The Choctaw Nation is encouraging young authors to share their talents as writers and storytellers. Through a partnership with the Five Civilized Tribes Museum a story competition has been developed in conjunction with the annual Five Tribes Story Conference. The winners of the competition will be notified prior to the conference and announced with a special presentation at the event. The fictional short story must relate to the Choctaw Nation in a historical, cultural or family related way.*

**Categories:** • Middle School/High School • College

**Judging:** Stories will be judged on style, content, grammar, and the originality with which the student approaches the topic. Judges will look for clear, concise writing that is entertaining, original, articulate, logically organized, and well-supported. The winning submission must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, its history and culture.

**Winner in each category receives:**

- \$100 prize
- Cost of attendance, roundtrip travel to, 2-nights lodging during and meals during Five Tribes Story Conference Oct. 18-19 in Muskogee, Okla.
- Choice of reading or selecting someone to read their work at the Five Tribes Story Conference.
- Judges will award extra points for short stories using elements of the Choctaw language.

**Rules:**

- Must be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma residing in the United States.
- Stories are to be fiction – 1,500-2,100 words or less, double-spaced.
- E-mail submissions only – [biskinik@choctawnation.com](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com). All stories must be emailed no later than Sept. 20, 2013.
- Must include entrant's name at the bottom of each page.
- All submissions must be the original sole work of the entrant.
- Submissions cannot have been published previously, though it could have been a class assignment.
- Winners will be notified by Oct. 1, 2013.

**Cover letter guidelines:**  
All entries must be submitted with a cover letter that includes the following:

- Date
- Student's name
- Student's address, email and telephone number
- Student's grade and school
- Copy of CDIB and Tribal Membership

Announcement will be made during the Five Tribes Story Conference, Oct. 18, and through media following the conference.

For more information, please contact one of the following:

Tim Tingle, Choctaw author and storyteller  
[timtingle@hotmail.com](mailto:timtingle@hotmail.com) or 830-832-4288

Lisa Reed, Media Director, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
[lisareed@choctawnation.com](mailto:lisareed@choctawnation.com) or 800-522-6170, ext. 2245







# OBITUARIES

## Ella Jones

Ella Austin Jones, 100, lifetime McCurtain County resident, went to her heavenly home on April 10, 2013, at her daughter's residence in Valliant. She was born on Oct. 1, 1912, in Valliant, the daughter of David and Sally Charles Austin. Ella worked as a cook at Ray's Steakhouse in Idabel for many years.



She later worked for Ida Sullens Cafes as well as several other cafes around Idabel. She loved the outdoors and would sit on her porch for hours enjoying it. She loved her flowers and spending time with her family. Ella was a member of the Spirit Rock Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Johnny Jones; sons, Wes Ashalintubbi and Ben M. Austin; daughter Helen Lorene Byington; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ella is survived her daughter, Helen Ruth Hester with husband Ray of Valliant; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 38 great-great-grandchildren; three great-great-great-grandchildren; along with other relatives and friends.

## Tommy Wilson

Tommy Dee Wilson, 64, a lifelong resident of Olympia, passed away on Feb. 23, 2013, at his home. Tommy attended both local area schools and the Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma. He worked in various occupations, including Union Carpentry, driver for the Tri-City Meat Company, and at the Department of Labor and Industries until he became disabled. A proud member of the NRA and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Tommy's passions included helping friends, hunting, and shooting.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mamie Wilson; and his grandparents, Amanda Lomer Sumpter and John Sumpter, original enrollees.

He is survived by his siblings, Richard J. Wilson of Tumwater, Wash., Cheryl I. Wilson of Anchorage, Alaska, Barbara L. Wyatt with husband Brian of Shelton, Wash., Sheila J. Wildman of Terre Haute, Ind.; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and his close friend/brother, Steve Prohaska with wife Korliss.

## James Harrison

James Ray Harrison, 73, of Norman, passed away on June 15, 2013, in Oklahoma City. The son of Aurelius Ward and Delta Eufaula (Richey) Harrison, he was born June 25, 1939, in Dibble. He graduated from Texas Tech University and worked for many years in the banking industry. James was a member of the Harvest Church in Norman and served on the board. In his spare time, James enjoyed collecting coins.



James was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. A.W. "Chief" and Delta Harrison; his twin brother, Jerry; brother A.W. Harrison Jr.; sister, Sue Solesbee.

He is survived by his sister, Cloma Bryan with husband Irv of Texas; brothers, Gene Harrison with wife Lily of Norman, Tommy Harrison with wife Louise of Westville, and Ronnie Harrison Sr. with wife Sandy of Oklahoma City; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends and other loved ones.

## Marie Moriarty

Marie Gloria Moriarty, 90, passed away on May 31, 2013. She was born on Aug. 13, 1922, in Blanchard, on the farm of her parents James and Maisie (Tubbee) Sewell. Her mother was an original Choctaw enrollee and Marie was very proud of her heritage. She was the fifth of eight children: Clifton, Nora, Jack, Bessie, Marie, Inez, James and Wanda. She attended elementary school and then in high school attended Chilocco Indian Boarding Schools until the 10th grade, which is where she learned her extraordinary sewing skills. After the war started, she worked at Tinker Air Force Base, followed by Douglass Aircraft Plant. Here, she met her first husband, George Douglas Lewis, and gave birth to her first child, George Douglas Lewis Jr. Unfortunately, her husband passed away from a car accident on his way back from visiting his mother in North Carolina. Later, after meeting at a dance, she married her second husband, William Laurence Moriarty on Jan. 22, 1949. William got a Civil Aeronautics job that required the family to move to Kodiak, Alaska, where they lived in an area so remote they had to take a boat to get groceries. Marie's second child, Marilyn, was born in Fairbanks, Alaska. After a few years, they moved to Oakland, Calif., to be near William's parents, Joseph and Martha Moriarty. Marie always liked to say she is the one who found William his job with AT&T because she told him about the job ad in the newspaper. In 1953, they bought their first home in Shafer Park in Hayward. She was very proud to be one of the founding members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, even before the first church was built in 1954. Until the church was ready, they used to meet at the pastor's house for services. She was an active member for 59 years.



Marie was blessed with three more children, Joe, Diane and Michael, before moving to Kansas City, Mo., where she started her beloved career at JC Penney's. After four years, the family moved back to Hayward and arrived just in time for the dedication of the second church at Good Shepherd. Marie decided to go back to school and proudly earned her high school diploma. After her divorce from William, they continued to remain good friends. She then went back to work at JC Penney's in Livermore, Calif., and then in Hayward, Calif., where she made many life-long friends. After retirement Marie enjoyed spending more time with her family and taking part in social activities with friends. She also loved taking care of her plants and flowers. In fact, she had such a green thumb that if someone had a plant that was not doing very well, she would offer to take care of it and soon it would blossom and thrive. Marie was an amazing and remarkable woman. She truly loved people and was admired for how caring and thoughtful she was and the way she touched so many lives. She was the heart of her family and she will be forever missed for her beautiful smile, her warm laughter and the stories she would share. She was blessed with 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren whom she cherished with all her heart.

## CB Sumner

CB Sumner, 86, passed away on June 5, 2013, in Oklahoma. He was the son of Grover and Iva (Hester) Sumner, born on Sept. 7, 1926, in Non. He attended Jones Academy in Harts-horne, and Haskell Indian Institute in Lawrence, Kan. He was deeply proud of his Choctaw Indian heritage. In high school he was a two-time Golden Glove Boxing Champion and a member of an undefeated football team which won a national championship. CB married Margaret Gurley on Feb. 1, 1947, in Oklahoma City. They made their home in Oklahoma City, where he worked as a steel fabricator and welder. He worked 22 years for Robertson Steel and over 20 years for Capitol Steel until his retirement. He was a member of Welders Local #584 Union. CB and Margaret raised two children, Frank and Linda Sue, and were blessed with 57 years together before she passed away on April 28, 2004. CB's favorite things were bowling, horse racing, and visiting with friends and relatives. He bowled four times a week, as a member of three separate leagues and in a weekly jackpot, undeterred by two knee replacements. He enjoyed horse racing – watching, betting, and everything connected with the sport, ever since his son and his brother got him involved. He loved visiting with family and friends and, until just three weeks before his death, was in the habit of traveling around the state to visit relatives or to various nursing homes to spend time with old boxing buddies.

CB is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and brother, Rex Sumner.

He is survived by two children, Frank Sumner with wife Joyce of Wellston, and Linda Sue Garcia of Edmond; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Ernest Sumner of Checotah, and Claude Sumner of Okmulgee; sisters, Doris Lewis of Yukon, Loie Kay Livingston of Missouri, and Twilla Thornton of Ada; along with numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and a host of friends.

## Thomas Randall Jr.

Thomas M. Randall Jr., 38, of Lubbock, passed away on Feb. 5, 2010, in Lubbock. Thomas was born on Feb. 15, 1971, in Rosebud, S.D., to Thomas M. and Patricia (Jacob) Randall. When Thomas was two, his father died and his family moved to Atoka, where he grew up and graduated from high school. Thomas had worked as a sonographer for 15 years. He married the love of his life and soul mate, Melissa Sellers on Jan. 1, 2006, in Shawnee. In January of 2009, Thomas accepted a job at the Lubbock Heart Hospital and they moved to Ransom Canyon, Texas. The true joy of Thomas' life was his children and his wife. Thomas and Melissa spent many wonderful hours gliding across the dance floor with one another.



Those left to cherish Thomas' memory are his wife, Melissa; children, Johnathan Randall, Kadence Randall, Bronc Randall, Blake Sellers with girlfriend Katie Beth Spencer and Jackie Sellers.

Melissa and family would like to thank all of their friends and colleagues that are considered family, at Lubbock Heart Hospital and Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers.

## Lonnie Johnson

Lonnie Wayne Johnson passed away peacefully on May 31, 2013, at his home. He was born Oct. 30, 1941, in Treece, Kan., the son of James and Anna Johnson. He was interred into the family cemetery at Non, with military rites performed by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.



He was a veteran of both the U.S. Army and Navy. The Johnson family would like to say a very special and sincere "thank you" to the Choctaw Nation Color Guard for performing the military honors at the funeral, as well as the Choctaw Nation for the help and support that they have provided.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Bo Johnson and Bob Peirce; and sister Myrna Caron.

Lonnie is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Edith Johnson; sons, Robert with wife Donna Johnson, and James with fiancée Laura; daughter Anna Marie with husband Ray Carlson; grandchildren, Elizabeth with husband Robert Cauley, Shelby Johnson with fiancée Tanner Bodelle, Markus Chavez and Michael Johnson; great-granddaughters, Jasmine Cauley and Demi Bodelle; brother George Johnson; sister Sharon Klingler; along with numerous nephews and nieces.

## Lewis Jackson

Lewis Edgar "Doc" Jackson, 92, of Tulsa, passed away on May 3, 2013. Doc was born on Oct. 26, 1920, in Stigler, to parents, Jonas Jackson and Nellie (Kelough) Jackson. Doc moved to Seminole at the age of 2, where he eventually graduated from Seminole High School. Doc was very athletic; he played football, basketball, and baseball. He attended Seminole Junior College where he played on the basketball team for one semester. Doc served during World War II in the Army Air Corps as a staff sergeant with the 800th Army Air Force Base unit. He served in the East Indies, New Guinea, Papua, Australia and Southern Philippines, where he received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Bronze Star, AP Service Ribbon, four Bronze Service Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. Doc was of the Baptist faith, a member of the VFW, American Legion and the Choctaw Nation. Doc married Juanita King on April 20, 1946, in Seminole. Doc was very close with his brother-in-law, Jack King, his wife Gala Johndrow King and their two children, Paula K. Bettis and J.J. King, all presently of Midland, Texas, but originally from Seminole. Doc was employed with the National Supply Company in the oilfield supply business as a field salesman. He was with the company from 1946 until his retirement in 1981. He lived in Perry, Okla., Hobbs, N.M., and upon his retirement moved to Tulsa, to be near family and grandsons.



He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Juanita in 1977; brothers, Tab, Jake and Wiley; and two sisters, Millie Pickett and Maggie Griffin.

He is survived by son Gary L. Jackson with wife Linda S. Jackson of Tulsa; four grandsons, Geoffrey W. Jackson of New York City, Matthew R. Jackson with wife Stacie A. Jackson of Frisco, Christopher T. Jackson with wife Jennifer R. Jackson of Fort Worth, Texas, and William J. Delany Jr. of Philadelphia, Penn.; great-grandchildren, Keegan R. Jackson and Kylie A. Jackson of Frisco; and sister Rena Bundy of Seminole.

## Even Gilmore

Even Gilmore passed away on April 16, 2013. He was born on Aug. 8, 1932, in Achille to Allen Eugene and Leona (Thompson) Gilmore. Even married Rosa Taylor on May 24, 1955, in Sherman, Texas.



He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He enjoyed going to singings where he was known as "Boom Boom," because of his deep bass voice. Even was a sandblaster by profession while working for McDonnell Douglas when he lived in California. He was an active person who coached and played baseball and softball. He also found time to coach a men and women's basketball team. Even especially enjoyed playing dominoes with his buddies, watching old western movies, working puzzles and listening to the oldies station. He also liked to watch the Boston Celtics and New York Yankees. Even will be missed by his family and friends.

Mr. Gilmore was preceded in death by his parents; son Marlon Wayne Gilmore; brother Elum Gilmore; and sisters, Harriet Camp and Luddie Gilmore.

Mr. Gilmore is survived by his wife, Rosa, of the home; sons, Kenneth Gilmore of Calera, and Victor Gilmore of Ada; daughter Debbie Gilmore of Durant; grandchildren, Sgt. Tawny Mane Gilmore, Kenneth Lee Gilmore Jr., Ronald Ross Bointy, Daniel Lee Gilmore, Josephine Rose Gilmore, Nicholas Gilmore, Kandyse Denyse "Lil Duck" Gilmore, Kimberly Gayle Calnimpewa, Deann Hawk and Jeanette "Chicken Hawk" Hawk; 16 great-grandchildren; and one expected great-grandchild.

## Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson, 49, of Bethel, passed away on June 11, 2013, at the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center in Talihina. He was born April 17, 1964, in Idabel, the son of Willard Grant and Jean (Short) Wilson.



Michael attended Battiest High School and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He earned a degree at Tulsa Welding School. He was affiliated with the Phi Sig Fraternity, a veteran in the U.S. Army and was a Reforger 88 in Germany. He coached AAU basketball for three years. Michael and Audrey Moseley were united in marriage on Oct. 17, 1989, in Fort Riley, Kan. He was a member of the First Assembly of God in Battiest, and had lived in this area all his life. He loved spending time with his kids, grand kids, wife, mother and other family members. Michael loved reading his Bible, watching his sons play basketball and baseball, spending time with friends, listening to music, watching sports and working with his best friend, Bob Spradling.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Willard G. Wilson; sisters, Glenda Frerguson and Tiajuana Morris; brother Gary Bob Wilson; grandparents, Calvin and Cornelia Wilson and Calvin and Lutie Preas.

Michael leaves to cherish his memory, wife Audrey Wilson of the home; mother Jean Wilson of Bethel; sons, Cabin, Montana and Daniel Wilson, all of Bethel; daughter Kaira Wilson of Broken Bow; sisters, Janet Smalling with husband Grady of Springfield, Mo., Ellen Westbrook and Stephanie Hall with husband Randy of Branson, Mo.; grandchildren, Chasen, Rylan and Remlee; special friends, Bob Spradling, Richard Bohanan, Nathan Davidson, B.B. Griffin, Brent Hays, Ivor Hall and Quinn Leshaw; and a host of other family and friends.

## Emeline Bohanon

Emeline Bohanon, 94, of Smithville, passed away on April 13, 2013, in Talihina. She was born Feb. 7, 1919, in Ludlow, to the late Watkin Ludlow and the late Harriet Lewis Ludlow. She was married to the late David Bohanon. Emeline was the oldest charter member of the Springhill Presbyterian Church and was a homemaker. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister and friend to all who knew her and loved her. She will be dearly missed by all.



She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sons, Clark Bohanon and Esias Bohanon; and daughter Alicetine Bohanon.

She is survived by her son Randel Bohanon with wife Ruthie of Smithville; daughters, Leona Samuel with husband Richard of Smithville, Ella Willis with husband Karl of Tulsa, Della Jones of Fort Smith, Ark., Lodie Mitchell with husband Stan of Crawfordville, Fla., and Corene Palmer with husband Melvin of Red Oak; sisters, Betty Walton and Sorena Going, both of Talihina; brother Aaron Ludlow of Smithville; 23 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends

## Roy Willis

Roy A. Willis, 65, of Tecumseh, passed away on June 9, 2013, at his home in Tecumseh. He was born June 25, 1947, in Battiest, the son of Laymes and Frances (Samuel) Willis. Roy was a member of Bethel Hill United Methodist Church in Battiest. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he served his country in the U.S. Army and continued his service with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 31 years.



Family was most important to Roy and spending time with them was at the top of his priority list. Roy loved Gospel music and sang in several quartets, one of them being The Singing Tribesmen. Years ago, while living in Wright City, Roy owned and edited the local newspaper, Wright City Topics. He enjoyed traveling, singing, camping, imitating Elvis and was an avid OU fan. Roy helped translate the Choctaw language into English and had taught classes at Seminole Junior College.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Rayson Willis; daughter-in-law Tina Willis; and brother-in-law Leon Bohannon.

Roy leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Debra Willis of the home; four children, Racquel Willis of Oklahoma City, Gerald Willis with wife Nerissa of Muskogee, Kristy Willis of Arlington, Texas, and Kerry Willis of Wright City; stepsons, Elijah Hundley of Denton, Texas and Bradford Hundley of Lewisville, Texas; sisters, Jency Mae Bohannon of Watson, and Francile Williams of Battiest; along with numerous grandchildren, relatives and friends.



# YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Youth from across the Choctaw Nation have gathered all during the summer months to improve their sports prowess and increase their knowledge of Choctaw traditions.

Youth summer camps, facilitated by the Choctaw Nation Cultural Services Department, began with cultural enrichment camp on May 28, in Tvshka Homma. Camps continued throughout the summer, with golf,

softball, baseball, football, stickball, and basketball.

Each camp, with the exception of football and basketball, lasted four days, lending two days for students in the northern districts and two days for southern districts. Football camp consolidated districts into one, while basketball camp allowed for several locations dispersed among districts and continues through the month of July.



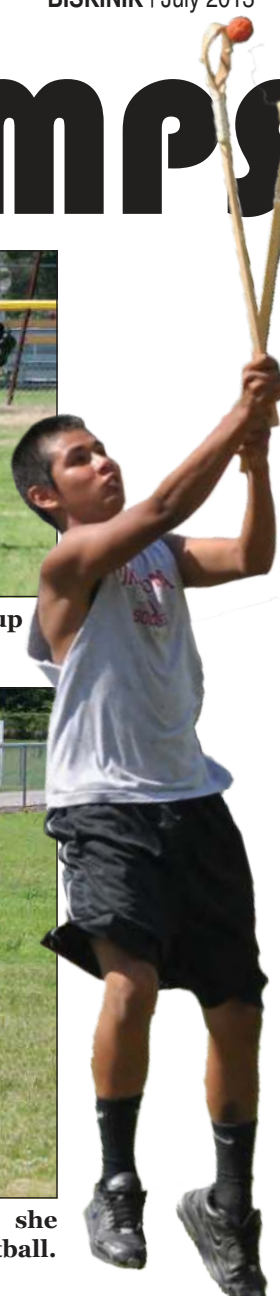
John Cusher from Battiest prepares to catch the stickball.



Kenlei, Cassidy and Amber all go to catch a pop-up at softball camp.



Josi Lackey watches Sheyenne Miller as she teaches her the fundamentals of bunting a softball.



Codie Hayne and Ashton Willis practice their football offense and defense.



Everyone gets a good workout at football camp.



Cade Buchanan of Durant hits a long drive.



Ben Himes of Broken Bow competes in the chipping competition at golf camp.



Travis Whitman of Soper and Rider Cox of Midlothian, Texas, playing in a scrimmage at baseball camp.



Cash Jay of Chickasha show his home run batting style at baseball camp.



Photos by CHRISSY SHEPARD,  
KAREN JACOB AND  
BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Hanna Crase catches a fly ball.



Jodie Caston of Hugo and Kieran Manning of Hugo get their hands dirty forming pottery at the cultural enrichment camp.



Students carved their own unique designs into the creations.



Bridget Krup proudly displays the beginnings of her weaving project.



Logen Vantrees of Hugo, Koda Judson of Hugo, Brody Himes of Rattan, and Jarrett Vantrees of Hugo show their progress at culture camp.



Jathan from Hugo catching in the outfield.



# Pageant kicks off 2013 festival

The annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival kicks off at 7 p.m. Aug. 29 with the Princess Pageant in the amphitheater. Beautiful and talented young ladies from each district will take the stage vying for Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

## LITTLE MISS DIVISION



**Kayla Maelen Ward  
District 1**

Kayla Ward of Idabel, 9, is the daughter of Tony and Amy Ward. Kayla is a member of McGee Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church and she attends Bennett Elementary where she is a Choctaw STAR student and on the Principal's Honor Roll. She is also active in the American Indian Leadership Youth Council (AILYC) organization and a Choctaw dance group. She participated in the Upward Bound basketball program the past three years and Amateur Athletics Union for one year. She also enjoys playing softball, riding her scooter, singing and playing the piano. She wants to attend college to become a veterinarian so she can help animals.



**Kylie Faye Himes  
District 2**

Kylie Himes, 8, of Broken Bow is the daughter of Zack Himes and Kristi and Jeremy Poole. A student at Dierks Elementary in Broken Bow, Kylie is on the A and B honor roll and has won "Queen" in Glitz and Glamour pageants several times and "Ultimate Supreme" once. Kylie participates in mini-hip hop dance class at the Steppin-Out School of Dance. She is a Broken Bow cheerleader for the fifth/sixth football team, enjoys Awana's every Wednesday at First Baptist in Broken Bow. She enjoys competing in pageants, cheering and playing with her friends.



**Amber Brooke Battice  
District 4**

Amber Battice is the 12-year-old daughter of Stephen and Stephanie Battice. Amber resides and attends school in Cameron. She is on the Principal's Honor Roll, has perfect attendance, is a student of the month and a Choctaw STAR student. Amber likes playing basketball and softball. She spends a lot of time practicing and pitching for her softball team. She is also involved in 4-H. Amber enjoys spending time with her friends and family.



**Hiahni Howard  
District 5**

Hiahni Howard, 8, of Stigler is the daughter of Daniel and Amy Howard. She attends Stigler Elementary and enjoys playing softball, basketball and stickball. She has won first place in the long jump and in the 100-yard dash at track competitions. Hiahni also likes to draw, spending time with her family and performing Native American sign language at different events.



**Raven LeAnn Noriega  
District 6**

Raven Noriega, 10, is the daughter of Raymond Noriega and Crystal Kinley. She is from Wilburton where she attends Grace Russell Elementary. She plays basketball, is a member of the honor choir, and has been chosen a student of the month. Raven attends Cedar Indian Baptist Church and enjoys going to the church convention for youth, playing with her friends, and attending Sunday School.



**Lailah R. Walton  
District 7**

Lailah Walton of Antlers is the 11-year-old daughter of Fred and Teela Walton. She attends school at Antlers where she is a member of the Choctaw STAR program, 4-H, and on the President's Honor Roll. She enjoys reading, playing basketball and softball, and running track. Lailah also enjoys going to church, Choctaw summer camps, and pow wows where she participates in the fancy shawl dances.



**Savannah Jane Herndon  
District 8**

Savannah Herndon, 11, of Soper is the daughter of Thomas and Angela Herndon. Savannah attends school in Soper where she is a Choctaw STAR and honor student. She has graduated the first phase of Choctaw language class and is continuing to learn the Choctaw language. She enjoys spending time with her family, her three kittens, Sophie, Simon and Simpson, and attending pow wows.



**Isabelle Lynn Cox  
District 9**

Isabelle Cox, 10, is the daughter of Nate and Tracy Cox of Durant. She is a student at Durant Intermediate School where she is a member of the honor roll, honor choir, and the school's gifted and talented program. Isabelle has been a member of the Durant area Girl Scouts for six years. She is active in softball and basketball. She loves to attend the Shakespearean Festival in Durant, take voice lessons and hang out with her friends.



**Maci Paige Wagoner  
District 10**

Maci Wagoner of Atoka is the daughter of Alvis and Jennifer Wagoner. Maci, 11, attends Lane Elementary where she is on the honor roll. She enjoys listening to music, going to school and hanging out with friends. She also enjoys drawing, family time, and attending Choctaw summer camps.



**Lauren Gale Nichols  
District 11**

Lauren Nichols, 10, of McAlester is the daughter of Thomas and LaTrisha LeFlore. Lauren attends Krebs Elementary, has been chosen as a student of the month every year and is active in sports. She won eighth place in the spelling bee. She attends Calvary Baptist Church and Choctaw language class. Lauren plays softball for the Boys and Girls Club and likes talking on her phone to her best friend.



**Angela Tearesa Martinez  
District 12**

Angela Martinez of Coalgate is 8 years old and the daughter of James Martinez and Melanie Cole. Angela attends E.E. Emerson Elementary in Coalgate. She loves Jesus, likes playing with other children and spending time with Aunt Becky.

## JUNIOR MISS DIVISION



**Vanessa ShiAnne Martin  
District 1**

Vanessa Martin, 16, of Idabel is the daughter of Alfonso and Gwen Martin. She attends Idabel High School where she is on the honor roll and a sophomore FCCLA representative. Vanessa was sixth grade salutatorian and has won numerous dance awards. She has also scored advanced placement in state-mandated end-of-course testing. Her interests include cheering and dancing for the Idabel Warriors, reading, spending time with friends and family, and going to pow wows.



**Calen Enchil Brown  
District 2**

Calen Brown of Broken Bow is the 16-year-old daughter of Shae Brown and Wenona Jones. She attends Broken Bow High School. Calen enjoys playing stickball, softball, and spending time with family and friends.



**Jasmine DeAne Schoon  
District 3**

Jasmine Schoon, 13, of Talihina is the daughter of James Harless and Angela Delao. Jasmine, a student at Talihina, has won honors in band and church participation awards. She likes riding horses, playing trombone, singing in church, attending stomp dances, and taking care of her animals.



**Jordan Carver  
District 4**

Jordan Carver of Heavener is the 13-year-old daughter of Waylon and Priscilla Carver. She is a student at Wister Public School and has been named valedictorian, class president, a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the Superintendent's Honor Roll, 4-H secretary, and a member of the Wister academic team. She has placed first in district and regional FCCLA speech contests. Jordan's interests include judging livestock, coaching the fifth/sixth academic team, singing at the local nursing home, reading to the Wister Elementary students, and reading for her own pleasure.



**Juanita Rose Gonzalez  
District 5**

Juanita Gonzalez of Stigler, 13, is the daughter of Victoria Gonzalez. She enjoys school, playing basketball with her brothers and relatives, learning to cook, and helping her mom with her brothers and cousins. Juanita has won a service award for the community Easter egg hunt and was nominated for student of the week.



**Karen Ann Crosby  
District 7**

Karen Crosby, 15, of Wright City is the daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth Crosby. Karen attends Wright City High School where she is a member of the Choctaw STAR program, honor roll and show choir. She has received awards for excellence in art and went to nationals with choir. Karen was Sr. Miss Owa Chita 2012-13, secretary and treasurer of the school's Wisdom Club, a member of YAB, works in community service, and helps raise money for wee care and breast cancer prevention. She enjoys singing, playing piano, reading, sports, attending church and Choctaw singings, cooking, learning new things and spending time with friends and family.



**Summer J. Moffitt  
District 8**

Summer Moffitt, 12, of Hugo is the daughter of Johnny and Barbara Moffett. She attends school at Fort Towson. Summer has received a pin for her donations to the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children, a Choctaw Nation achievement award for academic excellence, a People-to-People award from her teachers, the 2012 Oklahoma Department of Human Services award for Leader of Tomorrow. She enjoys playing with her nephews, Choctaw language class, and attending Choctaw events and singing.



**Kayleigh D. Powell  
District 9**

Kayleigh Powell, 15, of Durant is the daughter of Billy Powell and Monica Blaine. Kayleigh is a student at Durant High School and enjoys fishing with her grandpa, hunting, babysitting, swimming, singing Choctaw hymns with her grandma, cooking traditional foods, beading,

sewing and shopping. She was in Girl Scouts and received several badges including outstanding character and volunteerism awards and was named Most Improved Golfer at golf camp in California in 2005. She was voted Most Improved Clarinet Player in the DMS band, won a superior rating at the choir contest in Branson in 2012, a member of the Principal's Honor Roll for four years, Superintendent's Honor Roll for two years, active in FCCLA and received superior ratings in choir at Norman for the last two years.



**Adriana Byington  
District 11**

Adriana Byington is the 16-year-old daughter of Tawanna Byington of McAlester. Adriana attends McAlester High School and enjoys spending time with her family. She plays flute and piccolo and likes anything involving music. She has been active in McAlester's orchestra for three years, the band for over six years, and a member of the Woodwind Choir for over three years. Adriana attends and is active in King's House Church in McAlester. She is interested in history and loves to play sports, especially softball. Adriana enjoys attending pow wows, eating fry bread, and learning more about her Native American culture.



**Neatha Hardy  
District 12**

Neatha Hardy, 16, of Coalgate is the daughter of Paula Carney. She attends Coalgate High School and has played fast pitch softball for three years, slow pitch for four years, a member of FFA for two years, and a member of Youth Advisory Board. She won first place in the 2011-12 language fair in the song and dance category. She loves to spend time with her family and friends, play softball and show pigs. She also enjoys attending Choctaw language class and attending church at Grace Christian Fellowship.

## SENIOR MISS DIVISION



**Gennavie Tom  
District 2**

Gennavie Tom, 18, of Broken Bow is the daughter of Jimmy and Betty Tom. She attends Broken Bow High School and enjoys helping with youth stickball, mentoring at the Boys and Girls Club, helping her brothers, beading with her mom and aunts, dancing and singing. Gennavie was named Most Improved Hoyo in Stickball and head lady dancer in eighth grade for AILYC. She has won first and second place in art class for her beadwork and drawings. Gennavie is on the A and B honor roll and has earned CPR and first aid cards while attending vo-tech. She received her certified nurse aide license in April.



**Callie Elizabeth Curnutt  
District 4**

Callie Curnutt of Wister is the 19-year-old daughter of Bruce and Francine Curnutt. She is a sophomore at Carl Albert State College, majoring in physical therapy. Callie has been named state 4-H Veterinary Science Record Book winner and has received awards for academic achievement, President's Leadership, and CASC Presidential Leadership scholarship. Her interests include continuing to learn about the Choctaw language and culture. She likes attending pow wows and other cultural events, hunting, riding horses, and volunteering to work with the people of the Choctaw Nation.



**Rebeckah Boykin  
District 8**

Rebeckah Boykin, 21, of Hugo is the daughter of Robert and Jana Boykin. She has an associate's in business from NEO A&M College and will be attending SOSU this fall, majoring in business/marketing. She received a scholarship to play soccer for NEO A&M, was a member of American Indian Excellence Center, NAC, and received a scholarship for being an RA. She loves spending time with her family and friends, going to tribal events with her mother, playing soccer, singing Choctaw hymns for church and for the seniors, playing stickball, going to pow wows and dancing with Choctaw social dancers.



**K'Anna Billy  
District 10**

K'Anna Billy, 23, is from Atoka and the daughter of Winston and Clela Billy. She received a teacher assistant certificate in early child care education from Kiamichi Technology Center. She enjoys spending time with her family, driving them around, and helping watch her sister's children.



**Cherish Ann Wilkerson  
District 11**

Cherish Wilkerson, 19, is from McAlester. She is the daughter of Dennis and Dena Cantrell. An honor student, Cherish is a member of the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women and has received the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women Nancy Tsoodle Scholastic Achievement award and the Eva Lou Russell Scholastic Achievement award. She spends the majority of her time either in class or at work. Any free time is spent going to pow wows, walking, dancing, shopping, riding horses, teaching the Lord's Prayer, swimming, volunteering at the community center, and helping with church activities.

The Choctaw Nation Little Miss contestants compete in personality, goals as princess, beauty and poise, traditional dress, traditional accessories, and correct answering of an impromptu question. The junior and senior contestants compete in the same categories as well as a traditional talent.



# Veterans honored at lunches

Throughout the summer, veterans have been honored for their services at various events such as special lunch functions. Communities have gathered to show appreciation for their service to the country and display the pride they have for local veterans. The pictures from Durant, Wright City and Tahihina depict just a few of the events held to honor service-men and women in the Choctaw Nation.

Photos by BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Ted Dosh take a photo with Truman Heron, the highest-ranking veteran at the Durant Center. Heron served in the Air Force from 1942-63, ranking as a major. He was a fighter pilot who flew single-engine planes to 100 combat missions. He flew four-engine planes later in his career and is a distinguished elder for the Durant senior citizens group, where he serves as chaplain.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilman Ted Dosh and Veterans' Advocacy associate Chris Dill gather for a picture with veterans at the community center in Durant.



Wright City veterans, accompanied by Councilman Jack Austin.



Left: The family of the late Leslie James, former Tribal Council member, honor his memory by displaying his picture along with his medals.

# Back in the saddle

By FRANCINE LOCKE BRAY  
Contributing writer

It has been over a year since an update on the Choctaw horses has been provided. A lot has been happening and they are beginning to make their mark on the worldwide equine community.

Probably the most exciting event of 2012 was the winning of the U.S. National Cavalry Competition by John Brownrigg of North Avondale, Colo., and his Spanish Mustang, Socks. Each year, the U.S. Cavalry Association holds its National Cavalry Competition at a historic cavalry fort and, on occasion, at an active duty post. In September of 2012, the competition was held at Fort Riley, Kan., home of the Cavalry School for Officers of the Horse Mounted Cavalry. The post is also the home of the U.S. Cavalry Association Headquarters. John and Socks won the Level III Field Jumping and placed high in all the other events and the Directors' Cup. They were subsequently named 2012 Champion of the Competition. This coming September, John will be defending his title at the Norris-Penrose event center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Socks came out of the foundation herds owned by Bryant Rickman of Soper.

Mary Carter McConnell of Rapidan, Va., reported that the horses at Summer Duck Wood in Virginia also did well in 2012. At Herndon, Va., Cotton Belt and Mystic Shadow, both Choctaw horses, showed in jumper classes. Cotton Belt, a 4-year-old, won three adult hunter hopeful classes and was the division champion.

Three more of the Summer Duck Wood Choctaw horses – Summer, Calumet, and Romulus – went to a hunter pace and won the blue ribbon. Quest, yet another Choctaw horse, won first place at the Waredeca three-day events. Mystic Shadow won a lead line class. In June, Ricochet's Promise came in third in her first competitive driving competition at the Upperville, Va., horse show. This show is the longest running (130 years) horse show in the country. All of these magnificent equines came from the foundation herds owned by Bryant Rickman. Mary is hopeful they will have a Choctaw horse ready for the 2016 Olympics! She says, "Once these horses have a job to do they love doing it."

Once again the Choctaw ponies were a presence at the 2012 Choctaw Labor Day Festival. Ten of Mr. Rickman's horses spent several days in a Choctaw Nation pasture near Lake Nanih Waiya. Viewing of the horses was added to the buffalo tours conducted during the festival. In addition, several horses were again in the Choctaw Village. Over 350 rides were given on Saturday and Sunday. In April 2013 Brad and Jennie Smith and Michael and Francine Bray, along with the Smiths' Choctaw horse, Chief Blue Streak, spent the day at the Wellston Elementary School. The school was holding its annual Oklahoma heritage and cultural awareness day and had invited the group to come teach the children about the Choctaw horse. Over 350 children attended the half-hour sessions which covered a brief history of the horses and information on conformation and how these horses are different from other equines. The children really liked learning the Choctaw word for horse, isuba, and that Blue could run from Wellston to Oklahoma City and back three times in one day without tiring! Blue, by the way, seemed to really enjoy all the attention he received from the many hands eager to pet a Choctaw horse.

Yvette and Sean Collin of Florence, Ala., recently opened a sanctuary for tours to those interested in learning more about



Chief Blue Streak and Brad Smith.



Photos provided

John Brownrigg and Socks.

the Native American horse and native culture and tradition. Sacred Way Sanctuary is home to roughly 40 Choctaw horses, as well as roughly 60 other Native American horses from around the country. Yvette Collin has also started her PhD at the University of Alaska Fairbanks on "Native Americans and their traditional relationship with their horse." Each of the horses at their sanctuary will be part of this PhD research project, which is focused on supporting Native American oral history that claims that the indigenous horse of the Americas survived the Ice Age and intermixed with the wild horse of Europe that was brought over by the conquistadors in the late 1400s and early 1500s.

This last May, one of the featured activities at the Choctaw Culture Camp in Tvshka Homma was instructions on how to draw a Choctaw horse. Ruby Bolding taught several classes on the Choctaw horses' conformation. They learned that a Choctaw horse varies in size from 13.2 to 14.2 hands high. They have broad heads and narrow faces; small, hooked ears are typical. Their strength and durability come from deep but narrow chests. The croup is sloped and their tail is set on low. Thus the beautiful long tails that are often more than one color. The model used was Icky, a Choctaw horse owned by Dr. Phil Sponenberg of Blacksburg, Va.

In addition to the above exciting events, this past year the Antlers Public Library completed an expansion project. Patti Lehman, the head librarian, had decided to use the subject of the Choctaw Culture as the exhibits in the children's section. A storyboard was completed for one of three walls. In addition to the storyboard, an informational binder was given to the older children and adults to use as a reference. When in Antlers, be sure to stop by to see the storyboard and check out the additional information and pictures available.

You can also now see a storyboard and pictures of the Choctaw horses in the Choctaw Casino Too, just south of Durant. A brief history of the horses is on one wall with pictures of some favorite Choctaw horses, including Chief Going Streak, on the adjoining wall. Take a moment to stop by and learn about this important icon of Choctaw culture.

Most recently, The Dream Vision Company of Fort Worth, Texas, visited Southeastern Oklahoma to begin filming a documentary named "The One Horse Movie." Joseph LaMere, producer, brought his video team to interview Bryant Rickman about the history and current status of the Choctaw horse. They spent three days interviewing and filming and plan to make at least two more visits. While this documentary is intended to feature a number of sites throughout the United States, the Choctaw horses once again "stole the show." Joe was so impressed with Rickman and his horses that he is considering a documentary devoted solely to them.



Photos by Chrissy Shepard | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Betty Walker, class of 1955, says hello to Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

# Wheelock reunion

Alumni of the historic Wheelock Academy, located in Millerton, gathered to reminisce of their time spent at the all-girls school for native youth. The event, hosted on May 31, saw many friendly faces including Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Thomas Williston.



Alumni Maxine (Wilson) McCrary (class of '43) and her husband Alvin J.D. McCrary with Thomas Williston.



Mary (Jacob) Watson, class of 1949, and Martha McHenry, class of 1951, visit with Councilman Thomas Williston at the Wheelock Academy reunion on May 31.



Sisters, both alumni, Verda Obe Simmons and Viola Obe Bohanan, visit with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



# Chahta Amptoba

## Choctaw Traditional Pottery (Part 2)

This article is the second in a four-part series dedicated to the story of Choctaw traditional pottery, “amptoba,” and its ongoing revitalization by Choctaw people. Last month’s edition presented information about the importance of pottery in Choctaw traditional culture, past and present. This month will describe the raw materials that Choctaw potters use to make this ancient art.

Native clay has always been the main ingredient in Choctaw pottery. One Choctaw term for clay is “lukfi nia,” which literally means “fat of the dirt.” Interestingly, in the vernacular of English-speaking potters, sticky clays are also described as being “fat.”

Choctaw pottery is formed from sacred materials. In the traditional way of thinking, both the clay and the earth that it is a part of are sacred. Some Choctaw creation stories indicate that the yellow clay from Nvnih Waiya is the raw material, from which Hvshtahli shaped the Choctaw people. Moreover, in traditional thought, the earth itself is likened unto a mother that continually supports physical life. The profound reverence early Choctaw people had for this earth is perhaps most awe-inspiringly visible in the giant earth mounds that they built one basket load of soil at a time at some of their settlements. That same reverence is also seen in the level of care and attention that they put into making some of their earthen pottery.

Clay is a special kind of dirt that has its own unique physical and chemical properties. It can be almost any color, red, gray, brown, black, sometimes even green, but it is recognized by its sticky texture. Every natural clay has its own particular qualities and quirks. Some clays are good for making traditional pottery, others are not.

Desirable qualities include the clay being easy to shape, shrinking little as it dries, and not only staying in one piece when heated in a fire but also becoming hard and rock-like.

As Choctaw communities work to revitalize traditional pottery, potters have to locate accessible sources of good natural clays (Fig. 1). Some Choctaw potters always travel with buckets and a shovel in their vehicle so that they can dig and sample new clays that they come across in road cuts or stream crossings. When a potter finds a new clay deposit, only enough of the material is dug to make a small test pot or two, which are then dried and fired. If the clay works well in this test, then the potter can invest the time to dig and use more of it. This process helps cut down on waste, and is just one way that traditional potters respect the resource.

Once it has been dug, the clay must be carefully cleaned of roots and rocks. To make good pottery, most clays need to be mixed with tiny pieces of a hard material, known as



### Iti Fabussa

“temper.” Temper opens up the structure of the clay so that pots made from it will shrink and warp less during drying and firing, and will be less likely to crack during firing and use.

The first ancestral Choctaw potters tempered their clay with pieces of pine needles, “tiak hishi.” When the pottery was fired, the needles burned up, leaving small voids in the vessel walls. These voids helped prevent the ceramics from cracking, because a crack forming in the clay could not jump across the void airspace. Ancestral Choctaw potters continually adapted their materials to their needs. Through time, their main temper preferences changed from plant material to quartz sand, “shinuk” (ca. 500 BC), to crushed up pieces of fired pottery, “ampkoa boshulli” (AD 550), to burned freshwater mussel shell, “okafulush hokmi” (AD 1050), to combinations of burned mussel shell, burned bone, sand, grog, and charcoal (AD 1750). Each of these materials imparts different properties to the soft clay and to the finished pottery made from it.

Today, freshwater mussel shell is a favorite tempering material for many Choctaw potters (Figure 2). Before it can be processed into temper, the shells must first be burned on a wood fire. Thereafter, they can easily be crushed up with the fingers (see Iti Fabvssa January 2013).

The amount of temper that needs to be mixed with clay depends on the properties of the clay and the type of pots that the potter wants to make from it. Generally speaking, clay that will be used to make eating bowls, “ampo,” or effigy pieces requires a relatively low amount of finely ground temper. Clay that is to be used for making cooking pots, “shuti,” requires relatively larger amounts of coarser temper; some cooking pots actually have more temper than clay. The large amounts of coarse temper make the cooking pots able to withstand repeating heating and cooling. The smaller amounts of finer temper for the eating bowls make the clay easier to shape and polish, and make the finished pots stronger.

Through the generations, ancestral Choctaw

communities developed a variety of ceramic forms that were adapted to their needs and artistic tastes, and that went in and out of style over time. With a 3,000-year history of change, the diversity of Choctaw and ancestral Choctaw pottery is pretty impressive (Figs. 3-8). The techniques used by Choctaw potters to make these types of pottery have included hand-shaping, coiling, molding, paddling, and slab-building.

When Choctaw people traveled the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma, many of them carried small clay eating bowls. A number of these bowls bore distinguishing designs that were created by using the teeth of broken sections of combs, to make fine parallel lines in the clay before it hardened (Fig. 8). This technique is almost uniquely Choctaw; few other tribes have ever

experimented with it. Once a pot is shaped and designed, it must be slowly and evenly dried in the shade to prevent it from cracking. After two or three weeks, when the clay has become light-colored and warm to the touch, it is ready to be fired. Fire changes the clay into a stone-like material and makes pots so that they can hold water without melting into mud. Firing will be the subject of next month’s Iti Fabvssa.



Left, figure 1: Choctaw potter Vangie Robinson digging clay near her home in Choctaw County.

Below, figure 2: Choctaw potters Don Ed Little and Dan Bernier collecting mussel shells in Bryan County.



Figure 3: Replica of a 2,700-year-old, ancestral Choctaw bowl. (Made by Tammy Beane.)



Figure 4: Cooking pot decorated with cord mark impressions, in the style of 1,500 years ago. (Made by author.)



Figure 5: Replica of a 700-year old ancestral Choctaw bottle. (Made by Ed Perkins.)



Figure 6: Fish effigy bottle, in the style of 700 years ago. (Made by author.)



Figure 7: Cooking pot, in the style of 500 years ago. (Made by Chip Wentz.)



Figure 8: Choctaw Trail of Tears-style eating bowl. (Made by author.)

## Choctaw ancestors returned to rest

On May 16, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma repatriated a collection containing the remains of eight Choctaw ancestors and 520 funerary objects from the Natchez Trace Parkway. The same day that these ancestors and funerary objects were returned, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department staff, assisted by representatives from the Parkway, respectfully reburied them on protected land at an undisclosed location. Now, these ancestors are back at rest.

The remains and objects came from the Boyd Mounds archaeological site, located in what is now Madison County, Miss. This was a village site inhabited by ancestral Choctaw people from AD 300-700. Several centuries later, earth mounds were built on the old village site and used to bury the deceased. Choctaw people continued to visit this ancient, sacred area and as recently as the early 1800s buried a loved one in the mounds.

However, in 1820, the Choctaw Tribe ceded 5 million acres, including the land on which the site sits, to the United States through the Treaty of Doaks Stand.

In 1963 and 1964 in preparation for constructing an adjacent section of the

Natchez Trace Parkway, the National Park Service employed archaeologists to excavate many of the burial mounds at the Boyd Site. Human remains and burial objects were taken from their graves, studied, written about, and then placed in long-term storage. In that day and age, federal agencies gave no thought to whether or not Native American people wanted their ancestors’ graves to be treated in such a way. The remains and funerary objects from the Boyd site sat in storage for decades, far from where their loved ones had originally buried them.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) became law in 1990, making it possible for tribes to repatriate ancestral human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and items of cultural patrimony held in federal collections.

The repatriation and reburial conducted in May culminated 12 years of NAGPRA consultation between the Choctaw Nation, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and other tribes. The Choctaw NAGPRA Advisory Board, made up of 10 Tribal leaders and traditional people guided Choctaw Nation’s role process. The reburial was conducted under the

direct supervision of two Choctaw spiritual leaders, and with the financial assistance of a National Parks Service grant.

The past cannot be undone, but in working together to see these ancestors returned to their rightful rest, Choctaw people and current Natchez Trace Parkway staff fostered a friendship and understanding that will influence each other’s thoughts and actions far into the future. According to Olin Williams, “After several repatriations, I can tell that the agency folks are starting to understand what we are trying to communicate. I think they are beginning to sense the proper repatriation spirit. The fulfillment of returning the remains is erasing the guilt and fear of accounting for mistakes of history.”

The ancestors from Boyd Mounds site are again buried, as their loved ones long ago intended.

When we of the present day and age pass on to the next life and meet the spirits of these ancient people, we should ask them forgiveness for our failure to protect the sanctity of their original graves. However, we can also find a measure of solace that in laying their remains back to rest, some service has been done for them.

## IDABEL

### New travel plaza, fire station open in Idabel

Continued from Page 1

Byington says one of her favorite features of the new Idabel facility is the history wall. “We have history walls in all of our newer travel plazas,” each depicting a different facet of Choctaw history, she explained. “It is one of our biggest attractions.” Idabel’s wall features photos and history about Choctaw stickball.

On the north end, Casino Too gaming machines increased

from 26 to 43, with room to expand. The casino is open daily 7 a.m. to midnight.

Following the ceremony and reception at the travel plaza, another ribbon cutting was held to commemorate the opening of the new fire station in downtown Idabel. The 6,500-sq.-ft. building has drive-through bay doors, a fill station for fueling trucks, extractor and dryer for washing gear and an exercise room.

A Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant provided \$800,000 to the total construction cost of the \$2.7 million projects, adding to the economic growth in McCurtain County. The travel plaza is adding nine employees and Casino Too is adding seven new associates.

“On behalf of the City of Idabel, we are thankful for the partnership and the friendship we have with the Choctaw Nation,” said Idabel Mayor Tina Foshee-Thomas. “I don’t know of a time that we have called on the Choctaw Nation for help or a partnership that they haven’t come through for us. Thank you for making this happen for Idabel.”

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Himak hvshi vt nanta?

*Pronounced:*

Heh-mahk hah-she aht nahn-tah?

What month is this?

*Word Meaning:*

himak – now; the present time

hvshi – month

vt – subject marker      nanta – what

### Himak hvshi yvt lashpa chi.

*Pronounced:*

Heh-mahk hah-she yaht lahsh-pah chi(nh)

It will be hot this month.

himak – now; the present time

hvshi – month

yvt – subject marker      lashpa – hot

achi – future tense – the ‘a’ is in the preceding word ‘lashpa’

### Hvshi aiyyuka vm vlhtoba.

*Pronounced:*

Hah-she aye-yoh-kah ahm ahlh-tohba.

I get paid monthly.

*Word Meaning:*

hvshi – monthaiyyuka - each

vm - to me      vlhtoba – to pay; be paid

### Hvshi aiyyuka alikchi pisa li.

*Pronounced:*

Hah-she aye-yoh-kah ah-lek-chi peh-sah le.

I see the doctor monthly.

hvshi – month      aiyyuka – each

alikchi – doctor      pisa – to see      li - le



# CHOCTAW DAYS 2013



Visitors join in the last dance of the event – the Walk Dance.

Photos by LISA REED AND BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Aaron Umsted sings "Amazing Grace" in the Choctaw language for everyone. Aaron is a member of the Choctaw Nation from Durant, Okla., who is currently performing at the Kennedy Center in the Broadway national tour of "Anything Goes."



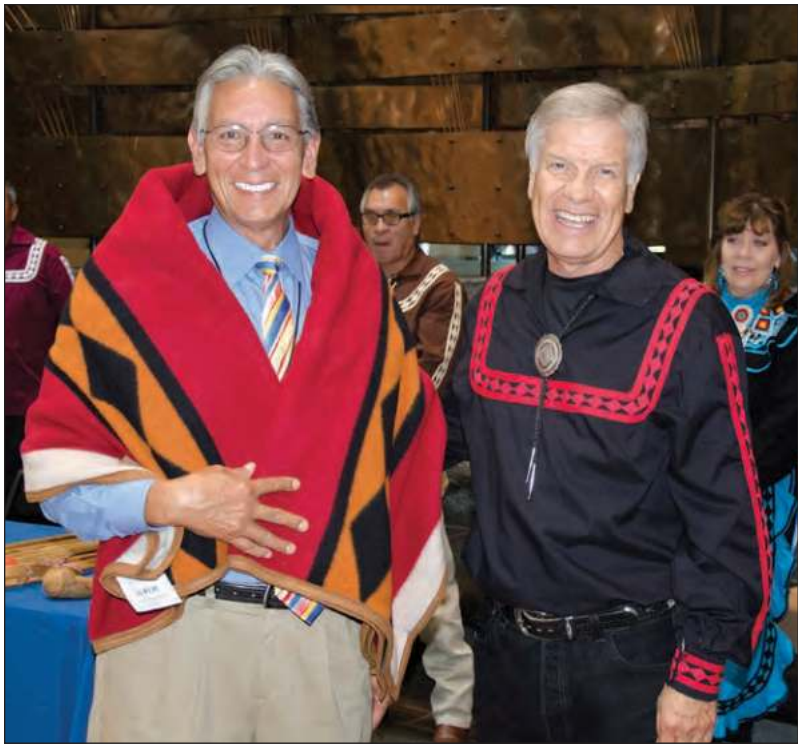
Reggie Bailey competes with Kameron Vaughn for the stickball.



Dylan Cavin displays his award winning artwork for all to see.



Author and storyteller Tim Tingle teaches Malachi McDonald the moves to help with his story about "Bigfoot and the Choctaw Princess."



NMAI Director Kevin Gover wears the Pendleton presented to him by Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation.



The Stealing Partners Dance gathers many visitors to do the traditional dance.



Amy Dominick Padgett joins Mike Scott in the wedding dance. Don't worry Amy, its not official!



Julia Gelfond finds that it would be helpful to have more hands when beading.



Billy Eagle Road III and Cheyenne Murray dance the Four-Step War Dance.



Debbie Damron explains about Choctaw baskets to a fascinated little visitor.



The kids couldn't wait to give Assistant Chief a good, solid high-five.



Little Miss Josephine Gilmore and Junior Miss Cheyenne Shomo are pictured with Dorothy Lippert of the National Museum of Natural History's repatriation office.



*Schedule subject to change*