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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2015 Issue

Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session June 13 at Tvshka Homma. The following council bills were unanimously approved:

- Application to Department of Agriculture for Distance Learning Program
- Approve a limited waiver of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s sovereign immunity to available insurance coverage.
- Authorize the Chief to place property in Bryan County in Trust Status with the United States of America.
- Disposal of surplus equipment
- Approve adoption of the Choctaw Nation Traffic Code
- Approve adoption of the Choctaw Nation Public Health and Safety Code
- Approve the adoption of the Choctaw Nation Juror Code
- Approve the adoption of the Choctaw Nation Juvenile Code
- Approve participation in the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Violence Against Women (VAIW) National Baseline study.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and council bills, go to <http://www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council-bills/2015-council-bills/> The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.

What’s inside

Columns	2
Notes to the Nation	5
Health & Nursery News	6
Food Distribution	6
People You Know	7
Obituaries	8
Meet the Artist.....	16
Sports	17
Iti Favvssa	18

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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Photo by Deidre Elrod

President Obama pledges to do better by our ‘first Americans’

President visits Choctaw Nation to unveil new program and meet with Choctaw youth

By RONNI PIERCE
Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton, the Choctaw Nation, and the city of Durant were host to a historic event on July 15. Tribal youth and elders were invited to join the Chief, Council, and community members to hear first-hand as President Barack Obama announced a new initiative that will ensure digital opportunities for all Americans. ConnectHome will expand high-speed broadband Internet services to families in the Choctaw Nation and 27 other communities across the country.

After taking the stage and shouting out an enthusiastic “Halito!” to nearly 1,000 people gathered in the Durant High School, the president thanked Chief Batton and the other tribal leaders for their attendance.

The president acknowledged the fact that some American communities “have been neglected and fallen behind. And as part of that, I said we’re going to do better by our first Americans.

“Now, we can’t reverse centuries of history—broken treaties, broken promises. But I did believe that we could come together as partners and forge a new path based on trust and respect.”

He spoke of naming the Choctaw Nation as one

of America’s first Promise Zones a little over a year ago. The Promise Zone areas are where the federal government teams with local communities and businesses to create economic development and to jump-start job creation, expand educational opportunities, increase affordable housing, and improve public safety.

The ConnectHome initiative will take the Promise Zone designation even further.

ConnectHome will use partnerships to bring broadband, technical assistance, and digital literacy training to students living in public and assisted housing across America, according to the White House.

Chief Batton said, “The ConnectHome initiative is about helping our people who are in poverty-stricken areas, to help them gain access to broadband Internet because so many of our tribal members do not have access to the world like everyone else does. And so in our low-income housing and in our elderly living sites that’s what this is going to be about—to help them get an education and to find employment.

“The ConnectHome initiative will link our homes to a world beyond southeastern Oklahoma, and tie our lives to greater opportunities.”

The president and HUD Secretary Julián Castro announced 27 cities and the Choctaw Nation will participate in ConnectHome.

The communities were selected through a competitive process that took into account local commitment to expanding broadband opportunities.

Prior to the event, President Obama and Chief Batton met with a group of Native youth and discussed the recent White House Tribal Youth

Gathering and opportunities for young Native boys and girls. The president called out to 16-year-old Kelsey Janway in the audience. Janway is a member of the Choctaw Youth Council who represented the Choctaw Nation at the White House. President Obama made note that her family could only get phone reception at their home in Heavener if they stood on a certain rock. She laughingly agreed and many of the audience who were from rural areas were nodding their heads in understanding. The president emphasized that kids like Kelsey have big dreams, that we need to invest in those dreams through advancing technology in rural and low-income areas. He said, “When we make those commitments to all of our children, the great thing about it is the blessings are returned back to us—because you end up having a workforce that is better educated, which means suddenly companies want to locate, which means businesses start booming, which means businesses start hiring, which means everybody does better.”

This is only the second Native American community President Obama has visited during his term in office. In June 2014 the president visited the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. And this is only the second time a sitting president has visited this community. President Theodore Roosevelt passed through Durant during a whistle stop tour on his way to San Antonio in 1905. President Obama’s visit last week is the first time a current president has made an official visit to our tribal nation.

See more pictures of President Obama’s historic visit on page 4.

Chief Gary Batton wins in landslide

By RONNI PIERCE & LISA REED
Choctaw Nation

Current Chief Gary Batton has defeated opponent Deborah Jan Battiest-Tomasi with 86.52% of the vote compared to her 13.48% in the 2015 election for Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Chief Batton was announced the winner at approximately 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 11.

“First and foremost, I want to give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon me and my family. My prayer is for His continuous blessings for the Choctaw people and Southeast Oklahoma.

“This has been a great week, with the Choctaw Council passing a bill agreeing to accept a settlement on behalf of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations from the U.S. Government on an asset accounting case. This will go a long way toward building up our economy and providing services to our tribal citizens.

“Now is the time of opportunity and we must seize it so we can make a difference in the lives of our people and southeastern Oklahoma.”

Chief Batton took office after Chief Gregory E. Pyle announced his retirement 15 months ago. He took the oath of office on the steps of the headquarters complex on April 28, 2014.

During his first term the Choctaw Nation saw the distribution of Choctaw Nation car tags, the groundbreaking for the 143,000-square-foot regional health clinic in Durant, the completion of the chapel at Tvshka Homma, the creation of the Council on Wisdom, and expansion of the storm shelter program to include tribal citizens age 55 and up, among other initiatives.

Saturday’s election also resulted in the re-election of incumbent Bobby Pate in Pittsburg County’s District 11 Council seat. Pate received 56.49% of the votes, Nellie Marie Sam Meashintubby 21.56%, Henry Phillip Byington 16.37%, and William Jennings Frye 5.59%.



Photo by Ronni Pierce

Chief Gary Batton accepts the win in the race for Choctaw Nation Chief. Chief Batton won with a large margin over his opponent, 86.52% to 13.48%.

District 2’s Council race in northern McCurtain County has resulted in a runoff between Jonathan Anthony Ward who received 41.47% and Michael Allen Amos with 37.55% of the votes. Four other candidates rounded out the voting: Greene Dale Davis 6.33%, Ivan Lee Battiest 6.02%, and Taloa Ossi Gibson and Kenneth Karl Battiest, both with 4.32%. The runoff will be held on Aug. 8, 2015.

Chief Batton and Councilmembers from Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 11 will take the oath of office at the Labor Day ceremonies in Tvshka Homma on Monday, Sept. 7, 2015.

FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE



Lifting up the Nation

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by selecting me to serve another four years as your Chief. The Choctaw Nation is poised for even greater success than we have already achieved, and I am prepared to do my part to provide opportunities for all Choctaws. Throughout history, Choctaws have always made the most of opportunities that come our way. When President Obama selected the Choctaw Nation as the first tribe designated as a Promise Zone, he took the first step in moving our Nation-to-Nation relationship to a Nation-to-Nation partnership. The Promise Zone designation is one of the latest opportunities for the Choctaw Nation. President Obama’s visit on July 15 was the first time a sitting U.S. president has been in Durant as a guest of the Choctaw Nation. I was glad to see a president recognize his government-to-government responsibilities and come here on Choctaw soil.

So far, under our Promise Zone designation, the Choctaw Nation has prepared and supported dozens of applications that have resulted in more than \$51 million in federal tax credits and grants being awarded to recipients in the Choctaw Nation Promise Zone by federal agencies, including Department of Justice, Department of Education, USDA, HUD, Treasury, and others. We recently received a \$5 million federal grant to reduce teen pregnancy, meaning more young people can finish school and get better jobs.

President Obama discussed the ConnectHome initiative to provide Internet to disadvantaged tribal members. The pilot program is launching in 27 cities and we are the only tribal nation! It will initially reach over 275,000 low-income households—and nearly 200,000 children—with the support they need to access the Internet at home.

ConnectHome is just one of the partnerships recently started. We broke ground this month on a new clinic in Durant that will provide about 200 jobs in the area.

Choctaw Nation has expanded its summer learning programs that help all students catch up in public schools. Choctaw Nation has widened early learning opportunities in its region with the award by Health and Human Services of a multi-year Early Head Start-Childcare Partnership Grant with Promise Zone preference. In 2014, with Choctaw Nation’s assistance, 13 schools and communities in southeastern Oklahoma received Community Facilities Grants from USDA Rural Development with Promise Zone preference for school gardens, fitness equipment, and facility upgrades.

There are a lot of needs out there. We need to create capacity just to grow. We need to develop businesses inside and outside of the Choctaw Nation to sustain our government and member services—to create social programs to help give tribal members a leg up when they need it and help them succeed in life. Expansion is needed in several programs including our summer school programs, the reintegration program, housing, health, and education.

This can be accomplished if we all work together to become a healthier, more self-sufficient nation. As we grow we can increase tribal members’ sense of connectedness. We are family, we are Choctaw.



Our youth, our culture

President Obama stopped in Durant on July 16. More than 970 people packed Durant High School to participate in this historical visit. The majority of President Obama’s speech focused on investing in this country’s youth and ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed.

He said, “We’re in this together. We’re bound by a shared commitment to leave a better world for our children. We’re bound together by a commitment to make sure that that next generation has inherited all the blessings that we inherited from the previous generation.”

The Choctaw Nation places high priority on encouraging the growth and development of its youth.

Choctaw Nation Head Start Centers have been named an “Excellent 2015 Certified OK Healthy Early Childhood Program,” the first year Oklahoma awarded in this category. Two new centers will open soon in McAlester and Bethel.

We are seeing more Choctaw students graduate high school than ever before throughout the Choctaw Nation due in part to the Making A Difference Program. This program intervenes when there is a need and informs Choctaw students of opportunities to prepare them to achieve greatness after high school. Their one-of-a-kind database allows Making A Difference counselors to track and work with Choctaw students to ensure high school graduation.

Even the theme of this year’s Labor Day Festival reflects our faith in the new generation of Choctaws—“Choctaw Youth: Connecting the Culture.”

Choctaw tribal member Janie Semple Umsted is sculpting a statue commemorating our youth that will be unveiled Sept. 4 on the Tvshka Homma Capitol grounds. Janie is a descendant of former Chief Peter Pitchlynn. The statue of two girls, the older teaching the younger, will inspire the hope we have in our young men and women carrying on the Choctaw culture.

“Connecting the Culture” is very appropriate. The festival is more than 50 years old. The children scampering across the Capitol grounds in the 1960s are now watching their grandchildren have fun and learn about their heritage.

The Choctaw Village has a variety of activities on Saturday during the festival that demonstrates traditions handed down for centuries—pottery, basketry, beadwork, flintknapping. I’ve watched the dancers and remember when the young man leading was a small boy following the steps of his older cousins. Stickball skills are shared in the village, on the stickball field, and on the Capitol lawn.

The Choctaw games are a lot of fun. I’ve had some practice throwing a rabbit stick and it isn’t easy! The corn game is a favorite. They are both being played in the village on Saturday and Sunday.

The best part of the festival is the fact that families have been sharing the experience for years.

Chaplain’s Corner

Let our light shine



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is growing both in population and economically.

The Choctaws have had a rich Christian heritage even prior to the Indian Removal Act in the early 1830s.

Will you continue to pray for the spiritual life of our nations to grow, remembering “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” (Psalms 33:12).

A nation can rise no higher, can be no stronger, and be no better than the individuals which compose that nation.

There is nothing wrong with the nation, the trouble lies with the nation’s people. If the nation is bad, then the people are bad. If the nation is confused the people within the nation are confused. If this is a godless nation then the people are godless.

Today people are looking for joy in life and I would like to share with you and challenge you with a joy that can be yours.

This joy can be yours as you lead a person to accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior—this could be your loved one, your friend, or anyone. To lead someone to Jesus Christ and help him or her to grow in Him is the joy of Christian service.

It has been my privilege to see many sad troubled faces changed into a glowing testimony of happiness and satisfaction in the Lord. Only Jesus Christ can perform this kind of transformation and this is a living proof of the transforming power of God.

Along with the joy that can be received in the Lord’s service now, there is another wonderful promise recorded in the Book of Daniel 12:3:

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”

This is a testimony of an old man and one who had the richest and deepest experience of any man living on the earth at the time.

Daniel was taken to Babylon when he was a young man, some Bible students think he was not more than 20 years old.

If anyone had said, when this young Hebrew was carried away into captivity, he would outrank all the mighty men, probably no one would have believed it. Yet, for 500 years no man whose life is recorded in history shone as did this man. He outshone Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Cyrus and Darius and all the princes and mighty men of his day.

We hear and often say that the mission field we are laboring in is hard, that it is a difficult one. But think of the field in which Daniel had to work. He was not only a slave but he was held captive by a nation that hated the Jews, the Hebrews, Israelites. He did know the language, he was among idolaters – people who worshipped other gods.

Yet, Daniel began at once to shine, he took a stand for God from the very first and stood with Him through his whole life. He gave his life as a youth to God and he continued faithful right on until his ministry was finished. Notice that all those who have made a deep impression on the world have shone most brightly have been men who lived in a dark day.

Look at Joseph, he was sold as a slave into Egypt by the Ishmaelites.

Yet he took his God with him into captivity. He remained true to the last, he did not give up his faith because he had been taken away from home and placed among idolaters. He stood firm and God stood by him.

Look at Moses who turned his back upon the treasures of Egypt and identified himself with his despised and down-trodden nation, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. If a man ever had a hard field, it was Moses, yet he shone brightly, he never proved unfaithful to

his God. Talk about a mission field being a hard one, see how the Apostle Paul shone for God as he went out, the first missionary to a heathen world telling them of the God whom he served, and Who had sent His Son to die a cruel death in order to save the world.

Men reviled him and his teaching, they laughed him to scorn when he spoke of the crucified one but he went on preaching the gospel of the Son of God. He was regarded as a poor tent maker by the great and mighty ones of his day but no one can tell the names of his persecutors or of those who lived at that time, unless their names happened to be associated with his and they were brought into contact with him.

Now the fact is, all men like to shine. We may as well acknowledge this fact. See how men struggle to get into the front ranks. Everyone wants to outshine his neighbor or his competitor.

There are very few who shine in the world.

But in the Kingdom of God, the very least and the weakest may shine, if they will. Not only one can obtain the prize but all may have it, if they will. How empty and short are the glory and the prize of this world.

If we are wise, we will live for God and for eternity. We will forget ourselves and will care nothing for the honor and glory of this world. If any man, woman or child by a godly life live an example can win one soul to God their life will not have been a failure.

God has left us down here to shine. This earth, if we are a Christian, is not our home, our home is in heaven.

Jesus Christ was the Light of the world, but men put out that Light. Before Jesus died on the cross, He said to His disciples: “You are my witnesses, go forth and carry the gospel to the perishing nations of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

So God has called us to shine just as much as

Daniel was sent into Babylon to shine. We are to let our light shine. It does not say to make your light shine. You do not have to make your light shine, all we have to do is to let it shine.

Pray for America. Pray for our Spiritual leaders.



Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance



2nd Annual Storytelling Event

Storyteller and author Stella Long will be hosting her 2nd Annual Storytelling Event **5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City August 15 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Concluding with a Stomp Dance. In Honor of Choctaw author Greg Rodgers Friend and noted storyteller Tim Tingle will play flute and drum and share memories of Greg. Other artists, singers, and dancers will share their stories. Concessions will be available for purchase. We may have room to hear your story. Let us know. For more information contact Stella Long at her website or call Phyllis Been at (405) 600-5694 or email okchoctaw.princess@yahoo.com.

5320 South Youngs, Oklahoma City, (405) 681-0869
Upcoming Events:
Senior Meal 7/31 at Noon
Beading Class 8/1 from 10 a.m. - Noon

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Photo Provided by Ackerman McQueen

An example of clear-cutting on former trust lands in the Choctaw Nation.

Timber trust lawsuit settled

By **ZACH MAXWELL**
Choctaw Nation

The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations have settled a decade-old federal lawsuit regarding former tribal trust land, as announced by Chief Gary Batton. Terms of the early July settlement have not been released, pending official approval from both tribal governments.

A partial settlement was reached in May on a portion of the suit. The settlement was approved by Choctaw Nation Tribal Council at its May meeting, but details were not available due to a non-disclosure clause.

At issue was an accounting of the tribal trust lands taken by the U.S. government after Choctaw and Chickasaw governments were dissolved more than a century ago. The Nations filed suit against the U.S. government in 2005, seeking that long overdue account-

ing and an equitable restoration of the trust.

“I’m very excited that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, Gov. Bill Anoatubby, along with myself, and the U.S. government have agreed to a settlement of the timber trust account case,” said Chief Gary Batton. “This settlement will begin the healing process for many of our tribal members. This is the first time that the federal government and tribal Nations have worked on a settlement of some of these dark pages of history.”

Batton said the settlement funds, whose sum remains undisclosed at this time, will be used to improve the lives of Choctaw and Chickasaw tribal members through economic development and social service programs. Many of these programs are new innovations aimed at improving the lives of low-income tribal members.



Grand Opening of the Grand Theater

By **CHARLES CLARK**
Choctaw Nation

Celebs add glam to noteworthy event at Choctaw Casino Resort

It’s not unusual to find fun and excitement in the Choctaw Casino. But June 28 saw even more thrills and glitz, as the new Grand Theater was opened with a ribbon cutting attended by Chief Gary Batton, Choctaw Nation officials, and one of America’s most legendary rock’n’roll bands, Aerosmith.

No fewer than 200 people—members of the Choctaw Nation, local dignitaries and the public—were on hand to witness the occasion.

Chief Batton addressed the turnout noting it was an important and joyous milestone in the long and difficult trail of the Choctaw people. Amid the glee of the occasion, Batton’s comments brought gravitas and a sense of pride in this latest accomplishment of Choctaw enterprise. He also pointed out that the 400 construction workers and now 300 added staff members have brought 700 new employment opportunities to southeast Oklahoma.

Executive Director of Choctaw Gaming Janie Dillard said, “It’s not over yet,” as she zestfully listed the new features of the facility, which opened along with the Grand Theater.

Vocalist Steven Tyler, guitarist Joe Perry and other members of Aerosmith were on hand to help those at the ribbon cutting ceremony “Dream On.” Attention shifted in all directions as rock stars, top leaders of the Choctaw Nation, flashing lights of the casino, and the bling of new spa hallways, competed for the eyes and ears of the crowd.



The three suites and 3,000 seats of the Grand Theater had sold out days in advance for the concert by platinum-recording artists Aerosmith. Barely two weeks into its Blue Army 2015 Tour, Aerosmith wowed cheering head bangers in an energy-filled, 90-minute parade of hit songs that included “Cryin’,” “Rag Doll,” “Jaded,” “Walk This Way” and “Sweet Emotion.” Sounds from their 1970’s wild youth-style, through the MTV video star-years, to the perfecting of their rock classics in stadiums took fans on a journey of nostalgia while demonstrating the lexicon of their influence.

Dillard said that acts are booked at the venue through December. Standing in the wings are Kenny Rogers and Wynonna, who are in concert Aug. 6; Three Dog Night and Nazareth, Aug. 8; Boston, Aug. 27; Nickelback, Sept. 4; BJ Thomas and The Righteous Brothers’ Bill Medley, Sept. 19; and the “Queen of Country” Loretta Lynn, Oct. 3. The Band Perry, Aretha Franklin and more are scheduled before New Year’s Eve arrives.

The new Spa Tower offers a luxury experience for those needing a getaway. While staying in a choice of hundreds of rooms and suites, guests may enjoy a hair salon, barber-shop, mani-pedi nail care, chemical peels, and state-of-the-art fitness center found in the 25,000-square-foot facility. Robes and sandals are provided for those who enter the co-ed mineral baths area. Water terraces over tiles, into the soaking mineral salts from Savoy, Hungary. And if that doesn’t get you relaxed enough, massages, facials and light refreshments can be ordered up. One example is the naturally refreshing cactus toning wrap and foot revitalizing treatment.

Business travelers can make use of a new Conference Center. The 14,000-square-foot Magnolia Grand Ballroom has its own kitchen, which can accommodate more than 800 diners. Versatile private suites and 16 fully equipped meeting rooms allow for the needs of any size gathering.

From bridal parties, couples retreats and business seminars to the casino excitement of world poker tours and today’s favorite musical entertainment, the Choctaw Casino Resort is an oasis in southeast Oklahoma—and the Grand Theater rocks.

To go:

The Choctaw Casino Resort and the Grand Theater are located at 4418 S. Hwy 69/75 in Durant. It is suggested that those interested in attending a particular concert not delay in making reservations. Several of the upcoming shows are nearly sold out. At this writing, for example, fewer than 50 seats remain for Boston. For Box Office information, call (800) 628-1403 or visit online choctawcasinos.com.

YAPPALLI

The Choctaw Road to Health

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the University of Washington Indigenous Wellness Research Institute have joined together to learn more about developing community-wide leaders in health so that current and future generations of Choctaw communities grow to live healthfully.

Join us as we travel through history and culture to create a better future for today and the generations to come.

The goal of this project is to create community-based Native women health leaders. We are seeking Native women who are interested in improving their own health behaviors and activity levels through outdoor and cultural immersion activities while also developing community health promotion leadership skills.

Are you interested in stepping up to help your community? Are you interested in learning more about Choctaw culture and activities for better health? If so, Yappalli might be right for you...

Are you:

- A woman and an enrolled Choctaw tribal member
- 18 years of age or older
- Currently reside in tribal district 11 or 12
- Interested in increasing your activity levels and improving your BMI or reducing weight
- Interested in changing your relationship to tobacco, alcohol or other substances?

This 2 year-long program includes meeting individually and as a group to improve your body weight, activity levels, or reduce substance misuse; discuss traditional stories related to health; travel the Choctaw Trail of Tears; and create healthy events in your community

For more information contact:

1-800-349-7026

Ext. 6327

This project is supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse under award number R01DA037176.

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Next Step

Mission

To assist Tribal Members reach the next step of self-sustainment through supplemental food vouchers, financial fitness and healthy living.

* Participants are required to complete training set by initiative guidelines.

The Choctaw Nation Next Step Initiative was successfully launched April 2015! This supplemental food voucher program is meant to assist Tribal Members reach the next step of self-sustainment through supplemental food vouchers as well as financial fitness and healthy living.

This Initiative is designed to help the working poor by providing families food supplements as well as assorted trainings to help them reach the next step. These trainings include, but are not limited to, financial budget training, food demonstrations, holiday spending webinars and other trainings that best suit the household needs.

Eligibility Requirements include:

- One Choctaw Tribal Member in Household
- Reside in the Choctaw Nation Service Area
- No one in household can be participating in SNAP
- Must be a Working Household unless on Social Security or Disability
- Over Income for Food Distribution Eligibility

To sign up for the Next Step Initiative, the participant should call a Next Step Social Worker at a location listed below to arrange an interview first. This guarantees participants bring all required documentation with them. Eligibility cannot be determined without all documentation present.

Offices and Social Workers are located at the following five locations:

- Durant Food Distribution Center (580) 924-7773
- Antlers Food Distribution Center (580) 298-6443
- McAlester Food Distribution Center (918) 420-5716
- Poteau Food Distribution Center (918) 649-0431
- Broken Bow Outreach Services Building (580) 584-3832

Choctaw artists create original décor

Hotels often display art. But it’s usually from mass printings, mundane in nature—just something to break up lengthy walls of taupe.

Not so at the Choctaw Casino Resort’s new Spa Tower, where original creations by five contemporary Choctaw artists adorn the new expansion.

A good starting point is always at the beginning. To view the nouveau art at Choctaw Casino Resort, guests need only to approach the registration desk. Five impressive works can be found directly behind check-in.

Chief Gary Batton is quoted in a brochure on the project: “I am excited to see our Choctaw artists highlighted in the interior design of the Durant resort expansion... We invite you to visit the art displays and learn of the great heritage and culture of the Choctaw people.”

More one-of-a-kind pieces can be observed when strolling the hallways from the lobby into the new 25,000-square-foot facility.

The Artists

DYLAN CAVIN The Norman artist has said he prefers painting over graphic design: “For me, the artwork was and still is my main connection of my heritage... It forces me to go back and to read and to do research and to go through the history, and to me that connects me more with my past and it comes around that way.”

NORMA HOWARD As a child, the Stigler artist used to go home and draw the toys that her classmates had: “I live the Choctaw life, so I know it’s from within.”

GWEN COLEMAN LESTER Now calling Claremore home, the artist can’t remember a time when she didn’t draw: “I like to put Choctaw language in there whenever I can.”

DG SMALLING The Oklahoma City-based artist travelled the world as a child of missionaries: “Rather than something being an interior design project, the Nation now has for the first time in hundreds of years a definitive body of work to represent what Choctaw Nation is at this point in the 21st century. That’s the importance of this collection, the standard that it establishes for other artists.”

JANIE UMSTED Calling Durant her home, the artist came by it naturally, receiving art instruction from her mother since age 3: “...This has become a project that I think about all the time. It really has taken over my life in a very good way.”

President Obama in the Choctaw Nation



Gary Batton, Chief of the Choctaw Nation, delivers remarks welcoming President Barack Obama to the Choctaw Nation, at Durant High School on July 15, 2015.

An estimated 970 people attended President Barack Obama’s visit to the Choctaw Nation at Durant High School on July 15, 2015. This was the first presidential visit in our tribal territory in more than a century. The president was greeted by Chief Batton, Choctaws in traditional clothing, dignitaries, invited guests and an assemblage of media members. The excitement overflowed to the Choctaw Event Center, where many gathered to watch history unfold via live streaming on giant screens.



President Obama exits Marine One after landing in Durant. The president flew into Denison’s North Texas Regional Airport-Perrin Field, met with the mayor and other dignitaries before departing for Choctaw Nation.



Elissa Hamil sings the National Anthem at Durant High School on July 15. She was the last person at the podium before President Obama.



The Choctaw princesses file past scores of television satellite trucks as they prepare for the president’s speech.



An excited crowd, many in traditional Choctaw clothing, await President Obama at Durant High School.



Photos by Deidre Elrod, Payton Guthrie, Brandon Frye, and Zach Maxwell

Nikki Amos, Miss Choctaw Nation, sang a version of the Lord’s Prayer in the Choctaw language as part of opening ceremonies. Junior princesses Summer Moffitt and Kyra Wilson (not pictured) accompanied Amos with sign language.



Choctaw youth, guests and program directors applaud President Obama on July 15, 2015.



A student from Chickasaw Nation shows off his ticket to the presidential visit.



Choctaw elders pose before journeying to Durant High School to hear the president’s remarks.

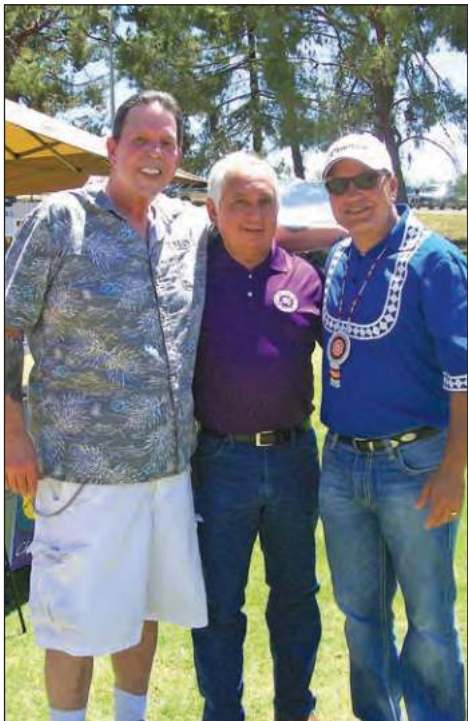


Eager ticket holders waited in the sweltering heat to get inside the high school. Nearly 1,000 people were in attendance.



Choctaw Hymn 48 was sung by Brad Joe, Lillie Roberts, Jennifer Parish and Bubba Johnson.

NOTES TO THE NATION



Honoring Anderson King

I am enclosing a photo of myself, Kenneth Earl King, with Chief Batton at the recent Bakersfield Gathering May 2-3. I had the opportunity to speak with him for a while along with Councilmember Ron Perry who presided over the recently renovated King Cemetery. It was an honor for me to be able to honor my third great-grandfather, Anderson King, who was a Sergeant with the 1st Regiment Co. A of the Choctaw-Chickasaw Mounted Rifles during the Civil War. This was done during the Honoring of our Choctaw Veterans. Several others also came forward to honor those Choctaws who are vets and no longer with us or unable to be present.

It's my hope this photo along with a mention of Anderson King will find it's way in the next issue, this will I hope enable me to also connect with other bloodline King family members.

Kenneth Earl King, 5th great grandson of Chief Moshulatubbee

Stigler safe room

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation very much for our safe room. It has been a godsend. We really appreciate the Choctaw Nation giving us the grant for the safe room. God bless the Choctaw Nation, the Chief, and the Assistant Chief.

Wayne Frazier

Youth of the Nation

Luke Green, YAB member, Hugo Chapter

Hello, my name is Luke Green. I am a senior at Hugo High School. I am the son of Don and Becky Green.

I have lived in Hugo all of my life, attending Hugo Schools and I am enrolled in the Pre-Engineering Program at the Kiamichi Technology Center. When I was in eighth grade, I joined YAB. Through this program I have found encouragement to grow and always do my best. It does a great job of providing young people with a chance to volunteer their time and energy for others. When I first joined YAB it was because I had seen the opportunities my brother, Micah, had been given and how much he enjoyed it. Though I was hesitant at first, I soon discovered the organization is amazing. There is something about the feeling you get when helping others. To know that you have made a difference, whether it is through passing out food at a soup kitchen, picking up trash, giving a kind word or being a mentor for second-graders, YAB has presented me with many opportunities to make a difference. I especially enjoy Falvmmichi* and the smiles on the kids' faces when we enter the classroom. This is what I feel that YAB is truly about; instilling students with a sense of service and self-worth; building character. It is the work I have participated in that has shaped my views. I have always felt that actions speak louder than any words. This is one of the core foundations of YAB and it is why this organization creates leaders. Because of my experience through YAB I would like to continue to serve in whatever community I am living. This is one major reason why I plan to be a mechanical engineer. There are few organizations that have impacted me the way YAB has. I will always be grateful for all that the Youth Advisory Board has done for me. Thank you very much.

**Editors Note: Falvmmichi is an antibullying mentorship program sponsored by the Choctaw Nation.*



Musical thanks

Dante Miller of Quinton and Marra Juarez of Wilburton are extremely grateful for the recent support by the Choctaw Nation. Dante and Marra are members of the Oklahoma Kids-Stigler group, a division of American Kids, Inc. They have performed in both solo and group acts in various venues throughout Oklahoma as well as Branson, Missouri, and Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The Stigler group performed their 70's Disco Act in May at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Choctaw Nation leads the way

I have thought to write a letter to the Biskinik for years but until now have not done so. I am not Choctaw but my wife and children are. For several years my wife and I lived and worked in South Dakota for the U.S. Forest Service Job Corps program. About 40 percent of our student population was Native American from the various reservations in that area. We both had first-hand experiences on the reservation with reservation leadership as well as the residents of those reservations. What I want to say, and I hope you will publish this letter, is that the Choctaw Nation is light years ahead of what we saw is being done on the reservations in South Dakota and Montana. You, as a Nation, should be a positive learning tool for every reservation leader, tribal council, whatever, particularly in the South Dakota area. God Bless.

David Bevil

Fails earns bachelor's degree



Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for the grants and the laptop program, it really helps adult students returning to college!

Lana Fails

Corrections for June Biskinik

Carolyn Young was mistakenly identified in the Chahta Red Earth article as Carolyn Jones.

King Cemetery is located in Haskell County not Latimer County as referred to in the Cemetery Clean-up story.

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals. If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact:

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Angie Ansel, Payroll and Employee Services
Accountant or by phone, 580.924.8280 x2467.

Taylor Johnson
Nicole Ellis
Jamie Jeans
Ravidkumar Patel
Darren Watts

Inter-Tribal Arts and Crafts Beading Class

EVERY Thursday 6 - 9 p.m.
Choctaw Community Center
1203 W. Liberty Rd. Atoka OK
Public is welcome to come learn tribal beadwork. Beads and thread available for purchase.

EVENTS

Celebration Singing

Aug. 29
Choctaw Nation Community Center
707 Bond Street
Crowder
5:30 p.m. – Fellowship Supper
7 p.m. – Singing
MC : Herb Billy
Sound provided by ReDefined
Hosted by : The Family and ReDefined
All are Welcome

Family Gathering for Bully • Cole • Carnes

Aug. 15, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Durant Community Center
2752 Big Lots Parkway

Descendants or relatives of Allen Carnes Bacon
descendants or relatives of Salas Bacon,
who was married to Sophia Jones Jr.

Food is pot-luck, banana and tanchi labona.

There will be a drawing for the oldest person there and for the one who came the furthest and possibly we will have Chahta social dancing. Anyone have any ideas, let me know. Bring your camera and bring pictures you want to share. Let's make this a fun and memorable family gathering and time to get acquainted or reacquainted. For more information, call Laura Belt (580) 380-1408 or Debra Belt (580) 380-5407. If no answer, leave a text or message, we will get back to you.

Noel Baker & Roxie Loman Baker Family Reunion

Aug. 7 & 8
Durant Community Center
2752 Big Lots Parkway
(near Big Lots Center)
Bring tea, pop, or Kool-Aid and a covered dish.
Toni Bowers will provide paperware and meat for meal.
For more information,
call Toni Bowers at (903) 892-4513.
Bring prizes for drawings!

First Annual Nebraska Blake/Parnell Family Picnic

Aug. 29, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Louisville State Park Nebraska
for the family of
Luther Blake and Grace M. Parnell Blake (Choctaw)
Amy Blake or Parnell family members welcome
All descendants of Robert and Becky Hontubby Parnell (Choctaw) and Isaac and May Blake are welcome
Contact Gene Blake at (402) 734-5903 for more information.

You are cordially invited to attend . . .

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Legal Assistance Events

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

- Family law (adoption, divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications

Community Center Schedule

- | July | August |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • 23rd Broken Bow | • 6th Bethel |
| • 30th Smithville | • 13th Coalgate |
| | • 18th Atoka |
| | • 27th Wright City |
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Please contact the community center to confirm she will be there before traveling. Currently we are not providing representation in court or assisting in criminal matters.

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer
Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Vonna Shults, Media Director
Ronni Pierce, Editor
Charles Clark, Assistant Editor
Zach Maxwell, Reporter/Photographer
Brandon Frye, Reporter/Photographer
Kendra Germany, Reporter/Photographer
Payton Guthrie, Social Media Coordinator

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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 Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 2015
Durant - Mon., Wed. and Fri.
Broken Bow - Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Idabel by appt.
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

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

HEALTH

Health and Wellness: Lives Depend On It

Halito,

July is the time to get out and enjoy the great outdoors and what better way to do this than to go to our parks and recreations and pack a picnic lunch. This is a moving letter from Detrick Stanford, CPRP, Chair of NRPA’s Board of Directors, about our health and wellness. I hope you enjoy these words as much as I did.

Fortunately, in recent years health and wellness awareness and initiatives have begun to take center stage in communities throughout our nation. We, in the park and recreation profession, are fortunate to have within our inventories and reach an incredible number of resources to provide opportunities for health and wellness at any age. This greater access to resources means we also have a larger responsibility to emphasize the impacts of healthy choices related to our Health and Wellness Pillar as if lives depend upon it—because they do!

We all know about the many studies that prove, time and time again, the value that active play, exercise and outdoor activities have in curbing a long list of chronic diseases that impair both physical and mental health. In addition, we have proof that parks and recreation activities and facilities build connections among residents, help strengthen the economy of a community, and ultimately lead to a better quality of life for all. As we continue to nurture and develop future generations, we must understand the opportunities and challenges of health issues facing our youth. Throughout the nation young people are facing an obesity crisis. Today we are seeing too many diseases that were, not too long ago, rarely linked to young people (e.g. high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.). It appears to me that today’s rapid advancements, whether in the field of technology or environmental changes in our communities, are inherently linked to and encourage sedentary lifestyles.

So, what can we do to advocate for change? How do we, as leisure professionals, become agitators for advancing an enhanced, healthier direction for future generations?

- Tell better stories about the concrete benefits in the relationship among health, wellness and leisure activities.
- Be creative in programming and providing outdoor recreation areas specifically designed to promote healthy outcomes.
- Work toward making sure all communities have equal access to services based on established national standards.

Through the concerted efforts outlined above, we can be the difference makers within our respective communities. And, when we are asked the question, “What is your profession,” we can respond with a resounding, “We save lives for a living.”

Detrick L. Stanford, CPRP, is the Chair of NRPA’s Board of Directors.

Recipe of the Month

Turkey and Bean Wraps

Recipe from Diabetic Living

Ingredients:

- 8 7-8 inch flour tortillas
- 1 pound ground turkey breast
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup no-salt-added black beans or pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
- 1/2 cup shredded lettuce
- Fresh Pico de Gallo (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Stack tortillas; wrap in foil. Heat in the oven for 10 minutes to soften.
2. Meanwhile, for filling, in a large skillet cook turkey breast, onion, and garlic over me-

dium heat until meat is brown and onion is tender, using a wooden spoon to break up meat. Drain off fat. Stir beans, salsa, and chili powder into meat mixture in skillet. Heat through.

3. Spoon about 1/3 cup of the filling onto each tortilla; top each with 1 tablespoon cheese and 1 tablespoon lettuce. Roll up tortillas.
4. If desired, serve with Pico de Gallo.

Makes: 8 servings
Serving Size: 1 burrito with 1/3 cup filling, 1 tablespoon cheese, 1 tablespoon lettuce, and 1 tortilla

Nutrition Facts:
Per serving: 250 calories, 6 g total fat (3 g sat. fat), 35 mg cholesterol, 412 mg sodium, 27 g carbohydrates (15 g fiber, 1 g sugars), 22 g protein

I hope you all enjoy this cool and refreshing recipe! For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

Choctaw Nation Breastfeeding Classes

Come join us for a breastfeeding class in your area! Many mothers want to learn more about breastfeeding so that they can feel more confident in their decision to breastfeed. This breastfeeding class will address the following topics:

- Latch
- Frequency of feedings
- Breastfeeding resources

- Positioning
- Growth spurts

Durant	Poteau	McAlester
August 12 • October 14	September 2 • November 4	September 9 • November 18
1pm - 3 pm	9am - 11am	1pm - 3pm
Choctaw Nation WIC Office	Family Investment Center	Choctaw Nation Health Clinic
Talihina	Idabel	Downstairs Conference Room
August 5 • October 7	August 19 • October 21	
9am - 11am	9am - 11am	
Choctaw Nation DWC	Choctaw Nation Clinic Education Rm.	

Sponsored by Choctaw Nation WIC

For more information or for breastfeeding help, please call Erin James, IBCLC 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2507.

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

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

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*** HOURS ***

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

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
August 5: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 1-3:30 p.m. (market open)
August 12: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed: August 27, 28, & 31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: August 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 27, 28, & 31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: August 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MCALESTER

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 27, 28, & 31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: August 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 27, 28, & 31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: August 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

NURSERY NEWS

Lila Kate Rogenmoser

Lila Kate Rogenmoser was born December 24, 2014, at 9:29 a.m. at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana. She was 8 pounds 8 ounces and 20 inches long. Her parents are Justin and Sarah Rogenmoser of Alexandria and her sister is Parker Ann Rogenmoser. Her grandparents are Robby and Barbara Rogenmoser of Boyce, Louisiana, and Bernie and Valerie Bond of Hot Springs, Arkansas. Her great-grandparents are Bob and Wanda Rogenmoser of Boyce. Her aunt is Caitlin Rogenmoser and uncles are David Rogenmoser and Ryan Rogenmoser.

Case Parrish

Case Parrish was born on April 1, 2015, at 7:50 a.m. weighing 8 pounds 4.5 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. Parents are Trent and Jamie Parrish and grandparents are Renee Jones, Rick and Treva Parrish, and Steve Jones.

Avery Irene & Clare Ilene Miller

Tim and Sarah Miller would like to announce the arrival of their twin daughters. The girls were born May 12, 2015, in Oklahoma City. Avery weighed 3 pounds 13 ounces, and 17 inches long. Clare weighed 5 pounds 2 ounces, and 17 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Mel Cannon of Midwest City, Brenda and Dennis Mathes of Yukon, and Tim and Hilda Miller of Midwest City. The proud great-grandparents are Lewis and Kathy Otwell of Choctaw, the late Ilene “Mema” Geisler of Nicoma Park, and the late Vincent and Eunice Miller of Midwest City. The girls also have many aunts, uncles, and cousins that love them greatly!

Deacon Wesley Baker

Deacon Wesley Baker was born at 2:21 p.m. on June 3, 2015, in Oklahoma City to Daniel and Leslee Baker of Minco. He weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Gary and Lesa Shriver of Yukon and John and Lynny Baker of Minco.

Jacoby Lance Vineyard

Jacoby Lance Vineyard was born June 11, 2015, weighing 7.15 pounds and 20.5 inches long to Ericka Vineyard at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Maternal grandparents are Eric and Deana Vineyard of Poteau. Maternal great-grandparents are Tammy Kinsey and Johnny Shepherd of Poteau and Jona Ritter and the late Gary Ritter of Phoenix, Arizona. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Charles and Dodie Vineyard of Poteau, and great-great-grandparents Phil and Wanda James of Poteau. His aunt is Alyssa Vineyard and her uncle is Jarrod Vineyard of Poteau. Jacoby is the 5th generation and a member of the Choctaw Nation.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Maxwell earns internship with design



Anoli Maxwell took first place in a T-shirt design contest for the City of Webster (Texas) National Public Works Week. She was recognized at the May meeting of Webster City Council, where she received a plaque and was awarded an internship with the Public Works Commission. Anoli is the daughter of Zach Maxwell of Durant and Laura Aguirre of Webster, Texas.

Varner wins Pinewood Derby



Kelton Varner recently won grand champion in the annual Northeast Texas, Southeastern Oklahoma Boy Scout Counsel Pinewood Derby race on April 11. The event was held in Paris Texas. Kelton is the grandson of Larry and Patricia Varner of Powderly, Texas and a member of Pack 2 Cub Scouts NeTseO Trails Council of scouting.



Idabel community Chokta language class graduates

Community students with the Idabel community language class finished one level of Chokta language studies. Teacher Eleanor Caldwell taught students Sharon Logan, Louise Laney, Karen Logan, and Mary E. Watson.



Photo courtesy of Bobby Hamill

Councilman Thompson throws first pitch at youth baseball tourney

District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson threw out the first pitch at the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament held in June at Red Warrior Ballpark in Grant. This was the first major event hosted at the ballfields, which are a Chokta Nation facility. There were 18 teams from all over Oklahoma participating in this event.

Huggins awarded rank of Eagle Scout



Philip Huggins was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 114, Littleton United Methodist Church, in Littleton, Colorado. Huggins' Eagle service project was "Stories of WWII Veterans" in conjunction with American Legion George C. Evans, Post 103, Littleton. The video documentary totaled nine hours of video, which was condensed to a final product of one hour, with the inclusion of photos, video clips and music.



WWII veteran honored in Hugo

The Chokta Nation of Oklahoma Elders and Veterans recognition event was held on April 29 at the District 8 Community Center in Hugo. Army veteran Capt. Roy Lyles, 91, spoke about serving in the 45th Division during WWII and Korea. The audience gave Captain Lyles a standing ovation and Chaplain Ed Griffin led the attendees in prayer.

Bledsoes celebrate 53 years



Larry and Carolan Bledsoe of Yukon, Oklahoma will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on July 28. They have four children: Tamra Keeney and husband Walter of Tucson, Arizona, Lesa Shriver and husband Gary of Yukon, Oklahoma, Wes Bledsoe and wife Karen of The Colony, Texas, and Chuck Bledsoe and wife Brenda of Warr Acres, Oklahoma. They have five grandchildren Tawnya,

Leslee, Alan, Sara and Rachel and four great-grandsons Grant, Gavin, Garet and Deacon.

Burris made Vice-President of Funeral Directors Association



Jeremy Burris, of Coalgate, was recently elected as vice-president of the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Association during the annual convention in Tulsa. Burris graduated from Olney High School in 1992, Bethel University in 2003, and the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 2005. Burris is the Funeral Director in Charge for Brown's Funeral Service in Coalgate.



Shared heritage found in Navy

While on assignment in Tunisia during May of 2015, members of the U.S. Navy, David Krigbaum and Raymond Alley, met and discovered their shared Chokta heritage. It was a chance encounter. Krigbaum and Alley were participating in an annual exercise known as Phoenix Express working with 13 partner nations.

Bearpaw to compete in history competition



Eighth-grader Amaiya Bearpaw, a Chokta and Cherokee attending Jay Middle School, qualified for a State History Day competition in Oklahoma City. She, along with her partner Madison Weise, will be competing in May.

Palmer celebrates 85th birthday



Happy birthday to John Palmer, who turned 85 on June 20. Palmer was born in the Horton Community. His parents were Leon Palmer and Lorene (Spring) Palmer. He was a Korean veteran in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1951-1955. He graduated from Commerce High School in 1947. All five of his children want to wish him a happy birthday.



Group completes intermediate Chokta

Robert Bailey, Chokta community language teacher, gives a certificate of completion for intermediate Chokta to Dee Wilson on May 30. Pebbles Robinson and Rick Shelton also finished the course.

Head Start students explore trucks



Students with the Chokta Nation Head Start Center of Hugo visited City Body Shop and explored wrecker trucks firsthand. Above: Emma and Isaiah get to see inside of a big wrecker for the first time. Left: Caleb takes the seat of a big wrecker driver as a professional watches.

Webb earns Jefferson Scholar Book Award



Melissa Webb, a junior at Bayside High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia, has earned the Jefferson Scholar Book Award. The award is the top in her school and only one student in each high school in Virginia is a recipient. Melissa is also a member of Bayside High School's Gifted Program. She is the granddaughter of Jean Litchfield and a descendant of original enrollee Ida Mae Cummings.

Shaw places second at science fair, earns two scholarships



Trent Kitchell, 16-year-old from Hartshorne FFA, competed in the State Greenhand Quiz. Only 50 students out of 5,000 qualified for state. Trent won his district competition. Trent is the son of JC and Julie Kitchell.

Hardman honored with awards



Bailey Hardman received numerous awards for the 2014-2015 school year, completing 4th grade on the Honor Roll. She received an award for straight A's all year, a certificate of excellence in the math-a-thon, a Principal's Math Award for Division, as well as for Multiplication. She also received a certificate for an Accelerated Reader goal of 100 points and for participating in choir.

The Sextons celebrate 46 years

Tim and Shirley Sexton have been together in marriage for 46 years. They recently celebrated this occasion. Kim Sexton and the rest of their family wish them a happy anniversary.



For over 2 1/2 years, the Chokta Nation and the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center at University of Oklahoma Health Science Center has partnered in The MOVE Study. Physical activity is important to protect against diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other health problems. The MOVE Study is a research project designed to encourage young native people to be more active by incentivizing their effort. To date, The MOVE Study has successfully enrolled over 50 participants. These youth, from the Hugo and Talihina area, have learned important health habits while earning a little extra money. To be eligible for this study, participants must be 11-20 years old, overweight, and not currently in a sports or exercise program. The participants are enrolled in the study for a year and encouraged to exercise at the wellness center within their communities.

Recently an additional arm was added to the study. Now The MOVE Study is able to include youth who did not meet the eligibility described above. The study staff is looking for participants who are 11-20 years, have average body weight, and are generally healthy. Students who are eligible for the new arm of the study will not join the exercise program. They will be asked to complete a few tests to measure their fitness level and to give a fasting blood sample. These tests can be completed in one or two visits.

For more information about the MOVE Study and to find out if a child might be able to participate, please contact the study coordinator, Mary Ayn Tullier, RN at 918-567-7000 ex 6593, matullier@cnhsa.com.

The director of the MOVE Study is Dr. Kevin Short, from the Department of Pediatrics at OUHSC. The MOVE Study is part of a larger project called the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center (AIDPC). The AIDPC is supported by a research grant from the National Institutes of Health. The director of the AIDPC is Dr. Neil Henderson (Chokta), from the Department of Health Promotion Sciences at OUHSC. To learn about the other projects and activities supported by the AIDPC, please go to: <http://aidpc.ouhsc.edu>.

OBITUARIES

Ima Jean McCarter

Jean McCarter, 87, of Bellingham, Washington, passed away at home on Jan. 6, 2015.

She was born on Dec. 15, 1927, in Centrahoma, Oklahoma. Jean had four siblings, Theda (Homer) Mitchell, Ruby (Armand) Larive, Charles Bunch and Judy Vail. At age 15, Jean married Louis Fox and moved to Wenatchee, Washington, to raise her children near her mom and siblings. After her second marriage, she moved to Entiat, Washington, and raised her last two children. She was there until her last move to Bellingham.

Jean worked at many places, including Counsel on Aging in Wenatchee, Safeco Insurance in Seattle, Cordell's restaurant in Entiat and filled in part-time as playground attendant for the Entiat School. She dearly loved the Lord. Gardening, cooking, reading, playing games, coffee with friends, and sharing time with family filled Jean's days. She was always quick with a tease, if she liked you, and she was blessed with a green thumb and healing hands.

Jean is survived by her children, Wanda Vammen, Sherry (Chuck) Akers, David (Holly) Fox, Jon Fox, Shannon (Greg) Wadden, and Heather (Brian) Waterhouse; grandchildren, Greg, Jonathan, Kristin, Kim, Jami, Corrine, Benjamin, Emily, Carter, and Cole; great-grandchildren, Joshua, Marco, Marciela, Mateo, and June; sisters, Theda and Ruby; brother, Charles; and many loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held for Jean on May 9, 2015, at Orchard Street Church of Christ in Wenatchee. Following the memorial service, Jean's brother, Charles Bunch, helped with her interment in Centrahoma Cemetery.

Jean was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was returned to her beloved grandmother, Matilda Maytubby Carter.



Leyvoice Wesley

Leyvoice Wesley, 74, of Battiest, went to her heavenly home on Feb. 8, 2015, in Idabel. She was born July 17, 1940, in Battiest, the daughter of Daniel and Belinda Baker. She had lived in Battiest all of her life and was a teacher's assistant for 32 years at the Battiest School. She was a member of the Bethel Hill United Methodist Church in Battiest. Leyvoice loved going to singings and revivals, reading her Bible, volunteering at Bible school, attending cultural events, watching the children play basketball and attending family gatherings. She was a member of the United Methodist Women and held many church offices throughout the years. She was a Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Choctaw Senior Citizens.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Belinda Baker.

Leyvoice leaves to cherish her memory, husband, Lenis Wesley of the home; step-daughters, Ramona Wesley, Verna Washington and husband Jamie, Sandra Williams and husband Johnny, Nadine Wesley, Wanda Noah and husband David; step-sons, Buck Wesley and wife Janis, David Wesley and wife Karen and Tommy Wesley and wife Debra; special close cousin, Deloris Baker; numerous other relatives and many special friends.

Interment was at the Bethel Hill Cemetery in Battiest.



Shirley Ann Payton Freeman

Shirley Ann Payton Freeman, 79, passed away on March 26, 2014, at her residence following a lengthy illness. She was born on her father's Indian allotment in Waurika on Oct. 15, 1934, the only child of Walter Payton and Flo Doten. She was half Choctaw Indian and proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

She is survived by her daughter, Kim Freeman of Yuma, Arizona; son, Stephen Dale Freeman of San Diego, California; two grandchildren, Payton Dale Freeman and Jena Caitlin Freeman. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Dale Freeman.

Shirley graduated from Somerton Grammar School and Yuma High School in 1952.

She retired from the Yuma County Sheriff's Department in 1984. She was the first female officer in Yuma County to retire from the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. She served for three sheriffs, Sheriff Newman, Sheriff Yancey, and Sheriff Phipps with 22 years of service.

Interment was at Desert Lawn Memorial Park. Arrangements under the direction of Funeraria del Angel, Yuma, Arizona.



Michael 'Sean' Daniel

Michael "Sean" Daniel, 46, of Goodwater Community in Haworth, passed away May 6, 2015, in Goodwater. He was born Nov. 27, 1968, in Greenville, Kentucky, the son of Gail Daniel Williamson.

Sean and Cassie Wilkerson were united in marriage on Dec. 9, 1996, at the Stateline Baptist Church in Cerrogoro, Arkansas. Sean attended Broken Bow High School and later graduated from Tiger Welding in Tulsa and became an excellent welder. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and riding his motorcycle.

Sean leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Cassie Daniel of the home; four sons, Dustin Pace of Idabel, Skyler Bates of El Dorado, Arkansas, Connor Daniel and Gavin Daniel both of Goodwater; his mother, Gail Daniel Williamson of Lukfata Community; one sister, Karen Williams and husband, Randy of Lukfata; two grandchildren, Willy Pace and Logan Pace both of Idabel and a special niece, Ashley Carlisle Bark; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Henry Williamson; maternal grandparents, Melba Daniel and Henry Daniel; nephew, Tristan Carlisle.

Interment was at Philadelphia Cemetery, Goodwater Community, Haworth.



George W. Estill Jr.

George W. Estill Jr., age 45, died on May 9, 2015. He was born in Independence, Missouri, on Feb. 12, 1970, and was a resident of Albuquerque since 1979. He worked in the film industry for years as a grip and was a long time member of the IATSE Local 480 union. He was a member of several organizations, including a local volleyball group.

George was preceded in death by his grandparents Harry and Grace Estill and George and Edith Michie from McAlester. He is survived by his parents George W. Estill Sr. and Catherine Estill; sisters Elizabeth Estill of Tahlequah, Ruth Donoghue and husband Luke, Michelle Estill of Oklahoma City; and his two beloved dogs Miroku and Maiko; as well as countless friends in the community.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite church, organization or charity on behalf of our beloved son, brother, cousin, godfather and friend, George.

There will be a memorial service on July 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Crossway Baptist Church, 230 North St., Tahlequah. Please come and share your memories.



Juanita Harland-McMinn

Juanita Harland-McMinn "Nita" was born on Jan. 6, 1921, in Rush Springs. As a young woman, Nita met her husband, Luster McMinn, in San Diego while he was stationed at the Navy base there. They were married in 1950 and in 1953 had their one and only child, a daughter. Over the 30 years Luster was in the Navy, they were stationed in numerous military bases around the country including: Florida, Tennessee, two tours in Hawaii, Midway Island, and a variety of cities in California. Nita enjoyed golfing, achieving a hole-in-one, cooking, dancing, volunteering at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, being with her family, and shopping. Nita was extremely proud of her Choctaw heritage and spoke of it often. Her mother, Fannie Jane Wright, was half Choctaw and an original enrollee in the Choctaw Nation Rolls. Nita's grandmother, Flora Alexander, went to Oklahoma in the Trail of Tears, as a child.

Nita leaves behind a brother, two sisters, her daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed by her family and friends. She left to be with Jesus on May 13, 2015.



Walter Lee Holzboog

Walter Lee Holzboog, born Nov. 27, 1952, passed on to a better place on May 16, 2015, due to a heart attack.

Walter is survived by his wife of 44 years, Lamona; children, Angela, Richard, Jonathan; and grandchildren.

Walter was a proud, loving father and will be deeply missed. The laughter he brought us all over the years with his kind heart will be cherished. Walter was a great man who was always there when you thought you were all alone. Walter's passing is an utter struggle for us all, but the thought of him smiling down on us brings us to bear this moment of sadness.



Verbie Lee Olen Robinson

Verbie Lee Olen Robinson, 79, of Louisville, Kansas, died May 18, 2015, at his home. He was a long-time resident of the community.

Verbie was born March 3, 1936, in Ada, the son of Elmer and Lucille Glover Robinson. He attended local schools and then served in the 45th Infantry of the United States Army in Korea. He then served in the Air Force.

He worked for 36 years as a welder for Caterpillar, Inc. in Wamego, Kansas. He retired in 2008. Verbie was a member of the American Legion and the NRA. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and target shooting. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, and the occasional trip to the casino.

Verbie married Betty Tommie in 1956. They were later divorced. He then married Esther Jantz on Aug. 21, 1965, in Oklahoma. She survives at their home.

He is also survived by his daughters: Johnita Smith and husband Stan, Jeannette Knight-Crowell and husband Darrin, both of Porterville, California, Becky Bratcher and husband Rocky of Holton, Kansas; Julie Price and husband Ricky, of Manhattan, Kansas, and Christy Pease and husband Chad, of Girard, Kansas; his son, Mike Wallace, of Pittsburg, Kansas; his brothers, Bob Robinson and wife Connie, of Clovis, New Mexico, Joe Robinson and wife Jackie, of Cleburne, Texas, Leon Parker of Louisville, Kansas; his sisters, Phyllis Coburn, Susie Robinson, of Farwell, Texas; 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, David Robinson.



Marie A. Gibson

Marie A. Gibson, 84, died May 17, 2015, in Oklahoma City.

Marie A. Gibson was born Feb. 15, 1931, at Celestine, Oklahoma to J.D. and Mille (Staples) Selman. She married Jim Gibson on Nov. 4, 1950, in McAlester. She was a seamstress for Komar and retired after 30-plus years of service. She loved her kids and grandkids and was a member of the Haywood Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jim Gibson; three daughters, Janie Lampkin, Debbie Workman and husband Fred, Althea Johnson and husband Doug; 11 grandchildren, Jim David and Kim, Jana, Angela and Dave, Randy and Gareth, Casey, Dana, Laticia and J.R., Tabatha and Shaun, Dixie, Daniel and Lori, Melissa and John; 22 great-grandchildren; one brother, Ross Selman and wife Joann; three sisters-in-law, Caldonia Choate, Ann Smith, Clara Blevins; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; special friends, Wesley and Rosemary Parham, Nora Marco, and Lucy Allen.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son, James David Gibson and grandson, Christopher Lampkin.



Steve Kent Wade

Steve K. Wade, of Wynnewood and Pauls Valley, passed away May 22, 2015, in Shawnee, Kansas at the age of 87.

Steve, known as Sonny Boy until the age of 18 when he legally adopted the name Steve Kent, was born Sept. 4, 1927, in Ringling, to A.C. and Cleo Inez (Hammons) Wade. He grew up in the Ringling and Mountain Home areas.

At the age of 13, he moved with his family to Wynnewood. Steve graduated from Wynnewood High School and then attended Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, Illinois, where he trained to be a radio repairman.

Steve returned to Wynnewood and in 1949 married Edith Baxter. They moved to Tulsa where Steve worked in radio repair at Tulsa Battery and Electric. In 1964, he bought the radio repair business and established Steve's Electronics, which he operated with several employees for more than 25 years.

Steve and Edith were married for more than 50 years before Edith's death in 2001. They enjoyed living both in Tulsa and later on the "farm" in Coweta where they raised a few horses, dogs and the grandkids loved to play.

In 2007 he married Ethel Simmons of Wynnewood and they enjoyed 4 years together before Steve's ill health separated them in 2011.

Steve was an avid fisherman, who loved to sing, yodel cowboy-style, and in his younger days he played and sang in a family band with his dad and older sister, Oneta. He had a private pilot's license and enjoyed flying his Cessna 2-seater. Later, he also enjoyed owning and racing a few horses on some of the smaller tracks in Oklahoma.

Family was important to Steve. He traveled regularly with and to visit his daughters and their families. He also enjoyed traveling with his sister Myrna and brother-in-law Gilbert and the members of the Chickasaw Indian Site in Pauls Valley until his failing health prevented it.

His wife, Edith Wade and sister, Oneta K. Goss, preceded Steve in death.

Surviving family include his daughters Debra Duffe and husband, Bruce of Portland, Oregon and Nancy Simmons of Shawnee, Kansas; grandchildren Brandon Simmons and wife Rebecca, Ian, Kristine and Erin Duffe; great-grandchildren Landry and Brock Simmons; his sister, Myrna Morris and husband, Gilbert of Pauls Valley and nephew Tim Morris and wife, Cindy; niece Amy Somers and husband Daniel; and grandnieces and nephew Ashton Morris, Ryan and Lauren Somers.

A private interment was held at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Pauls Valley under the direction of Stufflebean-Coffey Funeral Home.



Vera Mae Mitchell

Vera Mae Mitchell, a resident of Durant, passed away on May 25, 2015, at the age of 58 years six months and four days. She was born to Robert Williams and Myrtle Virginia (Peters) Mitchell in Lane on Nov. 21, 1956.

Vera had many interests, such as going to yard sales looking for bargains and treasures, eating out, and going to the casino. She loved dancing and listening to country music. But most of all Vera loved her family and especially looked forward to any time spent with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Mitchell is survived by her children, Kisha Mitchell, Kenny French and wife Carrie Millard and Ralph French; grandchildren, Destiny Maxey, Dakota Maxey, Sonya Maxey, William Maxey, Sierra French, Brianna French and Violet Anastasia (Truett) French; brother, Leroy Mitchell.

Mrs. Mitchell was preceded in death by her mother, Myrtle Virginia-Peters Mitchell and father, Robert William Mitchell; sisters, Sue Ann Lee, Shirley Ann Munoz and Nancy Mitchell; brother, Lee Ray Mitchell.

Interment was at Bentley Cemetery located close to Lane. Services under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home of Durant.



Rita Potter

Rita Potter, 63, of Soper, passed away on May 22, 2015, in Muskogee.

Rita Potter was born Dec. 18, 1951, in Springer, the daughter of Sonny Patton and Bernadine (Cates) Patton. Rita grew up in Springer and had lived in the Soper/Antlers area since 1993. She married John Potter on Feb. 4, 1971, in Ardmore. Rita enjoyed fishing, loved animals, liked to shop and enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a homemaker and was of the Baptist faith.

Her parents preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by two brothers and one sister, James Patton, Hack Patton and Wilma Warren.

Survivors include her husband, John Potter; two sons, J.P. Potter and companion, Tara Flint of Coalgate and John Eugene Potter of Buckhorn; daughter Angela Hokett and husband David of Antlers; one sister, Barbara Agan of Ardmore; grandchildren, Kaci Hokett, Taylor Hokett, Hugh Hokett and Jasper Hokett; along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was in the Potter Family Cemetery in the Buckhorn Community, north of Soper. Arrangements entrusted to Miller & Miller Funeral Home of Hugo.



Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes or other official sources. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Notices may be edited for space limitations.

Send official obituary notices to:
Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702
or
email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

OBITUARIES

Racheal Jean Wiest

Racheal Jean Wiest was born Dec. 29, 1998, in Wichita Falls, Texas, and on May 25, 2015, Racheal was unexpectedly and tragically taken from her family and friends.

Racheal was a 16-year-old sophomore at Nimitz High School in Irving, Texas. She was an AP and A/B Honor Roll student and determined to become a Sooner at Oklahoma University. She was a country girl at heart, loved to dance and express herself with her genuine Southern girl charm. Racheal was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and her Choctaw name was Hashi Okatula which means Setting Sun. Her smile would light up a room and her laugh could warm your heart.

Racheal is survived by her father and step-mother, Billy and Tracy Wiest; her mother, Heidi Arrington; her grandmother, Bobbie Gable; paternal grandmother, Sherley Zaicek; maternal grandfather Edward Thomas; maternal grandparents Mike and Jennie Smith; three sisters, Crystal Cavaness, Amanda McKellar and Robin Arrington Griffin; four brothers, Charles Stubbs, Trent McKellar, Dalton Wiest and Ashton Jury; numerous aunts and uncles, a great deal of cousins, lots of nieces and nephews and an abundance of friends.

She is preceded in death by her cousin Autumn Dawn Wiest, Bobby Wiest, Donald Zaicek, and Jake Zaicek. In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to: <http://de.gofund.me/RachealWiest>.

Doris Kaye ‘Saucie’ Taylor

Doris Kaye “Saucie” Taylor, 60, passed away on May 28, 2015, at Ardmore. Graveside services were held on June 1, 2015, at Durwood Cemetery with Reverend Robert Taylor officiating.

Saucie was born on Jan. 6, 1955, to Edward Lawrence Taylor and Alice (Tubbee) Taylor in Talihina. She was raised in Oak Cliff, Texas, where she attended and graduated from Adamson High School and later she attended and graduated from Allstate Business College. Saucie worked for Stromberg-Carlson and worked on the production line. She later took a position with Lake Murray Lodge in house-keeping and then took a position at Elmbrook Nursing Home in housekeeping until her health forced her to retire. She enjoyed cooking, working word puzzles, listening to her music, and playing with her nieces and nephews. She accepted Christ into her life in 2010 and placed her membership at Durwood Missionary Baptist Church where she was a member of WMU and held the office of Assistant Secretary.

She is preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Ed Taylor and Danny Taylor. Saucie is survived by her sisters, Geraldine Taylor, Margie Taylor, Letha Taylor, Valerie Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Eileen Hughes and husband, Chris, Stephanie Frank and husband, Norman; brothers, Winston Taylor and Richard Taylor and wife, Sandra; aunt Josephine Taylor; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Phyllis Ruth (Bully) Knight

Phyllis Ruth (Bully) Knight, a beloved and longtime resident of Bennington, Oklahoma passed away in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Monday, April 13, 2015, at the age of 75. She was born in Talihina, Oklahoma, on October 22, 1939, to George and Minerva (Billy) Bully.

Phyllis loved her Durant Community family. She enjoyed taking trips with her senior citizens group. Phyllis loved to sew for herself and others, going to gospel singings and planting and caring for the grounds around her home. She was an independent, strong Choctaw woman.

Mrs. Knight is survived by her grandsons, Brian Hammond of Bokchito, Oklahoma and Michael Hammond of Bennington, Oklahoma; sisters, Verna Peters of Pampa, Texas, Eleanore Palmer of Durant, Oklahoma, Bernice Williams of Bennington, Oklahoma and Lou Fobb of White Oak, Texas; brother, James Pamplin of Ft. Worth, Texas; great-grandsons, Julian and Jonathan Hammond and Riley Minchey and numerous nieces and nephews. Mrs. Knight was preceded in death by her father, George Bully and mother, Minerva Fobb; sons, Larry and Mike Hammond; sister, Joann Frank; brothers, Claude Billy and Arnold Bully.

Interment was at the Bennington Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home, Durant, Oklahoma.

(Corrected notice from June edition of Biskinik.)

Johnny Lee Threet

Johnny Lee Threet of Durant, passed away May 23, 2015, at his home. He was born April 19, 1938, in Weathers, to Cephus Joe Threet and Thelma Louise Ervin Threet.

Johnny was a musician (drummer) and loved music, especially jazz. He loved dancing and “clubbing” with friends in his younger days. He was honorably discharged from the National Guard of Oklahoma on April 10, 1955, and went into the United States Air Force April 26, 1955. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force Feb. 24, 1959. He later became a truck driver and traveled around making many lasting friendships and he retired from driving after about 30 years on the road. He was very caring and involved in the lives of family and friends and will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Bettye Sue Oxford and Billie Jo Morris; nephews, Roy Oxford and Andrew Oxford; and niece, Crystal Oxford. Johnny was a bachelor for all of his 77 years and is survived by his niece, Barbara Nagy and husband John of Durant; nephews, Jimmy Oxford and wife Yolanda of Cass Lake, Minnesota, and Kenneth Oxford of Durant; great-nieces and nephews, Valerie, Jennifer, Luvenia, Stephanie, Janell, Bobby, Shenowa, Jimmy Jr., Kimberly, Ian, Donavon, Aaron and Ashleigh; and numerous great-great-nieces and nephews. We all love you Uncle Johnny and will miss you so much.



Nelyn Lorene (Garvin) Kellam

Nelyn Lorene (Garvin) Kellam, 80, Lakewood, Wisconsin, passed away June 6, 2015, at her home with her husband at her side following a courageous two-year battle with cancer.

Nelyn was born to Lucyle (Hudson) and Lloyd Garvin on Feb. 26, 1935, in Dibble. She graduated from Alpaugh High School in California with the class of 1953 and was proud to be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation.

While attending college in Corvallis, Oregon, she met the love of her life, Jerry Kellam, a U.S. sailor. After two years of dating they were married on June 13, 1955, in Yuma, Arizona. After his discharge they moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where their first son, Garry, was born in 1956. The couple moved to Menomonie, Wisconsin, in 1957, where Nelyn worked as a waitress to help put Jerry through college. In June of 1957, their second son, Gregg, was born. In May of 1960, their third son, Glenn, was born. The family moved to California in November of 1960 and lived in various places including Alpaugh, San Francisco, Newhall, Saugus, and Simi Valley. In Saugus, their fourth son, Griff, was born in 1962. In 1965, they moved to Simi Valley. Having four boys she started a Cub Scout Pack and served as a den mother. Jerry and Nelyn moved to Sobieski, Wisconsin, in 1970. Together they built their house, which took two years.

For 10 years she enjoyed working with Sharon Budz, Delores Behringer, Sandy Leisch, Patty Exferd and Penny Holman in Oconto at the “Reminder Newspaper.” She also worked for Blazie Meat Market in Duck Creek. In 1972, Jerry worked for the Green Bay and Western Railroad and acquired a caboose, which they put on their land in Lakewood, Wisconsin, using it as a cabin until 1996. In 1996, after Jerry’s retirement, the couple added a house onto the caboose. Jerry and Nelyn also bought a house in The Villages, Florida. They became snowbirds, living there in the winter and in Lakewood in the summer, for the next 10 years. Nelyn had her own golf cart and loved to golf. In 2005, she got her one and only hole in one.

Nelyn always thought about others before herself. The greatest love she had was for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved to play cards, especially with her card club. She also loved her pontoon boat, and took many tours with loved ones on the Silver River in Florida enjoying the wildlife, which included monkeys and alligators. She loved to travel, especially in her 1972 Avion trailer. She visited every state except Alaska and Hawaii. In 2010, Jerry and Nelyn purchased a park model trailer in the Pioneer RV Resort in Arizona, becoming snowbirds again. Nelyn worked for the resort until cancer set in.

Nelyn is survived by her husband of 60 years, Jerry; four sons: Garry, Sarasota, Florida; Gregg, Sarasota, Florida; Glenn, Winslow, Arizona; and Griff and wife Michelle, Hobart, Wisconsin; two brothers: Loran and wife Alice, Phoenix, and Carroll and wife Gail, Scottsdale, Arizona; one sister, Barbara, Phoenix; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She had a special place in her heart for her dear niece, Brenda. Nelyn was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Leland and Sidney.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff of Unity Hospice for their exceptional care. Burial will take place in Lena Cemetery at a later date.

Billie Marie Lincoln

Billie Marie Lincoln, 73, departed this life on June 1, 2015, in Wagoner. She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Ella Gibson; her parents; and her former husband, John G. Lincoln.

Billie was born June 7, 1941, in Talihina to William and Rebecca (Durant) Watt. She was a resident of Chouteau and a member of the Word Fellowship Church. Billie was a valued employee of Wagoner Community Hospital where she worked as a pharmacy clerk for many years. She was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Her loving family who survive her include two daughters, Johnna (Lincoln) Beck and her husband, John and Cydni (Lincoln) Osborne; one son, Robert Lincoln and his wife, Shema; her grandchildren, Christopher and Joni Beck, Chad and Jacy Beck, Cory and Cassi Beck, Rebecca (Lincoln) and Keith Neal, Kyle and Ashley Lincoln, Seth Osborne, Taylor Lincoln, Adrianna Lincoln, Warren Lincoln, Jackson Lincoln, Colt Lincoln, and Esley Lincoln; 10 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and other family.

Interment was in Fisher Cemetery.

Darryl Scott Cook

Darryl Scott Cook went to be with our Lord on June 6, 2015, at the age of 51. He was born on April 22, 1964, in San Antonio, Texas, to Leonard and Linda Cook. He is survived by his father, Leonard Clay Cook, Jr., (Choctaw) and his step-mother; Nanette Chopin Cook; his sister Melissa (Cook) Lane; maternal grandmother, Edith Beard and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother Clara June Barton Cook (a Choctaw) and grandfather Leonard Clay Cook, Sr., and his mother Linda E. Baird. He left this world and his family behind at an early age. Darryl loved to joke and laugh and was a “hoot” to be around. He always had a story to tell about things he had experienced in life. He was a very compassionate man who worked for Adult Day Care Centers where he loved the individuals who came to spend the day. He was a seventh generation grandson of Moshulatubbe, one of the original Choctaw chiefs in the early 1800’s. He was a sixth generation grandson of Robert Clay Freeny (1812) and Sarah Freeny (Moshulatubbe’s granddaughter) who came from Mississippi during the movement of the Five Civilized Tribes to Oklahoma. When he was younger, he moved to Bromide, Oklahoma, in the 1980’s to live with his grandmother Clara June Barton Cook’s sister Bobbie. He will be missed by all that knew him. Darryl was a one of a kind person.



Shelita ‘Shellie’ Jean Wear

Shelita “Shellie” Jean Wear, 40, an Atoka resident, passed away on June 11, 2015, at Atoka.

She was born on Oct. 9, 1974, to Randy Wear and Gloria (Betsey) Loftin, at Clinton. She attended Bentley grade school and Atoka High School. Shellie was a homemaker. Shellie was of the Baptist faith. She loved riding horses, four-wheelers, and cooking for her family.

She is survived by a daughter, Kirsten Daniels of McAlester; sons, Jakus Wear of Oklahoma City and Kyle Daniels of McAlester; daughters, Jeri Walker and Kelsie Walker of Atoka; mother, Gloria Loftin and husband James of Atoka; sister, Willa Wear of Atoka; brother, Randy Wear of Atoka; husband, Jerry Walker of Atoka; father, Randy Wear of Ada; three grandchildren; grandmother, Annie Betsey of Durant; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

Shellie was preceded in death by a grandfather, Adam Betsey; aunts, Linda Henderson, Janie Betsey, Jo Funnanda Baker; nephew, Joey Baker; and cousin, Leslie Hamilton.

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

Ernest Elwood Ladd

Ernest Elwood Ladd, 88, of Norman, formerly of Blanchard, died June 8, 2015 at his home. The eighth child of nine, Elwood was born Sept. 22, 1926 in Blanchard, to Walter David Ladd and Nettie Mahala (Beal) Ladd.

In 1943, Elwood left school and went to work for a shipyard in Oakland, California and then went to work for Douglas Aircraft in Oklahoma City. Elwood entered the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. He then returned to Dibble Schools and graduated with the class of 1947. Elwood met the love of his life, Donna Zell Jackson in 1946 and they were married in October 1947. He was employed by the Dibble school system as a bus mechanic during the 1947-48 school year and in August of 1949 he went to work for Tinker Air Force Base. In 1951, Elwood entered the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Tinker Air Force Base. After his discharge, Elwood worked at Tinker as an aircraft mechanic until 1965. From 1965 to 1978, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Trade and Industrial Education from Oklahoma State University. In 1978, Elwood decided to open his own business, Ladd’s Brake and Alignment Service, located in Blanchard and was there until he retired in 2006 at the age of 80. In his spare time, Elwood enjoyed playing dominoes and made it to a few state domino tournaments. Elwood was a member of the Blanchard Lion’s Club for 21 years and served as President in 1982-83. He was a former member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Blanchard where he served as a deacon. Later in life, he and his wife faithfully attended Skyline Church in Norman. In 2003, Donna was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and he took great care of her until her death in 2013.

Elwood was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 66 years, Donna Zell (Jackson) Ladd; his eight siblings, Nina Johnson, Winifred Ladd, Johnny Claude Ladd, Oleta Rogers, George Ladd, Charlene McIntosh, Oneita Haley, and Laura Lynn Fisher.

He is survived by his two daughters, Kayla Gilbert of Norman and Karla Loader and husband, Brian, of Colorado; two sons, Allan Ladd and wife, Lynette, of Florida and Kevin Ladd and wife, Deborah, of Mustang; seven grandchildren, Derek Jones of Norman, William “Thom” Ladd and wife, Melissa, of Louisiana, Nanette Allen and husband, Joe, of California, Natalie Oakes and husband, Larry, of New York, Noelle McWilliams and husband, George, of New Jersey; Brooke Ladd of Colorado, and Trevor Ladd of Mustang; nine great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews; and many other loved ones and friends.

Burial with military honors was in the Dibble Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Eisenhour Funeral Home of Blanchard.

Edyth Geneva (Stafford) Walsh

Edyth Geneva (Stafford) Walsh entered the Gates of Heaven on June 15, 2015, in Denison, Texas, at the age of 67 years, 9 months, and 20 days. Edyth was born on August 26, 1947, in McAlester, to Glenn and Mary (Semple) Stafford. She married Robert Lee Walsh in Caddo, on March 7, 1975, and they have spent 40 wonderful years together.

Edyth has been a resident of Bryan County for most of her life. She attended Caddo Schools and Grayson County College. She worked for 35 years in Production and Union Steward, QA, and forklift driver for Johnson & Johnson. She was involved in many organizations such as 4-H, FHA, Campfire, Den Mother, Order of Eastern Star, Circle J and Perfection Club. Edyth was a member of the Caddo Presbyterian Church in Caddo. She also enjoyed raising cattle, crafts, taking pictures, traveling, and gardening in her spare time.

Edyth is preceded in death by her grandparents, William and Cordelia Stafford, Lena Bell, and Charlie “CC” Semple; parents Glenn and Mary Stafford; and sister Virginia “Ginger” Brown.

Edyth is survived by husband Robert Lee Walsh of the home; sons, James R. and wife Diane of Howe, Texas, Keith D. and wife Becky of Howe, Texas, and Glenn E. Walsh of Durant; sisters, Billie Frances Robinson and husband Benny W. of Spokane, Washington, and Laura L. Hider and husband Marty M. of Caddo; grandson Jesse Walsh of Sherman, Texas; granddaughters, Tonya Walsh of North Dakota, Krista Williams and husband Tyler of Kentucky, Bailey Walsh and Savannah Bryant both of Durant; step-grandson Zach McKnight and wife Amber of Van Alstyne, Texas; step-granddaughter Krystal McKnight of Plano, Texas; and great-grandchildren, Kylin Walsh, Zora Williams, Hayden McKnight, Hudson McKnight, and Harper McKnight.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown’s Funeral Service, Durant.



EDUCATION

Language school prepares Choctaw community teachers

By BRANDON FRYE
Choctaw Nation

Roughly 50 Choctaw community language instructors strengthened their understanding of the language during this year's Choctaw Language Community Teachers Workshop held at the School of Choctaw Language in Durant from May 18-19.

The purpose of the event, now in its third year, was to bring community teachers together to provide tools, resources, and materials to enhance their teaching skills and further their understanding of the structure of the Choctaw language. The next step is for these community teachers to spread their knowledge and increase the speaking abilities of our language learners overall.

"The better equipped we are as language teachers, the better we are as teachers to 'breakdown' and 'simplify' the teaching of the language as we continue on the mission to perpetuate and revitalize the language for future generations," said Teresa Billy, Assistant Director of the School of Choctaw Language.

Topics like grammar, storytelling, lesson planning, and student engagement were discussed, and interacted with in small groups.

Special guest speakers Linda Skinner, Barbara Routledge, and Freddie Bowles instructed the two-day event with insight, tips, and tricks they developed over their teaching careers. Combined, the three hold 75 years of teaching experience and wisdom.

Skinner shared some personal stories, including her ongoing desire to learn more about the Choctaw culture, as well as showing off the Choctaw art and poetry some of her students crafted over the years. She also provided examples of how to incorporate history and culture into language lessons.

Speaking to the room full of language instructors, Skinner said it was people like them who made it possible for her to get



Photo by Brandon Frye

Guest speaker Linda Skinner shares examples of incorporating history and interactivity in learning the Choctaw language. She holds a custom, decorated Choctaw edition of the game Scrabble she made herself using a standard game set.

involved with the language and culture. "You made it possible for a little girl who grew up wanting it to get it," she said.

Though the lessons were aimed at community instructors, much of the knowledge would help anyone interested in

learning more Choctaw. For example, the game Scrabble can be played using only Choctaw words to make learning fun, and creating poems and stories using Choctaw helps solidify an understanding of the language while keeping Choctaw art alive.



Cleveland earns master's degree

Carrie Cleveland graduated from Lewis University on May 9. Carrie received a Master's Degree in Organizational Studies, with a concentration in International Coaching.

Carrie is employed as a paralegal in the income support division for the State of New Mexico. She also has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. Carrie is the daughter of Fred and Fay Cleveland, and sister and sister-in-law to Fred and Martina Cleveland. Carrie is aunt to Max, Natalia and Sebastian.



Pierce earns diploma, plans for college

Congratulations to Cecilia Pierce, granddaughter of Carole and Don Ayers. Cecilia graduated in May from Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City.

At Westmoore, Cecilia was a member of the Pride of Westmoore Marching Band, Latin Club, National Honor Society, Advanced Drama, and represented the Choctaw Nation in numerous Native American cultural performances during her high school years. Cecilia was crowned as Westmoore's Band Queen. Cecilia has been accepted into Oklahoma State University's Honors College this fall where she will pursue a degree in liberal studies before attending law school.



Austin graduates from Carl Albert

Clark Austin graduated from Carl Albert State College this May as a pre-pharmacy major. The son of Jack and Philisha Austin, Clark came to Carl Albert from Tahina. He plans to transfer to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall.

"I made highest honors for graduation and I'm in the Scholars Program," Austin said. "I have enjoyed life on the small campus of Carl Albert. I spent most of my free time at the BCM and playing volleyball at the Vike House."

In addition to the Scholars Program, Austin is involved with Phi Theta Kappa, Native American Association, intramural sports, and the Vikes Club.



Williams earns diploma and honors

Christian Williams graduated from Norman North High School. He was number one in his class, and belonged to the National Honor Society, Student Indian Education Honor Society, was a National Merit Commended Student, and graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

His Honors English study group started its own YouTube channel called Humorosity. He was president of his Teen Advisor's of Norman service group with United Way. He will attend Dartmouth College in the fall.



LeFlore earns bachelors from OU

Anna Priestley LeFlore graduated from the University of Oklahoma in May, with a bachelor of fine arts degree in drama from the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts. Anna is the daughter of Claire and Rick LeFlore of Davis, California and middle sibling of sisters Monica and Adrienne. Anna is proud of her Choctaw heritage, with LeFlore ancestors from the Kiowa, Oklahoma area. With much appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for her higher education financial assistance, Anna will be joining the Disney College Program in Orlando, Florida in August.

Batton Scholar Spotlight: Kendra Germany



(Editor's note: This is the second in a series about the six recipients of the Batton Family Scholarship, which has been offered since 2012 to Choctaw students who are close to graduating at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.)

Kendra Germany has always wanted to be a writer.

And her mother always urged her to seek out an education after graduating from Coleman High School. With those two goals in mind, she set her sights on a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

She used a combination of OHLAP funds and Choctaw Nation Higher Education grants to get most of the way through the financial portion of a four-year degree. But she needed that extra push to pave the way for her senior year.

In 2012, she was named one of the first recipients of the Gary & Angie Batton

Family Scholarship. In 2013, she graduated with her journalism degree.

"It was an honor to be chosen. I was really thankful and proud that I was selected," said Germany. "I've just always liked writing. I want to be somewhere in media, whether it be newspapers or magazines."

She is currently working as a receptionist at her brother Dr. John Germany's chiropractic office in Durant. She also recently accepted an opportunity to be a contributing writer for her tribal newspaper, the Biskinik.

The Germany siblings are the second generation of Choctaws in their family to attain college degrees. Their mother, Sheila, is a teacher at Coleman.

"My mom is the reason I got an education," Kendra said. "She made sure we put education first."

That guidance has helped steer the Germany siblings toward their goals and dreams.



Join Us At Jones!

Jones Academy is accepting applications for the 2015 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost free to families. Tour our elementary school facilities and dormitories.

Come Join Us • Be a Part of the Future

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 - Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
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Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.jonesacademy.org or write to:
Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK 74547

Choctaw College Connect

A link to your future

CCC 2015 is the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program's annual Choctaw student recruitment event. Students will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with recruiters from colleges and universities from around the country as well as in your own backyard.

You can expect to find the following colleges:

- Bacone College
- Cornell University
- University of North Texas
- Southern Methodist University
- Oklahoma State University
- Syracuse University
- Duke University

Remember to mark your calendars for **Saturday November 7th, 2015** to attend CCC 2015 at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant, OK.

Like the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program on facebook for up-to-date details!

EDUCATION



Curnutt graduates as valedictorian

Adrianna Curnutt, senior at Wister Public Schools, graduates as valedictorian of her school's class of 2015. She is the reigning Miss Wister High School and is an avid goat shower. Curnutt represented Wister Public School at the Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City during March and had two class winners, a Division I Grand Champion Breeding Doe winner. She also earned second place in the 17-year-old division for showmanship. She has won numerous banners, plaques, ribbons, and belt buckles in her 10-year showing career. Adrianna is the daughter of Bruce and Francine Curnutt.



Jones earns high school diploma

Sunset Rose Jones graduated from McMinnville High School in Oregon on June 5. She also went to state competition with her symphonic choir.



Wells and Fairless earn undergraduate degrees from Dartmouth

Preston Wells and Elizabeth Fairless graduated from Dartmouth College with bachelor of arts degrees on June 14. Preston is from Hugo, and majored in Native American studies. Elizabeth is from Sand Springs, and majored in neuroscience with a minor in Native American studies. Preston and Elizabeth would like to thank their families for their love and encouragement, and are grateful for the Choctaw Nation's support of their education.



Archuleta graduates from Lincoln High

Tori Archuleta graduated from Lincoln High School in Stockton, California on June 4. Archuleta was Junior Miss Okla Chahta 2011/2012 and Miss Okla Chahta 2013/2014. She is also a member of the California Choctaw Youth Association. Tori was a cheerleader for Lincoln High all four years of high school. Tori plans to attend Kansas State University in the fall majoring in early childhood education.

Polk graduates from Arkansas University



Casey Polk graduated cum laude from the University of Arkansas on May 9 with a bachelor of science in chemical engineering. While in college, he was involved in Arkansas Engineers Abroad and traveled to Belize to design and construct a water tower that provided clean drinking water for a small village. Polk traveled to Las Cruces, New Mexico to participate in the International Environmental Design Contest. He and his team won first place for their Oil Water Separation project. He accepted a job offer in 2014 and will begin his new career in June of 2015. Polk is the son of Melaina Whittaker and David Polk and the grandson of Emerson and Trula Bohanan.

Wirtz graduates with high honors



Brianna Wirtz graduated from University of Illinois with high honors in May. She received a bachelor of science degree in advertising with a secondary interest in psychology. Brianna's awards include the dean's list, public relations certificate, U of IL Board of Director for the multi-cultural funding fee committee and the Native American House academic scholarship.

Davis earns numerous awards



Sierra Davis, daughter of Travis and Beth Davis, was awarded the Optimist Club Junior TexAnne of the Year Scholarship. She attended the state competition for band ensemble receiving a "1" Superior Rating, as well as choir solo. Sierra was also a member of a one-act play for Gainesville High School, where they advanced to regionals.

Bairos receives academic awards



On May 5, Morgan Bairos received awards for Outstanding Achievement in Language Arts, Excellence in Physical Education, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout his entire junior high career and a medal for school honors. Morgan has set a high standard for himself and is determined to continue his pursuit of excellence in high school. He also was invited and attended an extra-curricular science excursion to represent his school's Science Department in April.

Morgan was able to achieve all of this while playing baseball and working as a Little League umpire.

Cassie Lewis graduates from Rose State



Cassie Danyale Lewis graduated from Rose State College on May 7 with honors in business management. She will further her career at the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 2015, pursuing a master's degree in order to be a certified public accountant. Lewis is the mother of seven-year-old daughter, Matilda Lewis.



Jackson earns diploma and honors

Bailey Jackson, daughter of Stephen Jackson and granddaughter of Gene Jackson, graduated from American Canyon High School in the Napa Valley, California on June 5. She received an academic honor cord and Wolf Pack Honor Roll certificate for completing her high school experience with a 3.79 GPA. She was the recipient of the Napa Valley College Foundation Scholarship. Bailey was recognized by her classmates by being voted into the prom court for senior prom. She will be attending Napa Valley Junior College in the fall where she hopes to decide whether or not to pursue her love for the culinary arts or transfer to University of California to study English.

Dr. Sharpley graduates medical school



Dr. Michelle (Allen) Sharpley, M.D./Ph.D., graduated from the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine on May 30. Michelle earned her undergraduate degree as a Dean's Scholar from San Jose State University, obtaining a B.A. in systems physiology. Michelle graduated with a Ph.D. in neurobiology and behavior, and a M.D. in medicine. She is the daughter of Rayson and Marie (Dorothy) Allen and the great granddaughter of Fulsom Jacob, Martha Cole, and Maseline Jackson, all original enrollees.

Michelle has been accepted to practice at the University of Southern California Los Angeles Medical Center as a doctor of child neurology.

Roshala graduates from San Dieguito High School with honors



Justice Roshala graduated with honors from San Dieguito High School Academy in Encinitas, California. Justice Graduated with honors, maintaining a 3.9 GPA. He played water polo all four years as goalie, and was captain of the team his senior year. Justice was also member of Young Leaders in Healthcare. Justice plans on attending the University of California, Los Angeles in the fall as a

freshman majoring in Biology.

He is proud to be Choctaw and is grateful to Chief Batton and the Choctaw College Connect Program for their inspiration and continued support.

Barnard graduates to become LPN



Marriah Barnard, daughter of Stephanie and Stephen Battice of Cameron, graduated in the Kiamichi Votech Licensed Practical Nurse program's class of 2015. Marriah would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all the opportunities it has given her and appreciates the Career Development department for helping her pursue her dreams as a nurse.

Slabaugh graduates from Howe Military Academy with many awards



Jered Slabaugh, of Syracuse, graduated from the Howe Military Academy. Jered was awarded the ROTC Medal of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Senior Award for Computer Proficiency, the Air Force Association Cyber Patriot Award, Parents' Association Awards for academic progress, 12th grade (Gold) and the President's Award for Educational Achievement for maintaining a GPA

between 3.50 and 3.74. Jered is the son of Steven and Jeanetta Slabaugh.



Leal earns bachelor's degree

Brandy Leal graduated from Texas A&M University at San Antonio, Texas on May 15, with a bachelor's degree in history. Her plans are to become a teacher. Brandy is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. Her proud parents are Benny and Roxanne Beal of Hondo, Texas and Terri Miller of Oklahoma City.

White earns State Superintendent's Award for Arts Excellence in Dance



Cheyenne White, of Idabel High School Class of 2015, was one of five students in the state to receive the State Superintendent's Award for Arts Excellence in Dance. She has been named as an All-American Dancer two times, and has participated in the Disney Christmas Parade and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. She is planning to attend Oklahoma State University. Cheyanne is the daughter of Jason White and Reesha McDaniel-Eidson.

Farnsworth first generation graduate



Joanna Farnsworth graduated from Central Washington University this spring. Joanna received a bachelor's of science in interdisciplinary studies social science and a minor in psychology. She graduated with honors, maintaining a 3.7 GPA. Joanna is a first generation college graduate. She is the daughter of Joseph and Lisa Toscano. Joanna is the wife of Tylar Farnsworth, and they have two children Lila and Atlas. She plans on attending graduate school to pursue a master's in social work.

Veterans Meals.



Veterans honored at the appreciation dinner in Poteau.



Paul Perry, a veteran of both the US Navy and the US Air Force, as speaker at the luncheon in Spiro.



District 5 Little Princess Mya Thomas presents a blanket to a member of the Choctaw Color Guard.



Marine veteran Steve Mullins with great niece Bailey Hardman visiting from Oakdale, Calif. at the Wilburton appreciation dinner.



Veterans from the Coalgate area gather for a group photo at their appreciation luncheon.



Veterans gathered at the appreciation dinner in Spiro.



Stigler area veterans gathered for a photo at their appreciation dinner, hosted by Councilman Ron Perry, himself a military veteran.



Veterans in attendance at the appreciation luncheon in Antlers.



Choctaw artist, Linda Parrish, is pictured with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr., at the luncheon in honor of District 9 veterans in Durant.



Veterans in attendance at the appreciation luncheon in Wright City, including Councilman Jack Austin, Sr.

Photos by Zach Maxwell, Anita Bentley, Karen Jacob, and Vonna Shults



Photo courtesy of Perry Adams

Dianna (Perkins) Adams with a large photo of her portrait of Mary (Qwasawa) Finkbonner. The painting in the photo is actually a smaller version of the 5' by 7' original.

Choctaw artist creates lifetime legacy

By SHELIA KIRVEN
Choctaw Nation

You may have seen the image in the background of this photo when reading about Choctaw Nation’s monthly Heritage Day events. The original is a painting of Mary (Quasawa) Finkbonner, a Lummi elder and great-grandmother-in-law of Choctaw artist Dianna Perkins Adams, the painter of the portrait (also shown in the photo).

The oldest of five children, Dianna is the daughter of Harold and Nell (Richardson) Perkins. Her father was born in Atoka, Oklahoma the year that Oklahoma became a state. He was a truck driver, mostly for gasoline companies. Her parents met when her father, then driving a taxi, drove his soon-to-be wife to where she worked as a waitress.

Dianna’s grandfather, Hugh Henry Perkins, was the owner of a livery stable in Atoka. He moved his family to Wichita, Kansas where he became a bookkeeper.

Her great grandparents were Lyman “L.H.” and Hattie (Stewart) Perkins, donors of land for the town and school at Indianola. Lyman was a member of the Tribal Council and believed to be a Choctaw Light Horseman. Lyman’s parents were George Perkins and Jane Folsom (niece of Peter Pitchlynn). George Perkins was noted in history for taking a case against the federal government to the Supreme Court in regard to illegal selling of Indian lands.

The love of art first came when Dianna was 10 years old. In school, she felt she had talent, but always thought someone else could do a better job than her. She says that even today, after all her years in the art field; she constantly sees work she feels is better than

her own and strives to learn from others. She admits she is a perfectionist and it carries out not only in her art, but in everyday situations.

At the age of 17, Dianna knew she wanted to become an artist. She started art classes at Wichita State University, paying for her first semester of college with babysitting money she had earned at fifty cents an hour and a summer job with a pilot program of Head Start, working as the assistant teacher. It was through that job that Dianna learned the love of teaching. At one point, she struggled with whether she should become an artist or a teacher. Little did she know her future would be a combination of the two. Having received a rare fifth year degree, a Bachelor of Art Education from Wichita State University, she went on to complete her Master’s Degree and all but her dissertation toward a doctoral degree in Art Education from the University of Oregon.

At the early age of 27 years old, Dianna became Director of Art Education at Oregon State University.

She later worked as case manager for the largest sexual discrimination case in the country involving women’s equity in salary, tenure and assignment, taking the case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Dianna went on to be hired by the University of Oregon as advocate for people who had suffered racial discrimination, and as a counselor. She continued her commitment for social change and also continued to paint and draw, even teaching night classes.

Eventually, Dianna decided she wanted to work primarily with Native American students. After a short time with the University of Minnesota as Senior Counselor of the American Indian Learning Resource Center, she took a position on the Lummi Reservation to work at Northwest Indian College as Director of Admissions and Director of Talent Search.

Two years ago, Dianna married the love of her life, Perry Adams, a member of the Lummi tribe, after 40 years of being single. Dianna and Perry married at an elder’s dinner on the Grand Ronde Reservation in Oregon with over 400 elders from tribes all over the Northwest in attendance. The couple had met after she began working at Northwest Indian College eighteen years ago where Perry served as Chair of the Board of Trustees on two occasions. He was also a Tribal Councilman, Vice-Chair for several years and director of his tribe’s Veterans program.

Dianna has volunteered with the Lummi tribe since meeting Perry, leaving her regular employment after getting involved with the tribal elders. Her areas of volunteer work with the tribe have included teaching classes to tribal elders of the Dislocated Fisherman’s Program, painting an original art series called “The Grandparents of the Grandparents” and helping to keep Native American children from being fostered out off the reservation. She continues to do work for a research institute she founded called the Lacqtomish (People of the Sea) Research Institute where family structures of the Coastal Salish People are studied. She has aided many individuals in learning how to find their Indian names, a vital part of the northwest

culture. She has also helped date back families into the 1700s in the region in connection to the names through history and ancestry.

Though she has mastered many areas over the span of her 47-year career, Dianna considers her primary art field as portrait painting. Dianna says her paintings are monumental in scale, and they satisfy her soul. One was an 8-foot portrait of her mother’s father with his fiddle at age 19. Even though her paintings are extremely detailed, Dianna is known for painting an entire large portrait in five to seven days, with the refining and finishing processes taking another week. She has an ability to sit before a blank canvas and already have an idea of what the composition will be when finished. Some special projects call for studies beforehand, but most times she relies upon her own expertise. Dianna chooses not to make her art into prints, postcards or greeting cards, as she prefers to keep her work exclusive and one-of-a-kind.

She has also over the years enjoyed working on her pieces in public areas. Being able to tune out the interruptions, or sometimes drawing them in as needed, she says people have enjoyed watching her work live. She particularly enjoyed doing so in the Lummi Tribal School foyer, where she loved talking to the children of all grades who came to her asking about what she was doing. She says she even let the children help a bit on her pieces in order to teach them.

Dianna is most pleased with her work when she knows that it moves someone. She considers her greatest compliment being after her work was completed of a portrait of a warrior she did that hangs in a tribal school, grandchildren of the man came in to approve the painting and they were each brought to tears over the likeness. In addition, a shaman who was in the school to perform a ceremonial cleansing saw one of her paintings and offered a plate of food to it through dance. She is grateful for her ability to communicate feelings and emotions through her work, saying it “speaks to the heart of people.” She believes that in her art, if she has done what she set out to do, her work speaks for itself.

Dianna loves talking about her own tribe’s culture and about art. She said, “Today, I see the young people making pottery in the old ways, and I understand that it is more than a connection to the art. It is also a connection to the land. And our heritage is as much about the land as it is about the language. It instills in us a sense of belonging.” She hopes to soon begin work on a painting of Chief Pushmataha at the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Dianna says she feels a special connection to Chief Pushmataha because of her family line.


Dianna has one son, Matthew Kale and one granddaughter, Marie, who the family tragically lost earlier this year at the age of 23. Matthew often sat with his mother as she taught art classes, and he in turn taught his daughter. Matthew is a “maker”, someone who solves problems through design. Marie was a sculptor who was very proud of being Choctaw and carried the Choctaw name, meaning “fire cloud.”

Dianna credits her husband and son for much of her success, as she says they have endured the disruptions to their lives and her marathon painting sessions. She also notes that in addition to her family, her connection with a small group of other artists over the years has helped her to get to where she is today.

Today Dianna lives in Washington State, where she and her husband are both retired. Dianna and Perry are in negotiations to develop their own art studio. In their shared space, Dianna will work on her art, hoping to expand into sales for art galleries and Perry will work on carving mortuary canoes.

Dianna reflects that in going back to her days of teaching art education, she feels that all teaching must begin with the question of “why do I believe this is important?” Dianna has answered this question many times over in her own work. From single working mother to the people’s advocate, art teacher, artist, administrator and tribal volunteer, working 80-100 hours a week most of her professional life, Dianna Perkins Adams has indeed created a legacy.

(Artwork by Dianna Perkins Adams is listed under the name of Dianna Kale).



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

VETERANS ADVOCACY PROGRAM


Mission: To ensure Native American Veterans receive benefits and services on par with other Veterans, make sure they encounter no barriers or impediments in their attempts to access these services, and are treated with respect and dignity by VA service providers.

Eligibility: Any Native American Veteran or family member of a Native American Veteran is eligible for services from the Choctaw Nation Veterans Advocacy Program. Must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.

Assistance with: VA claims, applications, referrals, care packages, cell phones for soldiers, and other services as requested.

Contact: Local (580) 924-8280, Toll Free (800) 522-6170 extensions 2163, 2160, 2735, or 2369.

LABOR DAY FORMS & FUN



Sept. 5

Category / Division
circle one:

4 MAN ROSTER
WOMEN **ALL STARS**
MEN **YOUNG GUNS**
MEN **OLD TIMERS**

AGES ~ 18 & UP
AGES ~ 18 TO 35
AGES ~ 36 & UP

5 MAN ROSTER
MINI CO'ED
TWEENS CO'ED
TEENS CO'ED

AGES ~ 9 TO 11
AGES ~ 12 TO 14
AGES ~ 15 TO 18

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

Entry form must be postmarked by August 28:
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



FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT

September 4-5-6

**at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds
in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma**

– Deadline for entry is August 9 –
For more information, please call 580-924-8280
or toll-free 800-522-6170, ext. 2224, or fill out
the application below and return to our office.

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

Please circle one:

Men's team or Women's team

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

Chief Batton's Youth Fitness Challenge

Friday, September 4
on the Council Chambers lawn

Event is for youth 8 to 18 years of age

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

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

Horseshoes

Saturday, Sept. 5
Registration 8 to 9 a.m.
Single elimination
tournaments begin
at 9:30 a.m.
Men, Women, Youth
(up to 13) and Seniors
will start at the same time
and play concurrent.
There is a limit
of 32 women and children,
and 64 men (seniors play
with the men's group).
A singles tournament will be
held for women, youth and
men (seniors), a doubles
tournament for women and
men (seniors), and a ringers
championship for women,
youth and men (seniors).

Tough, Tough Choctaw

Saturday, September 5
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.

4th Annual Stickball Tournament

**Friday, September 4
thru
Sunday, September 5**

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!

13th Annual Chief Batton Labor Day Golf Tournament

Date: Sunday, Sept. 6, 2015

Team Cash Prizes

1st Place _____
2nd Place _____
3rd Place _____


Individual Prizes

Lowest to Par _____
Longest drive _____


- Highest of Choctaw National Oklahoma 4th
Spartan Spring Golf Course, Durant, OK
- 9 Holes, 18 Holes
- Open to Men, Seniors, 18 and over
- Teams selected by Monday, 10:30 AM Draw
- First Group of Teams will start 9:00 a.m. 2nd group at 1:30
- 18 Teams, 18 on hole for each round
- Handicap for seniors
- All participants will receive a \$10 gift certificate
- Open to Men will be men's prize package including a
meal and night

Deadline to Enter: Aug. 14, 2015

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, St, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____



Waiver for Entry Forms: 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 in 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 high heat and or humidity, 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 pushing, pulling, dragging, wearing, carrying or leading any thing or anyone is strictly prohibited. This includes strollers, joggers, pushed wheelchairs, roller blades, skateboards, wheels of any kind (except competitive wheelchairs), animals, flags and head-phones. I agree not to have them on the course. I am fully aware that it is a fraudulent act to buy, sell, switch, or in any way wear someone else's number or allow anyone to wear my number. Furthermore, I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing the race or relay leg and I agree not to cross the finish in a relay unless I am running the final leg. Furthermore, I agree not to hold hands, embrace or touch other participants or connect two or more runners (i.e. centipedes). I am also aware that this waiver applies to sanctioned races and fun runs. 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, local and state police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or anyone acting for or on their behalf from any and all claims or liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of, my participating in this event whether same be caused by negligence or fault. 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 by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose. Minors accepted only with a parent or guardian's signature.



Labor Day 2015

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		x \$15 =	
		x \$15 =	
		x \$15 =	
		x \$15 =	

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Color	Quantity
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Color	Quantity
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Pre-Registration: Free _____ M _____ F _____
Race Day Registration: Free _____

Print Name _____

Race day registration is from
6:30 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. at
the race starting line, located
at the Capitol Museum.

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Send Entry Form To:
Choctaw Nation
Attn: Shane Haddock
5K Road Race/Walk
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Contact:
1 (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280
Ext: 2258 or 2122

Applications for Minors Accepted Only With a Parent's or Guardian's Signature.

WAIVER FOR ENTRY FORMS 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 in 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 high heat and or humidity, 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 pushing, pulling, dragging, wearing, carrying or leading any thing or anyone is strictly prohibited. This includes strollers, joggers, pushed wheelchairs, roller blades, skateboards, wheels of any kind (except competitive wheelchairs), animals, flags and head-phones. I agree not to have them on the course. I am fully aware that it is a fraudulent act to buy, sell, switch, or in any way wear someone else's number or allow anyone to wear my number. Furthermore, I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing the race or relay leg and I agree not to cross the finish in a relay unless I am running the final leg. Furthermore, I agree not to hold hands, embrace or touch other participants or connect two or more runners (i.e. centipedes). I am also aware that this waiver applies to sanctioned races and fun runs. 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, local and state police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or anyone acting for or on their behalf from any and all claims or liability for death, personal injury, or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of, my participating in this event whether same be caused by negligence or fault. 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 by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose. Minors accepted only with a parent or guardian's signature.

2015 PRINCESS PAGEANT

The 2015 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival begins with the Princess Pageant on September 3 at the amphitheater in Tvshka Homma. Each talented young lady will compete within her respective division for the titles of Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Miss Choctaw Nation 2015-2016.

Each contestant qualified to appear in the pageant by winning their district pageant. They have also finished their interviews with the pageant judges before the pageant at the festival. They will each be judged in personality, goals as princess, beauty and poise, traditional dress, traditional accessories, and correctly answering an impromptu question. All junior and senior contestants are also required to compete in the traditional talent category.

Senior Miss Division



Mandy Steele, District 1
Mandy is the daughter of Roger and Shanna Steele of Idabel. She recently graduated from Haworth High School. Mandy enjoys spending time with her family and friends, as well as running, and lending a helping hand to others during times of need.



Gennavie Tom, District 2
Gennavie Tom is the daughter of Jimmy and Betty Tom of Broken Bow. She is employed by the Boys and Girls Club of McCurtain County. Gennavie enjoys beadwork, dancing, playing stickball, and spending time with her family and friends.



Rachel Hogan, District 5
Rachel Hogan is the daughter of Johnnie Hogan and Deborah Sewell of Keota. She currently attends Northeastern State University and is majoring in Biology. Rachel enjoys working as a nurse's aide, fishing, and actively volunteers at the Cherokee County Humane Society.



Melissa Sam, District 6
Melissa Sam is the daughter of Morris and Germaine Sam of Wilburton. She currently attends Northeastern State University with a major in Mathematics. She enjoys being with family and friends, meeting new people, and learning about different cultures.



LaTisa Davidson, District 7
LaTisa Davidson is the daughter of Aubrey and Jennifer Davidson of Antlers. She currently attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is majoring in Nursing. LaTisa was 2015 Miss Indian SOSU, senior class valedictorian, and is a hospice volunteer.



Rebeckah Boykin, District 8
Rebeckah Boykin is the daughter of Robert and Jana Boykin of Hugo. She currently attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is majoring in Business and Marketing. She enjoys social dancing, stickball, and soccer. She is active in her church, and enjoys spending time with family and elders.



Kayleigh Powell, District 9
Kayleigh Powell is the daughter of Billy Powell and Monica Blaine of Durant. She currently attends Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is majoring in Native American Management. Kayleigh is a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and she values her time spent with family and friends.



December Pittman, District 10
December Pittman is the daughter of Bradley and Julie Pittman of Atoka. She is a recent graduate of Stringtown High School and was voted Most Outstanding in her senior class. She is an active citizen in her community and values her time spent with family and friends.



Cheyhoma Dugger, District 11
Cheyhoma Dugger is the daughter of Jerry and Michele Dugger of Hartshorne. She is a 2015 graduate and valedictorian of Haileyville High School. Cheyhoma was voted Student of the Year 2014 and 2015 and made the Superintendent's honor roll.



Neiatha Hardy, District 12
Neiatha Hardy is the daughter of Paula Carney of Coalgate. She is a recent graduate of Coalgate High School. Neiatha was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, teaching Sunday school, and playing softball. She is an active member of FCA, FFA, and District 12 activities.

Junior Miss Division



Aryza Impson, District 1
Aryza Impson is the daughter of Aaron Impson and Shacola Wilson. She attends the 8th grade at Idabel Middle School. She enjoys playing softball where she plays 3rd and 1st base she enjoys singing, swimming and playing basketball.



Desiree Noah, District 2
Desiree Noah is the daughter of Reggie and Katie Baker. She is a sophomore at Broken Bow High School. Desiree was named to the honor roll and is a member of the American Indian Youth Leadership Council (AILYC). She enjoys reading, singing contemporary gospel music, and talking with friends.



Jade Cossey, District 4
Jade Cossey is the daughter of Kelly McGee. She attends the 8th grade at Spiro Middle School. She has received three years perfect attendance, 1 ½ years A&B honor roll, Honor band alternate. She enjoys track, basketball, and band.



Juanita Gonzalez, District 5
Juanita Gonzalez is the daughter of Victoria Gonzalez of Stigler. She attends 9th grade at Stigler Schools. She earned a Student of the Month Award, and was given the class titles of "Most Clumsy" and "Most Helpful" for this past year. Juanita enjoys going out with friends, being an active member of YAB, helping her mom, and playing stickball.



Loren Crosby, District 7
Loren Crosby is the daughter of Kenneth and Elizabeth Crosby of Wright City. She attends 9th grade at Wright City High School. Loren participates in the STAR Program, Choctaw language competition, JOM math awards, Show Choir and All State District Choir.



Kylee Sellers, District 8
Kylee Sellers is the daughter of Roger and Khristy Sellers of Hugo. Kylee was awarded honors at Soper schools for fast pitch and Defensive Player of the Year, and is on the Honor Roll. She enjoys her church youth group and spending time with family and friends.



Josephine Gilmore, District 9
Josephine Gilmore is the daughter of Kenneth and Joyce Gilmore of Calera. She attends 9th grade at Durant High School. Josephine has been honored by the House of Representatives at the Annual Literacy Meeting. She enjoys making Choctaw pottery, playing stickball, competing in pow wows, 4H, YAB, and playing softball.



Callie Jo Armstrong, District 10
Callie Jo Armstrong is the daughter of Mike and Mandy Lawson of Caney. She attends 10th grade at Caney Public Schools. Callie is a member of the National Honor Society, BPA, FCA, FCCLA, Talent Search, MVP and all conference basketball.



Lauren Nichols, District 11
Lauren Nichols is the daughter of Thomas and Latrishia Nichols of McAlester. She attends 7th grade at Krebs Junior High School. Lauren has been on the State Superintendent's Honor Roll, Student of the Month, placed in the Soft-Seven Math Race, and was the Spelling Bee Champion of Krebs Schools. She enjoys sports and attends Calvary Baptist Church.



Carmen Albarado, District 12
Carmen Albarado is the daughter of Selso Albarado and Amanda Rector. She attends 7th grade at Coalgate Schools. She enjoys singing Choctaw hymns, playing basketball, being active in District 12 youth activities, attending church, and spending time with family and friends.

Little Miss Division



Baylee Byington, District 1
Baylee Byington is the daughter of Presley and Suzanne Byington of Idabel. She enjoys participating in pow wows as a jingle dress and southern cloth dancer with her dad, playing softball, roller skating, and attending children's church.



Alexia Tisho, District 2
Alexia Tisho is the daughter of Isaac Tisho Jr. and Lemanda James of Broken Bow. She attends 4th grade at Bennett Elementary School. She enjoys reading, spending time with her family, riding her bike, and learning more about her culture.



Maggie Smith, District 3
Maggie Smith is the daughter of Kevin and Malinda Smith of Talihina. She attends 4th grade at Whitesboro Public School. Maggie is part of the Superintendent's Honor Roll, Choctaw STAR student, and a two year winner of the Talihina American Coloring Contest.



Brookelan Mattox, District 4
Brookelan Mattox is the daughter of Jesse and Lacey Mattox of Howe. She attends 4th grade at Howe Public School. She has recently developed a strong interest in her cultural heritage.



Mya Thomas, District 5
Mya Thomas is the daughter of Lynsey and Sammie Thomas of Stigler. She attends 3rd grade at Stigler Grade School. She also is an avid singer and dancer that is now learning to sing in her Choctaw language with help from her Grandma.



Abigail Muncy, District 6
Abigail Muncy is the daughter of Dustin and Megan Muncy of Red Oak. She attends 4th grade at Red Oak Elementary. Abigail is part of the Superintendent's Honor Roll, received a reading award, enjoys biking, swimming, and reading.



Melissa Wren, District 7
Melissa Wren is the daughter of Earl and Carlynn Wren of Clayton. She enjoys reading, biking, playing softball, basketball and stickball. She is currently learning how to make beaded jewelry and how to sew traditional Choctaw dresses.



Kamryn Sellers, District 8
Kamryn Sellers is the daughter of Roger and Khristy Sellers of Hugo. She attends 4th grade at Soper Elementary. She is currently learning beadwork and painting from her Mom.



Kenzie Wilson, District 9
Kenzie Wilson is the granddaughter of Pam Wilson of Durant. She attends 6th grade at Durant Intermediate School. Kenzie enjoys baking, cooking, traditional Choctaw foods, church, piano, and singing. Kenzie one day hopes to own her own restaurant where she would be the head chef.



Kylee Hampton, District 10
Kylee Hampton is the daughter of Ronnie and Corina Hampton of Caney. She attends 6th grade at Caney Public Schools. Kylee enjoys learning about all aspects of her culture, participating with her District 10 youth group, community service, hunting, gymnastics, and spending time with her family.



Ariana Byington, District 11
Ariana Byington is the daughter of Twanna Byington of McAlester. She attends the 5th grade at Parker Elementary. Ariana is a member of the First Baptist Indian Church, enjoys singing, movies, shopping, softball, basketball, and stickball. She is active with beading, arts and crafts, pow wow dancing, and native pageants.



Cherokee McCoy, District 12
Cherokee McCoy is the daughter of Thomas McCoy of Coalgate. She attends 4th grade at E.E. Emerson Elementary. Cherokee is on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and enjoys playing softball, going to church, being active in District 12 youth activities, and spending time with family and friends.

Attention All Former Choctaw Nation Princesses

If you served as Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, please send your contact information to:

Shelley Garner, Cultural Services
Email: SGarner@ChoctawNation.com
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2636

A conversation with Choctaw filmmaker Mark Williams

Mark Williams, 38-year-old full-blood Choctaw from Oklahoma, created a screenplay in 2004. He had earned a finance degree, but his interest in storytelling led him in another direction: teaching himself how to write for movies.

During many evening visits to Barnes & Noble, Williams studied and practiced, eventually finishing a screenplay for a movie titled “Closure.” It was his first step into a film career which would have him writing, directing, producing, and editing movie creations of his own making.

Williams would explore stories meant to frighten, as well as tales aimed at drawing out laughter from his audience. He

would try his hand at short films, music videos, and eventually put work into a full-length feature film.

He has entertained and also informed with projects like his documentary series, “Native American Paranormal Project,” which attempts to capture real Native paranormal footage with a Native team at locations scattered across Indian Country.

His movie-making adventures were mostly a friends and family affair in the beginning, but since 2005, Williams has led his own production company, Native Boy Productions. Williams’ work has found success at film festivals in

Oklahoma, and has been shown at festivals across the country. For example, at the 2012 Red Fork Native American Film Festival in Tulsa, Williams’ “The Adventures of Josie the Frybread Kid” won Audience Favorite. At this same festival, as well as at the 2012 Mvskoke Film Festival, “The Unrest” received the Best Feature award. His newest film, “Violet,” is currently making the film festival circuit, being shown at Los Angeles and Canada. It has also been nominated for Best Cinematography, Best Thriller and Best Oklahoma Film at the Bare Bones International Film Festival.



How did you get your start making films?

Growing up I always had an interest and a gift to write and be creative. Storytelling is something I picked up from my dad. He would always tell us stories from when he grew up back home on the reservation in Mississippi. They were outlandish at times but always entertaining. I never thought it would be something I’d pursue though.

I went to college for a finance degree and was working at a bank when I wrote my first screenplay. It was a horror feature titled “Closure.” I’d never written one before and I’d never been to film school, everything was self-taught.

I had the story in my head. Characters, dialogue, and everything but didn’t know how to turn it into a script. I really didn’t want anyone else to do it so I taught myself and finished it sometime in 2004.

After that I didn’t know what to do with it. I was told by a friend about screenplay contests online so I did some research, found one in Los Angeles that I could afford the entry fee and mailed it in. About six months later I got an email saying I was a finalist.

Where did things go from there?

We went and shot “A Treasure for Two.” And by we I mean my wife at the time and my nephew and niece. It was a short film, a comedy about a young man finding a treasure map in his basement. He goes on a quest. It was a mixture between “The Goonies” and “Indiana Jones.” It was pretty bad, okay it was really bad, but I really enjoyed it.

Then I wrote a little longer one titled “The Dare.” It was a thriller that I handed out to my friends and family. The production value and quality weren’t great, as you can imagine, but I thought the story and scares were pretty good. Apparently, others did too, as a few months later I got a call from a film festival in Tulsa saying they got their hands on a DVD copy and wanted to screen it.

When I arrived to the 2006 Red Fork Native American Film Festival and saw

the kind of movies showing before mine, I thought I had made a mistake. They were high budget movies, great quality, awesome locations. Mine had my family and was shot in my living room as well as a friend’s apartment.

But when the audience jumped and screamed and looked away at my movie, I knew then and there this is what I wanted to do. To see another person entertained, to elicit an emotion from someone with something you created was an awesome feeling. To this day I still don’t get tired of it.

What would you say makes your films unique?

One of the things I really liked about my latest movie, “Violet,” is it is primarily an all Native American cast, but there isn’t one thing mentioned about it in the film.

There aren’t any images, clothing, nothing that would reflect that these characters are Native other than their skin of course. This is something I wanted to purposely do. I wanted “Violet” to stand on it’s own as a universal, scare-the-pants-off-you entertaining movie. It just so happens Natives are cast in it.

Don’t get me wrong, I love Native cinema. I make films with Native content, and also make some which don’t. I am friends with a lot of Native directors and fans of their work. But it’s more than okay to go outside of that and make a movie that doesn’t take place on the Rez.

Do you find yourself sticking to any specific genres or styles?

I get asked a lot if I just like making thrillers, horror films. I admit I’ve made a handful. For example, producing the documentary series “Native American Paranormal Project.” But, I like to think I can go out and tell any type of story.

I do have a children’s comedy series out titled “The Adventures of Josie the Frybread Kid.” It’s the furthest thing from a scary movie you can get.

Why filmmaking and not some other form of storytelling?

I gave book writing a shot. I even began a novel before I wrote my first screenplay. I got about 60 pages into it before I realized, “Hey, you’re writing a script more than you are a book or a novel.” The action and dialogue resembled a script more than a novel.

If you were granted an unlimited budget for a film project, what would you do with it?

An epic and truthful story about the Trail of Tears or about Native genocide. Our culture and our struggles to who we are today are often overshadowed by the hardships of what other races went through. Society knows of their struggles because there are films about it. Slavery, the Holocaust, to just name a few.

You write, produce, direct, and edit your films. What are the perks and pitfalls of fulfilling all of these roles

at once?

It can be very difficult. For example, on the day of a shoot as a producer I am making calls, picking up props, picking up wardrobe if need be, just running errands that a producer would do and get everything situated. The night before I am making calls, getting the call sheets ready and sent out again, doing all things a producer or first assistant director would do. Then when we get on set I am still in producer mode and finally when all is set then I can go into director mode and start thinking about our scene and what we need to do.

Days before that I’ve already discussed with my director of photography about our shots, but I’m going over them one more time and may make changes or may go with it. Throughout the day, I will be going from producer to director. So after 10 plus hours on set, I get home drained.

I recently made a comedy where, for the very first time, I was not the producer. It helped a lot. I was able to focus on my actors and scenes.



Photo Provided

Mark Williams takes a break from directing “The Unrest” with some of the actors for his film. The children portrayed ghosts in the thriller.

There are benefits and drawbacks. I love being hands on and being a part of everything when it comes to the production, but the duties and stress can be high. I’ve since been putting together a really good team I trust and they take a lot of those duties. Even then, all the crew are still wearing multiple hats.

Would you say being Native has influenced your filmmaking?

In some projects, yes. “The Unrest” was about the tragic events that happened at Native boarding schools. My documentary series is about Native locations. The comedy, “The Adventures of Josie the Frybread Kid,” is an uplifting story about our favorite topic, frybread. “Violet,” “The Dare,” “Her Last Text: The Hailey Rose Story,” and a couple of others were thrillers that happened to have a Native cast.

On a personal level, what has being Native meant for you in life?

It has meant I come from a proud and strong people. There’s a common vibe with being Native. We can appreciate each other without knowing one another. No matter the tribe. And our humor is one of a kind. Non-natives don’t get it. I love hearing us laugh.

Is it important for other Natives to get involved with movies, or storytelling in general?

I think Natives are natural storytellers. And with today’s technology and with access to equipment getting easier, I don’t see why more Natives can’t pursue it. There’s pride in it, there’s sacrifice in it, there’s joys in it. All positive stuff. We have a voice now. We can tell our stories the way we want to.

Do you see yourself as a role model?

To be honest I’ve never seen myself as being a role model, because there are so many other people I look up to, there is so much for me to still learn. But if some kid wants to grab a camera and make something hap-

pen because they saw it can be done from my work, then that makes me happy. If that some young kid is Native then, well, I don’t mind having that role. I do know our Native youths need positive outlets, and if media or filmmaking turns out to be one of them, I’d be happy to chat with them.

Where would you point people to if they wanted to watch your stuff?

Right now the best way to follow anything I do would be on my Facebook page www.facebook.com/nativeboyproductions. On it, you will see announcements, festival updates, behind the scenes of current and past projects. We are planning on having a really big year and some pretty big announcements coming up, so be one of the first to hear about it on that page. Please “like” it, comment on it, share pictures or the page. Yakoke.

See the complete story on the Choctaw Nation website.

Family of Chief Allen Wright visits Choctaw Tribal Complex

The descendants of Allen Wright, a 19th-century chief of the Choctaw Nation, visited their tribal complex for a first-time tour in June of 2015.

Peggy Reid, the chief’s great-great-granddaughter, prints a quarterly newsletter for the family and counts 229 living descendants of Chief Wright and his wife, Harriet Newell Mitchell Wright.

Nearly 50 of those made the journey from across the USA to the annual Wright family reunion. This time, part of the group also took in a tour of the Choctaw Nation complex in Durant.

Some were from California, most from Texas and scattered points across Oklahoma. Peggy Reid brought two thick books, one with photographs of the Chief and his descendants, the other with the newsletters containing articles about the Chief and his descendants. And then there was the 28-foot scroll with Chief Wright’s family tree – showing his 10 children and then every descendant living and dead, down to the hundreds of people in the current generations.

Spread end-to-end, the scroll occupied almost the entire length of the south conference room of the tribal headquarters complex.

The family was able to see Chief Wright’s portrait hanging in the Hall of Chiefs. Several tribal employees shared Choctaw history, language and culture with the group.

In turn, family members told their stories and shared information from the great family archival book. They have been gathering at Boggy Depot—the site of Chief Wright’s grave—since 1959.

Notable descendants include Frank Hall Wright, a Presbyterian minister among the Plains tribes; World War II pilot Donald “Pappy” Davis; and noted historian Muriel H. Wright.

Harvey Wright recalled summers spent with J.B. Wright of McAlester, the Chief’s youngest son. Harvey recently relocated from Poteau to The Colony, Texas.

“I spent my summers with him when I was growing



Photos by Kaleigh Powell

Descendants of Chief Allen Wright unfurled a 28-foot long family tree at the Choctaw Nation Complex during a family reunion and visit in June.

up,” Harvey said. “We would go to Wapanucka and talk Choctaw.”

Curtis Wilson is now president of the Chief Allen Wright Family Reunion, which by all accounts was a success for 2015. Peggy Reid also pointed out that Harriet Wright’s ancestors came to America aboard the Mayflower: “I like to think of us as a melding of Pilgrims and Indians,” she says.

Chief Allen Wright is recognized as one of the great Choctaws who bridged the gap from the Trail of Tears into the modern era. He was born in Attala County, Mississippi and his given name was Kiliahotte. Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury took in the orphaned youth and renamed him for Rev. Alfred Wright, a noted missionary of the day.

Wright became one of the first Native Americans to earn a master’s degree. He was elected to the Choctaw Tribal Council and served as chief in post-Civil War Choctaw Nation from 1866-70.

He was also known as a translator of sacred texts into Choctaw and Chickasaw, a newspaper editor, and a charter member of the first Masonic Lodge in Indian Territory.



Family members and Choctaw Nation Genealogists Vicki Prough and Gwen TakesHorse look over scrapbooks made by Peggy Reid.

Stickball World Series



Oklahoma Youth Stickball team, drummers and supporters line up before their exhibition game at the World Series of Stickball in Mississippi on July 3.



Photos by
Robert Gipson

Meet the Artist

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer



By **BRANDON FRYE**
Choctaw Nation

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, 29-year-old Choctaw author with four published titles under her belt, recently visited the Choctaw Nation to publicize her newest novel, “The Executions,” the first book in a series. She took the opportunity to reconnect with her tribal roots in Oklahoma. Sawyer stopped in to take part in the monthly Heritage Monday at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex, molded some clay at a traditional pottery class, and spent June 27 at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert during her Meet the Artist event.

Sawyer was born and raised in Texas and has been creatively writing since she was five. Her father was born in Mead, and her Choctaw heritage comes from her mother, Lynda Kay Sawyer.

“My mother is my biggest fan, my harshest critic, and my most enthusiastic cheerleader,” Sawyer said. “I dedicated my first novel to her and my great-aunt Evelyn. ‘The Executions’ is dedicated to the two women who taught me the importance of preserving the past for the future.”

She said she had always wanted to write Choctaw stories, and when she did, one of them won a small competition. This was a jumping board for Sawyer’s career and would lead her to meet other Choctaw artists and storytellers.

Her first experience with other Native writers and storytellers was at the Five Tribes Story Conference in 2010. Tim

Tingle and Greg Rodgers showed her what it meant to tell the traditional stories of a tribal people.

“At the same time, they showed the value of telling and writing our own stories,” Sawyer said. “I credit them for lighting that fire. Because of their work, I can connect the writing I do with the tradition of storytelling that is so much a part of our heritage.”

Sawyer sees being Choctaw as an honor, opportunity, and responsibility. She said she is a descendant of people who forged a path through their own pain and injustice to give her a heritage. She feels a responsibility to remember, preserve, and share their legacy of faith and endurance.

Her “Choctaw Tribune Series” deals with times of injustice and bitter fights over cultural, racial, and legal issues. “The Executions” is book one in the series, with an expected three parts.

Sawyer said, with “The Executions,” she followed her characters along on their journey through a Choctaw execution, whiskey running, a witch-hunt, and meeting an Irish mail-order bride before finding an end at a lynching across the Red River in Texas. She added, the heroine of the story Ruth Ann concludes her journey with the discovery of her place as a young Choctaw woman in an increasingly white Indian Territory.

To learn more about Sawyer and her written work, visit her website at <http://sarahelisabethwrites.com/books/>



Tvshka Homma Iksa, the official stickball team of the Choctaw Nation, on the field at the World Series of Stickball in Mississippi on July 4.

Chahta Anumpa
Aïikhvna
◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

The previous three month’s lessons have focused on possessive pronoun/markers with nouns to show ownership.

vm, a – ‘my’ chim, chi – ‘your’ im, i – his, her its

The same pronoun/markers serve as indirect objects with a verb to show ‘to whom’ or ‘for whom’ something is done.

‘vm’ or the ‘m’ form is used before verbs that begin with a vowel.

vm – pronounced ‘ahm’

1. Svshki yvt okhissa vm akami tuk.
My mother closed the door for me.

2. Ofi vm apesachi tuk
He/she took care of the dog for me.

3. Abinili himona vm isht vla chi.
He/she will bring a new chair to me.

4. Kvta hosh nan annoa vm anoli tuk?
Who (was it that) told me a story?

a – or the ‘n’ form (nasal underline), is used before verbs that begin with a consonant.

a – pronounced ‘anh’

1. Issi nipi a bushla chi.
He will slice the venison for me.

2. Kaa himona a chompa chi.
He will buy me a new car.

3. Hattak mvt a holabi tuk.
That man lied to me.

4. Aiïmpa ma a kanvllichi.
Move that table for me.

vm, a – ‘to whom’, ‘for whom’ svshki – my mother okhissa - door
akami – to close kvta hosh – who? (is it that) ofi - dog
kaa – car himona – new isht vla – to bring
aboha – room hattak - man achi – future tense
yvt – subject marker nan annoa - story tuk – past tense marker
anoli – to tell issi nipi - venison bashli – to cut
abinili – chair chompa – to buy aiïmpa - table
mvt. ma - that holabi – to lie
kanvllichi – to cause to move apesachi- to care for, watch

www.choctawschool.com

SPORTS

Meyer siblings aiming higher in hoops

The brother and sister tandem of Austin and Mariah Meyer are following in the athletic footsteps of their parents.

Austin Meyer is a 6-9 junior from Mustang and was the starting center on the Mustang High School basketball team this past season. The Broncos went 28-0 this season and seized the Oklahoma Class 6A basketball title.

Austin also plays basketball in the summer for Mogan Elite, a Nike EYBL team. He is, understandably, receiving lots of interest from multiple Division 1 (large school) collegiate programs.

Mariah Meyer is a 5-8 shooting guard for the Lady Tigers of East Central University. She just completed her freshman year.

After one season at Tuttle, Mariah's family moved to Pflugerville, Texas, where she played three years at Hendrickson High School. She earned first-team all-district honors for



Austin Meyer, of the state champion Mustang Broncos, is shown with his sister Mariah Meyer after winning the 6A title.

two of those seasons, as well as academic all-state honors.

Their father, Patrick Meyer, played basketball at ECU as well as Murray State College. Mom Amber DeGiusti also played hoops at Murray State and she was part of the first women's cross-country team at ECU. She helped them win the conference title.



Arkansas wrestler

Carson O'Neal of Rogers, Ark. placed fourth in the 2015 Arkansas State JV Wrestling tournament. He is the son of Renona and Pete Crowden and Kendall O'Neal, grandson of Mollie and Harrell Turner, and Brenda and Jackie Sweeten.



Multi-sport standout

Bailey Bray of Idabel qualified for the state tournaments in both track (discus) and powerlifting. He was the first student from Idabel to make it to State for powerlifting in 20 years. Bailey is also a member of the Idabel Warriors football team, which went to the second round of the playoffs this season.



Choctaw siblings love lacrosse

Zachary Hodge of Poway High School in Poway, California, is the latest Choctaw to excel in the Native American-inspired sport of lacrosse. Hodge just finished his junior year and collected 28 goals and 16 assists for his team, which reached the status of league champion and San Diego CIF Champion. He received the Sportsmanship Award and was named to the San Diego All-Academic Team, and Second Team All-League. Hodge plans to play collegiate lacrosse and study to become a nurse anesthetist. His sister Justeen, a freshman, also plays lacrosse. Proud parents are Mike and Jocelyn Hodge.

Reed selected to play in Oil Bowl



TANNER REED

Tanner Reed, a senior at Vista Ridge High School in Cedar Park, Texas, was chosen to play in the Oil Bowl on June 13, in Wichita Falls, Texas.

He has won numerous awards this past season: soccer, first team all-district and offensive MVP; football, District 25-5A all-district team; and academic all-district.

Ashton Pick excels at competitive swimming



ASHTON PICK

Ashton Pick, originally from Wilburton, has made her mark in the realm of competitive swimming in Wisconsin.

After moving to Wisconsin four years ago, Ashton decided to start swimming competitively to stay in shape during the off season of softball.

Swimming has now become

Running for Chiefs

Winchester takes Sooner success to the next level

By ZACH MAXWELL
Choctaw Nation

James Winchester, of Washington, Okla., is the latest Choctaw to "go pro" in the world of sports.

Winchester hails from a family known for its success in athletic efforts at the University of Oklahoma. Winchester, his father and both sisters have all made their marks on Sooner sports.

He is taking it to the next level as a deep snapper for the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL. Winchester will be on the roster for training camp and likely well into the pre-season as he competes with another deep snapper for the only position on the squad.

"There's not a spot available every year, so it's a 'right place at the right time' sort of thing," he said. "It's been my goal and dream to play in the NFL, so I'm thankful for this opportunity to go to work every day and make this dream a reality."

He was a punter at Washington High School, just like his father Michael was at OU for their 1985 national championship.

But James also dabbled in the world of quarterbacks, giving him the foundation to be a long snapper at OU. He "won the job" for the first three games of his freshman year in Norman and remained with the team through the 2011 season as its deep snapper.

He tried out for the NFL at the 2012 Kansas City rookie camp, but was told he needed to bulk up his 6-foot-4 frame. While working on this, he also tried his hand in the oil and gas fields of southern Oklahoma.

And, he didn't give up on his dream. He caught the attention of



WINCHESTER



Photo courtesy Kansas City Chiefs

Choctaw tribal member James Winchester on the field for the Kansas City Chiefs. He expects to see action this fall as a long snapper for the NFL team.

several NFL teams in 2013, signing with the Philadelphia Eagles but losing the coveted spot to a longtime veteran.

Winchester found himself back in roughneck country in Oklahoma, but he kept working out at high school weight rooms or anywhere he could find in the remote oil and gas fields.

"It's tough to stay in shape when your career is taking you outside of football," he said. He tried out for the Colts and Browns, and attended a free agent camp in Arizona.

Finally, he signed with the Chiefs in March of this year and has been involved in a strength and condition program since April.

Winchester's involvement with Choctaw Nation included a role as part of a tribally-sponsored rowing team at Paddle for the

Cure, a "dragon boat" race in Oklahoma City. He assisted friend Seth Fairchild, from the Chahta Foundation, as well as former OU teammate Jordan Eagle Road and his brother Billy in this effort to raise funds and awareness in the fight against breast cancer.

His first NFL community service event was also special, he said. The "Punt, Pass & Kick" event was held in Lawrence, Kansas in conjunction with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains recently.

"I met a lot of Choctaw kids, so it was neat for it to be my first community service event," Winchester said.

His sister Rebecca was a walk-on for the OU rowing team and eventually earned scholarships in the sport, as did another sister, Carolyn, in Lady Sooners basketball.

Back-to-back State champ



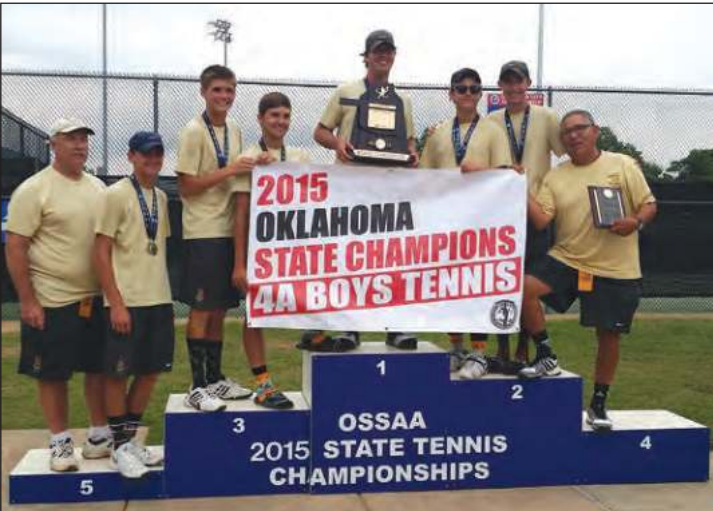
Christopher "Bubba" Roberts is a pitcher for Silo High School but also plays third base and shortstop. He is a junior and was part of the state champion Rebels team last fall and this spring. He was named MVP of the fall tournament.

Don't see your Choctaw Champion here? Don't despair! Many more to come in future editions, as well as on our Facebook page and ChoctawNation.com



Tiera Brumfield was a four-year member of the varsity softball and basketball teams at Arkoma High School. Tiera was also a cheerleader. In 2013-14 basketball season Tiera was part of the girls team that went to state. During the 2014-15 softball season, she was a member of the district champion fast-pitch softball and basketball teams. Tiera has a 3.56 grade point average and will be playing basketball at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Hall of Fame coach Alan Simpson retires on top



The Byng boys tennis team poses with their Class 4A state championship trophy, flanked by coaches including Choctaw Nation member Alan Simpson (far right). Simpson, who recently retired from educating and coaching, led teams to victory in boys basketball, boys tennis and girls tennis over his 42-year career.

Alan Simpson, who is half Choctaw, retired after his Byng Fighting Pirate tennis team won back-to-back boys 4A state tennis championships at the OKC Tennis Center on May 16. They also won the 4A academic state championship with a 3.95 GPA.

His girls tennis team was state runner-up for the second straight year.

Alan was a teacher and coach for 42 years, with 35 being at Byng. He had also been a boys basketball coach at Byng for 21 years, retiring from that in 2001. His teams won 3A state titles in 1986 and 1992, and lost in the finals in 1987. Altogether, he took teams to state nine times.

In 24 years as head coach, his teams won 476 games at Byng and Hugo, for an average of 20 wins per season. Alan was selected Oklahoma Basketball Coach of the Year in 1986 by the Daily Oklahoman, and the same honor by the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association in 1992.

In tennis, he was selected Oklahoma Tennis Coach of the Year by the OCA in 2006, 2012, and 2014. In 2014, he was also selected USTA High School Coach of the Year, OTCA Coach of the Year, and NFHS Southwest Boys Coach of the Year for a five-state region.

Alan has been inducted into the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame (2006), the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2009), and the Murray State College Athletic Hall of Fame (2011).

Alan said "Chata hapia hoke:" It is good to be Choctaw!



Iti Fabussa

The Battle of Massard Prairie

For this month’s edition of Iti Fabussa, we are going to go back in time to an important battle that involved a number of Choctaw soldiers during the later stages of the American Civil War. First, a bit of background.

At the beginning of the American Civil War, federal military units had withdrawn from their outposts in Choctaw Nation. By doing so, the federal government broke a treaty agreement to protect the Choctaw people, and left the Choctaw Nation essentially surrounded by Confederate forces. The only choices left to tribal leadership were to be destroyed, to leave the area as war refugees, or to join the Confederacy. Many of the individuals who interacted with the Choctaw on behalf of the Confederacy were the same Southern men with whom the Choctaw had dealt as representatives of the United States government during the years before the war. With no more promising alternative, the Choctaw Nation signed a treaty with the Confederacy on July 12, 1861. Among its 64 articles were pledges that Confederate forces would protect the Choctaw Nation at all cost from a Union invasion if one were to occur, that Choctaw forces would not be conscripted to fight outside of Indian Territory, and that a Choctaw/Chickasaw delegate would be a part of the House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America. Ultimately, very few of these promises were kept.

During the Civil War, Choctaw men were repeatedly asked to leave Choctaw Nation to fight federal forces in Missouri, Arkansas, and other areas of what is now Oklahoma. With the men’s absence, it was difficult for people back home to get full crops planted and harvested. As the war progressed, refugees from tribes farther to the north, including the Cherokee and Muscogee moved into Choctaw country, putting a heavier strain on already short food supplies. To make matters worse, in early 1864, a Union army under Maj. Gen Blunt invaded the western Choctaw Nation, pushing all the way to the Red River. As Choctaw homes and fields were destroyed in the army’s path, some non-Choctaw Confederate forces sat in safety on the south side of the river. Thereafter, many Choctaw citizens were destitute, hungry, and suffering continuing depredations from bandit gangs.

This brings us to the Battle of Massard Prairie, an event that demonstrates something special about the Choctaw character. By this point in the war, Choctaws had been fighting for three years; promises made by the Confederacy to the Choctaw people had been broken; houses and crops had been destroyed, and Choctaw citizens were suffering considerably. Because these Choctaw soldiers received no pay and very little provisions from the Confederacy, they



Photos by Nick Wallace

1st Regiment Choctaw Mounted Rifle re-enactors await the mock battle at Massard Prairie. Below, a re-created camp scene at the reenactment.

were probably hungry and frustrated and wanting to attend to their families at home. It might seem that they had no real reason to leave Choctaw Nation to risk their lives fighting for the Confederacy once again. Yet, they had something powerful within them; the sprit and determination of a Choctaw warrior.

On the 26th of July, 1864, Confederate Col. Douglas Cooper got word that Union troops were camped out in vulnerable positions around Fort Smith, Arkansas. He sent a force of about 600 men, comprised of Choctaw soldiers, Chickasaw soldiers, and soldiers from Texas, to attack one of these camps. Plans changed as the situation developed, but ultimately, this force, commanded by Brigadier General R. M Gano, attacked the camp of the 6th Kansas Cavalry (200 men) at dawn a few miles southwest of Fort Smith. The attack happened so swiftly, that the cavalry was unable to round up its horses, which had been grazing in the pasture. The Union troops were forced to fight on foot.

After putting up initial resistance, the 6th Kansas Cavalry was routed and driven 2 and 1/2 miles across the prairie. More than 100 Union men were captured, along with 200 rifles and 400 pistols. The Confederate force lost seven men. After the quick attack, Gano’s men headed back to Oklahoma virtually unscathed. They hoped to ambush any pursuers along the way.

Looking back, the Battle of Massard Prairie is significant in Choctaw history on multiple levels. In terms of the American Civil War, the top-of-the-line weapons that were captured from the 6th Kansas Cavalry helped the poorly supplied Choctaw units keep up armed resistance until the bitter end. In fact, it was within the Choctaw Nation that the last Confederate general

surrendered, Stand Watie (a Cherokee) at Doaksville, June 23, 1865.

In terms of personnel, several prominent Choctaw Nation leaders fought at Massard Prairie. Col. Simpson Folsom was noted for his bravery in pressing the attack on the Union camp. Col. Jack McCurtain “Tvshkahoma,” was waiting with a Choctaw force to ambush any Union forces that may have pursued Folsom and the others into Indian Territory. McCurtain would later become the Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and would lead the nation through Reconstruction; the Choctaw Council House and the town of Tuskahoma, are both named after him. William Cass, “Tiakhomma,” a signatory to the 1858 Choctaw constitution, served as the chaplain for the Choctaw troops at the Battle of Massard Prairie. He lost his life in this engagement, while leading an attack and is likely buried on the battlefield. “Red Pine,” the English translation of “Tiakhomma,” is a modern street in Fort Smith named after this man.

As for its legacy, the Battle of Massard Prairie has been and continues to be seen as a testament to the resilience of Choctaw soldiers who faced incredible hardship during the American Civil War. To the best of the author’s knowledge, the Battle of Massard Prairie represents the last major victory attained by Choctaw units fighting with the Confederacy, and in broader terms, it also represents the last time in Choctaw history that a victory was attained by full Choctaw military units. Today, despite encroaching development, a portion of the battlefield is preserved in the Massard Prairie Battlefield Park, maintained by the town of Fort Smith. Each year, a reenactment is held, on-site, with Choctaw tribal members as regular participants.



Photo by Kendra Germany

The original manuscript by Dr. James Morrison on *Schools for the Choctaws* is shown with other materials and examples of photos desired for an upcoming finished version of the book.

Photos needed for Choctaw book

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation

A literary effort four decades in the making will soon be completed, shedding light on the early legacy of educating Choctaws.

Schools for the Choctaws, based on a manuscript by Dr. James Morrison, is expected to be published in early 2016. Choctaw Nation Director of Special Education Projects Joy Culbreath received the manuscript from Dr. Morrison’s family. It was written in 1975.

Culbreath is asking tribal members and local history buffs to contribute photos of Choctaws, missionaries, educators, and boarding schools from the golden age of early Choctaw education.

(For a list of desired photo subjects, see the end of this article.)

“Education has always been important to the Choctaw people and we want our history to show that our interest began as early as 1818 with the establishment of the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky,” Culbreath said.

Historical documents from this era will help illustrate the important people and places that were instrumental in early efforts to get Choctaw youths into school. They will also help bridge the 40-year gap from the time the manuscript was written in 1975, offering people in the here and now a chance to contribute to Dr. Morrison’s legacy.

Culbreath, the former executive director of education for Choctaw Nation, worked with Dr. Morrison at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She gained a familiarity with his work.

Many years later, Culbreath was given the manuscript and took on the task of creating a book about Choctaw education as a tribal special project.

As part of this effort, Culbreath worked directly with the staffs of Jones Academy and Goodland Academy, the two remaining Choctaw schools still in operation today. In fact, Goodland Academy was established in 1848 and is recognized as the oldest agency in continuous operation in the state of Oklahoma.

Dr. Morrison passed away in 1977. He studied at the University of Oklahoma and dedicated his career to Southeastern. He started as an associate history professor and retired in 1973 as Dean of Instruction.

If you have any of the following photographs that we can scan and return to you, please contact us at (580) 924-8280 / ext. 2308 or 2516 or email kathyc@choctawnation.com

List of needed photos for the Old Choctaw Schools book

- Alexandra Talley
- Alfred Wright
- Anna Burnham
- Charles C. Copel
- Charles Wilson
- Chief Apukshunbbee
- Chief Hoomastubby
- Chief Puckshunbee
- Choctaw Academy in Kentucky (1818)
- Chuwahla at Pine Ridge
- Chuwahla Seminary
- Dr. Alanson Allen
- Ebenezer Folsom
- Edmund Folsom
- Eleazor Wheelock
- Elizabeth Jacobs Quenton
- Fort Coffee Academy
- Harriet Bruce Wright
- Henry C. Benson
- Iamubbee Seminary
- Ianubbee at Eagle Town
- Jared Olmstead
- John Edwards
- John Eloit,
- Ebenezer Hutchin
- John Pitchlynn
- Koonsha at Good Water
- Koonsha Seminary
- Moses Perry
- Mr. and Mrs. Loring S. Williams
- Nathaniel Folsom
- Nathaniel M. Tabbott
- New Hope Seminary
- Rev. A. Biggs
- Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Smedley
- Rev. E. B. Ames
- Rev. Eben Tucker
- Rev. Wesley C. Browning
- Rev. William H. Goode
- Robert Cole
- Robert Quld
- Thomas McKinney
- Thomas Myers
- W. L. McAlister
- Wiley Ledbetter
- William Armstrong
- William Bay Rabe

Farmers Market Nutrition Program WIC and for Seniors

The WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Seniors will both start May 1, 2015. Choctaw Nation WIC participants can pick up their checks from the paraprofessionals at the WIC clinic sites. You do not have to wait for your WIC appointment to receive them. Just call your WIC site and say that you would like the farmers market checks before they are gone. They will be distributed on a “first come, first serve basis” until they run out. Seniors’ checks were mailed out at the end of April to those who completed applications and sent them back in. Applications are still being accepted so if you have not filled one out you still have the opportunity to do so. Some areas have received an abundance of rain causing farmers who supply the fresh produce to be late this year on the harvesting. Please feel free to call the farmers in your area from the farmers’ list that was provided to participants to inquire as to when they may have produce available.

For more information, please contact:
Peggy Carlton
FMNP for Seniors Coordinator
800-522-6170 x2303

You do not have to be a participant to purchase fresh produce from the farmers, the public is welcome to purchase from the farmers also.
As soon as produce becomes available, the farmers will be back out at the Choctaw Nation community centers in
Durant, McAlester, Hugo, Atoka, Broken Bow, Idabel, Antlers & Stigler.
Please call the community center and make sure the Wednesday you plan to go that a farmers is there as produce is harvested at different times and may not be available which means they may not be there every Wednesday.

2015 Bow Shoot Schedule TVSHKA HOMMA CAPITOL GROUNDS

Aug 8 ♦ Oct 10

Registration, 10:30 ♦ Competition, 11:00

Long Bow |Recurve Bow|Selfbows |Handmade Bows |No Compound Bows

CO-ED AGE GROUPS: 5 & under; 6-8; 9-13; 14-16; 17-19; 20 & over

SPECIAL EVENTS: Sept. 6, Labor Day Festival, 8am & Turkey Shoot, Nov. 14

Prizes for each age group at the end of each shoot. Final prize awarded at end of year for overall points.

Information, please call
Sue Folsom (800) 522.6170x2134 or Pam Waugh (580) 775.7862

Choctaw Nation and Indian Health Services partner on regional health clinic in Durant

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation

A ground breaking ceremony was held July 6 to celebrate a Joint Venture between the Choctaw Nation and Indian Health Services (IHS) to construct and operate a regional health clinic in Durant.

The medical campus will include a 143,000-sq.-ft. clinic, 17,000-sq.-ft. administration building, and an 11,000-sq.-ft. facilities building to be located north of the Choctaw Nation Community Center and Child Development Center off Big Lots Road.

The medical campus will be adjacent to a new tribal headquarters building on which construction is expected to begin this fall.

The investment is for the tribal people, said Chief Gary Batton. “It’s to create a better way of life and to create jobs. It’s about making sure their life is longer.” He recognized the Tribal Council and the many individuals who worked diligently to make this possible.

Joint Ventures between tribes and IHS are very competitive. There were 36 applications from across the country for a Joint Venture this year. The Choctaw Nation was one of three to be selected to

participate.

RADM Kevin Meeks, IHS Area Director for the Oklahoma City Area, described the partnership, explaining the Choctaw Nation provides funding for construction of the facility and IHS works with Congress to obtain funding for staffing to operate the facility.

“I commend the Choctaw Nation for your commitment, for your investment in the health care of Native American patients,” said RADM Meeks. “The real reason we are here is because of the commitment to improve the health of our patients who utilize the Indian Health Care system in the Choctaw Nation.”

Choctaw Nation Health Senior Executive Officer Teresa Jackson said this is the first tribal IHS program to have an outpatient ambulatory surgery clinic. Other services will also include primary care, dental, pediatrics, a lab, diabetes care, community health nurses, optometry, radiology services (including MRI, CT, bone density, mammography, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and x-ray), pharmacy, behavioral health, physical therapy, and numerous specialty care services.

Construction of the health center is expected to be complete in January 2017.



Rendering by Childers Architects

The Choctaw Nation medical campus as seen in a rendering by the architectural firm. The facility in Durant will be located adjacent to the new tribal headquarters just north of the Choctaw Casino & Resort and is expected to open in January 2017.



Photo by Brandon Frye

Surrounded by local dignitaries and clinic physicians and staff, Chief Gary Batton cuts a ribbon symbolizing the grand opening of the expansion to the Rubin White Health Clinic in Poteau.

Poteau’s Rubin White Health Clinic expansion opens

By BRANDON FRYE
Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton cut through a red ribbon July 2, 2015, at 10 a.m., symbolizing the opening of an extensive expansion to the Rubin White Health Clinic in Poteau.

Dignitaries, including Mayor Jeff Shockley, Poteau city council members Jimmy Holstead and Tommy Robinson, and District 4 royalty Junior Miss Jase Cassey and Little Miss Gracie Mattox, attended the ribbon cutting.

Representatives from Manhattan Group Construction, which built the new facility, were also present alongside the physicians and staff of the clinic.

Teresa Jackson, Senior Executive Officer for Choctaw Health Services, said this expansion was needed in Poteau because it will provide many of the services found at the hospital in Tahleah to locals, without their having to make a longer drive.

“This is for you, our tribal members,” Chief Gary Batton said. “We want to provide the best health care to our members. We want to improve health so you can have long life, that’s what it’s all about.”

According to Todd Hallmark, Execu-

tive Director of Health Operations, the health clinic was already offering services such as a family practice, pediatrics, and pharmacy prescription refills—but the expansion has made more services available.

These new services include an employee clinic, offering emergency health care to employees, their spouses, and their children. This new employee clinic will draw in worker from the travel plazas, casinos, recycling center, and everyone else working for the Choctaw Nation in and around Poteau.

New also is the optometry office, which will provide two optometrists for tribal members.

A physical therapy program is now housed at the back of the expansion. Included in the rehabilitation equipment is a physical therapy pool with a treadmill and current-based resistance—a first for the tribe.

Behavioral health was expanded and will now offer more counsellors to tribal members.

Open for recreational use as well as rehabilitation are the new wellness center and half-court basketball gym. Treadmills, free weights, and other workout machines are now available.



Photo by Brandon Frye

Wilburton local Blake Cawley takes advantage of the brand new basketball half court just opened at the Wilburton Wellness Center while a crowd inspects and exercises on the new machines in the workout room behind him.

Wilburton Wellness Center opens this summer

By BRANDON FRYE
Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 6 Council Member Joe Coley, and local dignitaries cut the ribbon signaling the grand opening of the Wilburton Wellness Center on July 2.

The new center offers a range of new workout potential for citizens in the Wilburton area, including four elliptical machines, two stationary bikes, a resistance training machine, a full set of free weights, four treadmills, televisions for entertainment while working out, and lockers to keep valuable safe while being active.

Additionally, a basketball half-court—

made of vinyl to be more resilient—is available and connected to the weight room.

“When the Chief, Assistant Chief, and Council proposed an initiative to take care of our elders and help them maintain their independence, enhance their wellness, we started building these wellness centers,” Chase Henson, Northern Wellness Manager for the Choctaw Nation, said. “We also like to tie into our communities, take care of all tribal members, and take care of the employees of the Choctaw Nation.”

The wellness centers benefit youth, elders, members, and employees, by assisting them in enhancing their own health.

Antlers Job Fair
Looking for **Travel Plaza Employees**
Antlers Community Center, 402 SW “O” Street
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.
For more information, call (800) 522-6170 x2189
careers.choctawnation.com

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Needs Choctaw Resource Parents

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is currently needing Choctaw resource families in Oklahoma. As a Choctaw resource family you will serve as a temporary parent to a Choctaw child or children placed in your home. Not only will you provide for their basic needs, food, shelter, clothing, and safety but also help to preserve the child’s Choctaw Culture and Heritage. Our children grow by teaching and providing stable, loving homes for them. For more information about the requirements to become a Choctaw resource family, please contact our office at:

Choctaw Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702
Larry Behrens or Justin McDaniel
(800)522.6170 or (580)924.8280
lbehrens@choctawnation.com
jrmcdaniel@choctawnation.com

View our website at: **www.choctawfamilyservices.com**

The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Native Affairs Presents
8(a) Business Development Training

**August 13, 2015
8:30 am-4:30 pm**
**Kiamichi Technology Center, McAlester Campus
301 Kiamichi Drive, McAlester, OK**

The purpose of this workshop and the follow-on technical assistance we offer is to provide operational and leadership strategies to build capacity, foster growth and expansion, and ensure sustainability of entity-owned businesses in Native American communities throughout the United States.

The focus is on 8(a) Business Development and the unique rules and considerations for tribally and Native owned corporations and organizations:

- Assisting you, as an applicant to the 8(a) Business Development Program, with decision-making and timing of application submissions.
- Enhancing your understanding of eligibility requirements and the application process, specific to tribal or native-owned firms.
- Clarifying requirements for success and defining your expectations as an applicant.
- Improving the quality of your submission.
- Enhancing your understanding of the program rules.

Find out more and register at **www.native8atraining.com!**

smallbusiness@choctawnation.com or 580-924-8280 ext.2901

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
2015 Labor Day Festival
September 3rd - 7th

Thursday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.-Capitol Museum Opens
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.-Museum Gift Shop Hours
7:00 p.m.-Princess Pageant, Amphitheater

Friday

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.-Capitol Museum Hours
8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.-Museum Gift Shop Hours
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.-CCA, Crafts for youth at playground
10:00 a.m.-Arts and Crafts exhibits open
11:00 a.m.-Choctaw social dance on Capitol lawn
Noon-5:00 p.m.-Quilt entries at Information Center
Noon-6:00 p.m.-CDIB/Membership/Photo ID open
Noon-8:00 p.m.-Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
2:00 p.m.-Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn
5:00 p.m.-Registration for Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge, on Council Chambers lawn
6:00 p.m. Chief Batton Physical Fitness Challenge
6:00 p.m.-Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn
6:30 p.m.-Sculpture unveiling at Heritage Garden in front of the Capitol Building
7:00 p.m.-Stickball Tournament at Stickball Field
7:00 p.m.-Pow Wow Grand Entry on Capital lawn
7:00 p.m.-Fast-Pitch Tournament at Red Warrior Park
7:00 p.m.- **Easton Corbin**, Amphitheater
9:00 p.m.- **Chris Young**, Amphitheater

Saturday

6:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.-5k registration, Capitol Museum
8:00 a.m.-5k Race begins and ends at Capitol Museum
8:00 a.m.-Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.-3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball registration
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.-Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.-Daycare & YAB, Crafts for youth at playground
9:00 a.m.-Horse Shoe Tournament
9:00 a.m.-Co-ed Volleyball Tournament
9:00 a.m.-Quilt Show at Information Center
9:45 a.m.-Terrapin Race Registration at playground
10:00 a.m.-3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Tournament
10:00 a.m.-11th Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show opens, second floor of Capitol Museum
10:00 a.m.-Noon-Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
10:30 a.m.-Terrapin Races, playground
10:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.-Choctaw Village activities (see schedule)
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.-Capitol Museum Hours
10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.-Museum Gift Shop Hours
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.-CDIB/Membership/Photo ID open
4:00 p.m.-Tough, Tough registration on Council Chambers lawn
5:00 p.m.-Tough, Tough contest on Council Chambers lawn
7:00 p.m.- **Neal McCoy**, Amphitheater
8:00 p.m.-Stickball Tournament at field north of carnival
9:00 p.m.- **Reba**, Amphitheater



Capitol Museum & Gift Shop

Choctaw Nation
Museum Hours

Thursday	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday	12 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday	8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Inter-Tribal
Pow Wow
Capitol Grounds

Friday, Sept. 4
2 p.m. Gourd Dancing
5 p.m. Break
6 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7 p.m. Grand Entry



Social Dancing



Sunday

7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-National Day of Prayer & Worship, Chapel
8:00 a.m.-Bow Shoot, Choctaw Village
8:00 a.m.-Fast-Pitch Tournament continues
8:30 a.m.-Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton
10:00 a.m.-Worship Services at Chapel
Noon-Gospel Singing begins at amphitheater
Noon-Domino/Checker Tournament registration
Noon-4:30 p.m.-Capitol Museum Hours
Noon-4:00 p.m.-Museum Gift Shop Hours
Noon-5:00 p.m.-Healthy Living Expo, next to Council Chambers
Noon-6:00 p.m.-CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open
1:00 p.m.-Domino/Checker Tournament
1:30 p.m.-Golf Tournament, Sycamore Springs Course, Wilburton
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.-Choctaw Village activities (see schedule)
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.-Choctaw Code Talker Association Board, Council Chambers
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.-Buffalo Tours, load bus at Capitol Museum
4:00 p.m.-Choctaw Dancers, Capitol lawn
5:00 p.m.-Stickball exhibition, Capitol lawn
7:00 p.m.-Children's stickball exhibition, stickball field
7:00 p.m.- **Jason Crabb**, Amphitheater
8:00 p.m.-Women's stickball exhibition, stickball field
9:00 p.m.-Championship stickball game, stickball field
9:00 p.m.- **Matt Maher**, Amphitheater

Monday

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-Capitol Museum Hours
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-Museum Gift Shop Hours
9:00 a.m.-Noon-CDIB/Membership/Photo ID booth open
10:00 a.m.-Labor Day official ceremonies, amphitheater
- Posting of Flags-Choctaw Nation Color Guard
- The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language-Choctaw Royalty
- Storytelling-Tim Tingle
- Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges
- Swearing-In Ceremony
- State of the Nation Address by Chief Gary Batton
- Door Prize Drawings
11:30 a.m.-Free lunch for everyone, cafeteria
Noon-Pick up quilts from Quilt Show



Chahta Hymns

Choctaw Village Activities

Saturday

10:00 a.m.-Choctaw Dancing
10:30 a.m.-Stickball Skills
10:30 a.m.-Choctaw Hymns
11:00 a.m.-Storytelling
11:30 a.m.-Rabbit Stick Throw
1:00 p.m.-Stickball
1:30 p.m.-Language
1:45 p.m.-Corn Game
2:15 p.m.-Choctaw Dancing

Sunday

1:00 p.m.-Rabbit Stick Throw
1:30 p.m.-Storytelling
2:00 p.m. Corn Game



Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds
Tuskahoma, OK

For more information call
800.522.6170 or 580.924.8280
choctawnation.com



Stickball

