



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Information and forms page 15

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2014 Issue

More 'Through a New Lens' event photos on page 16



Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on June 14, 2014 at Tvshka Homma.

Council members voted on:

- Application for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant
- Application for the Healthy Transitions Grant
- Application for the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grants
- Approve the funds and budget for the Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education
- Oil and Gas Lease
- Approve Commercial Development and Use of Winding Stair Ranch
- Approve the establishment of Resort F&B
- Authorize the Chief to place property in Trust status with the United States of America.

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

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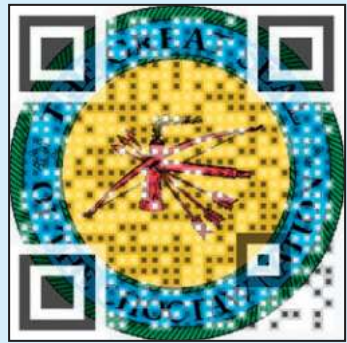
The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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



Through a New Lens

Choctaw Nation travels to Capitol to represent heritage

By VONNA SHULTS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Through a New Lens was the theme as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma traveled to the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington D.C. to share and celebrate the Choctaw culture with the thousands of guests who visited the museum on June 27 and 28. This marks the fourth year the tribe has been able to collaborate with the Smithsonian staff to feature several different aspects of the history and heritage of the Choctaw people.

This two-day event is unique in its ability to allow visitors a specialized view into the different aspects of the Choctaw Nation, and allows the tribe the opportunity to educate people not only from across the United States, but many international cities since Washington D.C. is a worldwide destination. Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and tribal council members Delton Cox, Thomas Williston, Anthony Dillard, and Ted Dosh, were able to make the trip to participate in the cultural activities and spend time with many tribal members who planned their family vacations to coincide with the tribe's visit to the NMAI.

Choctaw royalty opened each day's festivities by signing the Lord's Prayer, which was sung in Choctaw by Brad Joe. Social dancing immediately followed and began with the War Dance. Many spectators were surprised to find themselves pulled into the dance during Stealing Partners. The second performance each day began with royalty performing the Four Directions ceremony before social dancing would begin again.

Chief Batton presented Kevin Gover, the NMAI director, with a handcrafted knife made by Paul Hacker as a token of appreciation for the opportunity to allow the tribe to share with the guests a small glimpse into the Choctaw Nation. Being able to spend time one-on-one with visitors was a wonderful way to enrich the guest's visit and offer an experience that could be



Choctaw Nation: JOSEPH JEFFERSON

Assistant Chief, Jack Austin Jr., Councilmen Delton Cox, Anthony Dillard, Kenny Bryant, Ted Dosh and Chief Gary Batton with the Choctaw Princesses at the Choctaw Days in Washington D.C.

shared with others. Choctaw culture was well represented on all four floors of the museum with several booths featuring Choctaw artists, craft activities, traditional weapons, storytelling, pottery, and the ever popular stickball. Mitsitam Restaurant, located inside the museum, featured several Choctaw-inspired dishes on the summer menu for any person wanting to sample a taste of Choctaw food.

Many of the visitors who attended the beading class discovered a new appreciation for beadwork created by Roger Amerman and Marcus Amerman. Museum guests were particularly fascinated by Les Williston's blowgun demonstration in the outside amphitheater and many followed him back to his booth for more information.

Choctaw hymns were sung by chanter Brad Joe, who also helped Cultural Services conduct bead making classes; flutist Paul Hacker was able to perform for the crowds; Edmon Perkins demonstrated pottery; storyteller and author, Tim Tingle, captivated the audience with his lively tales; and guests were able to visit each booth to view artwork and ask questions.

After the museum closed on Friday evening, stickball players and fans ventured a couple blocks for an exhibition game on the Capitol lawn. While the game was played, many guests stopped and took a few minutes to watch the game. Several passersby admitted they had no idea what was being played but recognized it being similar to lacrosse.

New distribution center for Durant



Choctaw Nation: DEIDRE ELROD

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., Councilman Ted Dosh along with other Councilmen and employees of the Food Distribution Center cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Food Distribution Center in Durant.

By DEIDRE ELROD

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation celebrated the grand opening of a new Food Distribution Center in Durant on June 19. The market is located at 2352 Big Lots Parkway.

The move from the old location started May 29 and took three days to complete. All of the shelves were stocked and ready for eager shoppers by June 2.

Jerry Tonubbee, the Director

of the Food Distribution Program said, "The new store will provide a completely new experience for our clients." The distribution center is approximately 7,500 square feet and is set up like a typical grocery store with aisles of food to choose from such as fresh fruits, vegetables and meats along with foods that are low in sodium and fats.

"Typically, a family on our program will receive approximately 85 pounds of food per household member per month," said Tonubbee.

In order to qualify for the program, at least one member of the house hold must have a CDIB, cannot participate in the SNAP program and cannot exceed the income guidelines set by the USDA that vary by family size.

Currently the Food Distribution program serves approximately 2,020 houses or a total of 4,399 people.

Tonubbee continued, "In May, Durant served 358 households consisting of 834 people. We anticipate that number growing over the coming months."

Two more markets are planned for future sites in the McAlester and Broken Bow areas.

For more information regarding the hours or exact locations of centers, call the following offices.

- Durant (580)-924-7773
- McAlester (918)-420-5716
- Poteau (918)-649-0431
- Antlers (580)-298-6443

For more information about specific requirements call (580)-924-7773.

FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

For the betterment of the Tribes

From the Desk of Chief Gary Batton

I had the opportunity of meeting with Chief Phyllis Anderson and our Mississippi Choctaw brothers and sisters during our trip earlier this month to attend the World Series of Stickball. It was truly an honor to receive a drum and a very traditional basket from them. It was great to continue sharing ideas of history and culture and potential ways to partner for the betterment of both Tribes.

I was so ecstatic to get to play in a stickball game between players age 35 and over on July 3. I felt like I was in high school again, getting ready to play basketball or baseball because I was so full of nervous energy and excitement! I got to play the entire game. We lost, but it was still fun to be part of the Bad Medicine team, to be a part of the trust and camaraderie that goes along with it and to be just "one of



Chief Batton and Chief Phyllis Anderson

the guys" on the field. Leadership can sometimes be about allowing other people to be leaders and to just be supportive. I am already looking forward to next year's game.

My heart did swell with pride as our Tribal Council, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and I were able to lead our team, Tvshka Homma, onto the field later that night for their game against Nanih Waiya. Also leading the

team were their families and the boys and girls who played stickball this year in our first-ever youth stickball league. What an awesome event to see how far our team has come and to see our future stickball players. It is great to see pride in our history and culture come back to our people and to see them proud of being Choctaw. It is so good to hear our tribal people say Chahta sia!



Chief Batton and World Series stickball team Bad Medicine stand ready to compete. The team is made up of both Mississippi and Oklahoma Choctaw players age 35 and over.

Chaplain's Corner

Ark of the Covenant

Yakoke! (Thank you) for your prayers for the Choctaw people and for the Chaplain's Corner. May God bless you and may you have a good summer.

Today we are going to study about the Ark of the Covenant in the Book of Joshua. In Joshua we see the process of becoming what we ought to be.

In the third chapter we are instructed in a basic truth for the child of God, and for the whole life of the Christian.

The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord played a very important part in Israel's history, like everything else in the tabernacle, the Ark had spiritual significance. It was the most outstanding piece of furniture in the Tabernacle and represented the presence of the Lord. It was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We read in verse three of Joshua chapter three where Joshua's officers "... commanded the people, saying, when you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it."

Just as they crossed the river Jordan and entered into the land of Canaan, so we as Christians are to keep our spiritual eyes fixed upon Jesus Christ.

This is what we read in Hebrews 23:2:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

This is the basic for our whole Christian life. We must keep our eyes on Him not only to see Him, but also to follow Him. This is exactly what the Israelites were instructed to do with regard to the Ark at the crossing of Jordan.

Before Moses was instructed to build the Tabernacle, a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night led the Israelites. At the Red Sea the angel of the Lord, together with the cloud stood behind the Israelites to protect them from the enemy. The Egyptian army followed after them but was not able to come up to them.

Now the situation concerning the Ark was different. The Ark went before them into the danger areas. There were no enemies behind them. All the enemy and battle was before them. Their fighting lay ahead.

To enter Canaan the promised land for the Israelites was a decision to become involved in a spiritual warfare.

Canaan is a picture of the Christian's battle against sin and his victory over it as he seeks to live for the Lord. This is the reason why it is very important that we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ who goes before us. He said of



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

His work with us in John 10:4:

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

So it is as we enter spiritual warfare having first been born again we follow our Shepherd. The Lord Jesus spoke of this in John 10:27-29:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of

my hand.

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

All the power necessary for the conquest of Canaan was already provided for the Israelites when they crossed the Red Sea. This great power was not experienced by them until they accepted it by faith.

Again we need to be reminded that this points to the fact that every blessing of God is ours the very moment we are born again. We have been blessed with spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

These blessings become ours in reality as we claim them by faith. The inheritance, all the blessings in Christ, is ours as a gift from God. Yet there is much more that becomes ours as we, by faith, just take it as ours.

As the Lord commanded the Israelites to fix their eyes on the Ark of the Covenant, we too much keep our spiritual eyes fixed on Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

So in the Book of Joshua we see the promise of becoming what we ought to be. We ought to be victorious children of God. There is wonderful inheritance that we have that is kept in trust for us in Jesus Christ, and it is ours as we earn to possess and take it.

You may be saying, this sounds good, this is the kind of life I want to live. How do I begin?

First, realize that as the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt they needed a deliverer. Today realize that you are in bondage to sin and Satan and that you need a deliverer. Your Deliverer is Jesus Christ.

Believe the record of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. Believe that He paid the penalty for sin, which is death. He died for you and He rose again the third day and today He lives.

As you believe in Him, believe means to trust, you can have life. Eternal life to live with Him forever.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Will you do this today? Remember to pray for our country and for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our armed services.

Living traditions

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C., was an amazing event on many levels. The highlight for me was seeing our young people sharing the Choctaw culture.

More than 5,000 visitors attended Choctaw Days on June 26 and on June 27, over 7,000 were recorded – 12,000 people who learned about the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, or possibly learned a little more than they already knew as they talked with our group.

The dancers performed the Four-Step War Dance, the Raccoon, the Stealing Partners and the Snake in the Potomac area of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The circle is open to all three upper levels and people were lined along each floor, drawn by the sounds of our chanter and the dancers' steps. Members of the audience in the circle were invited to dance during the Stealing Partners and a lot of them stayed to be whipped around as part of the Snake. Their laughter brought even more to watch.

As each of the Potomac segments of the day ended, the staff, including our Royalty, would take on other tasks such as teaching how to make corn husk dolls, talking about our traditions or explaining the intricacy of making stickball sticks and balls. Traditional clothing was worn and I heard many admiring comments about the diamond design, the Choctaws' sign of respect for the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

After the museum closed on Friday evening, we walked together to the lawn of



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and NMAI Director Kevin Gover

a wonderful experience.

Choctaw Days is just one example of how this generation is learning the traditions and in turn teaching others. They spend long hours preparing for and holding events such as summer camps for culture, stickball and other sports. They visit schools, community centers and present classes for employees. Pottery, basketry and beadwork classes have been held throughout the 10 1/2 counties and in many other states. Several wear medallions as they travel. Some are modern designs reflecting their love of OU, OSU or Thunder teams but distinctly and noticeably a reflection of our culture for all to see.

The future of the Choctaw Nation is in good hands. These young men and women don't speak about our traditions as if they are something ancient to remember – they "live" them.

Reflections of serving others



Spotlight on Elders With Curtis Pugh

married on January 29, 1966. They were blessed with two daughters, Anna Cattermull of Auckland, New Zealand, and Ruthie McLellan of Poteau and have eight grandchildren. Curtis and Janet were married for over 45 years until Janet passed away in July 2011.

Curtis freely admits he has not always done what God had instructed him to do and instead drove a truck for many years to support his family. After many years, God "broke my heart and brought me back so I spent 26 1/2 years doing mission work."

He spent 15 years in Canada and 11 1/2 years in Romania. In Ontario, he pastored the Six Nations Indian Reserve, which had 10,000 Indians on their band list, for five years. He and his wife started a Christian school at the reservation that is still operating after 27 years.

From there, he and Janet went onto the Yukon Territory, but before they could make the journey they would travel to different churches to share the next journey God was leading them. Curtis estimates they ended up visiting close to 300 churches until they were located with the Tlingit people in a village about 50 miles south of White Horse, in the far northwest corner of the Yukon Territory near Alaska.

Next stop was Romania, but would require Curtis and Janet to visit churches for support for approximately one year before they could make the journey. While in Romania, they were able to learn about the different levels of communism throughout the country, but also realized the people were among the most generous they had met, and relished anything from the United States. Curtis pastored at a small, country church where they could fit in approximately 150 people.

Eventually he was able to start his own church. The building had no air-conditioning, and only a wood-stove for heating in the winter. Nonetheless, people would travel by foot to attend services. While in Romania, Curtis was able to witness how simple tasks in the United States would be tiresome and complex in the every day life of Romania, such as waiting in long lines to buy bread, milk, and on occasion, fruits and vegetables. Even though life in Romania is very tough and rugged, Curtis shares that if his health allowed him, he would be back in Romania or traveling back and forth.

He is a 7th generation LeFlore County area Choctaw and was one of the contributors of the book, "Touch My Tears" by Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer. Curtis may have spent almost half his life outside the borders of the United States, but the love and labor as a missionary sharing the Gospel in remote and foreign areas is truly reflective of the Choctaw history of serving others.

The loves and labors of a missionary

By VONNA SHULTS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Faith and family are revered throughout the Choctaw Nation and can be considered cornerstones of our culture.

While many descendants from the Choctaw removed from Mississippi to Oklahoma still live within the state, the majority have relocated throughout the years all across the United States and internationally. Poteau resident Curtis Pugh, while currently living only a few miles from his birthplace of Heavener, Okla., has traveled thousands of miles sharing the Gospel as a missionary here in the United States and internationally. He was born to Lois McAlvain and Jerome Pugh in 1944. As a youngster, his mother, Lois McAlvain Pugh, worked at the Sequoyah Indian School in Tahlequah. Curtis would have preferred to attend Sequoyah but at that time children of employees were not allowed to attend the boarding school.

He began his service of ministry at the young age of 16, by traveling once a month to a small community near Quinton, Okla. called Palestine. He describes his first congregation as fine and patient people and states, "I felt sorry for them because I didn't know much back then and still don't know much." After he would finish preaching, someone would usually take him home to feed him and he would drive back home to Tahlequah after Sunday service.

He met his wife, Janet Killian, while attending Bible College in Memphis, Tenn., and first introduced himself by telling her he was going to marry her, but admits that is probably not the best way to acquire a date. He chuckles and shares that many of the young female students attending Bible College would attend so they could "get their bachelor." Janet finally agreed to go on a walk with Curtis, which led to more walks, and they were

Communal Efforts

Choctaw Nation paves the way for Southeastern Oklahoma as Promise Zone

By **STEPHENIE OCHOA**
and **BRANDON FRYE**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Sara-Jane Smallwood, the Promise Zone Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation, spoke to local economic representatives, educators, and business leaders at the third annual E3 Economic Summit at Southeastern Oklahoma State University on June 17.

Smallwood spoke of the designation of the Choctaw Nation as the first tribal Promise Zone, one of five areas in the U.S. to be selected. "The designation in January was a huge surprise and also a huge joy when we found out that we were the first and the only tribe to be designated a Promise Zone in the country," Smallwood said.

President Barack Obama also designated urban and rural areas in San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and southeastern Kentucky as Promise Zones, beginning the anti-poverty program aimed at providing resources and improving conditions for those communities. The designations are for ten years and are given to areas that not only need economic development, but also have systems or relationships in place to help support the organization and implementation of services.

Smallwood said the initiative would enhance cooperation among federal agencies, governmental branches, community advocates, and Native American tribes. "My job is to work with our leaders, both

internally and externally, to figure out what our needs are and put the pieces together to communicate that to federal agencies," Smallwood said.

"Right now, we are focusing on a few key areas that we know will contribute to our economy and create a better workforce for tomorrow."

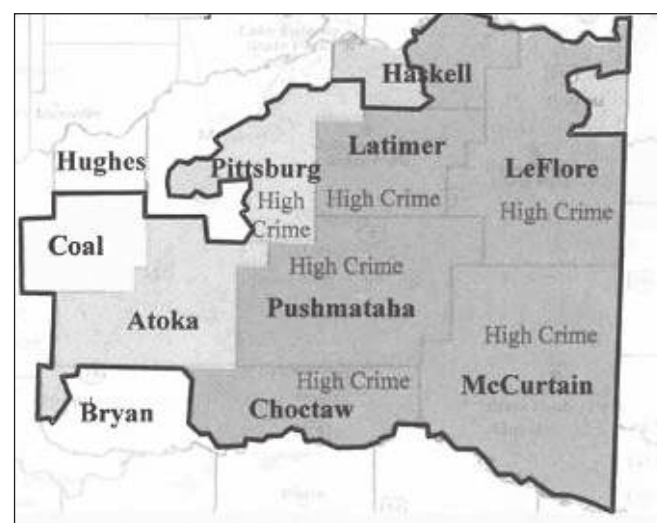
John Redman, Rural Development Specialist for the United States Development Agency (USDA), also speaking at the E3 Economic Summit, said the government wants to invest in what works by helping these areas define clear goals and gain access to more resources. "We're going to try to fund as many projects as we can,"

Redman said. "We are looking for new projects to partner with the Choctaw

Nation and their local affiliates, so the Choctaw Nation is going to be a very important player in economic development here in the years looking forward."

Kathy Hendrick, Director of the Southeastern Center for Regional Competitiveness stated, "In general, the Choctaw Nation has already made a huge impact on southeastern Oklahoma areas and the Promise Zone initiative will help them to develop and grow more."

Smallwood says within the very near future, the Choctaw Nation will begin to reach out to community partners even more in order to help identify needs and establish goals to meet those needs. It is expected education is a main focus along with tax credits.



Choctaw Nation

Promise Zone Areas within the Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Forestry Department - Counties, Communities, Nations

By **STEPHENIE OCHOA**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Recently, two forestry team members returned from a 16-day stint in Arizona battling an intense fire on Apache lands. Prevention tech Joshua Bates and Wallace Kitchel, dozer operator, were dispatched to the fire due to the need for special fire fighting techniques. The Choctaw Nation Tribal Forestry Services Department is a unique forestry wild land fire fighting unit within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma departmental services covering the entire tribal lands of the Nation. The highly specialized forestry team is comprised of a 6-man crew whose certifications include very dangerous and arduous physical task achievements along with unique skill sets required to be in the department. Some members have mechanical training, some are prevention officers but all can be called for a specific position within forest fires.

The Choctaw Nation Forestry Department is nestled within the Tahleah city limits and is one of the few departments on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and always ready to respond anywhere within the 10 1/2 county stretch. The team is also ready to respond to other area dispatches from the Oklahoma Forestry Department which can pull them into any Oklahoma forested area, as well as other heavily forested states, specifically if tribal lands.

In addition to fighting forest fires, the team also responds to calls for help during or after natural disasters such as with Hurricane Sandy. Areas the team has been called to include

Arizona, California, Oregon, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

According to the Director of Forestry, Tom Lowry, "In order to be a forestry firefighter you must be highly trained and motivated to help, but also be able to function during unimaginable stress. These guys have the

toughest job in the worst conditions and there are lives at stake.

Lowry explained the rigorous training that is involved for every wild land firefighter, "because mistakes can cause lives to be lost, forestry crews are continually updating, adding to or perfecting their skills. They each have personalized planning programs for achieving better knowledge. Many of the tasks they strive to perfect have to be successfully completed three times to get certified in the skill set, and once certification is acquired for this job, they will keep up with retraining efforts to stay up to date."

Wild land firefighters are different from traditional fire fighting teams in that they are focus only on the lands and individuals within those areas. If a house or building is on fire, the forestry team will focus more on the land that the structure is on and the lands relative to it versus the building. Also, the methods for fighting land fires vary greatly from structure fires. Clearing the path of a fire, digging fire lines, and burning out fires are the most common ways these unique firefighters use.

Lowry added that he is proud of the team and they all possess unique talents or gifts that allow them to work well as a team. He says, "This crew, they never even blink an eye at what has to be done, they just do it. They have been together for many years and they function more as a family than as coworkers and this is what makes them great."

Bates says everybody on the team has the same set of goals within the department, "We just want to protect lives and property and then to come home safely." Bates has been with the department and has seen many trips throughout the country along with many other fires on home ground and describes fighting fires by saying, "Good communication is important and every fire is different. You have to do whatever you can to get a fire stopped to keep people and places safe." Bates also stated that forestry fire crews are all very talented individuals and he appreciates the opportunity to meet such amazing people.

The Choctaw Firefighter Program accepts applications for wildland firefighters. Interested individuals should be aware of the For additional information visit www.choctawnation.com.



Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation Forestry Department Prevention Tech Joshua Bates.



Choctaw Nation

Wild land fire battled by the Choctaw Nation Forestry Department.

Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department and Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics saving lives

By **BRANDON FRYE**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) installed a permanent prescription drug drop off box inside the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department at 1705 Locust street June 24.

Any person can deposit unwanted and outdated prescriptions and containers, serving to protect the environment from pollution as well as safeguard against accidents and any possible abuse. These OBN drop boxes are currently the only means of discarding medications safely in Oklahoma.

"It's a win-win," R.D. Hendrix, Director of Choctaw Law Enforcement, said. "There is not a charge for it, OBN provides the box, they provide the service to come pick it up when it is full, and it's convenient for all of our employees to be able to utilize." Statewide, OBN

has taken back roughly 28 tons of unwanted prescriptions.

The disposal box at the Choctaw Public Safety Department is the 158th to be installed within Oklahoma and is now one of three boxes available to citizens in the Durant area. Hendrix said OBN wants to take drugs off the streets. "I'm sure they saw, throughout the state, a lot of problems with prescription drugs," he said. "Not only people selling them, but also things happening in the homes."

Mark Woodward, OBN spokesman, said prescription drug abuse is a growing epidemic in Oklahoma and it is unsafe to leave outdated drugs in the house. "Old, expired medications left in the home can be targeted by users," Woodward said. "Teenagers also target their parent's current or expired prescriptions to abuse,

trade, or sell in order to obtain alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs."

These drop boxes are also vital for preventing potential disasters caused by keeping unnecessary medications in the home, Darrell Weaver, Director of OBN, said. "A lot of our elderly people, they usually have several medications, and a lot of times they get more than what they need. Once they pass on, what do the relatives do with the medication?" He added, "I always say this: it's about saving lives and it will be well worth it if we can save at least one life."

The drop box inside the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department will be available during the business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional locations are available to citizens of Durant at the Bryan County Sheriff's Office and Durant Police Department.



Choctaw Nation

Mike Johnson, Choctaw Nation Public Safety Sergeant, R.D. Hendrix, Choctaw Nation Director of Law Enforcement, Darrell Weaver, Director of OBN, and Bob Cook, Chief Agent of Enforcement, stand with the new drug drop within the

“

I always say this: it's about saving lives and it will be well worth it if we can save at least one life – Darrell Weaver

”

Get outside, experience your local parks and recreation



Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the vital role local parks and recreation play in conservation, health and wellness, and social equity efforts in communities all across the country. This year, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center and NRPA want everyone to go OUTside, get INspired, change their OUTlook and get INVolved in the community. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center encourages and invites all people to celebrate Park and Recreation Month during July by getting OUTside and INto their local parks.

This year's theme, "OUT is IN," was crowdsourced and then voted on by NRPA members via social media. The theme is intended to bring awareness to the need to connect more people, adults and children alike, to nature and the outdoors. In fact, a recent nationwide survey released by NRPA and conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs found that nearly three in 10 U.S. adults do not spend time outside on a daily basis and of those who do spend daily time outside; almost half spend less than 30 minutes in the fresh air.

You can help reverse this trend and take the OUT is IN challenge by doing an indoor activity outdoors every day. "We are so excited to celebrate Park and Recreation Month and highlight the benefits of the great outdoors. Park and Recreation Month is a great time to just get out there and experience all the wonderful aspects of parks and recreation and gain an appreciation for the benefits they bring to the lives of the people.

Nationally, NRPA is encouraging all people to participate in a 31-day social media challenge on Twitter and Instagram.



Anyone can participate by posting photos of themselves doing typical inside activities outside with the hashtag #JulyOUTisIN. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org/July.

While participating in activities outside it is VERY IMPORTANT to stay hydrated. Water Is Life! Here are some ways to enhance water without adding sugar or chemicals.

- Wash and slice cucumbers, place a slice in a glass or a few slices to a pitcher of water.
- Fresh mint is also very refreshing. By itself or in addition to other natural enhancers.
- Wash and slice fresh citrus fruits to place in a pitcher of water.
- Add berries of any type and combination. Both fresh or frozen either way will work.

For further information, you may contact Erin Adams with the RD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800)-349-7026 ext. 6959.

NURSERY NEWS

Violet & Olivia Logan



Link and Coleen Logan are happy to announce the arrival of twin girls, Violet Reese and Olivia Pauline Logan. They were born on February 20 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. Violet weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces and Olivia weighed 5 pounds 11 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Twylia Kelly of McAlester and the late Mark Sherrill. Paternal grandparents are the late Marty and Pauline Logan of Chassell, Mich. Great-grandparents are Kenneth and Linda Sherrill of McAlester.

Choctaw Nation WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling



Many moms think that breastfeeding may be too hard for them to do, but most mothers and babies can learn to breastfeed with just a little practice and patience.

Breastfeeding is definitely worth the effort!

Call 1-800-522-6170 extension 2507 or text 580-380-2515 if you have questions about breastfeeding, or to find a breastfeeding class near you.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26, except for: Aug. 6: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12:30-3 p.m. (market open) Aug. 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open) Closed: Aug. 27-29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 11
DURANT
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26, except for: Closed: Aug. 27-29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 1
McALESTER
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26, except for: Closed: Aug. 27-29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 7
POTEAU
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26, except for: Closed: Aug. 27-29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 5

Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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



10 tips Nutrition Education Series

save more at the grocery store



10 MyPlate tips to stretch your food dollar

Using coupons and looking for the best price are great ways to save money at the grocery store. Knowing how to find them is the first step to cutting costs on food. Use the MyPlate coupon tips to stretch your budget.

- find deals right under your nose**
Look for coupons with your receipt, as peel-offs on items, and on signs along aisle shelves.
- search for coupons**
Many stores still send ads and coupons for promotion, so don't overlook that so-called "junk mail." You can also do a Web search for "coupons." Go through your coupons at least once a month and toss out any expired ones.
- look for savings in newspaper**
Brand name coupons are found as inserts in the paper every Sunday—except on holiday weekends. Some stores will double the value of brand name coupons on certain days.
- join your store's loyalty program**
Signup is usually free and you can receive savings and electronic coupons when you provide your email address.
- buy when foods are on sale**
Maximize your savings by using coupons on sale items. You may find huge deals such as "buy one get one free."
- find out if the store will match competitors' coupons**
Many stores will accept coupons, as long as they are for the same item. Check with the customer service desk for further details.
- stay organized so coupons are easy to find**
Sort your coupons either by item or in alphabetical order. Develop a system that's easiest for you and make finding coupons quick and hassle-free. Ideas for coupon storage include 3-ring binders, accordion-style organizers, or plain envelopes.
- find a coupon buddy**
Swap coupons you won't use with a friend. You can get rid of clutter and discover additional discounts.
- compare brands**
Store brands can be less expensive than some of the name brand foods. Compare the items to find better prices.
- stick to the list**
Make a shopping list for all the items you need. Keep a running list on your phone, on the refrigerator, or in a wallet. When you're in the store, do your best to buy only the items on your list.



Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline
1 800 QUIT NOW
Free help 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.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Appreciate the Biskinik

I have successfully been getting my newspaper and I wanted to write and let you know how much I appreciate it. Thank you.

Troy Penick

Academic All-Stater thanks Nation

I am an Academic All-Stater as awarded by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. I attended the banquet celebrating my achievement on May 17, and I received a scholarship generously funded by the Choctaw Nation. I also enjoyed the opportunity to sit with your representative, Mrs. Kathy Carpenter.

Thank you for donating the funds for my scholarship to assist my college experience. With my scholarship, I will attend the University of Oklahoma and major in music education. I hope to become a band teacher and inspire students through music. Thank you for making my honor of being one of the top 100 students in Oklahoma even greater.

Julian White

Thanks for the Choctaw Nation

I would like to say thank you to the Environmental Health and Engineering for our water and sewer. Everyone was so nice and so helpful in the office. A special thanks to Hoss Ward. He informed me my husband could receive V.A. Benefits and has qualified for them since then. Thanks to the tribe for the program, we appreciate you!

Karen and Darrell Roberson

Appreciate golf camp

ciate the opportunity to go to the golf camp held by the Choctaw Nation. Thank you to everyone who helped out with it, I enjoyed it.

Rulee Roberts Valliant

Looking for relatives

Looking for relatives of Gary Vester Scott in Oklahoma City. Mr. Vester passed away August 5, 2009. Looking for relatives of Janice Bear born between 1967-1971 and thought to have lived in Henryetta. Janice Bear may be the mother of twin daughters of Gary Vester Scott. Contact Elizabeth Burks with any information at 405-321-2370 or ltatum81@gmail.com.

Thanks for providing opportunities



My name is Joycealyn K. Shaw, great grand-daughter of the late Jessie and Joe Dick, granddaughter of Joyce Dick-Lewis, and daughter of La Shawn Lewis, and I am honored to have been one of the recipients of the higher education grant during the course of my undergraduate studies at Sam Houston State University located in Huntsville, Texas. Thanks to your generous support, I have successfully obtained my Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology with a 3.0 grade point average, Friday, May 9th 2014.

I plan to serve as a victimologist, while working to become a dual master in public administration and social work to stand as a liaison for my community, and further serve people of color.

Thank for this gift, as it has assisted in alleviating some of my financial obstacles as I worked toward my career and personal goals. My educational pursuits would not be possible without the generous support from the Great Choctaw Nation. Thank you for enabling this opportunity.

Joycealyn K. Shaw

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the

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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.



Choctaw elder Safety

On behalf of my mother Newana (Crowder) Ferrall, 84 and my aunt Pat (Crowder) Armstrong, 86. I would like to thank Chief (Miko) Gary Batton, Councilman for District 9 Durant, Ted Dosh, and the Housing Authority for the Choctaw Nation, Hugo, for their help to have the storm shelters installed at their residences. Before the shelters were installed I would call my mother when a tornado alert was issued in my mother's area, I would tell her to find a safe place in her house. She would tell me, "this old Indian woman has no place to go". I felt really bad because my wife is Chickasaw and they installed a shelter several years ago for us. She asked me if the Choctaws had a program like that? I told her I would find out. That was when I contacted Chief Batton and Councilman Ted Dosh. They immediately responded and provided the information. My mother lives next to two other elder woman, now they have a safe place and help each other take shelter.

Again, Yakoke for all those who helped these two Choctaw elders have a safe place to go.

Bill Wietelman

Thankful for Choctaw generosity

I would like to take the time to thank you for the assistance you provide to your members. I am a grateful recipient of the generosity the Choctaw Nation shows its people.

As a widower, at the age of 97, it has been very helpful for me to benefit from the assistance you provide such as support for gas bills, food baskets, and larger items like ensuring the safety and peace of mind of your members by assisting with the purchase and installation of storm shelters. The secure feeling I now have, especially with Oklahoma storm season coming is priceless.

I continue to be amazed about how caring and supportive this tribe is to its people. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am proud to be a part of the Great Choctaw Nation.

Edith Carney

Thankful for helping hand



I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Choctaw Nation for the support given to me while attending the University of Central Oklahoma for the past five years. I graduated this past May as a theatre performance major with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts. I have been on the Dean's Honor Roll six semesters and made straight A's my final semester. I have had the honor of performing in many productions and was an Irene Ryan finalist at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. I attribute much of my success to your support. It has been not only encouraging, but dependable; it allowed me to focus more on acing my mid-terms than getting my tuition paid for. It was truly a lifesaver on many accounts. My future looks bright and I look forward to letting you know of my future endeavors. Thank you so much for your reliable provision for the Choctaw youth.

Brittany Johnson, Granddaughter of Lavada Elkins

Appreciative for help

I wanted to send a letter to our tribe to express a deep and heartfelt thanks for the Choctaw Nation who helped with my father's funeral expenses. My Dad was only 62 and though he had his share of ailments, we never expected to get the phone call on June 10th that he had passed away. I never buried a parent and the anxiety I felt over the arrangements began to cloud my grief but when we were informed the tribe was there for us, my sister and I suddenly felt cradled and protected and were able to focus on the moment of our loss and grief. We thank the Choctaw Nation for the medical care given to my Dad and when that could no longer help, for helping us with his passing and put him to rest in a manner that was respectful and just what he would have wanted.

Sauna Hudson and Laura Hudson, Daughters to Gary Max Hudson

Thank You

As an elder in the Choctaw Nation, I feel special now - very safe. My heart sends a big "thank you" to the Nation for providing us with a storm shelter. What a blessing. The team in Hugo were so kind as we made the request - they really care and give honor to those of us who move a little slow. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I am comforted to know I am just a few steps from safety during the wild Oklahoma weather.

Wallace and Ruth Davis

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 74707**

Check appropriate box

A - polypropylene string backpack with mesh exterior packet - \$10.00

B - Labor Day Cap - \$12.00

C - Labor Day T-shirt - \$15.00

D - Labor Day T-shirt - \$15.00

Quantity Total

Daisy & Grey

Grey

Daisy

Sport Grey

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.)

Burial help

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping with burying my son, Jerrod Lee Choate. I am sorry it took me so long my heart is broken. Thank you Charlene, I know you did it. God go with you, ride on that wing and a prayer.

Geraldine and Tommy

Assistance appreciated

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their generosity in helping me with my dental and hearing aids. Also I want to thank you for all the educational assistance you gave my 6 grandkids. When I call the Choctaw Nation the girls are always so very helpful, sweet, and kind!

Velvree Partin

EVENTS

Monthly Gospel singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. August 1 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at (580)-760-6127.

Will preparation clinics

The Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will hold free wills clinics to assist low-income Okla. tribal members. All clinics will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. OILS will help prepare wills on Friday August 1 at the Choctaw Nation Field Office, at 1632 George Nigh Expressway in McAlester and Friday, August 22, at Choctaw Nation Community Center at 2750 Big Lots Parkway in Durant. To register for a clinic, call 1-(800)-658-1497. Space is limited, please call as soon as possible. OILS is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call OILS at 1-(800)-658-1497.

Fellowship meet

There will be a fellowship meeting at 6 p.m. on July 26 at 1901 W. Mississippi Apt. A14 in Durant. For additional information or questions, please contact Al Gilbert at (580)-230-6094.

Keepsagle settlement meetings

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative will be moderating meetings on the Keepsagle settlement agreement approved by the court. Views or opinions welcomed on the mission for trust funds. Several regional meetings and webinars (telephone conferences) have been scheduled and interested individuals, Tribal governments, non-profits or other organizations are invited to participate.

Meeting dates and call-in dates and times are listed below with exact location or call-in information to be announced at a later date.

Public Meeting Local Location Dates and Times:

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
July 30, Tulsa, OK

Aug. 5, Albuquerque, NM

Aug. 7, Phoenix, AZ

Aug. 12, Rapid City, SD

Aug. 14, Bismarck, ND

Aug. 19, Spokane, WA

Aug. 21, Billings, MT

Aug. 26, Raleigh, NC

Webinar Times
Aug. 6 / 2 to 5 p.m. MT

Aug. 16 / 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. MT

Aug. 20 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. MT

Storytelling in Oklahoma City

There will be storytelling sponsored by Stella Dyer Long from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. August 16 at the Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 South Youngs Boulevard, Oklahoma City. For additional information, please call (405) 681-0869.

USDA accepting Farm Service Agency County Committee Member Nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that the USDA will begin accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA county committees throughout Oklahoma. The Nomination period will last through August 1. Anyone of legal voting age participating or associated with agricultural land 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. Forms must be received in a County FSA office or postmarked by August 1. Voting takes place between November 3 and December 1, 2014. For additional information about the election or to obtain an election map you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Holdeville, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant (580) 924-4131 ext. 2, the local FSA contact office for the Choctaw Nation.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Smithville Middle School Salutatorian

Congratulations to Melissa Conley, 2014 Smithville Middle School class Salutatorian. Melissa is a former Little Miss Choctaw Nation for District 3. She also enjoys reading, swimming, riding 4-wheelers and hanging out with friends. Melissa is the daughter of James and Debbie Conley of Smithville. She has two sisters, Jennifer and Brittany, and one brother, Bryan.



Sidles elected I AOM president

Damon Sidles, plant manager at Miller Milling Company in Fresno, California became the 110th president of the International Association of Operative Millers at the Association's 118th annual conference and expo on May 22 in Omaha, Nebraska. After reflecting on the significant changes in the milling industry in recent months and his excitement about the resulting potential for the industry, Sidles announced the theme for his presidency, "Building and Sustaining our Organization." Sidles has been an active member of IAOM since 1993. He represented the Golden West District on the IAOM board of directors from 2008 to 2012 and has served as a member of the IAOM Technical Committee since 2000. He served as vice president from 2013 to 2014. IAOM is an individual-based member organization with a 2,100-strong membership representing over 90 countries worldwide.



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.

Siblings celebrate birthdays and graduations

Tiara Estrada graduated from Battiest High school on May 10. She also celebrated her 18th birthday on January 18.

Jordan Estrada graduated from Hartshorne High School on May 12. He celebrated his 20th birthday on May 26.

Dakota Estrada celebrated his 21st birthday on May 29. He is attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant for safety engineering.



Candelaria graduates from University of New Mexico

Corina Candelaria of Albuquerque, New Mexico, daughter of Enrique and Dora Candelaria, graduated May 17 from the University of New Mexico. Corina graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology with a minor in psychology and world dance. She was involved in many activities and organizations while at the university. Besides being a teacher's assistant, Corina was and continues to be a counselor for the Agora Crisis Center. She will continue her studies at the University of New Mexico pursuing her Masters degree in criminal justice. Corina would like to thank her parents and everyone who supported her including the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education.



Tumbling and Trampoline National Championships

Skyelar Jayde Hawk went to the Tumbling and Trampoline National Championships in Tacoma, Washington on June 12-15. She is 5 years old and is the youngest competitor in the U.S. to qualify for both the regional and national competitions for level 5, eight and under girls.



At the state competition held in Plano, Texas in April, Skyelar placed in the top three in floor, trampoline and double mini. She advanced to the regional III meet in Lubbock, Texas in May where she placed 10th out of a total of 64 girls in the double mini and 4th out of 56 girls in the trampoline. Her best event is the floor event but unfortunately Skyelar missed a rotation on her second pass and dropped to 12th out of 36 girls in this event. She has already qualified for nationals in all three events after the state competition.

Skyelar has been involved in gymnastics, tumbling and cheer since she was 18 months old and trains at Infinite Bounds in Plano, Texas. Her Daddy, Momo and Papa would like to wish her the very best luck at nationals.

Oklahoma high jump state champion

Jordan Williston is Broken Bow's first 4-A Oklahoma State Champion in the high jump since 1986. Jordan will have two more years to defend or better his gold winning height of 6 foot 4 inches. He is the son of Jennifer Williston of Broken Bow and the grandson of Loretta Snyder of Broken Bow. Congratulations Jordan, we are proud of you!



Outstanding wrestler

Coltyn Majors, 6, student at Pershing Elementary School of Muskogee has a lot to be proud of this year. As a beginning wrestler, with this being his second year, has brought home several medals and trophies. Coltyn was awarded a trophy for outstanding wrestler and outstanding sportsmanship for his excellent mannerisms on and off the mat. He currently wrestles for the Wilburton Take-Down Club under the leadership of coaches, Ronnie Davis and Ricky Coody. His current record is 76-10.



Coltyn looks forward to baseball season again this year and was chosen to represent the state of Oklahoma in last year's Deep South Regional Shoot-out in Mississippi. Coltyn is in the 1st grade and maintains straight A's. We are proud of Coltyn for his excellence in his endeavors and his kind, warm-hearted spirit. Congratulations Coltyn, job very well done young man.

Nipp graduates from Rose State College

Audrey Ladner Nipp of the Simon community in Love County graduated May 9 from the Health Science Division at Rose State College. She has been taking a course in respiratory therapy. Audrey is the daughter of Brian and Melissa Ladner of Jimtown and the granddaughter of Laquitta Ladner of Jimtown and the late Ott Ladner. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Sis Stout, full blood Mississippi Choctaw original enrollee.



Wister's Co-Valedictorian

Ashlyn Dee Donaho, 14, of Wister was Co-Valedictorian of Wister's 2014 eighth grade class. She has been in the United States Achievement Academy Who's Who for the last three years. Her activities are basketball, softball, trap and skeet shooting and is very active in FFA showing livestock. Her plans are to go to OU college and become a veterinarian. She is the daughter of Lynn Puhmann and Eric Donaho of Wister. She is the granddaughter of Bob and Freda Puhmann of Bokoshe, Dennis Donaho of Wister and Rocky Akers of Howe.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AMBER HOOD

Amber Cheyenne Hood had her first birthday Jan. 12. She celebrated with family. She has three brothers and two sisters. Her parents are Christie and Thomas Hood. Grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight and Kathy and Charles Hood.



EMMA GRIFFIN

Happy 13th birthday to Emma Griffin, a remarkable example of Choctaw youth. Her parents say it is a joy to watch her mature, and they are lucky to be her parents.

Emma is an eighth-grader at Central Middle School in Bartlesville. She is a 4.0 honor student and in advanced placement and honors classes. She is a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society. She is an outstanding trumpet player in the school's band and recently received an award for outstanding brass student.

She is the great-granddaughter of Leon Carl "Cub" Dobyns, and the granddaughter of Arthur Dean Dobyns. She is the daughter of Alyssa Dobyns Foresman and stepfather, Gregg Foresman, of Bartlesville.

Mom, Gregg, and Brother Reid said, "Emma, we are so proud of you! We look forward to watching you continue to grow. Life has great things in store for you. Don't forget, you can do anything you set your mind to."



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation August 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Durant 8:00-4:30	5 Talihina 10:00-2:00	6 Antlers by appt.	7	8 Broken Bow 8:00-4:30 Idabel by appt.	9
10	11 Durant 8:00-4:30	12 Poteau 11:30-1:00	13 Crowder by appt.	14	15 Wright City by appt.	16
17	18 Durant 8:00-4:30	19	20 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	21	22 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	23
24	25 Durant 8:00-4:30	26 Wilburton by appt.	27 Broken Bow 8:00-4:30 Idabel by appt.	28	29	30
31						

Henson graduates from University of Oklahoma

Javen Dayne Henson just completed four years of studies at the University of Oklahoma. She is now working toward obtaining her doctorate degree in physical therapy. While at OU, Javen was named NFCA All American Scholar, first team academic all Big 12, maintaining close to a 4.0 average and also completed three courses of the Choctaw language.

Javen also played four years for the National Softball Champions OU Sooners. She is the recipient of four Big 12 Championship rings, four College World Series rings, a National Championship ring and watch. Javen and two classmates are the only girls to ever go to the Women's College World Series four times consecutively at OU. Javen, 2nd baseman, Shelley Pendley, 3rd baseman and Lauren Chamberlain made the first triple play ever in OU coach Patty Gasso's long coaching career.

Another honor Javen had while at OU was visiting the White House and meeting the President with her teammates and coaches. Javen is grateful for all the help and support she has received from the tribe and her family.

Javen is the daughter of Steven Henson and Jana Booth. She is the granddaughter of Virginia Casey and Ray and Sue Henson.



EDUCATION

Duke student sets sights on medical field



PHOTO PROVIDED

Duke University scholarship recipient Jordan Kern with Dr. Michael West of Creek Nation Health Clinic.

Jordan Kern driven by a personal passion to succeed

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation

Passion and determination. These two qualities will enable one to reach outstanding goals. For Choctaw and Henryetta native Jordan Kern, these attributes earned him two full scholarships to Duke University and an admirable direction in life.

As a member of Duke's class of 2018, Kern currently holds a full financial aid scholarship awarded by Duke, valued at over \$240,000. Beyond this, Kern has also earned a Gates Millennium Scholarship, which will fund any portion of his undergraduate degree not covered by Duke as well as the cost of his graduate studies through a doctoral degree. This award makes him the first student of his school to ever earn the coveted Gates scholarship.

The combination of these scholarships will provide the funding needed to achieve his educational goals without

worry, integral to his plans of entering the medical field.

Though Kern's story is only just beginning, his past actions and accomplishments serve as an outstanding example for students of small town beginnings aspiring to compete on a large scale.

Growing up in Henryetta, Kern attended Henryetta High School where he will graduate as the valedictorian with 64 college credit hours from Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology. In addition to his academic success, he was also heavily involved in extracurricular activities and volunteer work.

His most notable volunteer accomplishment is an extension of his interest in the medical field. Kern began the Friends of Benton organization, in which he and his fellow volunteers would procure medical equipment for those who needed it, but could not afford to purchase.

Friends of Benton have served along with other organizations such as Saint Francis Children's Hospital and Camp Barnabas Special Needs Summer Camp with the goal of improving the lives of special needs children.

Kern's younger brother and namesake to Friends of Benton, Benton Kern, who was born with chromosome two deletion and surpassed medical life expectancies serves as Jordan's inspiration to pursue a career in pediatrics. "He just sparked a passion," Jordan stated as he described how his relationship with his brother affected his outlook on the future.

Kindling the fire lit by Benton, Jordan served as a volunteer at Camp Barnabas where he was charged with the care of a youth with cerebral palsy. This solidified his future plans in pediatrics. "I love caring for kids," Jordan stated.

To prepare for his future education, Kern used his time in the Creek Nation summer work program to shadow the doctor who had cared for Benton in the past, Dr. Michael West of the Creek Nation Health Clinic. While learning from Dr. West, Kern was able to get firsthand experience of what his future will hold. "He really took me under his wing," Kern said.

"I look forward to seeing what he does in medicine," stated Dr. West, as he spoke of Kern's notable scholarships and bright future. West went on to mention that he had not seen a student quite like Kern during his career and was impressed with his accomplishments.

Along with Dr. West, Kern was also highly encouraged by his parents, to whom he attributes his drive and determination. "They helped me find college preparatory programs and motivated me to strive for excellence," Kern stated. He spoke of how his

parents' continual support of his aspirations, no matter how high he aimed. "My parents molded me into who I am today."

With a direction for his life decided, Kern was determined to find a way to make it happen. Overcoming obstacles has been something with which he has experience. Along with assisting his family in the hardships accompanying Benton's medical condition, Kern had also suffered nerve damage from a football injury his freshman year.

Before the injury he had planned to attend a junior college with an athletic scholarship, but the damage had forced him to physical therapy throughout his high school career and a change in higher education plans. "No matter how hard you are knocked down, you can always get back up," Kern declared as he spoke of overcoming difficulties associated with his setback. By his senior year, he had surpassed expectations to become a team captain on his football team and participant in multiple sports.

It was this same determined spirit that led him to the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Kern became involved with the Choctaw Nation educational service, the Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP), which he cites as a substantial asset to his academic success.

"Beginning my freshman year, SAP opened me up to a new world of education. The program proved that no matter who I was or where I came from, I could achieve greatness in my academic career," stated Kern. "I had only dreamed of attending a college with such prestige as Duke University, but SAP made my dreams into a reality."

Utilizing features of Choctaw Nation educational services such as access to College Horizons and the annual Ivy League & Friends event, Kern was able to make connections with admissions

Kern had accepted his position into Duke before he was awarded the Gates Scholarship. "The main thing that pushed me to apply to Duke University was the students. Everyone on

"I want to be an example for current Choctaw students - proof that anyone can accomplish their goals." - Jordan Kern

councilors and other students. This helped him realize all the opportunities he had above and beyond his local options. "Before finding SAP, I was another football player who hoped to attend a junior college on an athletic scholarship," stated Kern.

"Jordan is an outstanding example of the potential found within our Choctaw students," stated Jo McDaniel, director of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program who has witnessed Kern partake in many of the aspects of the program. "We wish him the best and are humbled to have played a part in his outstanding journey," continued McDaniel.

With new doors opened through these resources, Kern took on the most challenging courses available, became involved in a large amount of volunteer work and began scholarship applications.

"It was the toughest application I have ever completed," stated Kern as he spoke of the Millennium Scholarship application. During the process, he was required to complete seven different essays. Not able to fully convey his passion and determination in those seven essays, Kern completed eight. This aided him in claiming the prize. "The work you put into the application, you get back."

campus has great spirit," he stated. "I knew from the moment I stepped on campus that I had found the place I wanted to be."

During his time at Duke, Kern plans to continue his effort with Friends of Benton by servicing at the Duke Hospital. Involvement in the multicultural center also tops his list of activities once he arrives in the fall. Spreading Native culture to other students is an aspect of his enrollment he eagerly anticipates.

Through Kern's rise to such notable academic success, many lessons have been learned. He has made it a priority to spread the motivation and encouragement by speaking to groups of underclassmen at local organizations.

"My biggest advice to fellow native students is to never let outside views determine who you are. I recently read an article that stated only 13 percent of Native Americans graduate from college. I laughed because I will be one of those numbers. I laughed because I know that our generation of students will shatter stereotypes," said Kern as he demonstrated his confidence in not only himself, but other Native students. "I want to be an example for current Choctaw students - proof that anyone can accomplish their goals."

Louis on well-paved road to his education

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation

During the 2013-14 school year, Gabriel Louis walked the halls of Durant High School. In the fall of 2014 he will advance to the campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and will do so as one of the select few to earn a Gates Millennium Scholarship. This good-through-graduation scholarship is awarded to a limited number of students in the United States and is based on merit and educator evaluation.

This prestigious award, combined with a handful of additional scholarships through OSU, will allow Louis to pursue his education in the field of computer engineering. His interest in technology and knack for machines, combined with his appreciation for OSU led him toward this path.

With such a well-paved road to success before him, Louis can attribute his current state to his dedication. "From the time he came into my class in 9th grade, he was not going to accept being satisfactory," stated Neta Newton, math instructor for Durant High School.

Louis studied under Newton for three years of pre-AP math, and AP Calculus during his senior year. As a reference towards his application to Gates, Newton speaks of Louis's attitude towards academics as "always willing to go the extra distance."

Being recognized for his efforts in the classroom, Louis has been a regular on the Durant Superintendent's Honor Roll. He seized the title of honor graduate as he remained in the top 10 percent of his class, and earned membership in three honor societies: Oklahoma, Oklahoma Indian and National Honor Societies.

Beyond the classroom, he was also involved in football, a sport he has played since early childhood and received honorable mention as all-district cornerback in his senior year. Holding multiple offices in the student council through the years and remaining active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes are also elements to his résumé which helped clinch the Gates.

Piano has also been a passion in Louis' youth. Playing his first notes at the age of



Gabriel Louis of Durant has received a Gates Millennium Scholarship to attend OSU.

10, he advanced his skill to play the music of classic composers and eventually grace the stage of state competitions where he received a superior rating. He plans to expand his musical talents in the future with study of the violin.

Throughout his life, education has been of utmost importance. He credits his mother, Terry Louis, as a key to his success. "She always demanded a lot and never let me just 'get by'," stated Louis as he humbly explained where he learned the importance of applying all his effort.

"He's always had the desire to excel in everything he does - mediocre didn't cut it," stated Terry as she spoke of her son's success. "I look forward to the next chapter in his life and where it will lead him. It has been a blessing that he was selected as a Gates scholar and I give God all the glory."

Currently, Louis is employed through the Choctaw Nation Workforce Investment Act (WIA) where he serves as a positive role model in the classroom at Washington Irving while participating in the Choctaw Nation Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) initiative.

Louis functions as a tutor and facilitator of daily activities.

"I like mentoring kids - trying to get them on the right track," Louis stated. This is his second year in this position. Before working with POSSE, he spent his summers serving Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Center.

"Gabe is a great role model for our students. His leadership skills are very evident," stated Lisa Whitley, Louis' summer supervisor, as she mentioned his positive impact on students.

Spreading his knowledge of creating a high school résumé desirable to scholarship donors, Louis stated, "Don't get discouraged. Keep applying and don't let yourself get lazy or develop bad habits."

He also recommends that tribal members utilize the programs offered by their tribes, mentioning that Choctaw Nation Education had been significantly helpful in his academic efforts.

Haileyville leading the way

By **ZACH MAXWELL**
Choctaw Nation

Brian Weaver and Louise Mitchell have won it aivtta. (That's Choctaw for "again.")

The Haileyville High School teachers have led their students to a pair of projects which have earned awards at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. Weaver's class took the blue ribbon for a third time with Opa Yvt Yakni Moma Nitak I Nowa (Owl Visits Day World).

Mitchell's class wrote and illustrated Okak Iskitini (Little Swan), an adaptation of Cinderella which took the second-place statewide prize at the April fair.

The event was hosted by the Sam Noble Museum Department of Native American Languages.

Their students work with Choctaw language instructor Virginia Espinoza via IETV distance learning.

Espinoza is one of many teachers offering Choctaw to high schools throughout the Choctaw Nation via televised distance learning.

"I tell students that by the end of the second semester, they will have to write a story (in Choctaw)," Espinoza said. "Haileyville has been the leader. They are the first ones who wrote a book and drew the pictures. I'm very proud of these classes."

Between them, Weaver and Mitchell have gathered six awards at the language fair over the last several years.

"We're serious about our Choctaw language," said Weaver. "I like to do books that involve animals because a lot of stories and legends involve animals. The pictures hook you too, as well as the story."

His goal is to publish some of the children's



Haileyville teachers Brian Weaver and Louise Mitchell are at the top of their game - instructing high school students to create children's books in the Choctaw language.

books to pass on the knowledge and effort of his current and former students.

Mitchell's class turned in an illustrated storybook which was 12 pages in length - and that's just in Choctaw, not including English translation.

"It's not something you can throw together in a couple of days," she said. "The girls enjoy it, and they're talkers so that helps them stay in context. We knew what our theme was and we looked for pictures which could go with it."

In addition to the book, Mitchell's class sang in Choctaw at a holiday pageant, choosing Christmas carols as well as "The Star Spangled Banner" translated into Choctaw. The class also performed at the School of Choctaw Language 2013 program finale.

"I'm learning every year. Mr. Weaver talks to me all

the time in Choctaw," Mitchell said. "But I'm retiring in two years and I've got to beat him (to first place) before I leave!"

Weaver enjoys learning new languages and passing that gift along to his students, both Choctaw and non-Choctaw.

"You see a lot of town names and creek names which you didn't know before, and now they have meaning," Weaver said.

"I look at Choctaw as a gift. They learn a lot about the culture. It's been a fun experience."

Weaver's students this year included Cheyenne Downum, Kensey Davidson, Victoria Cole, Desiree Rhodes, and Kevan Stidmon.

Mitchell's class included Breanna Dalpaos, Shelby Drake, Hailey Gorden, and Megan Rich.



HOLLY ANDERSEN



ETHAN BEGAYE



LEIGH CHRISTIE



JORDAN ESTRADA



ANTHONY MILLER



BRANDON THOMAS



BREANNA TOLEDO



SHIELA WILLIAMS

Jones Academy Seniors of 2014

The school year of 2013-2014 came to a close at the Jones Academy seeing eight graduates into adult opportunities and ventures.

Of the many great successes students have already achieved, Jones Academy would like to congratulate the students on their future plans and ambitions.

Baccalaureate Services were held May 11 with graduation ceremonies following on May 12 for the graduates.

Holly Andersen, age 17, is the daughter of Fedora Feather of Fargo. She is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe. She plans to attend Sisseton-Wahpeton College in Sisseton and pursue a degree in nursing. For the last five years, Holly has spent her summers attending the Indians Into Medicine (INMED) Program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Services in Grand Forks. (The summer institute is designed to develop student interest in medicine and the professional health fields to meet the needs of tribal communities.) Holly was also a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School, Hartshorne Yearbook, and Learn and Serve. She has attended Jones Academy for six years.

Ethan Keanu Begaye is from Tsaile. He is the 18 year old son of Dorothea Begaye of Orem. He is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Ethan first came to Jones Academy in August of 2010. He was active on the varsity football, baseball and weight-lifting teams at Hartshorne High School. Ethan will receive vocational training at the Job Corps Center in Clearfield. He has expressed an interest in carpentry.

Leigh Christie is the daughter of Leona Taylor from Ardmore. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Leigha participated in the Learn and Serve Program at Jones Academy through community service projects. She made the honor roll her senior year with straight A's and one B. Leigha will attend classes in Ardmore at Murray State College in the fall and study business.

Jordan Shaquille Estrada is the son of Pamela Estrada of Pickens and Jesus Estrada of Houston. He is the grandson of Patricia and Floyd Choate of Pickens. Jordan was a member of the Learn and Serve Program at Jones Academy where he was active in visiting the elderly at the nursing home and various service projects to improve the community. He also participated in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

at Hartshorne High School for three years. Jordan is a member of the Choctaw Nation and has been a resident of Jones Academy for five years. After graduation, Jordan will receive training at the Talking Leaves Job Corps Center in Tahlequah.

Eighteen year old **Anthony Miller** is the son of Mike Miller and Tracy Johnson of Shawnee. He is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Anthony participated in varsity football, powerlifting, and track and field at Hartshorne High School. He also served as the equipment manager for the football and basketball teams his senior year. Anthony was active in Learn and Serve at Jones Academy and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at the high school. He is the recipient of the Hartshorne High School Senior Scholarship, the Coach Robert H. Wood Scholarship, and the Jones Academy Good Citizen Award. Anthony was a resident of Jones Academy for four years. After high school, Anthony plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College to pursue a degree in business.

Brandon Thomas is the 18 year old son of Juanokia Thomas from Choctaw. Brandon is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. While at Jones Academy, he was a member of the high school basketball team.

Brandon aspires to a vocation in business. He plans to attend the Talking Leaves Job Corps Center in Tahlequah.

Breanna Toledo-Ortiz is the 18 year old daughter of Joseph and Cindy Ortiz of San Juan Pueblo. She is an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe. Breanna has been a resident of Jones Academy for six years. She participated in Learn and Serve service projects at Jones Academy. Breanna was also active in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at the high school as well as slow pitch softball. After high school, she wants to attend Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah where she will receive medical vocational training.

Shiela Marie Williams, age 18, is the daughter of Ivan and Stacy Lefler of Pecos. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Shiela was a member of the Hartshorne High School Choir for three years. She served on the yearbook staff and was also a manager for both the basketball and slow pitch softball teams. She has been a resident of Jones Academy for four years. Shiela is enrolled at Navajo Technical University in Chinle. She is pursuing a career in accounting. Her long term goal is to become a CPA. She is grateful to her mother for always being there and supporting her choices.

Jones Academy Fifth graders journey into the past

Choctaw Nation Tribal Archaeologist Ian Thompson visited the fifth graders at Jones Academy Wednesday May 7 for a lesson in ancient tools, baskets and other artifacts.

Students were able to learn about the artifacts and the ways Native Americans used each to survive.

Thompson brought many artifacts and relics to the school to discuss and demonstrate including adze, a stone tool with a curved blade used like a chisel to work wood items such as canoes, bows and arrows, atlatl

spear throwers or throwing sticks that have a greater propulsion, and baskets made out of River King, a native bamboo.

Thompson also brought with him many hides, furs, antlers, and horns to explain how Native Americans used almost all parts of their game, wasting very little.

In addition to the lesson in history, the class learned how to survive without many of the modern day conveniences. The class was very appreciative of the opportunity to learn with hands-on instruction.



Jones Academy Fifth Graders with tribal Archeologist Ian Thompson



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Class of 2014



Photo by ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation's Adult Education Program offers classes to help students develop the needed skills to earn their GED Diploma. The class of 2014 provided over 20. Jennifer Ackers-Yoder, Brandi Bedford, Stevie Bohanan, Dustin Brigman, Mindy Bryan, Amanda Barnett, Kristofer Fox, Gabriel Guy, Keasha Horn, Kandace Lane, Ryan Leon, Sharon Lloyd, Rhonda Meashintubby, Corey Miller, Brandon Moore, Noley Noahubi, Jessica Renteria, Jonna Roden, Denise Samis, Nathan Stoliby, Christian Taylor, Hannah Teves, and Trenton Thompson.

OBITUARIES

Bryler Kase DeWayne Chester

Bryler Kase DeWayne Chester, 17 months, entered into God's loving hands on May 24, at Dallas, Texas.

Bryler was born on Dec. 17, 2012, to Tyler DeWayne and Elizabeth Breann (Quaid) Chester at Ardmore at Mercy Hospital. He had the most mesmerizing blue eyes, the sweetest smile, and a big "noggin." He looked like his daddy, but had his mommy's nose. He was his sister's best friend, daddy's boy, and mommy's baby. He will be greatly missed and always loved. Bryler loved to play outside and swing, play on the trampoline, ride his 4-wheeler and horses, fix things, and play with his dogs. His favorite food was tator-tots and his favorite movies were Despicable Me 2 and Monsters, Inc.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Ally Blake-Lynn Nicole Chester; great-grandfathers, Jack Chester, Gene Peery, and Earl Nanney; grandfather, Darius Quaid; beloved friend, Dannie Gares; and uncle, Aaron Blake Chester.

Bryler is survived by his parents, Tyler and Breann Chester; his sister, Rylee Rebecca-Ann Chester; grandparents, Michelle and Butch Green, Jennifer and Justin Bills, Todd and Patti Chester, and Rusty and Angela Stine; great-grandparents, Darryl and Lois Quaid, Sharon Chester, John Reyna, Donna and Robert Rich, Deanna and Wayne McWhirt, and Juanel-la Darter; uncles, Taylor Chester, Samuel Harris, and Judd Quaid; aunts, Shania Bills, Meghan Bills, Amber Chester, Amanda Chester, Jackie Chester, Darian Rife with husband, Dusty, and Monica Vandver; cousins, Coy Rife, Paris Rife, Korbin Ingram, and Temperance Vandver.

Interment was at Keller Cemetery.

Deloris Glaze

Deloris Glaze, 73, of Bald Knob, Arkansas, passed away May 26. She was born Aug. 19, 1940, to the late Carol and Stella Anderson Cooley. She was a long time member and Sunday School Teacher at New Bethel General Baptist Church. Deloris enjoyed shopping and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bobby Glaze, Sr.; two siblings; and a father-in-law, Earl Glaze.

She is survived by her children, Lydia Yvette Glaze and Bobby Gail Glaze, Jr. with his wife, Melanie; four grandchildren, Ryan and Chris Kading, Josh Glaze and Kierstin Hardin; four great-grandchildren; four brothers; three sisters; and her mother-in-law, Jewel Glaze.

Interment was in Shady Grove Cemetery in Arkansas.

Donna Yorba

Donna Yorba passed away Feb. 3 at her home in McKinney, Texas after suffering with cancer for several years.

Donna was born March 17, 1954, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to W.T. and Gayle Powell of Bokoshe. At an early age her parents moved to southern California and she lived in that area for several years. Her work in that area was mostly in management. Eventually she moved to Burbank, California, where she managed the Burbank Equestrian Center. This was a place that kept her in close contact with horses and people who came in to ride and make purchases for their horses.

Her parents moved back to Bokoshe in 1994 and after that Donna moved to Fallon, Nevada. While in Fallon she managed the Paiute Indian Tribe smoke shop. Donna Gayle was a very hard worker and she was very proud of her Indian heritage. She was always glad to do anything connected with Indian tribes and she was especially proud to be a Choctaw.

While working for the Paiute Tribe in Fallon she met Michael Yorba, whom she later married on Oct. 30, 2000, in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. They resided in Reno for several years, then they decided to move to the Bokoshe area where her parents lived in hopes of finding work. At this time the Choctaws were putting a Choctaw Travel Plaza in Poteau and getting it ready to open. Donna applied for the job and was hired as manager.

After several years, Michael could not find work in his field so Donna checked online and found something for him so they moved to Texas, first living in Waco then moving to McKinney to be closer to work. Donna worked at several jobs but finally went to work helping Michael in his field.

Donna enjoyed horses, dogs and the outdoors. They lived out where they could have their horses and an area large enough for them to ride.

Donna is survived by her husband, Michael; her parents, W.T. and Gayle Powell of Bokoshe; her aunt and uncle, Melba and Barney Mecom of Tulsa; Michael's aunt, Patsy Thornburg of Twentynine Palms, California; many cousins; and she had very close friends who were there for her before she passed away.

Cultural and spiritual memorial blessing provided by Darryl Brown, Ossi Hatta (Gray Eagle) of Hugo; DJ Battiest (Choctaw) of McAlester played the flute; and a drum circle of friends to sing were honored to help Donna Yorba and her family.

Don Ray Smyth

Don Ray Smyth, 72, passed away on May 21 in Granbury, Texas. He was born Oct. 2, 1941, in Ponca City.

He is survived by his wife Edith; children, Donna, Lisa, Kimberly, Karen and Jeff; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a sister, Jean May.

Rose Nell Pag

Rose Nell Page, 101, passed from this life on June 3 in Antlers. She was born April 4, 1913, to W.C. and Mary Jane Kelley in Finley. Rose married Robert Lee "Brown" Page on Jan. 8, 1934, in Antlers.

Rose was a member of Finley Baptist Church. She lived in the Antlers area all her life. Rose retired from school teaching in 1972 after 35 years. In her retirement years she liked to help operate the farm and ranch. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, and oil painting. She also liked to hunt and fish. Mostly Rose enjoyed her family and spending time with them.

Rose was preceded in death by her parents, W.C. and Mary Jane Shilling; husband, Robert Lee "Brown" Page; sisters, Zelma Smith, Lulu Summers, Wilma Matthews, and Ollie Kirk; brothers, W.B. Shilling, Vincent Shilling, and Byron Shilling.

She is survived by sister, Dovie Underwood with husband John of Finley; nephew, Carl Shilling with wife Delores of the home; great nieces and nephews, Scarlet and Darrell Scarborough of Nashoba, Patty and Martin Tucker of Antlers, Candida Rose and Tracy Herman of Soper, and Carla and John Antu of Finley as well as numerous other nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews; great-great-great nieces and nephews; other relatives and a host of special friends.

Interment was at Antlers Cemetery.



Leta Madeline Hardcastle

Leta Madeline Hardcastle, 93, passed away May 19 peacefully at home in the care of her daughter, Lynita Phelen.

Leta was born March 16, 1921, in Hugo to Christopher and Lennie Spring. She was one of six children. Leta's family moved to California where she met and married Emery Hardcastle on Sept. 6, 1938, in Hanford, California. They were married for 70 years. Their first child, a boy was born Aug. 2, 1939, in Hanford. Emery went to work for Western Geophysical and they traveled around Montana and Idaho. They had their second child Lynita in Choteau, Montana. They then moved to Dinuba, California on a ranch. They were there several years. They then moved to Monterey, California where they stayed for 10 years. Leta worked in dry cleaning. They moved again to Klamath Falls, Oregon in 1958 where they built and owned Odessa Mercantile. They sold it in the late 1960s. Leta worked in dry cleaning again and later joined Emery at Mills School and then she and Emery retired from Mills School in 1982, where they were custodians for 18 years. Leta enjoyed traveling by car. They traveled back to Oklahoma and Texas to see family. Leta was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She is a direct descendant of Chief Pushmataha of Mississippi. Her forefathers walked the Trail of Tears.

She enjoyed crocheting beautiful afghans for everyone. She liked making pot holders and earlier when she first retired she made cute stuffed characters for all the children.

Leta and Emery enjoyed hosting family barbecues and get-togethers. They enjoyed going to Reno several times a year and enjoyed traveling.

She was preceded in death by her son, Eldon Kermit Hardcastle; grandchildren, Michelle Christine Hardcastle, Kermit Eldon Hardcastle; husband, Emery "Rocky" Lafayette Hardcastle; mother, Lennie Spring; and father, Christopher Columbus Spring; her sister, Tommie Arena Spring Hosea; and brothers, John Emmitt, Wilbur Neal, Cecil Lamar Spring.

She is survived by her sister, Anna Mae Wagner of Cambria, California; her daughter, Lynita Christine Hardcastle Phelen of Merced, California; her grandchildren, Stephanie Kennedy, Christine Hardcastle, Rocky Hardcastle, Terry Ray Stephenson and Sonya Nadine Deaton; and also eight great-grandchildren.

Special thanks to Bristol Hospice and Charlene Sanchez and Floyd Phelen who did so much for Leta the last seven years, ensuring that she could live her life out at home with quality and dignity.

Brandy Rochelle Ellenburg

Brandy Rochelle Ellenburg, 33, of Tahlequah, was born Dec. 4, 1980, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to Leonard Wayne Ellenburg and Mary Lou (Carney) Ellenburg and passed away May 28 in Tahlequah.

She was a 1999 graduate of Heavener High School and a 2004 graduate of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah where she received her teaching degree. Brandy received the 2008 LeFlore Public School Teacher of the Year Award. She was a loving mother who loved to cook and provide for her children. She also enjoyed the outdoors and working with her flowers and going camping.

Brandy was preceded in death by her father, Leonard Wayne Ellenburg (Retired DAV); a sister, Dana Michelle Thomas; maternal grandparents, Elton Lee and Lizzie (Winlock) Carney; paternal grandparents John Caleb and Jewel (Grubbs) Ellenburg; two aunts, Helen Marie Brannon and Kathryn Louise Seyler; and three uncles, Jerry Fisher, Johnny Ellenburg and Johnny Lee Carney.

She is survived by one daughter, Braya Dawn Ellenburg of the home; one son, Bravin Wayne Ellenburg of the home; her mother, Mary Lou Ellenburg of Poteau; one brother, Chris Thomas of Poteau; four aunts, Patricia Ann Standridge of Mississippi, Doris Box of Fanshawe, Isabel Carney of Fanshawe, Carolyn Fisher of Sapulpa; one uncle, Omer D. Seyler of Fanshawe; numerous cousins and friends.

Her remains will be buried at a later date at Fanshawe Cemetery in Fanshawe.

Carol Sue Williams

Carol Sue Williams, 70, went home to be with her Lord on May 1 in Texarkana, Texas. Carol was born on Dec. 16, 1943, the daughter of R.W. (Ray) Hicks and Caroline Jefferson Hicks. She had lived in Broken Bow all of her life. She married Thomas Williams on Nov. 22, 1976 in Hugo. Carol had worked as a purchasing agent for Weyerhaeuser in Wright City for 26 years. She enjoyed football and was an avid OU fan. Carol enjoyed spending time with her dogs, Mary Jane and Lucky. Carol was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Broken Bow and will be missed by her church family.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, R.W. "Ray" and Caroline Hicks; brother, Ray Hicks; sister, Betty Lou Hicks; niece, Kathy Hicks; and nephew, Gilbert Waldon.

Carol leaves to cherish her memory, her devoted and compassionate husband, Thomas Williams of the home; brother, Randal Dewayne Hicks of Broken Bow; nieces, Tina Rideout of Belleville, Ill., Cynthia Young of Broken Bow, Angela Hallford of Broken Bow, Cynthia Waldon of Tulsa; nephews, Randy Hicks of Belleville, Ill., Dennis Waldon of Broken Bow; a host of great- and great-great-nieces and nephews; special friend, Loretta Wilson of Broken Bow; and special nieces, The Williams Girls.

Bonnie 'Owens' Rose

Bonnie "Owens" Rose, 54, was born June 2, 1959, in Oklahoma City to Bobby Smith and Eloise (Carpenter) Burgess and passed away May 31 in Dallas.

She was of a former resident of Heavener and of the Pentecostal faith. Bonnie loved to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren and loved to travel and go to the beach.

Bonnie was preceded in death by two brothers, Sam Smith and William Powell.

She is survived by her husband, Ricky Rose of the home; two daughters, Priscilla Carver with husband Waylon of Heavener, Andrea Lampkin with husband Dana of Wister; special daughter, Amber Madume of Ada; one son, Benny Owens, Jr. with wife Donna of Heavener; her mother, Eloise Burgess of Millerton; her father, Bobby Smith of Grant; three sisters, Carrol Barton with husband Mickey of Waxahachie, Texas, Andrea Hankins of Fort Worth, Texas, Lori Gibson with husband Charles of Broken Bow; a sister-in-law, Lisa Rose with husband Santos of Swink; one brother, Chabon Burgess of Valiant; many half siblings; and 11 grandchildren.

Committal services were held in Valliant Cemetery.



Robert Odell Bowden

Robert Odell Bowden, 83, was born May 15, 1931, in Frogville to Ruben and Annie (Williams) Bowden. Robert passed away on June 1, 2014, at his home in Oklahoma City.

Robert graduated from Greenville High School in Greenville, Oklahoma, in 1950. He served in the Army from 1952-54 and was stationed in Korea. He was a great welder and worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, South Africa, Alaska, and Ecuador. Robert was of the Baptist faith and attended church in Oklahoma City. Robert was proud of his Indian heritage and will be greatly missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Ruben and Annie Bowden; sister-in-law, Sharon Bowden; brothers-in-law, Dale Holt, George Cullum, Okie Phillips; uncles, Buck Williams, Tom Williams; niece, Anita Holt; nephew, Brad Holt.

Robert is survived by his daughter, Missy Osborn with husband Terry of Oklahoma City; son, Butch of Jefferson City, Tennessee; step-sons, David Lively with wife Lou Ann of Durant, Terry Womack with wife Dawn of Tuttle; sisters, Gladys Holt of Stillwater, Novella Shebester with husband Billy Joe of Madill, Jean Cullum of Mead, Alta Mapp with husband J.B. of Ardmore, Paula Phillips of Newman, Georgia.

Graveside services were held at McAlister Cemetery in Overbrook.

Wanda L. Doty

Wanda L. Doty, 85, of Poteau and The Oaks Healthcare Center, passed away May 29, 2014. She was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on Aug. 20, 1928, to Arthur Lee and Margurite Anna Daney.

Wanda was very proud to be of Choctaw heritage and was a very religious person. Her education included Master's Degrees in Education and Counseling and she completed all class work towards her doctorate degree. Most of her career was spent teaching and counseling Native American students.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Wanda is survived by two daughters, Sherry with husband Jim Huber of Nevada and Brenda Canavan with husband Rodney Martin of Poteau; sister, Dru Paine of Mesa, Arizona; brother, Don Daney of Scottsdale, Arizona; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members, friends and loved ones.

Willie D. Borden

Willie D. Borden, 72, of McAlester, passed away June 1 at Clarksville Nursing Center, Clarksville, Texas.

Mrs. Borden was born Feb. 5, 1942, in Clarksville to Willi and Lois Vancel Loman.

Mrs. Borden was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who liked to fish, enjoyed gardening and being with her family and friends. Mrs. Borden worked for Choctaw Nation in Tahlequah until 1999, at which time she suffered a disabling stroke.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Dannelle Beaty; and two sisters, Chris Trebella and Cathy Nelson.

Survivors include three daughters, Debbie Haynes with husband, Dudley of Linwood, Kansas, Donna Dotson with husband, John Charlie of Bagwell, Texas, and Sandy Wood with husband, Lawrence of Wilburton; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Michael Dane Williston

Michael Dane Williston, 48, of Idabel, passed away on Feb. 2 in Idabel. He was born in Tahlequah on March 20, 1965, to Benjamin Williston and Hazel Brown Williston. He was a welder and an all-around handyman that enjoyed repairing all kinds of things for his family and friends.

Michael was preceded in death by one brother, Larry Allen Williston; and one sister, Clisty Turnage.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his parents, Benjamin and Hazel Williston of Idabel; two brothers, Don Williston with wife Rosie and Ronald Williston; one sister, Caroline Jefferson with husband Leo, all of Idabel; also several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Interment was in Canfield Cemetery.

John Harold 'Big John' Laney

John Harold "BigJohn" Laney, 62, who was born in Hugo, went to be with our Lord on Feb. 13. He died peacefully in his sleep when his heart stopped.

BigJohn was an Army veteran and was very proud of his service to his country. He was respected by all who knew him and will be missed.

BigJohn is survived by his girlfriend of 20 years, Elizabeth; his only child, Justin with wife Corrie; his two grandchildren, Brenda and Kyler; and his mother, Alma.

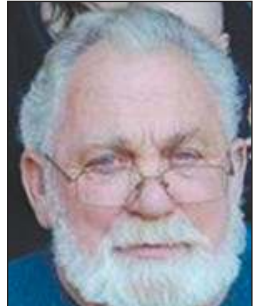
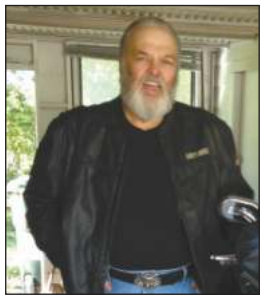
Delbert David Wagenseller

Delbert David Wagenseller, 90, passed away Tuesday, June 17, in Edmond.

David was born July 10, 1923 in Marlow, to David Franklin and Fannie G. (Napier) Wagenseller. He lived in San Antonio and Irving, Texas before moving to the Oklahoma City/Edmond area in 1978. He was a veteran of the US Army, serving during WWII. David attended North Texas State and the University of Houston where he studied industrial engineering. He worked in commercial bakeries and as a former owner of Miller Bakery Services. David married Doris Pauline Thomas. He later married Billie Jo Broday. She preceded in him in death on April 22, 2014. David lived life to the fullest. He liked to play his harmonica, enjoyed gaming and traveled to many places. David was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

David was also preceded in death by his parents; brother, George Wagenseller; and sister, Louise Wagenseller Jackson. Survivors include, son, Clifton Paul Wagenseller and Kyle Roubidoux of Edmond; two daughters, Connie Lou Teuscher with husband David of Beaumont, Texas, Delinda Stephens with husband Scott of Castroville, Texas; grandchildren, Brandon Fehrenkamp, Melody Wagenseller Black with husband Jason, Hattie Wagenseller, Ali Stephens, Derek Teuscher; great-grandchildren, Jordan Black, Brinker Black; sister, Mary Lou Wagenseller Loughridge of Yukon.

Graveside services were held in the Marlow Cemetery.





HOLLY ANDERSEN



ETHAN BEGAYE



LEIGH CHRISTIE



JORDAN ESTRADA



ANTHONY MILLER



BRANDON THOMAS



BREANNA TOLEDO



SHIELA WILLIAMS

Jones Academy Seniors of 2014

The school year of 2013-2014 came to a close at the Jones Academy seeing eight graduates into adult opportunities and ventures.

Of the many great successes students have already achieved, Jones Academy would like to congratulate the students on their future plans and ambitions.

Baccalaureate Services were held May 11 with graduation ceremonies following on May 12 for the graduates.

Holly Andersen, age 17, is the daughter of Fedora Feather of Fargo. She is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe. She plans to attend Sisseton-Wahpeton College in Sisseton and pursue a degree in nursing. For the last five years, Holly has spent her summers attending the Indians Into Medicine (INMED) Program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Services in Grand Forks. (The summer institute is designed to develop student interest in medicine and the professional health fields to meet the needs of tribal communities.) Holly was also a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at Hartshorne High School, Hartshorne Yearbook, and Learn and Serve. She has attended Jones Academy for six years.

Ethan Keanu Begaye is from Tsale. He is the 18 year old son of Dorothea Begaye of Orem. He is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Ethan first came to Jones Academy in August of 2010. He was active on the varsity football, baseball and weight-lifting teams at Hartshorne High School. Ethan will receive vocational training at the Job Corps Center in Clearfield. He has expressed an interest in carpentry.

Leigh Christie is the daughter of Leona Taylor from Ardmore. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Leigha participated in the Learn and Serve Program at Jones Academy through community service projects. She made the honor roll her senior year with straight A's and one B. Leigha will attend classes in Ardmore at Murray State College in the fall and study business.

Jordan Shaquille Estrada is the son of Pamela Estrada of Pickens and Jesus Estrada of Houston. He is the grandson of Patricia and Floyd Choate of Pickens. Jordan was a member of the Learn and Serve Program at Jones Academy where he was active in visiting the elderly at the nursing home and various service projects to improve the community. He also participated in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

at Hartshorne High School for three years. Jordan is a member of the Choctaw Nation and has been a resident of Jones Academy for five years. After graduation, Jordan will receive training at the Talking Leaves Job Corps Center in Tahlequah.

Eighteen year old **Anthony Miller** is the son of Mike Miller and Tracy Johnson of Shawnee. He is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. Anthony participated in varsity football, powerlifting, and track and field at Hartshorne High School. He also served as the equipment manager for the football and basketball teams his senior year. Anthony was active in Learn and Serve at Jones Academy and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at the high school. He is the recipient of the Hartshorne High School Senior Scholarship, the Coach Robert H. Wood Scholarship, and the Jones Academy Good Citizen Award. Anthony was a resident of Jones Academy for four years. After high school, Anthony plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College to pursue a degree in business.

Brandon Thomas is the 18 year old son of Juanokia Thomas from Choctaw. Brandon is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. While at Jones Academy, he was a member of the high school basketball team.

Brandon aspires to a vocation in business. He plans to attend the Talking Leaves Job Corps Center in Tahlequah.

Breanna Toledo-Ortiz is the 18 year old daughter of Joseph and Cindy Ortiz of San Juan Pueblo. She is an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe. Breanna has been a resident of Jones Academy for six years. She participated in Learn and Serve service projects at Jones Academy. Breanna was also active in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America at the high school as well as slow pitch softball. After high school, she wants to attend Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah where she will receive medical vocational training.

Shiela Marie Williams, age 18, is the daughter of Ivan and Stacy Lefler of Pecos. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Shiela was a member of the Hartshorne High School Choir for three years. She served on the yearbook staff and was also a manager for both the basketball and slow pitch softball teams. She has been a resident of Jones Academy for four years. Shiela is enrolled at Navajo Technical University in Chinle. She is pursuing a career in accounting. Her long term goal is to become a CPA. She is grateful to her mother for always being there and supporting her choices.

Jones Academy Fifth graders journey into the past

Choctaw Nation Tribal Archaeologist Ian Thompson visited the fifth graders at Jones Academy Wednesday May 7 for a lesson in ancient tools, baskets and other artifacts.

Students were able to learn about the artifacts and the ways Native Americans used each to survive.

Thompson brought many artifacts and relics to the school to discuss and demonstrate including adze, a stone tool with a curved blade used like a chisel to work wood items such as canoes, bows and arrows, atlatl

spear throwers or throwing sticks that have a greater propulsion, and baskets made out of River King, a native bamboo.

Thompson also brought with him many hides, furs, antlers, and horns to explain how Native Americans used almost all parts of their game, wasting very little.

In addition to the lesson in history, the class learned how to survive without many of the modern day conveniences. The class was very appreciative of the opportunity to learn with hands-on instruction.



Jones Academy Fifth Graders with tribal Archeologist Ian Thompson



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

Class of 2014



Photo by ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation's Adult Education Program offers classes to help students develop the needed skills to earn their GED Diploma. The class of 2014 provided over 20. Jennifer Ackers-Yoder, Brandi Bedford, Stevie Bohanan, Dustin Brigman, Mindy Bryan, Amanda Barnett, Kristofer Fox, Gabriel Guy, Keasha Horn, Kandace Lane, Ryan Leon, Sharon Lloyd, Rhonda Meashintubby, Corey Miller, Brandon Moore, Noley Noahubi, Jessica Renteria, Jonna Roden, Denise Samis, Nathan Stoliby, Christian Taylor, Hannah Teves, and Trenton Thompson.

Choctaw resistance to removal from ancient homeland

Last month began a four-part Iti Fabvssa series examining ways the Choctaw people resisted Removal and the Trail of Tears. In this month's Iti Fabvssa the focus is on Choctaw resistance to the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty, an agreement ceding the last part of the Choctaw homeland to the United States government, and for many families, set the stage for the Trail of Tears and Removal to Indian Territory.

Between 1801 and 1825, the Choctaw Nation ceded 34,000 square miles of land to the United States through a series of seven treaties. Despite the solemn assurance given by treaty negotiator Andrew Jackson in 1820 that the United States would never again seek Choctaw lands, just ten years later a commission formed by Andrew Jackson himself (by then president of the United States) entered Choctaw Nation. The purpose of this commission was to negotiate not just a land cession treaty, but a treaty that would transfer all of the remaining 17,000 square miles of the Choctaw homeland in Mississippi to the United States and set up Choctaw Removal to the west. The Choctaw people resisted this treaty and, by extension,

Editor's Note: This month's Iti Fabvssa is part two in a four-part installment.

Removal itself, in the form of three overwhelming "no" votes, hundreds of walk-outs, and a butcher knife.

The United States commissioners Major John H. Eaton and Colonel John Coffee arranged to meet with Choctaw leaders and several thousand Choctaw citizens at a place in the Choctaw homeland called Chukfi ahihla bok "Dancing Rabbit Creek" in mid-September 1830 to discuss the treaty. On September 22, after some days of preparations and talks, the assembled Choctaw council requested that the Commission formally present the terms of the proposed treaty to an assembled body of Choctaw leaders and citizens. After the articles of the treaty were read and translated to the Choctaw assembly, the United States Commissioners immediately asked a Choctaw man named Killihota to speak to those present. Killihota stood up from the Choctaw council, gave an obviously exaggerated account of the lands to the west, and spoke in favor of Removing to Indian Territory. When he finished, an elder Choctaw woman sitting at the center of the



Iti Fabvssa

Choctaw council stood up with a butcher knife, and told Killihota that if she were to

cut his chest open with that knife, she would expose two hearts. By this, of course, she was accusing him of having divided loyalties. Choctaw opposition to the proposed treaty was overwhelming. When a vote was taken at the end of the day, Killihota was the only Choctaw in the 60-plus member council that was in favor of the treaty.

The following day, a Choctaw committee formally told the Commissioners that there would be no negotiations on Removal. One of the Commissioners, Major Eaton, then arose and in no uncertain terms, told the Choctaw representatives that if they refused, the state of Mississippi would seize their lands, that the United States military outnumbering the Choctaw by 100 or 1,000 to 1 would move in and destroy any resistance, that all remaining Choctaw land would be taken by force, and that the Choctaw who survived would be moved to the west.

After this speech, the second U.S. Commissioner, Colonel Coffee, sickened by the threats, indicated that he would have no part in such negotiations. Many Choctaws had a similar view, and left the council grounds over the next several days. In their minds, leaving the council grounds was a strong statement declining the treaty. There would be no agreement.

When treaty negotiations failed and Choctaws quickly left the council grounds, the U.S. commissioners became desperate. On September 24, they approached Choctaw Chief Greenwood LeFlore to help them find a way to get the treaty approved. LeFlore agreed, on the condition that several alterations be made to the treaty, including adding a provision Choctaw people, who so desired, be given land allotments in Missis-

issippi and become joint citizens of the Choctaw Nation and the United States (Article 14).

The following day, the new treaty document was read and translated to the Choctaw people who remained at the council ground. As the stipulations were being read, the Choctaw group talked loudly among themselves, indicating they had no intention of signing it. Later that day, the Commissioners attempted to negotiate the Treaty with only Greenwood LeFlore's district. Even within LeFlore's own district, where the pro-Removal Chief had a great deal of influence, the treaty was voted down by a two-thirds majority. Those who voted against it then went home, believing that negotiations were concluded.

On September 27, the Commissioners again met with the Choctaw representatives who remained on the Council grounds. The Choctaw leaders announced to the Commission that it was their unanimous decision to reject the proposed treaty.

Thereafter, Major Eaton again addressed the remaining Choctaws, telling them that if the treaty was rejected, the United States would cease to have any relations with the Choctaw government. Lands obtained by the Choctaw Nation through previous treaties would be given away to other Tribes, Choctaws would be forced into conscripted labor and military service, forced to pay taxes to the state, that their children would be destitute, and that the Choctaw people would be utterly destroyed.

After this speech, out of fear, coercion, and false hope that Article 14 of the treaty would be honored, and without the final draft of the treaty even having been read to them, or translated, the Choctaw leaders still present signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, against the unanimous wishes of the Choctaw people. Violence and turmoil erupted at the council grounds.

Note - The above account of treaty negotiations is excerpted from Halbert 1902.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Conversational Dialogue

Speaker 1:

Ninakash chi chukka ya omba ha?

Pronounced:

Ni-nahk-ash chi(n) chok-kah ya(n) ohm-ba ha(n)?

Did it rain at your house last night?

Speaker 2:

A, omba chiyohmi tuk. Malvhta micha hiloha tuk.

Pronounced:

Anh, ohm-ba chi-yoh-mi tohk. Ma-lah-tah mi-cha hi-lo-ha tohk.

Yes, it really rained. It thundered and (there was) lightning.

Speaker 1:

Chi nukshopa ha?

Pronounced:

Chi nohk-sho-pah ha(n)?

Did you get scared?

Speaker 2:

A, sv nukshopa tuk.

Pronounced:

A(n)h, sah- nohk-sho-pah tuk.

Yes, I was scared.

Speaker 1:

Katimi na?

Pronounced:

Kah-ti-mi na?

Why?

Speaker 2:

Hiloha ma, chukka yvt winakachi tuk!

Pronounced:

Hi-loh-hah ma, chohk-ka yaht wi-nahk-a-chi tohk.!

When it thundered, the house shook!

Speaker 1:

Atuko, chi nusi ha?

Pronounced:

Ah-tohk-o(n) chi noh-si ha(n)?

So then, did you sleep?

Speaker 2:

Keyo, ik sv nuso tuk.

Pronounced:

Kee-yoh, ik sah noh-so tuk.

No, I did not sleep.

Speaker 1:

Nanta ish katimi tuk?

Pronounced:

Nahn-ta ish ka-ti-mi tohk?

What did you do?

Speaker 2:

Tani li cha, holisso hochefo li tuk.

Pronounced:

Tah-ni li cha, ho-lis-so ho-che-foh li tohk.

I got up and read a book.

Choctaw tribal members promoted within

Ethan Beshirs

eLearning Designer/Instructor



Ethan Beshirs graduated from Durant High School and began his post-secondary education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1992 as an Elementary Education major.

In 1998, Ethan began his career at the Choctaw Nation with most of his time spent in a position within the Information Technology department. In 2013, Ethan was accepted into Choctaw University where his passion for education and teaching was rekindled. He was readmitted to SOSU and completed his Bachelors of Science in 2014.

Shortly after, Ethan was promoted to the Learning and Development Department as an eLearning Designer/Instructor. He will begin working toward his Masters of Teaching, Learning and Leadership in the fall of 2014 at Oklahoma State University.

He lives in Calera with his wife, Selina, and two daughters, Kayla and Lori.

Ethan is also a licensed medic and is actively involved in his community as a 12-year veteran of the Calera Fire Department and currently serves as the Fire Marshal.

Stephanie Ross

Internal Communication Specialist



Stephanie Ross was promoted into a new position in Human Resources as the Internal Communication Specialist.

In her new role, she will implement a complete employee communication and outreach program. She will develop, publish, and distribute print, electronic, in-person, and/or on-line materials (e.g., newsletters, brochures, memos, etc.) to ensure Choctaw Nation employees are informed of policy changes, program updates, outages, and other issues impacting the various departments of the Choctaw Nation.

Stephanie states, "It is vital for Choctaw Nation to relay information to all of their associates in a timely manner. No one wants to be left in the dark on information, activities, or other issues within the work place. This will increase retention and employee satisfaction."

Stephanie will be working directly under Jeannie Cloud, Executive Director of Human Resources.

Stephanie graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall of 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and minors in Psychology and Information Technology. In the summer of 2013 Stephanie completed her Master's Degree at the University of Oklahoma in Administrative Leadership.

Stephanie is a Choctaw Tribal member, and has been employed with the Choctaw Nation zEducation department for the past six years. Stephanie lives in Caddo with her husband, Mark, and their two children, Macey and Jacob.



An Abundance of jobs open within the Choctaw Nation

The Human Resources department has numerous job openings within the Choctaw Nation at the casino, health care department, travel plazas, and government offices.

Go to <http://careers.choctawnation.com> to view open positions and to complete your application online. Paper applications are also available at field offices throughout the Choctaw Nation 10 1/2 counties.

If you have questions about job openings or the application process, please call Sharon Dodson (ext. 2120), Tony Wesley (ext. 2189), or Brianna Longinotti (ext. 2302) in the Talent Acquisition department. For positions with the Talihina hospital contact Amy Krueger at (918) 567-7000 and positions with the casino contact Jessica Ballard at (580) 920-0160.



Summer Youth Camps



Olin Williams practicing the art of Choctaw storytelling at the Cultural Camp in Tvshka Homma.



Sycilia Madbull from Rattan shows a choker necklace she made at the Cultural Camp.



Cultural Camp participants admire paintings by their fellow campers in Tvshka Homma.



Pat Baker assists a youth with his pottery making at the Cultural Camp held in May.



Above, Nakni Anna shows his progress on a pottery project at the Cultural Camp. A close-up can be seen above right.



Brody Himes of Rattan makes a wax cast of his hand, assisted by Carmen Rutherford. Participants then painted the hand casts as a model of an ancient Mississippian hand-eye symbol.



Ataiya Jim adds detail to her hand-made bowl during a pottery class at the Cultural Camp.



Coach Bob Fello guides the troops during the Day of Champions football camp at Paul Laird Field on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



Boys run through a passing drill at the Day of Champions football camp, sponsored by Choctaw Nation and orchestrated by Ken Heupel.



Children show the spirit of stickball at one of the Choctaw Youth Stickball Camps held at Tvshka Homma.



Stickball camp best shooters were Kai Barr, Hunter Gipson, Alanna Scott, Kylie Himes, Evan Nickle (also awarded for most points), Darrell Vanriette, Sycilia Madbull, and Alyssa Willis.



Best catchers at the Youth Stickball camp were Lakota Mohler, Alanna Scott, Konnor Tom, Evan Nickle, Audrey Madbull, Sycilia Madbull, Raven Baker, and Jaxon Baker.



A stickball camp participant takes a shot during a scrimmage game at Tvshka Homma.



Stickball camp fastest players were Josie Gilmore, Andrew Amos, Ataiya Jim, Nakni Anna, Taylor Hadley, Audrey Madbull, Jaylon Scott, and Lailah Walton.



Longest throwers at the stickball camp were Ember Reedy, Noah Baker, Carmen Broomfield, Jocelyn Rice, Taylor Hadley, Nakni Anna, Lailah Walton, and Jaxon Baker.



Kyle McKinney of Broken Bow shows the blue "shooter's sleeve" given to Youth Stickball Camp participants. Attendees also received a satchel and T-shirt.



At left, Gabriel Shomo works with Devan Dority on his throwing technique at the Youth Stickball Camp.

Coach Jared "Pinti" Tom rallies the troops before a scrimmage at the camp held in Tvshka Homma.



Photos by
ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation



Choctaw Honor

Choctaw Nation Color Guard serves proudly

By BRANDON FRYE

Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation Color Guard presented colors during the opening ceremony of game two in the 2014 Women's College World Series softball championship in Oklahoma City on June 3.

"We carried four flags: the American, Oklahoman, and the Choctaw flags as well as the POW MIA flag to represent all veterans," Herbert Jessie, Color Guard Coordinator, said.

Ron Scott, Bruce Jessie, John Bursleson, Bob Ludlow and Herbert Jessie of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard stood alongside Airmen, Sailors, and members of the National Guard as an American flag as unfolded onto the field and "God Bless America" was performed.

As part of Military and Public Service Appreciation Night for the championship, these events were meant to give tribute to honorees while celebrating their service and sacrifice to the U.S.

Members of the Color Guard also posted colors in Poteau, Stigler, Antlers, Idabel, Atoka, and Durant for the veterans' luncheon on June 18, 2014. Two uniformed Color Guard members attended the events in each town.

In Durant, Bruce Jessie and Harlan Wright presented colors while the collection of veterans, family and friends recited the Pledge of Allegiance and performed the "Star Spangled Banner."

"I enjoy coming to things like this, it's my opportunity to kind of give back," Bruce Jessie said. "Our function is to honor the veterans and act as ambassadors of the tribe."

Since 1998, the color guard has been involved with over 1,200 events in Oklahoma and the surrounding states.

"We go to different tribal organizations if they request us," Herbert Jessie said. "We do powwows, funerals, we also do civic work in our area and post the colors at Christmas parades and such."

The color guard started in 1997 when Chief Pyle noticed



Photo Provided

something, Herbert Jessie said, beginning a story. "That November, on Veterans Day in Tvskahoma, people were gathered there to honor the veterans and John Bursleson showed up in full uniform gear," Jessie said. "And Chief Pyle saw this and decided it would be good to have a color guard, something to repre-

sent the veterans."

John Bursleson was the first appointed coordinator for the color guard soon after.

At first, the group wore standard battle dress uniforms. But, in an effort to stand out, started wearing the red beret, white shirt, navy pants and combat boots that now define their look.

Veterans celebrated at area lunches



Veterans at the Durant luncheon stand holding American flags after food was served and songs were sung in their honor. Lunches like these were held across the 10 1/2 counties.



Photo by Tom Swafford

Choctaw Veterans Ed Hendricks and Bob Schneider



Photo by Tom Swafford

Choctaw Veterans honored at Spiro Choctaw Center by councilmen at Veteran appreciation dinner. Councilmen thanked them for dedication and service.

Save the date! Give back to those who served

Save the date! The U.S. Department of Veterans' Office of Tribal Government Relations is holding a Southern Plains Region Veterans Training Summit August 27-28. The location will be announced in the August Biskinik. If you work with American Indian Veterans, this is your opportunity to give back to those who have served. Best practices will be addressed and it is an opportunity to network with a myriad of federal agency professionals who serve veterans in Indian Country.

Several agencies will be providing information booths including Native American Direct Loan (Housing), Veterans Justice Outreach Programs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Collaborations, Social Security Disability Determination, VA Healthcare: Reimbursement Agreements, Office of Rural Health, Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Labor: Veterans Employment Services. For more information, call (405)-456-3376 or to register, contact Mary.Calley@va.gov.

Collecting trash, as a team

By STEPHENIE OCHOA

CHOCTAW NATION

The Choctaw Nation Finance Department participated in a departmental recycling challenge to support the "Going Green" efforts of the Nation. As one of the largest departments within the Choctaw Nation, 15 sub-departments consisting of around 127 people were able to collect 54,657 pounds of recycled goods.

The contest began early May and each team was responsible for the collection and drop off of recycling materials at the recycling center. Participants collected plastics, cell phones, newspapers, office paper, magazines, aluminum cans, printer cartridges, Styrofoam items, shredded paper, medicine bottles, phone books, cardboard, and steel cans. The winning teams



Choctaw Nation Finance Department Fixed Assets

received certificates and the first place team won a certificate as well as a pizza party.

Fifth place was Accounts Payable department collecting 400 pounds per person. The fourth place team was comprised of Employee Services and Payroll gathering 515 pounds per person. The third place team was Purchasing bringing in 1,189

pounds per employee. Second place brought 1,635 pounds from General Fund and the first place team, Fixed Assets, brought in a surprising 1,892 pounds per person.

The Fixed Assets team is comprised of only six members including Tracy Sikes, Karra Huffman, Patricia Lilley, Jeremy Loper,

Willie Toombs, and Violet Wilson but surprised the Nation with its team contributions.

Lori Taylor from the Finance Event Committee said, "We chose recycling as a group project to help encourage teamwork and boost employee morale and we think that we successfully accomplished that."

Senior Executive Director of Finance Ryan Garner said, "I was amazed at everyone's enthusiastic response to the challenge and the amount of recycling turned in during the four-week period."

The 54,657 pounds of recycled goods were received and processed by the Choctaw Nation Durant recycling center located at 3108 Enterprise Drive in Durant. The center is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information about the

Festival in the Forest Owa-Chito 2014

From a Choctaw judge at the annual art show to a ring of booths around a stickball field, the Choctaw Nation was on full display at the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest in June at Beavers Bend State Park.

Several aspects of Choctaw culture and life ways were in the offering for thousands of Owa-Chito visitors. Several tribal members from Texas and surrounding states visited booths displaying Choctaw beadwork, basketry, pottery, and other items.

Youth and adult stickball teams held demonstration games on Saturday, with heated competition in both games. Artisans including Judy Davis, Tim Nevequaya, and Anthony Thompson demonstrated a variety of native art and expression.

Choctaw food was available thanks to the senior volunteers from the Broken Bow area. The group cooked up "shukha nipi" (hog meat), tanchi labona (hominy soup), and Indian tacos with fry bread. The seniors also sang Choctaw hymns on the Group Camp stage.

Storytelling was offered by Olin Williams, with cultural artifact usage demonstrations by Les Williston. Renowned artist DG Smalling helped judge more than 200 entries by 76 artists in the Kiamichi Owa-Chito Art Show.

Traditional Choctaw colors were on full display with the social dancing demonstrations and the Miss Choctaw Owa-Chito pageant.

Owa-Chito Princess Pageant Winners



Photos by ZACH MAXWELL and STEPHENIE OCHOA

Ariana Chey-Anne Nikkole Wade Byington: Little Miss Princess, Tristen Elaine Sargent: Junior Miss Princess, and Cheyenne Rae Shomo Senior Miss Princess.



Choctaw/Comanche artist Tim Nevequaya plays the flute at the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest on June 22.



Jimmy Harrelson and daughter Izzy, 7, from Dallas, look over booths representing Choctaw Museum and Cultural Services at the Owa-Chito Festival on June 22.



DG Smalling, Choctaw artist, judge at the Owa-Chito Art Show.



Photos Provided by McCurtain Gazette

The Owa-Chito adult doubles horseshoe winners are, from left, Gerald Davis and David Davis, first place; and L.B. Box and David Knox, second place.

Pageant kicks off 2014 festival

The annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival kicks off at 7 p.m. Aug. 28 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.

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.

SENIOR MISS DIVISON



Mandy Earlene William Steele District 1

Mandy Steele, 17, of Idabel is the daughter of Roger and Shanna Steele. She attends Haworth High School where she received Junior High Girls Cross Country MVP and Cross Country Lion award in 2010-2011. She also received Haworth Lady Lions Most Improved and Haworth Academic Excellence in 2013 and in 2014

she received Haworth Photography Honorable Mention and Haworth FCCLA participating in competitive events. Mandy likes to take pictures, play outside with her nephew, read book, listen to music, take long naps and run.



Nikki Amos District 2

Nikki Amos, 17, of Broken Bow is the daughter of Michael and Vicky Amos. She attends Broken Bow High School where she is on the Superintendent Principal's Honor Roll. She has received 1st place at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair for 2 years. Nikki was also the Kiwanis Club senior of the month for

March and was in the top 20 percent of her graduating class. She likes being outdoors with her grandpa and dad, hunting and fishing, playing sports and making memories with family and friends.



LaTisa Davidson District 7

LaTisa Davidson, 21, of Antlers is the daughter of Aubrey and Jennifer Davidson. She is attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a major in nursing. She is the reigning Miss Indian SOSU and is also on the SOSU Dean's honor roll. LaTisa was the valedictorian of Rattan High School in 2011 and has

completed Choctaw language level 1 and 2. She is a member of Goodwater United Methodist church. She enjoys spending time with her nephews and friends. LaTisa is also a member of Native American Student Association at SOSU where she helps with activities and meetings.



Rebeckah Boykin District 8

Rebeckah Boykin, 22, of Hugo is the daughter of Sam and Jana Boykin. She attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is majoring in Business Management and Marketing. She received an acceptance letter of intent to play for NEO women's soccer and is a member of NEO and NASA and was also

selected as NEO resident attendant. Beckah enjoys reading, spending time with her family, playing soccer, golf and stickball with team Tvshka Homma. She also enjoys singing Choctaw hymns, beading and making baskets, performing Choctaw social dances and sharing her culture.



Kanda Jackson District 10

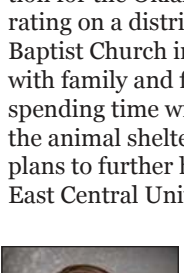
Kanda Jackson, 19, of Caddo is the daughter of James and Judith Kay Jackson. She attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she is majoring in marketing, she is also applying into nursing school in the fall through East Central University. Kanda was recently inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma International

Honors Society for collegiate schools of business. Her interest is in attending BCM activities, including a weekly Bible study group on Southeastern's campus and a mission trip to Santa Fe over spring break. Kanda enjoys cake decorating, playing stickball, Choctaw social dancing, beading and reading in her spare time. She is employed with Choctaw Nation Cultural Services and loves to share her culture.



Adriana Byington District 11

Adriana Byington, 17, of McAlester is the daughter of Tawanna Byington. She attends McAlester High School where she has received outstanding band senior, Spanish III student, art student and math student. She also was band queen nominee, selected for SOBEDA All District Honor Band, selected to audition for the Oklahoma All State Band and received superior rating on a district solo. Adriana is a member of First Indian Baptist Church in McAlester. She spends most of her time with family and friends and enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with her cat. Adriana gives most of her time to the animal shelter, feeding and playing with the animals. She plans to further her education in law with a scholarship for East Central University.



Mekyla Carney-Jacobs District 12

Mekyla Carney-Jacobs, 18, of Coalgate is the daughter of Paula Carney. She attended Coalgate High School where she was on the honor roll and Student Council. She spends her time playing sports and working. Mekyla attended GCF and is a part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

JUNIOR MISS DIVISON



BreAnna Jefferson District 1

BreAnna Jefferson, 15, of Millerton is the daughter of JoAnna Jefferson. She attends Wright City High School. She enjoys playing basketball and softball where she is a team member for the Wright City Lady Jax and Native Dream softball teams. BreAnna also loves playing stickball where she is a team member for the Lil SE OK Thunder.

She also likes to spend time drawing, texting and listening to music.



Emily Rowell District 2

Emily Rowell, 15, of Broken Bow is the daughter of Eric Rowell and Davania Wesley. She attends Broken Bow High School where she is on the American Indian Leadership Youth Council, Youth Advisory Board, Broken Bow Colorguard, All girls' choir and track. In her free time, Emily likes to spend time with family and

friends, do chores, and sing and dance.



Brianna Battiest District 4

Brianna Battiest, 14, of Poteau is the daughter of Michael Rodriguez and Christina Battiest. She attends Poteau High School and is a member of the Educational Talent Search at Carl Albert State College and the Upward Bound Program. During her freshman year, she received perfect attendance. Brianna's interests are

playing softball, basketball and running track. She also likes spending time with my brother and texting on her phone.



Juanita Gonzalez District 5

Juanita Gonzalez, 14, of Stigler is the daughter of Victoria Baker Gonzalez. She attends Stigler Middle School where she was student of the week and voted best hair. Juanita enjoys cooking, watching kids, cleaning, playing outside, talking to friends and riding bikes.



Karen Ann Crosby District 7

Karen Crosby, 16, of Wright City is the daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth Crosby. She was the 2013-2014 District 7 Junior Miss Princess, 2013-2014 Senior Miss Owa-Chito and 2nd runner-up for Junior Miss Choctaw Nation. Karen was awarded 2nd place at Choctaw Singing with language class in Oklahoma, superior

singing for fine arts with Oklahoma Assemblies of God and also ranked 5th in state for singing. She attends Choctaw language and is a member of JOM and STAR program and is an honor roll student at Wright City High School. Karen enjoys cooking, singing Choctaw hymns and learning Choctaw language. She also enjoys art, playing piano, texting friends, babysitting, helping with children's church, spending time with family and playing stickball and other sports.



Summer Jade Moffitt District 8

Summer Moffitt, 13, of Hugo is the daughter of Johnny and Barbara Moffitt. She attends Ft. Towson School. Summer was Little Miss Choctaw for 2011-2012, she was also State of Oklahoma Youth Leader of Tomorrow for 2011-2012. She enjoys singing, attending Choctaw events, Choctaw language classes, pow-wows and

playing stickball.



Mallory Lyn Hawkins District 9

Mallory Hawkins, 15, of Bokchito is the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Hawkins. She attends Bennington High School. She enjoys softball, basketball, choir and FFA. Mallory is active in JOM and YAB and is a member of the High School academic team. She is also a member of the Osi Heli Stickball team, Native American Bead-

work and a member of different traveling sports team.



December Pittman District 10

December Pittman, 17, of Atoka is the daughter of Bradley Pittman and Julie Lambert. She attends Stringtown High School. December is a member of SkillsUSA and placed 3rd for performing a skit, 1st place for opening and closing ceremonies and received a SkillsUSA Statesman award. She enjoys cheerleading, choir, color guard and S.W.A.T. She also enjoys camping, fishing, swimming, getting to know others and spending time with her family.



Cheyhoma Dugger District 11

Cheyhoma Dugger, 17, of Hartshorne is the daughter of Jerry and Michele Dugger. She attends Haileyville High School. Cheyhoma enjoys cheering, dancing, being outside, hanging out with friends and family and attending church.



Neiatha Hardy District 12

Neiatha Hardy, 16, of Coalgate is the daughter of Paula Carney. She attends Coalgate High School where she is in the Choctaw STAR program and been on the honor roll for two years. She has received a Greenhand and Bluehand degree in FFA and chosen to attend Oklahoma Girls State. Neiatha plays fast-pitch and slow-

pitch softball. She attends Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

LITTLE MISS DIVISON



Aryza Impson District 1

Aryza Impson, 12, of Idabel is the daughter of Aaron Impson and Shacola Wilson. Aryza attends Idabel Middle School and will be entering 7th grade. She was selected as student council member of her 6th grade class. Aryza enjoys playing softball where she plays 3rd base, singing, swimming and playing basketball. She

also enjoys spending time with family and friends, and enjoys watching her uncle play stickball with team Tvshka Homma.



Kylie Himes District 2

Kylie Himes, 9, of Eagletown is the daughter of Zackory Himes and Kristi Poole. Kylie was Little Miss District Princess for 2013. She is on the honor roll at Dierks Elementary and a student at Broken Bow School of Dance. Kylie enjoys playing softball, cheerleading, gymnastics and playing with her brothers.



Briana Evans District 6

Briana Evans, 8, of Wilburton is the daughter of Brandon and Michele Evans. She attends Grace Russell Elementary. Briana enjoys playing sports with her sister. She loves to sing, dance and read and is a member of the Girl Scouts.



Lailah Riann Walton District 7

Lailah Walton, 12, of Antlers is the daughter of Fred and Teala Walton. She attends Moyers Public School where she is a Choctaw STAR student and is on the A and B honor roll. Lailah has completed Choctaw language class and was MVP for basketball. She plays stickball for Nashoba Homma, dances at pow-wows, softball

and basketball and enjoys writing stories. Lailah also loves to teach her sister everything and going to Choctaw camps and language classes.



Savannah Jane Herndon District 8

Savannah Herndon, 12, of Soper is the daughter of Thomas and Angela Herndon. She attends Soper Public School. Savannah was Little Miss 1st runner up for 2012 and 2013 and was also Owa-Chito Jr. Miss Princess for 2013-2014. Savannah loves animals of all kinds and has four rabbits, a cat and a fish. She enjoys going to pow-

wows, softball games, Choctaw language classes and spending time with her family.



Kyra Wilson District 9

Kyra Wilson, 11, of Durant is the daughter of Pamela Wilson. She attends Durant Intermediate School where she is a Choctaw STAR student and on the Principal honor roll. Some of her accomplishments and honors are Mathematic Mystery award, math facts and flash award, completion of OSU Nutrition Program, completion of

Chahta Anumpa Aihvna, outstanding student award. 2011 Little Miss Choctaw Princess District #9, gold medal for solo flute contest, attended Camp Goddard Science Camp and voted best looking in class. Kyra loves to read books and watch movies. She is currently taking piano and flute lessons and hopes to someday play at events for the Choctaw Nation. She has also been attending the Choctaw School of Language and hopes to speak fluently with her grandmother. Kyra is an active member of Chihowa Okla Church.



Kayelin Kindred District 10

Kayelin Kindred, 10, of Daisy is the daughter of Jody and Melissa Kindred. She attends Harmony School in Atoka. Kayelin enjoys playing basketball and softball and spending time with her family. She also enjoys being part of the youth group at McGee Valley Baptist Church in Daisy.



Lauren Gale Nichols District 11

Lauren Nichols, 11, of McAlester is the daughter of Thomas and LaTrisha LeFlore. She attends Krebs Elementary School where she is currently on the Principal's honor roll, student of the month for the last six months and is a Choctaw STAR student. Lauren competed in the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee where she

placed 8th for two years in a row. She attends Calvary Baptist Church in McAlester. Lauren enjoys singing, learning to speak Choctaw, learning about her Choctaw heritage, going to church, playing softball and basketball, playing with her brothers and taking care of her dog Bella.



Teona Billy District 12

Teona Billy, 10, of McAlester is the daughter of Kevin and Lorraine Billy. She attends Canadian Lorraine School where she is on the A and B honor roll. She enjoys going to school reading, learning to sew, riding her horse and going to church.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



Aug. 30

Category / Division
circle one:

4 MAN ROSTER

WOMEN ALL STARS AGES ~ 18 & UP
MEN YOUNG GUNS AGES ~ 18 TO 35
MEN OLD TIMERS AGES ~ 36 & UP

5 MAN ROSTER

MINI CO'ED AGES ~ 9 TO 11
TWEENS CO'ED AGES ~ 12 TO 14
TEENS CO'ED AGES ~ 15 TO 18

3-on-3 Basketball

Team Name _____
Contact _____
Address _____
City/St/Zip _____
Phone _____

Entry form must be postmarked by August 20:
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball, ATTN: Kerry Steve
P.O. Box 1909, Durant, OK 74702
or fax to 580-920-0024

Co-Ed teams must have either 3 boys and 2 girls or 3 girls and 2 boys.
Players who are 18 must still be in high school
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 TEAMS

Chief Batton's Youth Fitness Challenge

Friday, August 29
on the Council Chambers lawn

Registration at 5:00pm and the event will begin at 6:00pm. This annual event promotes fitness and health in a fun and challenging atmosphere. The challenge will conclude with a tug of war contest and each participant will receive a free t shirt. A release of liability waiver will need to be signed by the guardian of each participant. All children ages 8 -18 are encouraged to participate regardless of fitness level. If you have any questions about the fitness challenge, please call Jason Campbell at (800)-522-6170, x 2787.

Tough, Tough Choctaw

Saturday, August 30
on the Council Chambers lawn

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

Anyone under 18 years of age must have parent sign waiver.
Free T-shirts to participants.

For more information call Jeremy Loper at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2407, or e-mail jloper@choctawnation.com.



FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT

August 29- September 1
at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds
in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma

- Deadline for entry is August 1 -
For more information, please call 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170, Ext. 2577, or fill out the application below and return to our office.

Name of team _____
Contact Person _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Please circle one:

Men's team or Women's team

and return to:

Cultural Events
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Horseshoes

Saturday, August 30

Registration 8 to 9 a.m.
Tournaments begin at 9:30 a.m.
Men, Women, Youth (up to 13) and Seniors will start at the same time and play concurrent.

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

4th Annual Stickball Tournament

Friday, August 29 thru Sunday, August 31

Teams to be announced. Women's exhibition game to be held prior to Sunday's Championship Game. Watch ChoctawNation.com and Facebook for more information!

12TH ANNUAL CHIEF BATTON LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sunday, August 31st, 2014

Team Cash Prizes

1st Place
2nd Place
3rd Place

Individual Prizes

Closest to Pin
Longest drive

- Hosted by Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton, OK
- 9 hole, Par 36
- 4-person Mixed Scramble, 18 holes
- Teams selected by Handicap, 100% Blind Draw
- First Group of Teams tee off at 9:00am, 2nd group at 1:30
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time.
- No requests for partners.
- Mulligan tickets are available for \$10 each, maximum 2.
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)

Deadline to Enter: August 18th; No applications or requests will be taken prior to July 21st. First 72 Registered Golfers Will be Accepted

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Handicap: _____ Shirt Size: _____
(Valid Handicap Card required) Tee Time: 9am or 1:30pm
Mulligan Purchased: Yes or No (circle one)

Mail Entry Form to Nate Cox, 2101 West Arkansas St., Durant, OK 74701
Enclose Money Orders or Cashier's Check Payable to: 12th Annual Gary Batton Labor Day Golf Classic
For More Information please contact Nate Cox or Gregg Robinson at (580) 380-1633.



Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival



5k Run

Race Begins at 8 a.m.
August 30
Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma

Race day registration is from 6:30-7:45 a.m. will begin and finish on the north side of the museum. All entries must be postmarked by Aug. 22.

Age Categories and Awards

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

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

RACE DIRECTOR

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

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

Please Print

Name _____

Signature _____

Waiver must be signed Date _____

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

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Age as of Aug. 30, 2014 _____

Sex (M/F) _____

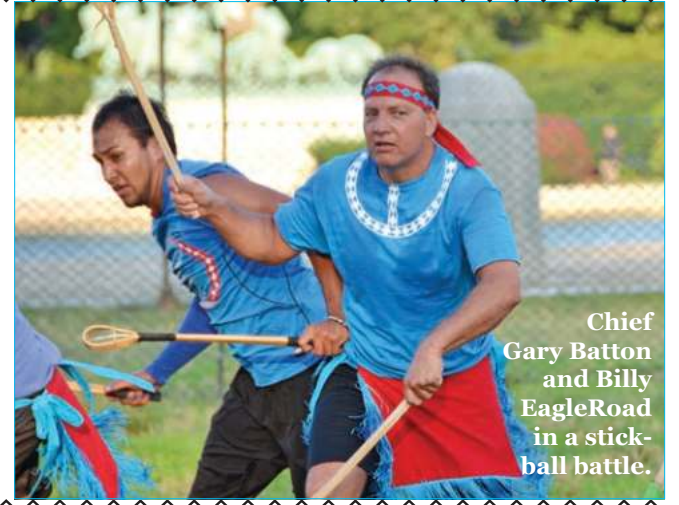
Tribal Member (Y/N) _____

T-Shirts will be provided at conclusion of the race.

Detach and send entry form to:

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

Choctaw Days 2014



Chief Gary Batton and Billy EagleRoad in a stickball battle.



Marcus Amerman showcases his beading skills with this beautiful piece of art.



Dancers form a circle in the crowd-favorite Raccoon Dance.



The honor of playing stickball in the Nation's Capitol is seen on the faces of the team.



Choctaw Royalty – Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt, Junior Miss Kayleigh Powell, and Little Miss Isabelle Cox.



Paul Hacker plays one of his hand-crafted flutes.



Silversmith George Willis displays his unique creations.

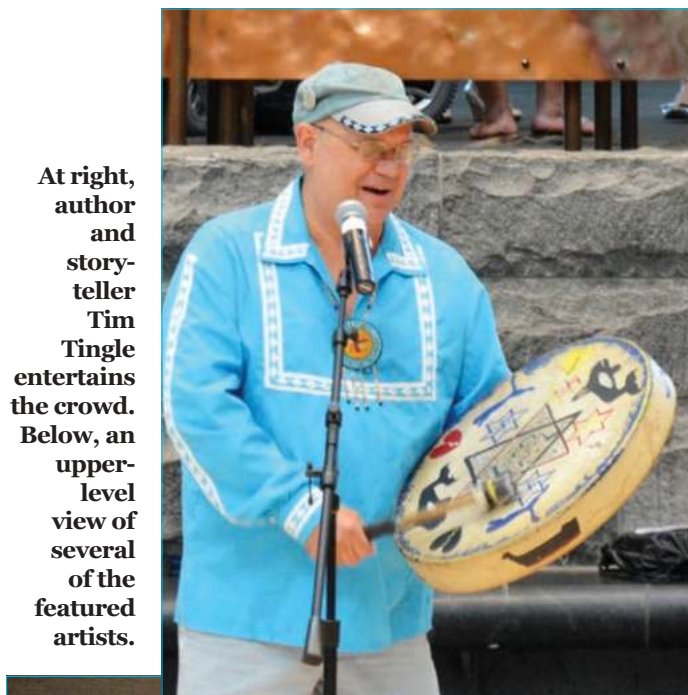


Tribal Council members have the unique opportunity of a private viewing of original treaties at the National Archives. Pictured are Ted Dosh, Thomas Williston, National Archivist Jane Fitzgerald, Anthony Dillard, and Deloris and Delton Cox.



Roger Amerman is known for his traditional beadwork.

Photos by
JUDY ALLEN, LISA REED
JOE JEFFERSON, PAYTON GUTHRIE
Choctaw Nation



At right, author and storyteller Tim Tingle entertains the crowd. Below, an upper-level view of several of the featured artists.



Les Williston's cultural weapons booth features items such as rabbit sticks.



Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. enjoy meeting the many Choctaws and friends of Choctaws at the Smithsonian festival including Mary Lou Specklemeyer.



Councilmembers Ted Dosh, Thomas Williston, Anthony Dillard, and Delton Cox have historical information to share with visitors.