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CHOCTAW NATION

# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

June 2012 Issue



## Walking to honor our ancestors

See event photos on Page 16

Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

The Choctaw Nation Color Guard leads hundreds of walkers in attendance at the 2012 commemorative Trail of Tears Walk on May 19 in Tushka Homma.

## Choctaw culture celebrated at State Capitol

By **BRET MOSS**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma assembled a group of cultural experts and artists at the Oklahoma State Capitol building on May 15 to bring the Choctaw experience to the people of the Oklahoma City area and the leaders of the state.

Brightly clothed Choctaws filled the capitol's second floor rotunda in their traditional clothing ready to leave an impression on guests of the Capitol. As soon as booths were set up and ready to go, guests were eager to get involved with what the Choctaw Nation had to offer.

Exhibits of various staples of Choctaw heritage were on display, including stickball, pottery, flute making and beadwork. The Choctaw museum had an exhibit giving a background on the history of the people, and Choctaw Language teachers gave guests of the capitol a sampling of the native

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### The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Choctaw Nation held a ribboncutting for 13 one-bedroom energy-efficient housing units for qualified Choctaw Nation senior citizens. There is also a 2100-sq-ft community area, office, laundry and safe room to accommodate 60 persons. Each housing unit is 550 square feet. Construction began in September 2010 and was completed in July 2011, a full three months ahead of schedule. This project is our most energy-efficient effort to date.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

A ribboncutting was held May 30 for the new 7,800-sq-ft. Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. The center, located north of the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic on West Liberty Road, has a seating capacity of 250. Several offices are located at the center for the benefit of tribal members. There are representatives from Tribal Police, CHR, Transit, Indian Child Welfare, Family Preservation and Community-Based Social Work as well as the District 10 Councilman and Field Office. There is also a conference area used for meetings and GED classes.

## Many miles traveled on the seat of a bicycle

Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team rides from Mississippi to Oklahoma to commemorate Trail of Tears, maintain a healthy lifestyle

By **CHRISSY DILL**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

"To honor my family and my Choctaw ancestors...to challenge myself to do something that I may never do again...to exercise for health and well being," are some reasons members of the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team would give you if you were to ask them why they have endured hundreds of miles on bicycle.

The Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team is a group of individuals who are invested in honoring their ancestors' hardships on the Trail of Tears

and many other struggles throughout history, while at the same time upholding a healthy lifestyle, staying active and keeping a good balance between the mind, body and spirit.

The team was initially formed last summer in June when bicyclist Nancy Jefferson had the idea that she wanted to ride her bike from Philadelphia, Miss., to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears as a tribute to her mother and her Choctaw ancestors. "I had been reading my mother and grandmother's journals and recollections of their grandmothers' stories from the Trail walk and believed that this is what I needed to do," said Jefferson. Her vision quickly became a reality.

Throughout the past year, Jefferson has been

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Choctaw Nation: CHRISSY DILL

Team members include, front from left, Eli Tullier (with bike), Nikki Eagle Road, Teresa Eagle Road, Nancy Jefferson, Melanie Lanning, Donna Tawkoyty; back from left, Billy Eagle Road II, Jordan Eagle Road, Greg Barrs, Mary Barrs, Phillip Tawkoyty. Not pictured- Tammy Griffith, Tracie Lake, Tony Stolfus, Stuart Winlock, Brian and Brianna Johnston, Johnnie Anderson, Billy Eagle Road III, Cheyenne Murray, Roy Griffith, Dean Lanning.

## Hacker to feature art at Choctaw Days

By **LARISSA COPELAND**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is sure to be an educational, tradition-packed experience for anyone looking to get a peek at a Native American culture that is not only alive, but is thriving. Choctaw history, art, dancing, language, music, food, and more will be showcased by those who understand it best...the passionate teachers, artists, dancers and craftsmen, who make conserving Choctaw heritage a way of life.

One such person is Paul Hacker. An award-winning artist, Hacker has a wide range of traditional, creative enterprises in his artwork arsenal. Amassing decades of knowledge and skilled artistic ability, he focuses his talents on handcrafted historical pottery, flutes, ledger art, custom collector knives, and parfleche (bags or pouches made of tough rawhide).

A native of Oklahoma with both Choctaw and Cherokee ancestry, Hacker draws inspiration and influence from his own people, as well as from tribal people in locations scattered across the country.

The quality and details he puts into his handiwork makes him a highly sought-after artist in the Native American art community. This is evidenced by his many pieces being featured in prestigious galleries, exhibitions and museums stretching the globe, including, most proudly to

See HACKER Page 11



# Cultural activities highlight of Okla Chahta gathering



Assistant Chief Gary Batton presents the Okla Chahta board members with gifts of appreciation from the Choctaw Nation. Pictured are Victoria Harrison, Bill Harrison, Mike Bryant, Aaron Wilkins, Pam Reeder, Brenda DeHerrera, Debra Dean, Ron Reeder and Theresa Harrison.



Okla Chahta Vice President Mike Bryant, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Okla Chahta Liaison Theresa Harrison and Okla Chahta President Bill Harrison present a shawl as a gift of appreciation to Cultural Services Executive Director Sue Folsom.



Getting ready to play stickball.



Rayne DeWoody plays stickball with a little help from dad David.



The Choctaw Color Guard posts the colors at the event in Bakersfield, Calif. Entering the circle with them are all of the veterans present at the event.



Leroy and Ada Merryman visit the gathering again, three years after being married in a traditional Choctaw wedding on the grounds.



Left, Les Williston lets a group see a stickball up close.

Below, Daniela is making a beaded choker at a make-and-take table sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Cultural Services department.



Ida Wilson of San Francisco, originally from Smithville, Okla.; Assistant Chief Gary Batton; and Ida's granddaughter, Pebbles Robertson; daughter, Dee Wilson, and son, Anthony Wilson.



Princesses perform the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



Above, Diana Folsom and Historic Preservation Director Ian Thompson make bowls in the traditional Choctaw way.



Right, Maribell Thomas and Shelley Thomas make stickball sticks to take home.



New Okla Chahta Royalty for 2012-13 – Little Miss Serenity DeWoody, Jr. Miss Tori Archuleta and Miss Okla Chahta Taylor Archuleta, pictured with Assistant Chief Batton.



Left, Curtis Wyrick of Sanger, Calif., and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno, Jr. Miss Adrianna Curnutt and Little Miss Summer Moffitt.



Virginia Ervin, Councilman Kenny Bryant and Frankie Ervin.



The Traditional Dancers and Chanter perform at the festival.



# Bringing in the colors for this year's Choctaw Days in D.C.

## Tribe to honor military history during June event

From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

There has been a frenzy of activity in the last few months as staff finalizes plans for Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C. Last year, we were the first tribe to hold a festival at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and even before that successful event concluded, we were working with NMAI officials on the 2012 version.

Choctaw Days begins on June 20, the day of summer solstice, the one day of the year that the sun and the museum's eight large prisms are in perfect alignment and project dazzling color. Our distinguished Color Guard will bring in the colors of our great Choctaw Nation and the United States, post the flags in an opening ceremony and start the four-day celebration.

The Color Guard is a familiar group to us all. The Choctaw veterans have opened over 1,000 events around the country and their appearance always brings honor and reverence to any occasion. It is especially fitting this year as we highlight our military history at Choctaw Days.



Thousands of people will visit the museum and learn of the strength inherent to the Choctaw. Men and women have fought on front lines, patched the wounded, repaired the vehicles, fueled the bombers, shuffled files and supported combat in hundreds of ways. It takes a lot of people to keep one fighting group supplied and ready for battle and we salute you all.

Among our guest speakers is Lt. General Leroy Sisco (ret.) who will join tribal officials in the Potomac Atrium for a presentation at the height of the light show through the museum's windows.

Special presentations are also scheduled in the Rasmuson Theatre to inform visitors of the Choctaw Code Talkers, World War I's "telephone warriors," and their contribution to winning that war. Artist DG Smalling, the great-grandson of Calvin Wilson, one of the original Code Talkers, will share the history of the first group of men to use their language as a key strategy to confuse the enemy who were listening to their transmissions.

Also included on the schedule for the Ras-

asmuson is Southeastern Oklahoma State University's Theatre Department. This talented group has produced short plays expanding on the theme, "To Us It Wasn't Code." The performers are all Choctaw students from SOSU.

The production will also cover other Choctaw tribal aspects such as stickball, basket-making and language.

Daily activities will include Choctaw singing, dancing, flute playing, storytelling and a wide array of booths featuring traditional baskets, pottery, beadwork, moccasins, weapons and more.

We have an elite group of Choctaw artists who have agreed to show their work at Choctaw Days 2012 – DG Smalling, Jane Semple Umsted, Theresa Morris and Paul Hacker. They are each experts in their own unique methods of creating lasting works of art. They have focused on providing original works reflecting our military history especially for this event.

Last year's make-and-take sessions provided by the Choctaw Cultural Services staff were one of the favorite activities among the visitors to the museum. Everyone is invited to participate so they can have their own handmade Choctaw crafts to take home with them. Five classes will be held each day on how to make beaded chokers and corn husk dolls and staff will also have airbrush Choctaw-design tattoos for anyone interested.

The make-and-takes are so popular it is necessary to pick up a free ticket to ensure a spot in one of the classes.

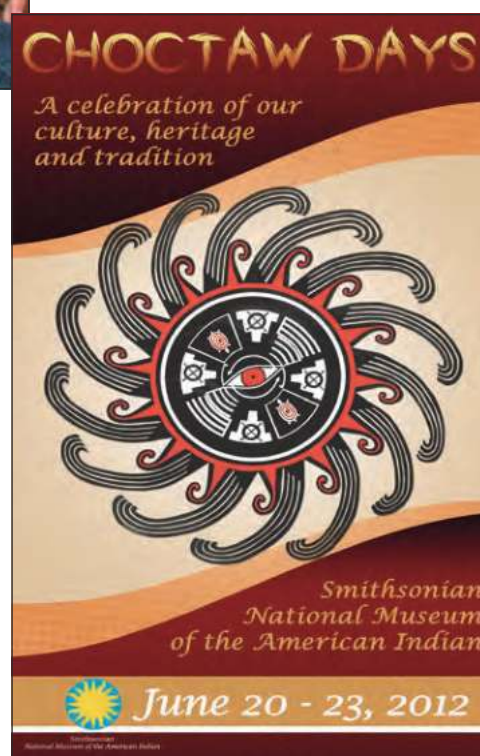
We are excited about our outdoor action this year. On

Thursday and Friday evenings there will be a stickball demonstration at the Reflecting Pool at the U.S. Capitol, just a short walking distance from the National Museum of the American Indian. The D.C. area is known for its love of lacrosse and it is a privilege to be able to show them the origins of this sport that is gaining popularity across the United States.

Stickball is a Choctaw tradition. It has been called "little brother of war" because ancient Choctaw communities would often turn to the game to solve problems. It could carry on for days, hundreds of men on each team, and their wives cheering them on and betting their household goods that their team would be the strongest, the best.

On Saturday, visitors will be able to see Choctaw horses in a fenced area off Maryland Avenue across from the museum. The versatile Choctaw horse is a rare strain of Spanish mustang. Two mares from Cumberland Valley Equine Service – Windrider's Shalontaki "Cricket" and Chahta Chunkash "Choctaw Heart" – will be part of the cultural experience.

We are thankful to have the opportunity to educate the world about the multi-faceted Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma through venues such as Choctaw Days at NMAI.



## Growing with pride, hope and success

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Chief Pyle, the Tribal Council and I enjoy seeing the tribe grow with pride, hope and success! Just recently we were invited to take part in ribbon cuttings at two examples of tremendous growth in Atoka County. The Senior Citizens' housing located behind the former Sheffields furniture store is extremely nice, and the new community center adjacent to the Choctaw Health Clinic in Atoka is one of the most beautiful we have ever constructed.

The Choctaw Color Guard began the ceremony to officially open Councilman Dillard's new center in Atoka County by hoisting the flags and standing at attention. It was a great reminder of the contributions our Native American warriors have made to this Nation!

I appreciate all of the progress that is being made across the Choctaw Nation and I thank each and every employee for the hard work that you do to make brighter futures possible for yourselves and others! Yakoke!

## Council holds May session

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on May 12 at Tushka Homma. New business discussed included:

- Extending certain health services to all resident of the Tahliha area;
  - Two revocable hay bailing permits;
  - Approval of funds and budget for Assets for Independence Grant Program;
  - Approval of funds and budget for the Water Resources management, Planning and Pre-Development Program;
  - Approval of the KEDDO Outreach budget;
  - Approval of KEDDO KNAP budget;
  - Approval of Administration on Aging, Title VI (A) budget;
  - Approval of Administration on Aging's Nutrition Services Incentive Program budget;
  - Approval of Administration on Aging's Native American Caregiver Support Program budget;
  - Approval of the application to the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program;
  - Approval of an inventory list for the Choctaw Nation Transportation Program with specific projects listed and to approve a modification to the 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan;
  - Approval of the disposal of surplus vehicles.
- All were approved.

## Chaplain's Corner

### We reap what we sow

The Bible has much to say about sowing and reaping.

First, we must sow to reap. All walks of life have sowing and reaping. Lawyers and doctors and teachers spend long years in study. You reap and do good if you sow effort, but you have to sow to reap.

We read in Jeremiah 4:3, "...Break up your fallow ground, and sow..."

In Psalm 126:6 we read: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Evangelism is like that. We are to go out and sow the seed of the Word of God. Then we will come in, bringing in sheaves.

Hosea says in Hosea 10:12: "Sow yourselves in righteousness. Reap in mercy: break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD: till he come and rain righteousness upon you."

It is time to seek the Lord. Many of your lives are in pieces. You are mixed up; you are confused. You need Jesus Christ to put your life together again.

Second, if you sow, you will reap.

In Galatians 6:7 we read: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

In Numbers 32:23 we read: "...Be sure your sin will find you out."

A story is told about a father who told his son, "Don't go into that watermelon patch, the melons are not ripe yet." Then the father drove into town. The boy went out to the watermelon patch and found one melon that he knew was ripe. He pulled it, broke it and ate it. He knew he had done wrong. He knew he had disobeyed his father, but he hadn't been caught.

Several weeks passed. As the father was driving a cow up from the pasture, he saw a strange thing on the other side of the fence. He saw little watermelon sprouts. He dug by the new plant and saw the old rinds with the seeds sprouting. He knew what had happened. The boy was caught.

The Bible teaches that Satan is a great deceiver. God is Lord of the universe but there is also a force of evil in the universe called Satan. He is called the Devil by Jesus.

The Bible warns us: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption..." (Galatians 6:8).

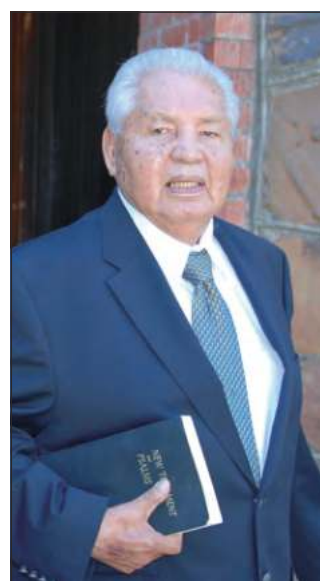
God knows the thoughts and the intents of the heart. All of us have sinned. And we all need the mercy of God. That is why Jesus came and shed His blood for our sins. He died on the cross and rose again. God loves us in spite of our sin. And He will forgive us if we come by faith to His Son, Jesus Christ.

Samson fell by lust with Delilah, and the Philistines put out his eyes. (Judges 16:1-21) Haman erected a gallows to hang Mordecai only to be hanged on those gallows himself. (Esther 6:4) Daniel was thrown in the lion's den but God shut their mouths and they didn't hurt Daniel. The next morning when the king ordered the accusers of Daniel thrown into the den, they were killed by the lions. (Daniel 3:23)

Whatever a man or woman sows he or she will reap. That is a law of nature, and it is the law of God.

Third, we will reap what we sow, Job says in Job 4:8: "They plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."

We see people everyday who have been sowing wrong deeds, lust, jealousy, lying, taking drugs, shoplifting or cheating on their income tax. The scripture says in Proverbs 28:13: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

But we can't think, as many people do, that going to church on Sunday is enough. Opening a Bible to read a couple of verses during the week and say a little prayer during the day is enough. We think we are all right but we are not.

The Bible says in Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death." There is a high price to pay for the low living in sin. Sin is no respecter of persons. The only way for sin to be taken away is at the cross.

Fourth, ignorance of what you are sowing will not keep you from reaping. We read in Leviticus 19:19: "Thou shalt not sow they fields with mingled seed."

The Devil sows tares. That is his business. The Word of God is proclaimed, then the Devil comes along and sows tares.

There is a Devil, there are demons, they are real. They are dangerous. We read in John 3:8: "He that committeth sin is of the Devil and for the Devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might

destroy the works of the Devil.

We can live a Christian life only with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes into our hearts when we receive Jesus Christ. He lives the Christian life through us and produces the fruit of the Spirit, which is, "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..." (Galatians 5:22)

No one can live the Christian life on his or her own. If we try to do it by ourselves, we will fail. Satan is too powerful. The Devil is after us daily. That is the reason it is important to read the Bible every day. When Jesus met the Devil and the Devil tempted Jesus, it was real temptation. He tempted him to turn stones into bread. Jesus could have done this, but He was here to take people to heaven to give them eternal life. And He could do it only by going to the cross and taking their judgment and their hell. From the cross He was saying, "I love you. I love you. Whoever you are. Whatever nationality you are. Whatever tribe you belong to."

He would have died on that cross if you had been the only person in the whole world. He loves you. You are important to Him.

Jesus Christ is Savior but someday He will be Judge. He came in order to defeat Satan in your life if you let Him. Yield your life to God or are you going to yield to the Devil? The Devil makes a lot of promises. He will promise you everything in the world if you will follow him and bow down to him.

But the Bible says in I John 4:4: "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

When you come to Christ, you have the power within you that is greater than the power of the Devil. That power is the Holy Spirit.

Fifth, you will reap more than what you sow: "For they have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind..." (Hosea 8:7)

Have you ever seen a tornado? The wind starts with a gentle breeze. The clouds gather and the winds pick up.

The things that you are sowing now as a young person or middle-aged person, you will reap when you get older. Then you will ask: "Why didn't I change the direction of my life?"

Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior? If there is a doubt in your mind or heart that you really know Christ, ask Him into your life now. Will you do that?

Continue to pray for America. Pray for the health, strength and wisdom of our leaders. Remember our men and women in our armed forces.



*Recipe of the Month*

## Open-faced blackened catfish sandwiches

**Ingredients:**  
 1 3/4 teaspoons paprika  
 1 teaspoon dried oregano  
 3/4 teaspoon ground red pepper  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
 4 (6 oz.) catfish fillets  
 2 teaspoons olive oil  
 1/3 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt  
 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice  
 1 tablespoon honey  
 2 cups packaged cabbage-carrot coleslaw  
 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
 4 (1 oz.) slices sourdough bread, toasted

**Directions:**  
 1. Combine first five ingredients in a small bowl. Sprinkle both sides of fish with paprika mixture. Heat a large cast-iron skillet over high heat or camp fire. Add oil to pan; swirl to coat. Add fish; cook four minutes on each side or until preferred.  
 2. Combine yogurt, juice, and honey in a medium bowl. Add cabbage and cilantro; toss well to coat. Top each bread slice with about 1/2 cup slaw and one fillet. Top each fillet with remaining slaw.

**Nutrition Facts:**  
 Servings: 4  
 Amount per serving  
 Calories: 362  
 Fat: 16g  
 Sat fat: 3.4g  
 Mono fat: 7.8g  
 Poly fat: 3.2g  
 Protein: 31.3g  
 Carbs: 22.6g  
 Fiber: 2.2g  
 Cholesterol: 80mg  
 Iron: 2.4mg  
 Sodium: 414mg  
 Calcium: 63mg



Photo provided

**Choctaw Color Guard posts the colors before the conference begins.**

## Choctaw Nation attends 7th Generation Conference

The 5th annual Preparing for the 7th Generation, The Journey Continues in Commercial Tobacco Control conference was held in Midwest City, at the Reed Center, April 17 – 19, 2012. This year the Choctaw Nation Color Guard proudly presented the posting of the colors on April 18, followed by Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno, who opened with the Lord's Prayer in sign language. CNHSA Wellness Dept. staff Doris Winlock and Jamie King provided fitness break activities.

The conference is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Osage Nation MPOWER, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, OSDH, CDC, American Legacy, Muskogee (Creek) Nation, OUHSC College of Public Health, and the American Heart Association.

Sessions included such topics as smoking cessation and reduction in pregnancy, public health infrastructure, misuse of tribal images as related to commercial tobacco, 1-800-quit now, Americans for nonsmoker's rights, treating commercial dependence and many more.

The conference hosted such speakers as Cynthia Hallett from the American's for Nonsmokers Rights, Tim Milbrandt from the Mayo Clinic, Louise Strayer, University of Arizona HealthCare Partnership, Cherokee Nation gaming Commissioner and many other great speakers.

Members of the planning committee from Choctaw Nation include Teresa Davis, CNHSA Wellness Coordinator and Crystal Frizzell, MPOWER tobacco control coordinator.

## Choctaw Nation WIC

*WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN*

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

## NURSERY NEWS

### Taylie James



Taylie Brooke James was born on Dec. 19, 2011, at the Choctaw Indian hospital in Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Her proud parents are Johnny and Jara James of Wilburton; maternal grandparents are Greg and Tina Sims of Wilburton, as well as Mark Tucker of Wilburton; maternal great-grandparents are Jim and June Young of Buffalo Valley, and Helen (Nadine) Tucker of Sherman, Texas; paternal grandparents are Johnny James and Peggy James, both of Higgins.

### Hatapushik Ramsey



Hatapushik Ramsey was born on at 2:30 p.m. on March 30, 2012, weighing 9 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches. She is the daughter of Michael and Heather Ramsey of McAlester and is Oklahoma and Mississippi Choctaw. She is welcomed to this world by her sisters, Nayukpa, Emma Ray and Pakanli Faye; grandparents, Jon and Sherry Foster, Janet and Matthew Sam, and Thomas Billy; along with countless cousins.

### Victoria Cobb



Victoria Rose Cobb was born April 5, 2012, in Newark, Del. She was 9 pounds 1 ounce and was 21.25 inches long. Victoria is the daughter of Goodwin Keener Cobb IV and Maria Cobb; the granddaughter of the late Goodwin Keener Cobb III who worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.; and the great-granddaughter of the late Goodwin Keener Cobb II (GK) and Mary Cobb, who worked as a professor and curator of the Indian Museum at Haskell Indian College in Lawrence, Kan. Victoria's great-uncle and aunt are Charles and Nell Cobb of Crosby, Texas.

### Benjamin Coxsey



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

### Jade Tackett



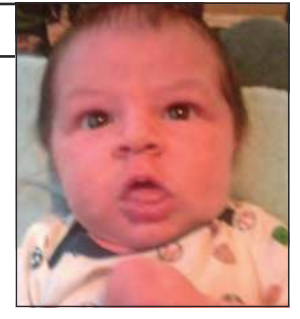
Richard "Ricky" Tackett and Sarah Woodral Tackett would like to announce the arrival of baby Jade LouAnn Tackett who weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She was born at the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina.

### Sabrina Choate



Sabrina Jaedyn Choate was born at 7:45 a.m. on May 17, 2012, at Stillwater Medical Center, weighing 9 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Her parents are Jerold Lance and Kristie (LeRoy) Choate of Pawnee. Paternal grandparents are Floyd and Kaye Choate of Pickens; paternal great-grandparents the late Everidge and Edna Choate and the late Culbertson and Ora Noah; maternal grandparents are Jarvis and Linda LeRoy of Pawnee; maternal great-grandparents are the late Henry and Evelyn LeRoy of Ponca City, and the late Philip and Louise Mathews of Pawnee. Sabrina was welcomed home by her sister Addyson along with other sisters and brothers, La Rena, Xander, Ericka, baby Jarvis and Tsa La Gi Brady.

### Justin McKinney



Justin Wayne McKinney was born on Nov. 6, 2011, to Paige Ryan Jones and Derek McKinney. He is the grandson of Lile Harmon and Doris Jones, both of Texas, and Angela and Edwin Jones of Arlington, Texas. His aunt Sandy and uncle Ronnie from Newport, NC., are very proud of him.

## 10 tips to smart shopping for fruits and veggies

### WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

It is possible to fit vegetables and fruits into any budget. Making nutritious choices does not have to hurt your wallet. Getting enough of these foods promotes health and can reduce your risk of certain diseases. There are many low-cost ways to meet your fruit and vegetable needs.

#### 1. Celebrate the season

Use fresh vegetables and fruits that are in season. They are easy to get, have more flavor, and are usually less expensive. Your local farmer's market is a great source of seasonal produce.

#### 2. Why pay full price?

Check the local newspaper, online, and at the store for sales, coupons, and specials that will cut food costs. Often, you can get more for less by visiting larger grocery stores (discount grocers if available).

#### 3. Stick to your list

Plan out your meals ahead of time and make a grocery list. You will save money by buying only what you need. Don't shop when you're hungry. Shopping after eating will make it easier to pass on the tempting snack foods. You'll have more of your food budget for vegetables and fruits.

#### 4. Try canned or frozen

Compare the price and the number of servings from fresh, canned, and frozen forms of the same veggie or fruit. Canned and frozen items may be less expensive than fresh. For canned items, choose fruit canned in 100% fruit juice and vegetables with "low sodium" or "no salt added" on the label.

#### 5. Buy small amounts frequently

Some fresh vegetables and fruits don't last long. Buy small amounts more often to ensure you can eat the foods without throwing any away.

#### 6. Buy in bulk when items are on sale

For fresh vegetables or fruits you use often, a large size bag is the better buy. Canned or frozen fruits or vegetables can be bought in large quantities when they are on sale, since they last much longer.

#### 7. Store brands equal savings

Opt for store brands when possible. You will get the same or similar product for a cheaper price. If your grocery store has a membership card, sign up for even more savings.

#### 8. Keep it simple

Buy vegetables and fruits in their simplest form. Pre-cut, pre-washed, ready-to-eat, and processed foods are convenient, but often cost much more than when purchased in their basic forms.

#### 9. Plant your own

Start a garden—in the yard or a pot on the deck—for fresh, inexpensive, flavorful additions to meals. Herbs, cucumbers, peppers, or tomatoes are good options for beginners. Browse through a local library or online for more information on starting a garden.

#### 10. Plan and cook smart

Prepare and freeze vegetable soups, stews, or other dishes in advance. This saves time and money. Add leftover vegetables to casseroles or blend them to make soup. Overripe fruit is great for smoothies or baking.

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

## Isaiah makes five generations

Isaiah Tanner Moore was born Feb. 13, 2012, in Houston, weighing 6 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 19 inches. His proud parents are Elisha and Alaina Moore. Maternal grandparents are Charles and Diana Tanner of Luther, and his paternal grandparents are Herman and Janet of Liberty, Texas. His maternal great-grandparents are Allen and Mary Green of Luther, and paternal great-grandparents are Edward and Francis Tanner of Monroe La.; and his great-great-grandmother is Edith McMinn of Stigler.



## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays July 2-26  
**July 11** : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)  
**July 18**: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed** July 4 for holiday and July 27-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen**: July 13 & 23, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: July 2-26, except for:  
**Closed** July 4 for holiday and July 27-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen**: July 9 & 16, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays July 2-26, except for:  
**Closed** July 4 for holiday and July 27-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen**: July 6 & 25, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays July 2-26, except for:  
**Closed** July 4 for holiday and July 27-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen**: July 3 & 20, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

**Antlers**: 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443

**Durant**: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773

**McAlester**: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

**Poteau**: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel**: Choctaw Community Building

**Broken Bow**: Choctaw Family Investment Center

**Idabel**: Choctaw Community Center

**Smithville**: Choctaw Community Center

**Stigler**: Choctaw Community Center

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# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Thank you, Carlee

Choctaw Nation Children and Family Services would like to extend a thank you to Carlee Caldwell. Carlee has turned 8 years old recently and had a birthday party at Ash Creek Church in Pittsburg County and donated all toys brought in by her friends to the Choctaw Nation Foster Children for the Foster Christmas party. Again, we all at Children and Family Services would like to say thank you to Carlee for her donation, and if anyone has any questions about donating gifts for the Foster Christmas party, please contact Larry Behrens at 800-522-6170 ext. 2331 or Justin McDaniel at ext. 2539 for more information.



## Seeking family members

First off, happy belated birthday goes to Thurman Hudson, from all his brothers, sisters, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. His big day was May 19.

I would like to find the burial location of Roosevelt Hudson. I believe he was buried somewhere in Idabel. He was the brother of my father, Dixon Hudson of Smithville.

I would also like information on Leroy Hudson, last known location somewhere in New York. He is the son of Roosevelt.

I am also seeking information on Rayburn Randle Hudson. I think his last known location was in Indiana. He also went by the nickname, "Yogi." He, too, was raised around Idabel.

If anyone has information they can share with me, my address is HC 15 Box 6060 Smithville, OK 74957, and my phone number is 580-244-7454.

Corinne Hudson

## Thankful for educational support

We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for supporting our son, Zachary R. Cattell's, education. He recently graduated Cum Laude from the University of South Dakota, College of Arts and Sciences, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and a minor in Spanish.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the generosity of the Choctaw Nation.

Joseph H. and Regina A. Cattell

## Searching for relatives

This is concerning Ike Jones and his family: Ike's daughter, Ora May (Lou) Jones, married James Woodruff in 1948 in Los Angeles, I believe. Karen Anita Woodruff was born to Lou and Jim in 1951. I did not keep in touch with them, and Jim passed away. I do not know where Lou or Karen are. My name is Jim Monck, I am Jim Woodruff's nephew. Karen is my first-cousin. She would be about 59 years old as of now.

Ike Jones is a full-blood Choctaw. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Karen Woodruff or Lou? Perhaps there are relatives or acquaintances who know something about them. I would appreciate hearing from them. If you have any information you can give me, my phone number is 559-706-5144.

Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

Gary Batton  
Assistant Chief

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

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



BISKINIK 2012

## Events

### Agriculture tour and drought management workshop

An Agriculture Tour and Drought Management Workshop will be held on June 21. A meal will also be served. The tour will begin at 3 p.m. and will depart from the OSU Extension Office located at 1901 S. 9th Ave. in Durant. Two veterinarian clinics will be visited on the tour. These include Dr. Mills and Dr. Ferguson's clinics. Wayne Carter's Feeding Operation will also be toured.

Pre-registration is required for the tour. You may call 580-924-5312 to register. The tour will conclude at the Choctaw Nation Community Center at 4202 South Hwy 69-75, located north of the Choctaw Nation Casino and Hotel in Durant. The community center is located east of the Big Lots Warehouse.

The guest speaker for the Drought Management Workshop will be Clay Jones, member of Bryan County Conservation District and retired OSU Extension Agent. The Farm Bill programs and other programs will also be discussed by Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Rural Development.

An RSVP is required for the tour and/or workshop by noon on June 19. You may call the OSU Extension Service at 580-924-5312 or NRCS at 580-924-8280 ext. 5134, or email to one of the following addresses: robert.bourne@okstate.edu, ann.colyer@ok.usda.gov or carol.crouch@ok.usda.gov.

The tour and workshop are sponsored by the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Bryan County OSU Extension Service and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

### Bryan County Singing Convention

Sulphur Springs UMC, located three miles south of Bennington on Jennings/Sulphur Springs Road, will host the Bryan County Singing Convention on June 24. Singing will begin at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All singers and listeners are welcome to come and enjoy good gospel singing and fellowship. The invitation is open to all.

### Caleb, Malina Folsom Impson reunion

A family reunion for the descendants of Caleb and Malina Folsom Impson will be held Sept. 1-2 in Comanche, Okla. Please RSVP to dlhunter1956@yahoo.com.

### Gibson and Pope family reunion

The families of the late Adam and Winnie Pope Gibson will have their annual reunion on June 16 at the Choctaw Community Center, 1636 S. George Nigh Expressway in McAlester. Friends and family members are invited. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Contact Clara Gibson Blevins at 918-423-4766 for more information.

### The late Dock Nail and Lewis Henington reunion

The late Dock Nail and late Lewis Henington reunion will be held at Card Point again this year on July 7 through July 15. Come and camp out or come at least one day during the week.

Everyone is invited to come and visit.

You may call the following numbers for more information Lillie Henington at 918-429-3382, Benjamin Henington at 918-470-5885, or Pat Henington at 918-470-3997.

### Roy Willis retirement reception

A retirement reception for Roy A. Willis of Muskogee is planned by wife Debra and children Kerry Willis, Kristy Willis, Gerald Willis and Racquel (Rocky) Willis on June 23 beginning at 8 p.m.

The reception will be held at Bethel Hill United Methodist Church near Battiest. The highlight of the reception will be the giveaway of achievement plaques to immediate family members of the late Frances Willis, Roy's mother, for success in college and technical institutes.

Also on this same night, Bethel Hill Church will host its 42nd annual gospel singing; several groups are scheduled to perform. Henry Battiest of Broken Bow will emcee.

Roy is retiring after 31 years of federal service that included two years in the U.S. Army. He is full-blood Choctaw and a Vietnam veteran.

For questions, call Debra at 405-250-3088.



## Choctaw bicycle team makes successful journey

We wish to thank everyone that supported the bicycle team and had faith in our efforts in this tremendous accomplishment of four states, six days and 434 miles. We averaged 70-90 miles per day, many involving hills. We had 19 riders and four SAG teams. The SAGs were responsible for monitoring our progress, safety and wellness. This distance did take its toll on our bicycles, tires, equipment, muscles and joints.

We paralleled the Choctaws' trail from Mississippi, on into Arkansas, and into Oklahoma. As children, we've heard the stories of the Trail of Tears; only as adults did we begin to understand the adversities our ancestors faced. The determination, perseverance and resiliency of our team members mimic those qualities of our Choctaw ancestors. We, as a group, have a better understanding and significance of the Trail of Tears.

Pictured are Mary Barrs, Tony Stoitzfus, Greg Barrs, Brianna Johnston, Billy Eagle Road III, Teresa Eagle Road, Melanie Lanning, Eli Tullier, MaryAyn Tullier, Tammy Griffith, Nancy Jefferson, Johnnie Anderson, Tracie Lake, Donna Tawkopty,



Nikki Eagle Road, Jordan Eagle Road, Billy Eagle Road II, Dean Lanning, Roy Griffith, Stuart Winlock, Brian Johnston, Phillip Tawkopty and not pictured is Cheyenne Murray.

If you are interested in looking at photos of the trip, visit the team's Facebook page.

Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team

## Thank you for scholarship assistance

I would like to thank Clione Ramos and the whole office for helping with Morgan Markham's (center) Indian Preference IHS form for the Indian Health Scholarship, which had a deadline of May 7. Her dream is to become a physician and work for the Choctaw Nation. She already has a \$40,000 scholarship to the University of the Ozarks and would like to finish at the University of Oklahoma Medical Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. I told Clione I would add her to my Christmas card list because she and I talked on an almost daily basis. I can't thank her enough. Also helping with the scholarship application is the Indian Health Scholarship coordinator, Keith Bohanan, in the Oklahoma City office. This is such a wonderful scholarship opportunity, and my family is so blessed to be Choctaw. Thank you.

Nancy Holloway, Morgan Markham and family



## Thank you for helping Irish ancestors

I live on the west coast of Canada in British Columbia. I found out about the historical contribution that the Choctaw people made to the Irish during the famine in the 1840s. My ancestors came to Canada from Ireland in the 1820s after being taxed off their land; however, some family members of mine would have been affected by the famine back in Ireland.

I must say that I am shocked today to find out about the generosity of the Choctaw people during the famine; I had never heard about it before. I felt compelled to send a thank-you note to the Choctaw Nation. A huge, sincere thank you for being so kind and considerate to a group of people you would not have had a personal connection with at the time. Thank you.

M. English Cooper

## Admiration for Tribal Chaplain

This Cherokee fellow is blessed by being married to a beautiful Choctaw maiden. We were privileged to meet Chief Pyle both in Phoenix and Bakersfield in 2001; what an honor it was. The tribal pride is second to none. I enjoy reading the Biskinik every month. It reflects a culture that is almost removed from the cruel world we live in. It's almost a safe haven to escape into where there is joy and peace.

The main purpose of this letter is focused on the Tribal Chaplain, Bertram Bobb. We are never short of amazement at the spirituality of this fine man of God. He doesn't sugar-coat things in an appeasement manner, but tells it like it should be, in a straight-forward, live right or be lost, delivery. I believe that's the way God means it to be preached. We believe if you adhere to his instruction, you will truly have what you need to attain your eternal reward. His instruction is stern, as it should be, but is done in Godly love. We greatly admire this man and thank God for him.

Gary and Christine Walker, Morro Bay, Calif.

## Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

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

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



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Happy birthday, Barrett brothers

Happy 11th birthday to twin brothers Triston and Trevor Barrett on June 15. Their parents are Tommy Barrett and Tami Easley, and their grandparents are Gayle and Pat Beams of Longview, Texas.



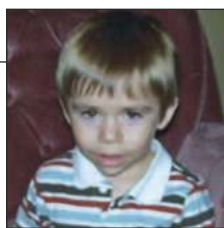
## Happy birthday, MaKayla

MaKayla Hood celebrated her eighth birthday on March 8. She is the daughter of Christie and Thomas Hood, granddaughter of Linda and Lee Knight and Kathy and Charles Hood. She is the big sister of Dakota and Caleb Hood. She celebrated with family and friends.



## Happy birthday, Jaden

On Feb. 18, Jaden Storie, of Ellijay, Ga., celebrated his third birthday. His sister, Hannah, helped him celebrate. His parents are Jeff and Darlene Storie. His guests were a little boy and girl from pre-school. Other guests included his grandma, Betty Work of Farris, and his grandpa, Larry Storie of Mayville, Tenn. His birthday theme was "choo choo trains." Pizza and cake were served, then they played games. Everyone had a great time.



## Family birthdays

"Genny" says happy birthday to Joe'al. Joe'al Cunningham, son of Cody and Stacy Cunningham, celebrated his fifth birthday on June 7. Big sister Caylee and Joe'al are descendants of Forbis LeFlore and his second wife, Rebecca Fisher. Both Forbis and Rebecca walked the Trail of Tears.

Also celebrating on June 4 is Joe'al and Caylee's cousin, Joseph Scott Cunningham, son of Steve and Debbie Cunningham. "Granny C" says happy birthday to her number one grandson.

## Congratulations, Natalie

Congratulations to Natalie Nicole Jones, who has danced herself into the Sundancers of Martin High School. Natalie is the daughter of Edwin and Angela Jones and the niece of Sandy and Ronnie Nixon of Newport, N.C. Her grandparents are Lee Harmon and Doris Jones, both of Texas.



## Happy first birthday

Tucker Ingle will celebrate his first birthday on June 10. Tucker is the son of Larry and Michelle Ingle of LeFlore, the grandson of Melanie Morris of Talihina and the late Larry Ingle Sr. of LeFlore. Happy birthday, from mom, dad and big brother Trystan.



## Happy birthday

Happy birthday to a mom, grandma, great-grandma, great-great-grandma, sister and aunt on June 28. Her family says they have been blessed to have Grandma Brown in their lives for 94 years.



## Amos anniversary

Congratulations to Mike and Vicky Amos on their anniversary on May 28. They were married on May 28, 1994, at Kullichito Methodist Church. They have three children, Dayla, Nikki and Andrew, and one granddaughter, Milena.



## District 4 crowns Choctaw princesses

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma presented the District 4 Princess Pageant on May 12 at the Choctaw Nation Field Office, located in Poteau. Delton Cox, councilman for District 4, crowned the 2012-13 princesses that will be representing District 4 at the Labor Day Festival pageant in August. Little Miss was Amber Battice, Junior Miss Brianna Battiest and Senior Miss Callie Curnutt. Entertainment for the pageant was the Choctaw Youth Dancers, led by Karl McKinney. Guest speaker for the event was Miss Adrianna Curnutt, reigning Choctaw Nation Junior Miss. She shared some of her experiences and stories with the audience.

## Congratulations, Kaela

Kaela Ann Humphrey is the daughter of John and Mandy Humphrey of Arlington, Texas. Her grandparents are Ronnie and Sandy Nixon of Newport, N.C. Her grandparents and parents are so very proud of her. In the second grade, she has won a scholarship of \$1,000 to the Arlington Museum of Art, designing clothing and shoes, which is her hobby.



Ada natives participated in the Relay for Life tournament on April 14. Pictured from front left are Kelly Short (Choctaw), Tyler Robertson (Chickasaw), Mark Francis (Chickasaw/Choctaw/Creek); pictured from back left are Steve Robertson (Chickasaw), Kody Kaniatobe (Choctaw) and Koi Kaniatobe (Navajo).

## Talihina Farmers Market 5K a success

Several people turned out to participate in the annual opening of the Talihina Farmers Market and 5K run. Despite a cool, damp start to the day, runners, walkers and market members alike were filled with both excitement and eager anticipation.

First place winner of the men's division of the 5K was Tom Brennen with a run time of 19:08. Second place went to Chris Montgomery with a finishing time of 20:32. Third place went to Kevin Davis with a run time of 24:46.

In the women's division, the first place winner was Keisha Brown, whose time was 24:44. Second place was Eva Fenton, finishing with a time of 25:57. Karen Sumpter took the third place slot with a finishing time of 26:15.

Finishing the 3.1 miles in an impressive time of 26:37 was 8-year-old Chasey Lloyd, who claimed fourth place in the men's division. First place for men and women who walked the route were Eddie Davis (46:42) and Donna Davis (47:17). Both were given a certificate in appreciation for their participation. All place runners were given certificates and cash awards. They also received this year's lime-green T-shirts donated by the Choctaw Wellness Center and Choctaw WIC programs.

The members of the market wish to express their gratitude to Wade "Pogo" Thomson for his time and equipment in timing the participants of this year's 5K, Gwen Muse for her help in record keeping, the employees of Spiro State Bank for their generous monetary donation and continued support, the Choctaw Wellness Center and Choctaw WIC program for their generosity in donating T-shirts again this year and Kasey Wheeler for volunteering his time and help in making this year's run a success.

Pictured are men and women's first place winners Tom and Keisha receiving their certificates and cash awards.



## Happy birthday, Eugene

Forrest Eugene Youree celebrated his 90th birthday on April 21 with a host of family and friends at his home in Sherman. The event was hosted by his children, Gary and Elaine Youree of Heavener, Lanny and Lisa Youree of Denison, John and Becky Enders of Sherman and Paula Youree of Denison.

In attendance also were his three sisters, Myrtle Faye Carr and husband R.C., Dean Sweeney and husband Leonard and Pat Trostle along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Everyone wore Oklahoma State orange T-shirts to honor Eugene's beloved university. Multiple friends from his church and his former employment also shared in the celebration. Also nieces and nephews from Indiana attended the party. Finger foods, cake and refreshments added to the festivities.

Eugene was born April 22, 1922, in Bryan County to Harry and Myrtle Youree. Myrtle Opal Beal, his mother, was an original enrollee as was her father, Thomas Turner Beal. Eugene grew up near and attended school at Utica. A farm boy with five sisters, he grew up around their original land allotment in Bryan County. It was there he met and married the love of his life, Berniece Ruth Martin. They married Feb. 11, 1942, and soon after he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was assigned to the 2072nd trucking company and was shipped to England in July 1943. He landed in Omaha Beach on June 9, 1944, and drove a truck supplying aircraft fighters and supplying Patton across France, Belgium and Germany. He arrived back in the States December 1945 and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the Silver Campaign Star and Ribbon.

After the war, he resumed his education at Oklahoma State University. He was a vocational agriculture teacher in Cobb, Okla., until he became an administrator. From there he spent three years in Estancia, N.M., followed by time at Plainview School near Ardmore. He then moved to Sherman where he served as administrator for the high school vocational program. After retiring, he served on the Sherman school board and was active in real estate sales.

In December 2011, he lost his wife Berniece. Eugene presently resides in his home where he is still active socially, teaches a Sunday school class and lives an independent life. Now his great joy is time spent with his family. He is very aware of what a very blessed life he has had.



## Caleb turns 2

Caleb Hood celebrated his second birthday on March 26. He is the son of Christie and Thomas Hood, grandson of Linda and Lee Knight and Kathy and Charles Hood. He is the little brother of MaKayla Hood and Dakota Hood. He celebrated with family and friends.



## Bakers' 50th anniversary

On March 10, Curtis and Lilly Baker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Married in McAlester, the couple moved to Del Rio, where Curtis was stationed in the Air Force. After Curtis finished his time in the service, the couple moved back to their hometown of McAlester, where they raised their four children. Friends and family gathered on March 31 at a '50s-themed party given by the couple's four children to honor their parents. Food, live music and a cake made to look like their wedding cake were enjoyed by all.



## Happy birthday, Jennifer

Jennifer Lynne Williams of Idabel celebrated her 19th birthday on May 14. She also graduated high school on May 11. She is the daughter of Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. Her grandparents are the late Arvel and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.



## Happy birthday, Taylor

Miss Okla Chahta 2012-13 Taylor Archuleta will celebrate her 16th birthday on June 13. Taylor is a junior at Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif. All her family wishes her a happy birthday and a wonderful year. They are very proud of her.



## Happy birthday, Becky

Celebrating her 50th birthday is Choctaw citizen Becky Riddle. She is pictured with Presley Byington while attending Choctaw Days at the Oklahoma State Capitol on May 15. Becky had a wonderful birthday while at the capitol building.



## Going Lean program participates in OKC Memorial Marathon

The Choctaw Nation "Going Lean" initiative was established in October 2010 to address the rising cases of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and other diseases linked to poor nutrition and obesity.

Through Going Lean, a running group was formed. Members joined for different reasons, including weight loss, someone making them, to lead a healthy lifestyle for their children and some joined because they had a past history of running. Tammy Cannady, Director of the Diabetic Wellness Center, joined as a way to spend time with her daughter, Ashley Kennedy, who also runs for Going Lean. Although each member joined with a different reason in mind, they all had one goal in mind: to run.

The running group began to participate in area 5K runs, including the Green Frog Run in Wilburton and the Rocket Run in Talihina, just two of many. It was not long before 5K runs were not enough, and the group anxiously began preparing for bigger challenges. On April 20, members of the Choctaw Nation Going Lean program participated in the Oklahoma City Memorial Run, a run that became an accomplishment as well as an inspiration for future races.

The Oklahoma City Memorial Run is held each year to remember those who were tragically affected on April 19, 1995, by the Oklahoma City bombing. The Choctaw Nation Going Lean program brought 40 members to this run; 20 members competed in the half-marathon (13.1 miles), while the other 20 competed individually or with a relay team for the marathon run (26.2 miles).

Herve Lucier, PA-C was one of the members who ran the marathon. Herve has been running since 1986, and the Oklahoma City Marathon Run marked his 30th full marathon.

Although Oklahoma City Memorial Run is finished for another year, the Going Lean team is not. The team members are already attentively preparing for the next challenge.

Anyone who is interested in joining Going Lean, you can contact Tammie Cannady at 918-567-7121.



# Ivy League and Friends provides education options and opportunities to college-bound Native American students

By **CHRISSEY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Across the United States, the importance of a diverse student body with individuals of various ethnicities is upheld in many universities and colleges, whether it is a two-year college or an Ivy League school. In fact, according to Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) Director Jo McDaniel, "Colleges are trying to diversify their student bodies and their campus, and Native Americans are heavily recruited." Because of this, Ivy League & Friends Choctaw Student Recruitment was formed by SAP.

Ivy League & Friends is a recruitment initiative for Choctaw students so they may have the opportunity to learn about prestigious universities and speak with representatives from those schools as well as familiarize themselves with the application process of college, scholarship opportunities, general financial aid and graduate school opportunities.

Ivy League and Friends began in 2008 when SAP invited Harvard to come and speak to the tribal members in Durant, the university bringing representatives of several of its colleges and also its Native American program.

"With the event drawing in over 100 individuals interested in the esteemed university, the SAP recognized the powerful potential of that type of session," said McDaniel. "We saw that it meant a lot to the tribal members to have Harvard come to Durant and they wanted more information about other Ivy League schools, thus the initial Harvard event turned into Ivy League and Friends."

The following year, SAP prepared for a successful Ivy League and Friends much like the year before, this time extending invitations to seven other schools and programs, including Yale, Columbia, Penn, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins and Berkeley, but this time, over 300 participants from 10 states were in attendance.

In 2010, the event grew into a full day affair, complete with breakout sessions tailored for both students and parents with topics ranging from planning and financial advice, college prep advice and presentations from university representatives. Over 500 guests from 14 states attended, responding enthusiastically to both the sessions and the opportunity to meet with delegates from 20 undergraduate and 17 graduate programs located throughout the U.S.

"Since we've had our first event, we've seen more and more students applying to the Ivy League schools and highly selective schools, and we've seen more and more get accepted," stated McDaniel. "We feel like we're helping make those connections."

Growing from the first event in 2008, the most recent Ivy League & Friends welcomed almost 40 schools for Choctaw students to experience and interact with. "It's our signature event; it's our biggest event of the year," said McDaniel. "In 2011, we had over 100 students, more than 150 parents and guests and nearly 40 college representatives attend the event."

When a prospective student attends Ivy League and Friends, many opportunities become available to them and they have the freedom to choose which session to attend. Since there was a large number of schools that held these sessions, five different sessions were held within a 45-minute time period, the students



being able to choose which session most interests them. Within the one-day event, a student could attend up to six sessions.

Attendees of past Ivy League & Friends have exhibited positive remarks about the event. Frank Semple of Denver, Colo., brought his daughter, Erin, to the 2010 Ivy League & Friends, claiming it was "a great way to target half a dozen of the schools we were interested in" and it was "the best way to learn more about a school short of visiting the campus."

"I thought everything was planned out great and there's not really anything to improve. You get to talk to college reps one-on-one and they provide you with some extremely helpful information, and it's Ivy League colleges, which is a plus. I am very glad that I attended," said an anonymous student.

Another student said their parents benefited from the experience as well. "My parents attended the Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid session and the Parent Panel session. They thought the Parent Panel was very helpful in understanding that it was possible to afford to send me to an Ivy League school."

A parent attendee stated, "The presenters seemed very excited to be there and to present their information and were able to answer all questions quickly and in a format that was easy to understand." Another parent said this event "is by far the best because it was the most intimate... other college fairs have 20 students standing around the table and there doesn't seem to be the one-on-one experience."

Not only does the event feature informational recruitment representatives from Ivy League schools, there are sessions to benefit a student who may not be interested in attending such schools and are likely to attend a state or regional university or even a community college. "You don't have to be interested in those [Ivy League] schools, you can still learn a lot about college admissions and financial aid," explained McDaniel.

"We'll support the students no matter where they want to go to college," said McDaniel. "We have scholarships available to students attending all types of colleges, but by attending this event, I think you learn a lot more than just requirements to get in to Harvard; there are other learning opportunities."

An example of these learning opportunities of which all students could benefit were included at last year's event, as seen in the following session titles: Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, Graduate Student Panel, SAT/ACT Success: Getting Your Best Score and Keys to a Successful Graduate Application.

According to McDaniel, not only can the student learn a lot at the event, they can include their attendance on their resumes

and scholarship applications, since it is such a notable event. "It is one of the largest Native American recruitment events in the nation," she said.

With SAP being a nationwide program, McDaniel and her staff do not have the pleasure of working with some SAP participants in person. "Because so many of them don't live in Oklahoma or the area, this may be the one time a year they get to visit the headquarters of the Choctaw Nation," said McDaniel, saying Ivy League & Friends serves as an opportunity for those students not only to meet with the schools at the event but also interact with the SAP staff.

McDaniel continued, stating that many college representatives and even educational organizations involved with the event will testify about how special it is that the Choctaw Nation is willing to invest in an event such as this for its students.

"Impressive – that is the one word that comes to mind about the Ivy League college fair," stated one of the college representatives.

Other college reps called the event, "very well organized" and "high class all the way around," saying it "is one of most well-run and engaging events for Native American students."

According to McDaniel, admissions officers from a variety of universities advise students to attend college recruitment fairs because they provide an inside track on whether a school is a good fit for the student's goals and gifts, a clear picture of what the different schools look for in an application as well as offer a sense of what funding opportunities might be available and how to take advantage of them.

"Recruitment fairs hosted by Native American organizations also provide a second advantage," continued McDaniel. "College representatives at the SAP's events come prepared to speak to Choctaw students. This means that they are better able to tailor their advice and comments to members of the Choctaw community, something students will often miss in their guidance counselor's office and on a standard campus tour."

The SAP especially encourages the families of high school students, even freshmen, to attend Ivy League & Friends, said McDaniel. "The advice provided on admissions, financial planning and scholarships is valid for students at any point in their secondary education," she explained. SAP has found that the earlier students learn their options and start setting goals, the better prepared they will be when the time comes to send out those applications, make a few tough decisions and do some planning.

"Every journey may begin with one step, but when your planned destination is a college degree, good advice and careful preparation can get you a lot further down the road, and the SAP's mission is to walk with its students every step of the way," stated McDaniel.

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Ivy League & Friends, which is scheduled for Nov. 10 in Durant at the Choctaw Resort. Pre-registration is recommended and can be completed through SAP's website.

If you are interested in this event, watch in the Biskinik for news, updates and important information, and for additional information about Ivy League & Friends or other opportunities through SAP, visit [choctawnation-sap.com](http://choctawnation-sap.com), contact 800-522-6170 ext. 2523 or email [ScholarshipAdvisement@choctawnation.com](mailto:ScholarshipAdvisement@choctawnation.com).

## Program demonstrates to students dangers of impaired driving

By **LARISSA COPELAND**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Typically, driving over road cones and running the vehicle off the designated path would be cause for failing a driving course, but that wasn't the case recently for a group of Durant High School students. On May 17, they took part in a simulated impaired driving course set up in their school parking lot that was meant to warn the students about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Hosted by Choctaw Nation's Injury Prevention Department, the program was taught with the use of a modified, remote controlled go-cart called SIDNE (Simulated Impaired DrivINg Experience) and "drunk goggles," giving students a firsthand understanding about drunk driving.

Injury Prevention Coordinator Carey Lester led the instruction and, as the students took turns driving the course, he followed with the go-cart's remote. With a flick of a switch from "normal" to "impaired," Lester was able to make the go-cart change from pinpoint accurate handling to drunken weaving due to a nearly one second delayed reaction time from their steering wheel and pedal commands.

The students found themselves knocking over cones and greatly over-correcting the go-cart to compensate.

Lester explained that it is important to target this particular age group before they get behind the wheel of an actual vehicle.

"I feel working with kids before they get their license or soon after, gives them an experience of driving under the influence in a safe environment, and will show them how easily a vehicle can get out of their control," explains Lester.

The group also performed simple tasks such as walking a straight line or bouncing a ball while wearing the "drunk goggles" to demonstrate the changes in their visual perception and motor skills while impaired. The students experienced blurred and warped visual acuity while wearing the goggles, which are meant to duplicate the effects of being drunk, leading to stumbling and being unsteady on their feet.

"Hopefully these students will take the experience along with them when they are out and will remember before they get behind the wheel, or in a vehicle with someone that has been drinking."

The course received a positive reception from the students. Several of those taking part in the program said it helped them to understand the dangers of im-



DHS freshman **Jair Gonzalez**, driving, and **Whitney Scott**, 11th grade, try out the impaired driving simulation go-cart as **Carey Lester** from Injury Prevention follows.

Photos by **LARISSA COPELAND** | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



DHS freshmen **Madi Brure** and **Liddy Lahman** try out the "drunk goggles," which produce warped vision to duplicate the effects of being drunk.

paired driving by experiencing its effects firsthand.

"They seemed to understand the dangers of alcohol," said Lester. "A lot [of the students] were saying they would never drive or get into a car with someone that has been drinking."

According to Lester, the goal of the Injury Prevention department is to prevent injuries before they can occur. "We work with schools and law enforcement, and are trying our best to educate about the dangers of drinking and driving and distracted (texting or talking) driving," he says. "Accidents are preventable with the proper education, and that is what we are trying to accomplish."



Submitted photo

## District 2 crowns 2012 Choctaw princesses

The winners of the District 2 Choctaw Nation princess pageant are **Little Miss: Kalli Battiest**; **Jr. Miss: Cheyenne Shomo**; and **Sr. Miss: Victoria "Girly" Battiest**.

## COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



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# EDUCATION



## Sixth annual Native American Graduation ceremony and reception held at Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Southeastern Oklahoma State University held its 6th annual Native American Graduation Ceremony and Reception on May 9 in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

Thirty-four Native American students representing 10 tribes were present, joining more than 80 guests, including family members, friends and tribal representatives. During the 2011-12 academic year, 256 Native American

students graduated from Southeastern.

Guest speakers for the event were Southeastern president Larry Minks; Joy Culbreath, Executive Director for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; and Lisa John, Administrator for the Division of Education for the Chickasaw Nation.

"We congratulate each of our Native American students," said Chris Wesberry, director of Southeastern's

Native American Center for Student Success. "Because of their academic abilities and their desire to earn a college degree, they keep Southeastern in the national rankings of producing Native American graduates. We are proud of them for accomplishing their goals of being graduates and wish them the best."

Along with a high percentage of Native American students enrolled (30 per-

cent), Southeastern offers a minor in Choctaw Language, a minor in Native American Studies, a Chickasaw Language and Culture course and a Native American Student Association.

Wesberry's staff members include Chantelle Standefer, Jennifer Kemp, Hannah Blackwell, Blaine Parnell and Amy Gantt. You can contact them at 580-745-2376, 580-745-2812 or SE.edu/native-american-center.

### Danaka graduates

Congratulations to Danaka Mowdy, who graduated from Vanoss High School. In the fall she plans on attending East Central University in Ada and plans on majoring in nursing. She carried a 3.87 GPA all four years of high school.



### Browns open business thanks to CAB

Congratulations to new business owners Casey and Toni Brown. The Browns, both tribal members who participated in Choctaw Career Development, were each able to open savings accounts with the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program. Casey and Toni saved \$2,000 each and received matching funds of \$4,000 each from the CAB program, giving them a total of \$12,000 to start their own business, CT Brown Investments, LLC.



"I am thankful we were given the opportunity to participate in the CAB program. It was very beneficial to us, and it helped teach us the principles of good money management. I know that using what we learned from the CAB program that my wife and I can provide a good future for our family. We are using these principles to maximize our savings. Our finances are in much better shape today, and the matching funds have helped us get closer to our goals," said Casey.

While the Browns were saving, they received personal financial education, learned about good money management and developed good saving habits. They also completed training that helped prepare them to become business owners.

It was not always easy to meet their monthly savings goal. "The most important lesson we learned is that no matter your financial situation, you can still save money. During our time we saved in the CAB program, we had to prioritize our spending. There were months that we didn't think we would be able to save, but we just had to decide on what was most important to us. I am thankful that we learned the principles of saving money during our participation in CAB," said Casey.

For more information about how CAB can help you with your financial goals and dreams, go to choctawcab.com.



### Masonry students place in state contest

Kiamichi Technology Center masonry students recently competed in the State SkillsUSA masonry competition. Christian Rodriguez, pictured left, won first in the post-secondary division. He won several prizes and tools for his accomplishment. He will be competing in the National SkillsUSA masonry contest in Kansas City this summer.

Brandon Arnt, pictured right, won third place in the high school division. He was awarded several prizes as well. They won trowels, levels, tool chests, tool bags and various other masonry tools.

Brandon and Christian are pictured with their instructor, Jeff Dunn.

### James graduates

His family would like to wish James Tyrone Wallace congratulations on his graduation from Idabel High School on May 11. James is the son of Priscilla and the grandson of Truman and Bertha Jefferson and the brother to a very wonderful sister, Whitney Jefferson, all of Idabel.



### Randa graduates

Randa Roberts graduated from the University of Oklahoma Health Science with a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene on May 11. She would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement department as well as Career Development's Penny James for the support provided for her education. She has maintained dean's honor roll status during the two years of the dental hygiene program. Randa now resides in Edmond.

Randa graduated as salutatorian of Haileyville High School in 2006. She is the daughter of Lee Ann Griffin and granddaughter of Jane Sherrill of Hartshorne.



### Brothers graduate

Congratulations to brothers Brandon and Tyler Fugleberg for their graduation on June 1 from Allen D. Nease High School in Florida.

Brandon, 19, is a high-functioning Autistic who also developed Type I Insulin Dependent Diabetes when he was 14. He was held back one year, so he is able to graduate with his brother, Tyler, who is 18. Brandon will join a year of volunteer service on a Native American Reservation in New Mexico through AmeriCorps then pursue a degree in the medical field for Pancreatic research.

Tyler will graduate with honors and has been appointed to the Merchant Marine Academy at Kingspoint, N.Y., and will play football for the academy along with months of sea duty while earning his engineering degree.



Pictured are Battiest YAB members Paden Wood, Taylor Noah, Mariah Noah and Michael Noah with Larry Cheek, McCurtain County Memorial Veterans Museum Vice President. The students are presenting Larry with a check coming from a change drive they had at Battiest Schools to raise money to help add a Choctaw Code Talker section to the museum.

### Mykah graduates eighth grade

The proud family of Mykah Elaine Crose would like to announce her graduation of the eighth grade class of Red Oak. Mykah is the 2012 class salutatorian. She is the daughter of Michael Crose and the late Jennifer (Harris) Crose. Her grandparents are Brenda and Larry Harris and Billy and Judy Crose. Congratulations and keep up the good work!




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

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

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

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



### Hunter takes first place

Hunter Turnage recently won first place in chemistry at the Oklahoma Tournament of Champions Curriculum Contest in Oklahoma City. In order to qualify for the tournament, Hunter had to place first or second at one of the collegiate curriculum contests. He takes AP Chemistry through the pre-engineering program at Kiamichi Technology Center, Idabel campus. His chemistry instructor is Ricky Alford, who has taught several state winners in math and science. Both Hunter (left) and Mr. Alford are proud members of the Choctaw Nation.



## Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

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

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

## To the Youth of the Nation

By: Jenny Williams  
 McCurtain County chapter, Idabel

"What YAB means to me"

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a group of teenagers all over the Choctaw Nation working to make a difference. They help in their community and they promote healthy lifestyles.

I became a part of YAB my freshman year in high school, and I am currently a senior. YAB has taught me a lot of things and has given me many different opportunities. I have learned how to run a meeting correctly and how to inspire teenagers to do things in their community. I have worked with the different non-profit organizations, and they love having teens that are willing to dedicate their time to help put on an event.

YAB also raises money for and helps out worthwhile causes that they find. My YAB group has had the privilege to help the Veterans Museum in Idabel by hosting coin change drives at all the county schools.

I say all of this to tell you what YAB means to me. YAB is one of the best things the Choctaw Nation has put together and supports. It keeps the teens off the streets and out of trouble. If I had never been a part of YAB, there is no telling what I would be doing in my community. With YAB, I am able to help my community become a better place to live.



## Andrew to earn master's

Andrew J. Baer will graduate from the University of Oklahoma this summer with a master's degree in Library and Information Studies. He earned his B.A. in Letters with Distinction from the University of Oklahoma in 2010.

Andrew will intern this summer at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in Iowa. He is a member of Helvpe ceremonial grounds.

His parents are Jeremiah and Sherri Lynn Fields Baer. His maternal grandmother is the late Nina Elix Fields Canoe.



## Brittany graduates

Congratulations to Brittany Anne Feest of Racine, Wis., who graduated from the University of Wisconsin Parkside on May 12. Brittany graduated with a Bachelor of Arts-Criminal Justice degree with a minor in Sociology.

Brittany is the daughter of Albert and Claudine "Denie" Feest, the granddaughter of Wilma LaTrelle (Layman) Boundreau and Raymond Loveless, the great-granddaughter of Charlie and Thelma (Beames) Layman; the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Josiah and Minnie (Sauls) Beames and the great-great-granddaughter of James and Amy (Folsom) Beames.

Brittany is proud of her Choctaw heritage and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. Her family is very proud of her, from mom, dad, Tyson, Michelle, Sharda, Stacey, Jerry, Kayla, Kylee, Alexis, Kameron, Eli and Dean.



## Lee graduates

Congratulations to Lee Stevens on her graduation from the South Carolina Governor's School for Arts and Humanities. In addition to earning a 4.0 GPA, Lee served as student body president, student ambassador, representative to the Honor Council, founding president of the Gay Straight Alliance and participated in Connecting Arts through Service as well as several other school and community activities. She was honored with the Lipscomb Foundation Award and received state and regional honors for her artwork, some of which will join permanent collections. She will be attending Amherst College, where she plans to major in biology and art. Lee is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Jewell Dillard Stevens.



## Ellyott earns master's

Ellyott Lucas graduated from the University of Oklahoma on May 12 with her master's degree. She received the Bill and Melinda Gates 10-year scholarship upon graduating from Holdenville High School with top honors as one of the seven valedictorians. She graduated from Oklahoma City University in 2010 with her Bachelor of Science degree. She would like to thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for the financial help in higher education she received.



Pictured are Durant Choctaw Seniors, Marilynn Mitchell, Phyllis Knight and June Sidles, who enjoyed their trip to the State Capitol building in Oklahoma City for the Choctaw Heritage Day event.

## Ronnie graduates

Congratulations to Ronnie Smith Jr., who graduated on May 15 from Krebs Schools. Ronnie would like to thank his parents and sister, Danielle R. Smith, as well as his aunt Annett Johnson, grandparents Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore, Effice Smith of Sherman and the JOM at Krebs School, his friends and relatives.



## Tommy graduates

Wright City graduate Tommy Chesney graduated on May 20 with a record-breaking 14 years perfect attendance. He is the son of Tommy and Mary (Suzie) Chesney of Wright City, the paternal grandson of the late Fred and Audrey Chesney of Millerton and the maternal grandson of the late Tom and Minerva Byrum of Wright City. In the fall, Tommy will continue his education at OSU IT in Okmulgee.

## Janica graduates

Janica Williams graduated from Murray State College Nursing Program with an associate's degree in registered nursing on May 11.

Janica would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh, Freda Scott of the Higher Education Department and Jami Hamill in Career Development for all the assistance and support they have given her during her time in school.

Janica is the daughter of Donna Williams of Bokchito and the late Danny Williams. Her plans after passing the NCLEX test is to work in a hospital emergency room and her goal is to be at Baylor Hospital in Dallas working in the trauma unit.



## Zoe to attend Stanford

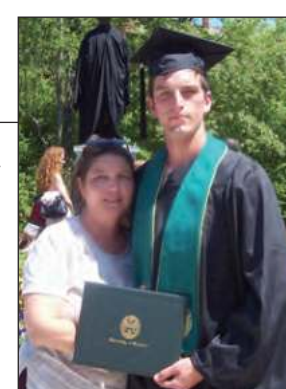
Zoe Grace White of Carlsbad, Calif., recently received admittance to Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., for Fall 2012. Currently, 17-year-old Zoe is a senior at Carlsbad High School. For the past two years, she has been a member of the ASB, varsity girls basketball team and varsity track team while a member of the tribal STAR program. Her community service work included representing the city of Carlsbad at community events such as Miss Teen Carlsbad.

Zoe is the great-niece of the late Roy Folsom and granddaughter of Choctaw artist George "Shukata" Willis. George was the Indian Arts and Crafts Association Artist of the Year in 2000 and National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival first place winner in jewelry and carving in 2010.



## Patrick, Loren graduate

Patrick Intolubbe-Chmil and Loren G. Intolubbe-Chmil of Charlottesville, Va., are the great-grandchildren of the late Earl and Velma Intolubbe of Durant. Patrick graduated in May 2012 from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in Environmental Studies, and Loren earned her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in May 2011.



## Danielle graduates

Congratulations to Danielle R. Smith, who graduated on May 18 from McAlester High School. Danielle will attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the fall. She would like to thank her parents, her little brother, Ronnie Smith Jr., her aunt Annett Johnson, grandparents Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore and Effice Smith of Sherman, the JOM of McAlester High School, friends and relatives.



## Ariana graduates

Ariana Nicole Hudson, Magnolia West High School class of 2012, will be attending Southern Methodist University, Meadows School of the Arts, in the fall. Ariana is the recipient of the prestigious Provost Scholars Scholarship, received a performance scholarship and will enter as a Hilltop Scholar.



## Jones Academy students learn the value of lessons taught at school

Jones Academy fifth grade ran a compression test on a twin cylinder Onan motor because the motor had lost some power and had some blow-by. Students realized one cylinder had more compression than the other. They then used tools, including wrenches, sockets, ratchets, screwdrivers, a compression tester, a mic gage and some elbow grease, to remove the motor from a garden tractor and evaluate what needed repair.

After removing the oil

pan, Truvon Willis responded, "Oh, so that is how the pistons are able to move in the cylinders!" He was able to see how the pistons were attached to the connecting rod and crankshaft. Its shape allows the movement of the pistons back and forth in the cylinder.

After pulling the pistons out of the engine, students saw that the compression ring was stuck to the piston, which was allowing the compressed air/gas mixture to pass between the cylinder and the piston, which in turn

was creating a lower pressure in that cylinder. Lena Goodbear showed off a few wrenches and understood how measurements learned in fifth grade apply to the real world of mechanics.

A kit was ordered to repair the motor and hopefully it can get fully repaired and the garden tractor can be used to till some soil for a garden.

Jones Academy fifth grade students say: "Have a great summer, and use what you learn in a positive and productive way."

## Chayla excels academically

Chayla Rowley, daughter of Robert Glenn and Darla Rowley of Powhatan, Va., was honored with a Pendleton blanket robing at a Native graduation ceremony held May 9 at the University of Colorado Boulder campus. Drums were performed by the Denver Singers and a luncheon, catered by Tocabe, an American Indian eatery in Denver, followed the ceremony.

Chayla graduates in December 2012 with an M.A., Civil and Environmental Engineering for Developing Communities degree. As an enrolled tribal member, she continues to receive support from academic scholarships provided by the Choctaw Nation.

Chayla's paternal great-grandmother is the late Ruth Anderson Hokit of Talihina, and her grandmother is Beda (Hokit) Rowley of Okemah. Chayla and family offer much gratitude and thanksgiving to the Choctaw Nation for supporting and encouraging her in her academic endeavors.

## Students travel to Washington, D.C. for the preservation of sacred places

On May 13, a group of Native American students, including two members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Wayne Yandell and Leonard Lowery), a Navajo elder and conscientious advocates from the University of Kansas and Brown University are journeying primarily on-foot with their "mascot," Willy the dog, from Lawrence, Kan., to Washington, D.C., in an effort to spread awareness of contemporary Native American and internationally relevant socio/ecological issues. Issues include destruction of vital, thriving ecosystems, specifically the proposed highway construction over the Wakarusa Wetlands, a 700,000-year-old home to hundreds of species of unique migratory birds, reptiles, mammals and plant life and a place where traditional Native American ceremonies are performed. In addition, the wetlands are the purported burial site of upwards of 1,200 "missing" children who were taken to the boarding school that was eventually converted into Haskell Indian Nations University, the only inter-tribal college of its kind for Native American students of federally recognized tribes across the country, which is the "home away from home" for several



Submitted photo

of the walkers.

The Trail of Broken Promises, as this odyssey is being called, is endorsed by former president Bill Clinton's Global Initiative (CGIU/CGIA), the general assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and supported by proponents of nearly 50 communities as well as a number of eco-conscious organizations from Kansas to the capitol.

Traveling an inverted route of the Potawatomi Trail of Death, a little known but greatly tragic path of forced emigration convergent to what is now Highway 24 from Indiana to Kansas, the members of the journey seek to show appreciation for communities protecting and maintaining markers of remembrance along the way, giving honor to the nearly

850 Potawatomi tribal members' sacrifices, consternation and victory over extinction that offer inspiration for current and future generations of Americans from all walks of life.

The group carries a bill approved by the National Congress of American Indians that would amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C. on July 9, they will propose the Protection of Native American Sacred Places Act, a piece of legislation drafted by activist and writer Susan Harjo, "to provide a right of action for protection of Native American Sacred Places," such as the Wakarusa Wetlands and other landscapes that are priceless to indigenous people and citizens "from sea to shining sea."



# Outreach at the Beach 2012



Frisbee by the lake serves as a fun activity among the beach going crowd.



DeeAnn Ply, Brittany Jackson, Keosha Ludlow, Linda Goodwin, Reggie Baker and Angela Dancer make sure everyone gets an Outreach at the Beach T-shirt.



Whether in the water or on the playground, everyone was having a good time in the sun.



Family members Kendra Work, Jordyne Work, Austin Harley, Acacia Peters, Jayme Harley and Natia Vester enjoy a day at the beach.



The water slide was a big hit with all the youth attending the event.



Many of the Tribal Council members came to the event to show their support.



Brooke Rangle and Lacey Carpino make sure everyone stays safe in the water.



Bruce Frazier, Rick Brazzell and Casey Ervin keep the food coming for everyone in attendance.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton helps Joey Tom flip some burgers.



Having a great time playing on the slide!

Photos by BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

## Senior Day 2012 showcases fun times for Choctaw elders



The Broken Bow/Bethel group won First Place in the Gospel Singing on Senior Day.



Winners in the women's division of the hat contest are from left, 2nd place, Anne Parent, Spiro; 1st place, Shirley McClain, Durant; and Sue Roberts, McAlester.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilman Bob Pate and District 11's 2012-13 Little Miss Alexis Futischa.



Maudie Stubblefield of District 11 models her hat.



Dorothy Ward Henson of District 1 is all smiles.



Hat contest winners in the men's division are Hugo Taylor of Atoka, 3rd place; Walker Davis of Idabel, 1st place; and Dean Turner of Atoka, 2nd place.



Name Tag contest winners:  
1st Place: District 9 (pictured)  
2nd Place: District 4  
3rd Place: District 10

Photos by LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Winning Second Place in the Gospel Singing was Wright City.



Smithville singers won Third Place in the singing contest.





Councilmen Joe Coley and Bob Pate join a table with Margaret Rizer, Paula Motley and Betty Thomas.



Leon and Shirley Cloud enjoy the company of LaNell Rullard, right.

Photos by BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

## Wilburton hosts wild onion dinner



Jim Blair is on banjo and Virgil Bonham on guitar, providing the evening's entertainment.



Wanda Rusan and Bob Pate sell share a laugh.



Esterline Atkins, Geraldine Isabell, Ladonna Luna, Elivia Luna and Norma Sam are greeted by Joe Coley.



Paulette McCord presents Assistant Chief Batton with a card on behalf of the Wilburton seniors.



Left, Bill and Betty Hall are happy to see Councilman Joe Coley before the wild onion dinner.



Below, Ralph and Mary Adcock visit with friends before the wild onion dinner on May 24.



Diane Coley, Matthew Sam, Heather Coley, Rose Ellison Margie Johnson and Mary Coley make the dinner possible with their hard work in the kitchen.

## Choctaw Nation officers take part in 'Click It or Ticket' seat belt campaign

By LARISSA COPELAND

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Public Safety is once again joining up with its Southeastern Oklahoma Traffic Safety Coalition (SOTSC) partners for this year's "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement campaign.

The operation kicked off with a press event on May 14 at the Atoka High School, and was followed by a police checkpoint to ensure drivers and vehicle occupants were in compliance of the state's seat belt laws. The checkpoint was operated by Choctaw Tribal officers and law enforcement agencies from Idabel, Hugo, Calera, and Atoka Police Departments, as well as the Atoka County Sheriffs Department and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

In total, 844 vehicles passed through during the two-hour



Choctaw Nation Public Safety Officers Lt. Brant Henry of Atoka, in foreground, and Sgt. Mike Johnson of Durant work a police check point in Atoka on May 14.

Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

checkpoint, resulting in 25 citations and 47 warnings issued to the motorists. Additionally, officers also performed 11 child safety seat inspections and served six warrants.

The main push for "Click It or Ticket" ran from May 21-June 3. Officers were out day and night patrolling Oklahoma roadways and running checkpoints to crack down on seat belt violators.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts are the most effective vehicle safety feature ever invented, yet so many of

those hitting the road still fail to buckle up regularly. The goal for this year's "Click It or Ticket" blitz is to increase the seat belt use percentage of Oklahoma motorists and occupants to at least 90 percent.



PAUL HACKER

## HACKER

Continued from Page 1

him, the Smithsonian's NMAI. He has been honored with more than 170 awards for excellence over his extensive 33-year career.

Hacker attends art shows and galas in locations all across the country. He makes his living as a full-time artist by selling his pieces at these exhibitions and with commission work, but a large portion of his earnings come from the prize money he receives from the numerous awards he has been honored with at the shows.

When he was just starting out as an artist Hacker entered one of his flutes into a show in Anadarko, Okla., his first contest ever, with encouraging results. "I got first place and I was very excited," he says. More exciting to him though, he says, was the person who presented him with his award - Allan Houser, one of the most renowned Native American painters, bronzers, and sculptors of the past century.

"Everyone was telling me what a big deal it was to have him present me my first award," says Hacker. "I was new to it though and didn't realize the significance until later. I'm proud that I can say Allan Houser gave me my first award!"

Another art show in Colorado stands out to him in particular. "Representatives from the Smithsonian were the judges and I won two 1st place awards in the show," Hacker says proudly. "The Smithsonian also purchased three of my flutes that day for their collection."

But exactly where those three flutes ended up within the Smithsonian's expansive collection, he's not certain, but he hopes to find the answer soon. Hacker's trip this month to the nation's capitol, and to the NMAI specifically, will be his first.

"I've done so much traveling with my art and performed concerts all over the United States," he says "I've been very blessed, but in all my travels I've never made it to Washington, D.C."

As a visitor, the experience at the NMAI will be awe-inspiring, Hacker says. As a presenter for this occasion though, he gets choked up trying to put into words the emotions he feels on being asked to represent his tribe. "It's an awesome feeling that I could reach that plateau," in the Native art field, he says choking up. "It's really, really an honor."

During Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian, Hacker will display his artwork and give demonstrations of his techniques, such as his most recent focus, ledger art. His ledger art pieces are drawn or painted on accounting ledger book pages that were commonly used by Plains tribes in the past.

His work also includes 4-, 5-, and 6-hole flutes he hand-makes from cedar or redwood. He takes pride in the fact that his 6-hole Plains-style flutes are almost identical in sound to those he's played that date back to the 1880s.

Visitors to the NMAI will also get to experience the serene, tranquil music he creates while performing on his handmade flutes. As not only a flute maker, but also a player, Hacker has recorded seven full-length flute albums and captivated audiences with countless shows performed around the world.

Additionally, Hacker creates pottery, bowls and jars, each hand-made in styles reflecting numerous tribal influences. Another specialty is his intricately detailed knives. His knives consist of carved deer antler, buffalo or elk horn, with some inlaid with a variety of precious stones.

Hacker credits numerous people for the talents he's able to share with Native American art enthusiasts. He specifically mentions a Cheyenne Arapaho man, Charles Pratt, for teaching him the flute-making trade, and Comanche flutist Doc Tate Nevaquaya, whose music inspired him to learn to play.

As an adamant believer in keeping Native American culture and traditional artistic methods alive, he is always eager to share the knowledge he has gained throughout the career he has dedicated to these crafts. "I want it to be a learning experience," he says. "I hope the people like my work. I'm open to doing whatever I can to contribute," to the visitors' experience at Choctaw Days.



## Choctaw youth show in Latimer County Livestock Show

Choctaw participants in the Latimer County Livestock Show, pictured above, are, back row from left, District 6 Councilman Joe Coley, Stormy Dull, Mikey Gauzdausky, Cody Austin, Mollie McGee, William Hollan, Heather Edington, Kareesa Kennedy, Emily Shaw, Catelyn Grey, Kristyn Adams; middle row from left, Jacy Muncy, Kristen Hollan, Blake Dull, Cody Bull, William Edington, Kyleigh Hilburn, Justin Duggan, Chase Martin, Kelsey Brown, Shane Fry, Dustin Duggan, Flint Shaw; front row from left, Jera Bustin, Emma Lawson, Asher Kauk, Clayton Lawson, Grant Shaw, Titus Montgomery, Grace Montgomery, Courtney Adams, Ward Vinson, Lexi Zurovetz, and Lauren Rader.



William Edington Grand Champion Steer - Red Oak 4-H.



Emily Shaw Reserve Grand Champion Lamb - Buffalo Valley FFA.



Kareesa Kennedy Grand Champion Swine - Buffalo Valley FFA.



Jacy Muncy Grand Champion Heifer - Panola 4-H.



# Traditional Choctaw agriculture (Part II)

May's edition of Iti Fabvssa gave a broad history of Choctaw agriculture by describing how and when, through the centuries, ancestral Choctaw farmers began growing different types of domesticated plants. This month's edition will add some depth to that broad overview by providing a snapshot of Choctaw agriculture at one specific point in time: 300 years ago.

From information presented last month, it is clear that one of the factors that has always helped Choctaw agriculture to develop is exchange with groups of people living outside of the Choctaw homeland. Outside influences on Choctaw farmers were strong in the 1700s. At this time, Choctaw society supported itself with a form of native, corn-centered agriculture that had been practiced since AD 1000. However, by this time, Choctaw farmers were also experimenting with and selectively adopting a variety of new domesticated plants brought into the Choctaw homeland from Europe, Africa, and Central and South America, by European colonists. Choctaw farmers successfully adapted ancient farming techniques to some of the new crops with great success, while other issues, like keeping newly acquired livestock out of the fields, brought new challenges.

In the early 1700s, Choctaw villages were concentrated in east/central Mississippi. The availability of fertile land for farming was an important consideration in deciding where to build a village. Most villages were located on elevated land, adjacent to a stream with stretches fertile bottomland that could easily be farmed. Other than the fortified villages positioned on the eastern border with the Muscogee tribe, most Choctaw settlements were spread out, with houses located 200 yards from each other or more. Three hundred years ago, Choctaw communities maintained three types of agricultural fields: small family garden plots planted between the houses in a village, large community fields located down in the bottom land adjacent to the village, and patches of pumpkins and melons, located at some distance from the village.

Preparation of agricultural fields began far in advance of planting. Large trees were removed through a slow, patient technique that minimized back-breaking work. Men first girdled and killed the large trees by chopping through the bark all the way around the tree's base using stone bladed axes. These girdled trees would be left either to rot and fall to earth, or stand and dry out. Workers would return to the spot, a year or more later, gather up fallen wood and brush, and cut down new saplings. They would pile this material at the bases of



## Iti Fabussa

the standing dead trees and set it on fire. The fire would burn through the dry wood and fell the trees. Sometimes, parts of the fallen dry trees would be hauled off and used to keep the sacred fire burning in the village. Most of the rest would be burned up on the spot. If new saplings popped up while the field was in use, workers would cut them down, pile them up on living roots, and burn them. They would repeat the process as long as the roots kept sending up saplings. Ultimately, the traditional Choctaw method of field clearing put a great deal of rotten wood, ash, and charcoal directly into the soil, where it acted as fertilizer.

Choctaw-made gardening tools included the afore-mentioned stone-bladed axes, hoes with blades made of a mussel shell or deer shoulder bone, and digging sticks. Digging sticks resembled wooden staffs with a sharpened fire-hardened point at one end, which was used to poke holes in the ground for planting seeds, and to pry under weeds in order to uproot them. Metal axe and hoe blades were some of the first trade items brought into the Choctaw homeland by Europeans. By the mid-1700s the use of these metal tools in Choctaw agricultural fields was commonplace.

The family garden plot, was planted in March, when the ground became sufficiently warm. Opening the earth and planting seeds were considered to be very spiritual acts, which combined with adequate rain and sunlight, would do nothing less than provide the food that would sustain the community through the next year.

Special dances (Hashi Atahhli Holitobli) were performed in preparation for planting (Kennith York personal communication). Family members worked together to get the gardens prepared and the seeds in the ground. In these gardens, they planted large and small beans, field peas (obtained from Africans), the small, quick-ripening variety of corn, and probably also leeks, garlic, and cabbage (all obtained from Europeans). Garden plots were given some protection from horses and hogs (both obtained from Europeans) by fences made of stakes driven into the ground, attached to cross pieces of split hickory or oak saplings. Horses that persisted in entering the family garden plots were scolded by the women, sometimes violently.

The pumpkin patch was used for growing

pumpkins, melons (obtained from Africans), and perhaps some other vegetables. Located out some distance from the village, these patches were a prime target for hungry birds and mammals. To help combat them, platforms 6 feet in height were built. During the growing season, women sat on these platforms during the day, working on handicrafts and scaring away birds or animals that tried to enter the patch.

The large communal field was not planted until May, when the woods had plenty of wild edibles to attract the birds and other animals away from the crops. A respected elder man would announce ahead of time the day that work in the communal field would commence. Everyone in the community was expected to work together to get the field planted for the mutual benefit of all. An able-bodied person who refused to help was asked to leave the village. Work, which began after sunrise, was made more enjoyable by the presence of an entertainer who came out into the field, singing songs, telling stories, and making jokes as the community worked.

The backbone of the community fields was corn, planted in hills that formed rows, spaced one yard apart. Squash, watermelons, and sunflowers were planted in the spaces between the cornrows. Beans and peas (obtained from Africans), were also planted in these fields, sometimes on climbing scaffolds made of river cane. Unlike the family garden patches, the large community fields were unfenced. Had someone attempted to do this, their actions would have been viewed as childish, since this field was for the benefit of the whole community.

Tending the planted fields was the responsibility of the women. While this task might seem burdensome, according to a first hand observer; "In sober fact, on account of its social features, there being unlimited opportunities for gossip, the Indian women, banded together in the cornfield, really looked upon their labor there as a kind of frolic" (Halbert n.d.). In certain instances, the services of specialists were also employed as the crops grew. Rain-makers were called upon to break crop-damaging droughts. Twins were believed to have special abilities to rid fields from cut-worm infestations (Cushman 1899: 272-276).

When the fast-maturing variety of corn rip-



Sketch by Ruby Bolding

Choctaw women working a communal field with traditional tools.

ened, the community held the Green Corn Ceremony (Luak Mosholi). In September, when the corn matured "Tachi Nona" dances were held (York personal communication). Harvesting would continue up until frost, combined with feasts intended to use up old food stored over from the preceding year. Families harvested their own gardens and pumpkin patches. The community worked together to harvest the communal field. After drying and preserving their share of the harvest from the communal field, families took a portion of it to the community storehouse. This food would be used by families whose crops had failed or who had run out of their own food, used to feed visitors, to assist other towns in need, and to provision war parties.

After years of use, the fertility in Choctaw fields would begin to diminish. At that point, locations for new fields would be selected. The old fields would be allowed to revert back to a natural state. It would be years before the forest canopy would return to the state it was in before field clearing began. In the interim the old fields supported crops of blackberries, strawberries, and other wild edibles that grow in areas of disturbed soil.

The communal field embodied an ideal of working together for the benefit of all. It was a Native American at its core. Sometime in the early 1700s, Choctaw farmers quit maintaining community fields, and began growing and harvesting crops as separate families, like their Euro-American neighbors. The old fields could still be recognized as cleared places on the landscape for years after. Some Euro-Americans favored these cleared areas for building their own houses, settlements, and fields. After the Trail of Tears, many of the Choctaw who remained behind in Mississippi became low wage workers on Euro-American farms and plantations, cultivating land that had been worked and improved by Choctaw farmers for centuries, but which now was controlled by someone else.

Unless otherwise noted, information contained in this article comes from Adair (1771)



## Iti Fabussa

If you have any questions concerning Choctaw history or culture, please mail to Iti Fabussa c/o BISKINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to [biskinik@choctawnation.com](mailto:biskinik@choctawnation.com) with "Iti Fabussa" in the subject line.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

### Lesson of the Month

## Chi afama li kvv sv nayukpa.

I am happy to meet you.

Word Meaning:

- chi - you
- afamma - to meet
- li - I
- kvv - subject marker
- sv - I am
- nayukpa - happy
- ano - as for myself
- akia - also

## Äno akia, chi afama li kvv sv nayukpa.

I am happy to meet you as well.

Note: Sometimes Choctaw words do not match up verbatim with English, but the content of the Choctaw meaning will be close to the English translation.

[www.choctawschool.com](http://www.choctawschool.com)

## ARE YOU CHOCTAW?

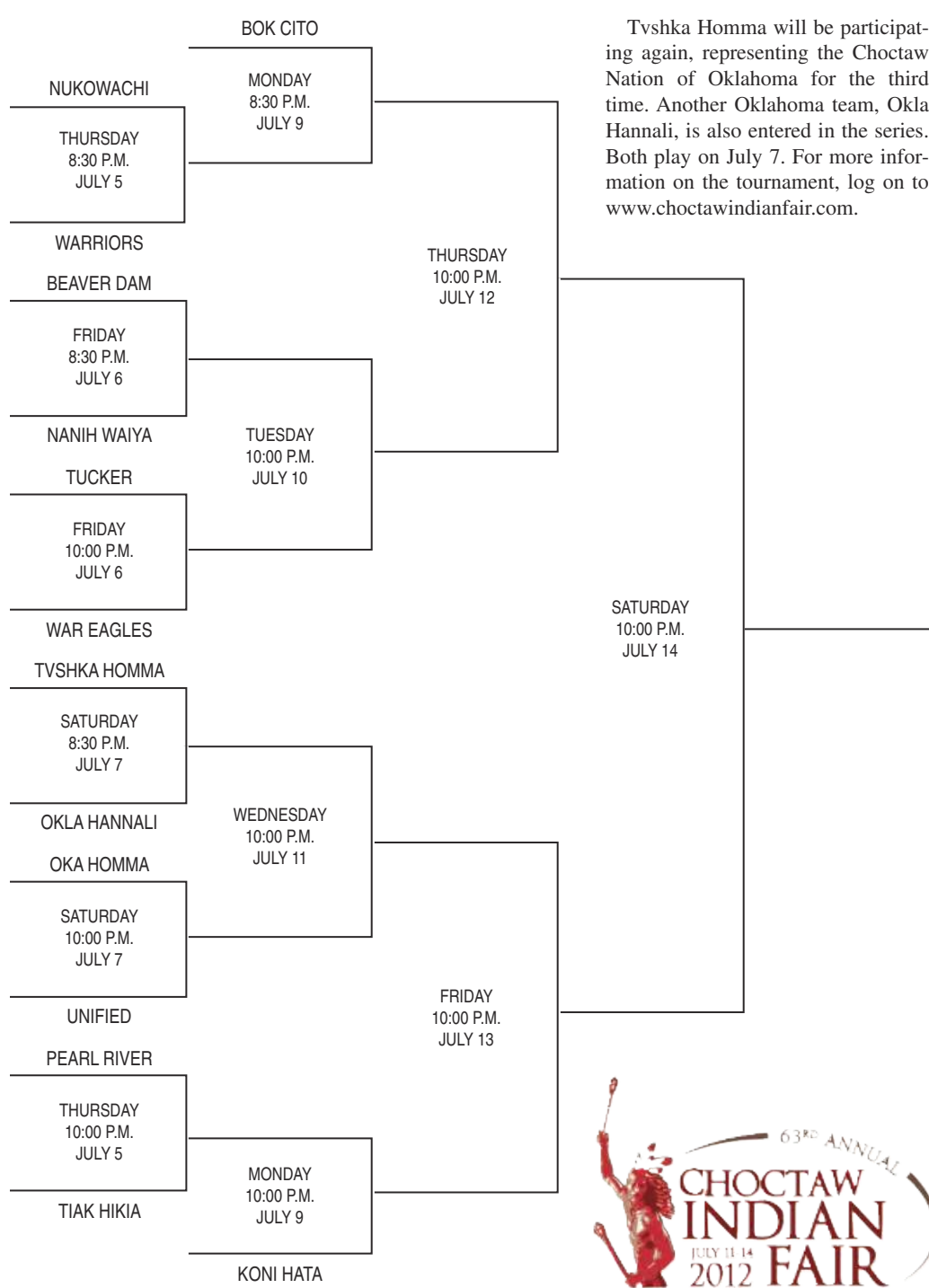
Do you need a CDIB card? How about a Tribal Membership/Voter Registration card? Or even both? Have you lost any of your cards and need a replacement?

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

## World Series of Stickball

July 2-14 in Philadelphia, Mississippi

### MEN





# OBITUARIES

## Charles Thomas

Charles Kenneth "Chuck" Thomas, 71, of Foster, passed away on Oct. 29, 2011, at the Duncan Regional Hospital in Duncan. He was born on Nov. 28, 1939, in Talihina, to the late Noah Thomas and Blanche Huffman Thomas. Chuck was raised in Antioch and graduated from Madill High School in 1958. He joined the U. S. Army on July 10, 1964, and served proudly during the Vietnam War. He also graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He worked for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, under the deputy assistant secretary and management in Albuquerque, N. M. He served as the chief, division of operations and maintenance, office of facilities management and construction, and was responsible for managing the national Operations and Maintenance Program of over 5,000 buildings comprising more than 26 million square feet of federally owned property located at 350 locations in 26 states that included 186 schools of the Bureau of Indian Education's tribal school system. Chuck worked with almost all of the 550 federally recognized Tribes, and was greatly honored to do so, for he had a great love for his people, and all nations. Chuck was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and lived his life in the Indian ways. He was an example to his family and friends. Honor, courage and respect for all things were his guiding principles and he lived by these principles. He retired in December 2009, and soon thereafter returned to Oklahoma with his wife, Mary Frances Thomas, whom he married on Dec. 31, 2004, in Rio Rancho, N. M. He was affiliated with the Baptist faith and a member of the VFW Post 1192, DAV, American Legion and the Moose Lodge 2202. Chuck loved his family, friends, playing golf, hunting, fishing and living life to the fullest. He had a beautiful personality and people were drawn to him. He had a strong respect for education and took great pride of his accomplishments and therefore always encouraged the young folks to strive to acquire the highest education possible.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents; brother Wendel Thomas; and granddaughter Patricia Jay Thomas.

He is survived by wife Mary Thomas of Foster; children, Tammy Thomas Chase with husband Peter of Hawthorne, Calif., Judy Thomas Claborn with husband Larry of Lone Grove, Terri Thomas Booth and husband Bob of Alamosa, Co., and Robert Wendel (R.W.) Thomas of Landrum, S. C.; two grandchildren, Craig Booth and Jerree Booth Canty; brother, Robert Lee Thomas of Dickson; sisters, Pearl Downey of Duncan, Betty Blancett of Dickson, and Christine Woodruff of Mannsville; and many nieces and nephews.

## Jesse Ward

Jesse Paul Ward, 26, of Poteau passed away on May 2, 2012, in Poteau. He was born on Feb. 16, 1986, in Edison N.J. to Terry and Beth (Faulks) Ward. Jesse built an 86 Ram Charger 4x4. He liked the outdoor, fishing and camping. He was the best dad in the world.

He was preceded in death by his brother, John Ward.

He is survived by his wife Brandy, of the home; daughters, Ashley Rhayne and Riley Nicole; father Terry Ward of Poteau; mother Beth Ann Howard with her husband Kenneth of Valiant; sisters, Cheyenne Duncan with husband Steven from Union, S.C., Vanessa Ward-Frazier and Megan Ward of Broken Bow; brother Matthew Ward of Valliant; aunt Lisa Ward Valcombe; uncle, Jeff Ward of Shady Point; niece Jade Chesnee of Broken Bow; nephews, Jon Michael Martin and Dalton Ward of Broken Bow; grandparents, Joe and Peggy Ward of Shady Point; along with other relatives and loved ones.

## Rebecca Noah

Rebecca Pearl Noah, 95, passed from this life May 3, 2012, in Antlers. She was born Feb. 9, 1917, in Finley, to Josephus M. and Rena Pearl (Miller) Sherred.

Rebecca was married to Webster Noah until his passing on Aug. 25, 1993. She worked in many different positions – as a seamstress, and at the Naval Ammunition Depot in McAlester, until she earned her Master's of Education. Rebecca spent her entire teaching career as an elementary teacher at the Teec Nos Pos Boarding School in Teec Nos Pos, Ariz., working there until her retirement. Although Rebecca and Webster had no children together, she loved her nieces, nephews and extended family as her own and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brothers, Warren Sherred, John Dixon Sherred and Josephus Sherred; sister Ethel Williams; nephew Harvey Williams; and niece Edna Gibson.

She is survived by her nephews, Bennie Gibson of Norman, Kerry Sherred of Farmington, N.M., and John D. Williams of Lane; nieces, Norma Choate with husband Andy, Lou Billy, both of Finley, and Mary Williams of Broken Bow; great-nephews and great-nieces, Michael Gibson with wife Karen of Norman, and their children, Joshua, Justus and Jessie, Karla Heritage with husband Gilbert of Beaumont, Texas, Warren Choate of Durant, Edward Choate of Muskogee, Jacquelyn Quiver of Mesquite, Texas and her children, Holly with husband Michael Mejorado, and Kari Quiver, Rebecca Jane "Janie" Choate of Mesquite, Texas, Harvey "Ted" Williams with wife Lisa of Durant, and his children Alyssa, Lauren, Gabrielle, Brett, Jerry Williams and Nettie of Antlers, and his children, Jerry, Jr., Sapphire, Jordan, Ethel Louise and Maurice Baker of Durant, and her children, Melanie, Jillian, Britten, John Kenneth Williams of Topeka, Kan., and his children, Bailey, Cale, Taryne and Jonna Lynn Williams of Antlers, and her daughter, Krysten, Garry Lee Williams of Topeka, Kan., and his children, Elizabeth and Vivien, Jonathan Dale Williams with wife Carrie of Cypress, Texas, and their children, Jon Michael and Jalyln, Justin Glenn Williams with wife Ana of Bryan, Texas, and their children, Anika, Ariana and Millana, Steven Wayne Billy with wife Rosa of Finley, and their children, Titus, Gabrielle, Christian and Tyler, and Mark W.O. Billy of Norman; numerous great-great nieces and nephews; as well as many other relatives and friends.



## Ruth Anderson

Ruth Anderson, 81, passed away on April 8, 2012. She was born on Dec. 3, 1930, in DeLeon, Texas, to Mary and Andrew A. Goats.

Ruth graduated from Hendrich Memorial Nursing Scholl in Abilene, Texas, with the class of 1949. She also received her B.S. of Psychology from St. Edwards University. She was a long-term care chief nurse for 24 years with the Texas Health Department. She was very proud of her membership with the Choctaw Nation and loved to attend the Trail of Tears and Labor Day Festival at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds. Ruth was a dear friend to many and loved her family dearly.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W.D. Anderson, and sister Buelamae Goates.

She is survived by her children, Raymond Anderson with wife Susan, and Mary Pierce with husband Larry; sister Ethel Owen; grandchildren, Chandra Acosta with husband Charlie, Jared Anderson with wife Kelly, Jennifer Anderson, Mike Ryan with wife Susan, and Patrick Ryan; and five great-grandchildren.



## Charles Prentice

Charles Edward Prentice passed away on Nov. 14, 2011, in Eufaula. He was born on Dec. 26, 1928, in Bokchito, to Della Mae (Harrison) (Prentice) Autrey, and Priestly Prentice.

He lived in the Oklahoma area until his early pre-teen years when with his mother, brother, Manuel, and sister, Peggy moved to California. He joined the Army in 1946, and was stationed in Germany. After his time with the army, he traveled around the United States until he stopped in Modesto, Calif., where he met the love of his life, Beverly Bernice (Goodwin) Prentice while driving for Red Top Taxi. They married on July 2, 1952, and raised four children in California. Together they ran the Trailways Bus Depot in Modesto. After retiring from the depot together they opened "Draggy's Drive In." Draggy was Charles' nickname growing up. In 1992 they decided to return to Oklahoma. They settled in Henryetta and stayed there until Beverly became ill in 2010 and had to be moved to Eufaula. His loving wife of almost 59 years past away on April, 2011.

Charles was also preceded his mother, Della Mae; stepfather Charlie Autrey; sister Peggy Cox; father Priestly Prentice; and nephew Mike Cox.

Charles is survived by his children, Deborah Villa with Joe of Eufaula, Sharon Warda with Pat of Ceres, Calif., Diane Parsons with Mark of Winlock, Wash., and Kevin Prentice with Brenda of Eufaula; brother Manuel Prentice with Sharon of Alaska; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; along with many nieces and nephews.



## Jack Morris

Jack Favor Morris, 72, lifelong Seminole resident passed away on March 16, 2012, in Oklahoma City. He was born Jan. 11, 1940, in Seminole, to Harry Oakes and Vaden Elizabeth (Smith) Morris. Jack married Alfreida Clarice Harris on Sept. 2, 1961, in Seminole.

Jack was a graduate of Seminole High School in 1958 and went to East Central University where he graduated with a B.S. degree in math and physics in 1961. He later attended the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a master's degree in computer science. Jack was a member of the First Christian Church in Seminole. Jack retired from Seminole State College after 25 years of teaching math and physics. Prior to that he worked for Phillips Petroleum and General Electric as a computer programmer.

Jack was a direct descendant of original enrollee Susan (SueK) Oakes Morris and two principal chiefs of the Choctaw Nation, Apuckshunubbee and Hopia Iskitinia. Jack and Clarice were well-known throughout Oklahoma and at Quartzsite, Ariz., for "Jack's Indian Taco's." He enjoyed traveling, meeting people and was an animal lover who loved his pet, Annie.

Jack is survived by wife Clarice Morris of Seminole; sons, John Michael Morris of Oklahoma City, and David Gregory Morris with wife Rachel of Moore; brother and sister-in-law, Harry Phillip and Ann Morris of Seminole; and sister Mary Lou Duggins with husband Stan of Woodward; grandchildren, Josh and Devon Morris; and great-grandchildren, Hadley and Kainen.



## Larry Cole

Larry Gene Cole, 63, a Caddo resident, passed away on May 9, 2012, in Atoka. He was born on May 13, 1948, to Eulis and Joyce (Gossett) Cole, in Bakerville, Calif., and graduated High School. He worked as a police officer in the Oklahoma City area then became an inspector for CSI compressor systems. He married Thelma (Davis) Cole in Little Rock, Ark. Larry was a member of the Voca Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, spending time with his family and playing dominoes with Chip Johnson. Larry was a big Caney Baseball fan.

He was preceded in death by his wife Thelma Cole; father Eulis Cole; daughter Cynthia Ann Booth; and grandparents, Earl and Mrs. Cleo Gossett.

He is survived by his son, Hunter Mills of Caney; stepchildren, Michael Edward Kitchens with wife Charity of Oklahoma City, and Lori Ann Evans of Caney;

mother Joyce Gossett of Oklahoma City; brother Bob Cole with wife Amy of Texas; aunts, Alma Gossett of Caney, Virginia Farmer of Stringtown; cousins, Virginia Burditt, Carolyn Jackson, Sue Ishmael, all of Caney, and Marty Gossett with wife of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Morgan Booth of Houston, Katie Booth, Victoria Kitchens, Shelby Kitchens and Sydney Kitchens, all of Oklahoma City; great-granddaughter Brooklyn Kitchens of Oklahoma City; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.



## Vance Templin

Vance E. Templin, 28, passed away on May 22, 2012, in Tulsa. He was born Nov. 30, 1983, in Arlington, Wash. He was employed by Nordam.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Arron Alexander and Norman McAlvain; step grandfather John Harris; aunt Paula Bowlan; and cousin Joshua McAlvain.

He is survived by his wife Anna Templin of the home; sons, Mason Alexander, Samuel Philip and Paul Norman Templin, all of the home; parents, David and Valerie Templin of Talihina; brother Leo Templin of Arlington; grandparents, Joyce and David Templin, and Betty Harris; uncle Bo Bowlan; sister-in-law Laura Eccles with husband John of Tulsa; along with numerous loving family members and friends.

## Ernest Hooser

Ernest Hooser, 94, a long time resident of Durant, passed away on May 22, 2012. Ernest was born on Oct. 8, 1917, in Tuskahoma. His parents were N. H. "Newt" Hooser and Helen Amanda (Hudson) Hooser. Ernest's mother was 3/4 Choctaw. Ernest grew up with two sisters and three brothers and they attended elementary and high school in Tuskahoma. After graduating high school in 1936, Ernest attended Murray State School of Agriculture in Tishomingo and graduated two years later. He went on to Oklahoma A & M College (now Oklahoma State University) in Stillwater and earned his bachelor's degree in math and science. He began his teaching career in Stigler in 1940. On Sept. 21, 1940, Ernest married his college sweetheart, Helen Woolard, in Tishomingo. Helen was an artist and through the years she completed more than 2,600 beautiful paintings including many national landscapes.

The Choctaw heritage runs deep in this family, going back to the Trail of Tears with his great-great-grandmother, including her three children and their families. While Ernest's great-great-grandmother passed away on the Trail, her three sons survived and established new residences in the Indian Territory. Originating from the Choctaw family names of Hudson and Bohanan, Ernest's family was established near Tuskahoma, on the Indian allotment land of his mother, of which the family still owns. This is where he spent his days as a young boy with his brothers and sisters. His mother would send them on adventures to climb the trees that were near their home to retrieve the bark at the top. His mother would use the inside scrapings of this bark to make medicine. They would also dig up "snake root" to be used for medicine. His parents didn't own a car until he was a junior in college, so they walked or rode their horses wherever they needed to go. They were a blessed family during The depression because they had plenty of farm animals to keep them well nourished. Something important Ernest remembers his mother telling him and his siblings is "You are going to college!" It was very important to her that they gain a good education, and that's just what Ernest did.

After earning his degree and teaching in Stigler, he became the high school principal in Tuskahoma in 1943. He became principal of Antlers High School in 1944 and earned his master's degree from Oklahoma A & M College in 1949. He was working towards his doctorate, but decided to focus more on his current career in education and administration. He said he did not regret quitting pursuing his doctorate, and he soon became the superintendent of Eagletown Public Schools.

Four years after serving as superintendent for Eagletown, Ernest began teaching at Durant Jr. High School and made Durant his home. He taught many math and science classes and eventually was put in charge of and directed an educational television station coming out of Durant Public Schools. He said he really enjoyed the TV. It was a television station for the students, by the students. Ernest enjoyed working with television production and attended some television teaching studios in east Texas for a time.

He also worked at KXII Studios one summer. Not only was Ernest involved with television, he's been a photographer as well. He developed his first roll of film in 1937. He taught a night-photography class at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He wanted to earn his living by doing things he loved, not working at something he didn't enjoy. With his work in teaching children, school administration, directing students in television program production and photography, Ernest lived his life doing the things he loved most.

Something that Ernest thought was important to do is to read to children. He made an effort to read to all of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It brought him great pride for his children and grandchildren to say to him, "I remember you reading us stories." He would read to his six great-grandchildren as much as he could and they say to him, "Big Papa, tell us stories!" Ernest loved reading to his great-grandchildren, and he shared his stories with as many people as he could. Since Ernest came to Durant in 1959, he was close with the Choctaw Nation. And tried to be involved in everything he could. Ernest traveled to various schools and read Choctaw stories to students. He has read both to elementary and high school students and enjoyed teaching people about the Choctaw heritage. Ernest encouraged young people to go out and get an education because it will be very helpful to them later in life. Ernest advised the youth of today to study and know more about their people by studying native language and heritage. He wanted people to be proud of whoever they are, even if they're not Choctaw.

Ernest Hooser was an honorable Choctaw elder who was admired by many. He was an incredibly kind man who lived to love, and learned and pass his wisdom to those around him. He recently closed a speech, receiving a well-earned standing ovation by over 100 listeners, by stating, "I am a proud Oklahoma Choctaw Indian. I am a proud American Indian."

Ernest was named the "Choctaw Outstanding Elder" of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in 2004. Ernest's brother, John A. Hooser, also received the "Choctaw Outstanding Elder" award in 2006.

Mr. Hooser was preceded in death by his parents and wife.

He is survived by his son, Carl Hooser with wife Lou Ann of Durant; daughter Patricia Ann Morgan with husband Leonard of Durant; grandchildren, Leiann Bahe with husband Tim of Plano, Texas, Layne Morgan with wife Pam of Durant, and Leslie Prentice with husband Walter of Bokchito; great-grandchildren, Dillon Bahe and Madison Bahe of Plano, Texas, Alysse Morgan and Asheley Morgan of Durant, Katheryn Prentice and Kaitlyn Prentice of Bokchito, and Melisse Prentice of Durant; twin sister Ernestine Hunkapillar of Broken Bow; brother John A. Hooser with wife Lucille of Clayton; niece Rosemary Hooser of Clayton; and long-time family friend, Judy Allen of Durant.





# Choctaw Nation holds GED class graduation ceremony

Choctaw Nation GED class participants finished the requirements to receive their diplomas this May and were recognized with a graduation ceremony at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton and members of the Choctaw Council were in attendance to show support for the step forward these Choctaws have taken in their education.

The graduates include Kelsey Barrick, who had the highest GPA of the class, Sasha Archer, Sandra Baker, Rhonda Beard, Jonathan Beaucamp, Brook Belknap, Chinah Bernal, Audra Bittner, Rowen Blake, Caress Brown, Colin Brown, Christina Brownfield, Dasan Browning, Charity Bussell, Sarah Byford, Danielle Caddell, Tessila Cagle, Joey Camp, Erin Carper, Jimmy Case, Christopher Center, Savannah Chapman, Christopher Cleckler, Kayla Coleman, Tyger Collins, Lisa Cook, Harley Davis, Brytany Davis, Dillyn Davis, Brandon Dry, Vanesa Drywater, Christopher Duncan, Donald Ellis, Janice Evans, Kaleb Fails, Patricia Gibson, Stormey Golden, Spencer Graves, Kerry Green, Rebecca Gregory, Chandren Gregory, Tiffany Hale, William Harden, Gage Harris, Tiana Harris, Samantha Hayes, Charlie Hazlin, Ty Hendrickson, Carla Hendrix, Alisia Hernandez, Joey Hernandez, Ronnie Hicks, Ashlee Higgins, Magen Hill, Amber Holden, Autumn Holt, Shiloh Holt, Brooke Hudson, Billy Hunter, Amanda James, Flora James, Kelsie Kemp, Jennifer Leal, Staci Lewis, Shyla Ludlow, Tabitha Majors, Francisco Martinez, Tyler May, Amber Maye, Dustin Mayfield, Clayton McClour, Ashton McKibben,



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Blake McKinney, Danica McKinney, Terry Morrison, Anthony Noah, Lisa Noah, Shana Nowlin, Maranda Parker, Gregory Remy, Christine Rider, Christana Riley, Tracy Ritter, Jimmy Ryan, Melenda Scouten, Travis Shepard, Crystal Smith, Dustin Smith, Kari Smith, Danielle Sephenson, Malissa Suchan, Hay-

lee Tatum, Terrie Taylor, Dalton Teague, Nicholas Tejo, Stacy Thames, Reona Thorn, Lacey Tillery, Cassandra Thouchstone, Justin Tucker, Ross Vice, Jessica Walton, Zach Ward, Katelyn Welch, Micaah Williamson, Melissa Wilson, Ashley Wood, Tammy Wortman, Anthony Wyatt Jr. and Kristi Young.

## BICYCLE

### Bicycle team rides to honor fallen Choctaw ancestors

Continued from Page 1

able to gain a total of 23 members for the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team, most riders employees of the Choctaw Nation and its Healthcare Center, others tribal members, one Cherokee and one Kiowa. Some members are spouses and college students, several nurses and medical providers, schoolteachers, a facility director, a state facility administrator, as well as friends and family. Most members are from Talihina and also come from Wilburton, Durant, Atoka and even San Antonio.

Included are four Support and Gear (SAG) team members, which have vehicles and provide water, fluids with electrolytes, nutrition, rest stops and check riders for fatigue during the rides. These members provide medical care, transport bike and rider if necessary and work on maps for the next day's ride. The SAG members also serve as "bike mechanics" that keep the bikes in proper working order.

Members of the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team are as follows: Johnnie Anderson; Greg and Mary Barrs; Billy Eagle Road II (SAG); Billy Eagle Road III; Nikki, Jordan and Teresa Eagle Road; Roy (SAG) and Tammy Griffith; Cheyenne Murray (SAG); Dean (SAG) and Melanie Lanning; Tracie Lake; Nancy Jefferson; Brian and Brianna Johnston; Tony Stoltzfus; Donna and Phillip Tawkoity; MaryAyn and Eli Tullier; and Stuart Winlock.

According to Jefferson, the team has set several goals for itself. "The first goal was to identify the needs of our team to 'go home' to our Mississippi Choctaw homeland and 'come back home' to Oklahoma," she said.

The symbolic Trail of Tears bicycle ride from Mississippi to Oklahoma was not only great exercise, but also served as a learning opportunity. The trip allowed the team the chance to learn more about Choctaw culture and history through the members' discussions and shared storytelling of what they had learned as children.

"We discussed my grandmother's journals about the Choctaws' migration to Oklahoma," said Jefferson. "We had the opportunity to view the environment and terrain that our ancestors walked and discovered much about ourselves."

Team member Stuart Winlock was very excited upon hearing about Jefferson's idea for the Trail of Tears ride. "When I first heard of this ride commemorating our ancestors' journey from Mississippi to Oklahoma, I jumped at the chance and am very grateful I did," he said.

The team shared stories, flats, wrecks, sore muscles, hills, rain and wind, but through it all, had a wonderful time, said Winlock. "The ride was an experience of a lifetime, and as I rode the same paths that my ancestors had trod many years before, I really appreciated what they endured to leave a lasting legacy of the best of the human spirit, and to not only survive in their new lands but to thrive against all odds."

The distance and determination to finish each day of the Trail of Tears ride by each of us was tough, said Teresa Eagle Road. "It was fun, and I am ready for this ride again."

"We accepted this challenge and were determined to complete this physically demanding event to experience our own Trail of Tears," Jefferson stated. We reminded ourselves that our ancestors survived, and so can we; the strengths of our team, both physical and character, brought our people back home, she said. "For many of us, this distance, the difficulties we encountered, the personal pain that we endured and those barriers that we overcame brought the history of the Trail alive."

Another goal of the team deals with weight loss and improved cardiovascular fitness of all team members before and during the ride from Mississippi and to motivate coworkers and others in the community to increase their physical activity. "Our second goal to promote wellness and disease prevention was visible and it's ongoing," said Jefferson. This goal coincides with the Choctaw Nation Going Lean Project goals as well as the Preventive Medicine Division at Health Services Authority.

A third goal the team has set is introducing cycling as an alternative form of transportation to reduce car exhaust and pollution. The team has met with the mayor of Talihina and the town is now favorable to making bicycle routes and has pledged to review future road construction to allow for bicycle lanes, according to Jefferson. "This goal furthers the ideal of the Going Green Project at the Choctaw Nation," she added.

The team's final goal focuses on the importance of injury prevention. Members implement this idea by always wearing protective gear, such as helmets. "Our team serves as an example to children and adults that this sport demands helmets and even experienced riders fall; the wearing of protective gear promotes a favorable outcome," said Jefferson. The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as well as Kohl's stores provided the team with free helmets and literature for children on bicycle safety and injury prevention.

According to Jefferson, most of the Bicycle Team members began the symbolic trip from Mississippi to Oklahoma with much previous experience. "Nearly all riders had completed a metric century ride (62 miles) prior to the onset of this event. Many have participated in road races, criteriums and time trails, as well as other week-long rides, such as the Oklahoma Free Wheel and RAGBRAI (Ride across Iowa), the Hotter N Hell Hundred in Wichita Falls and RAM, a distance time trail of 540 miles, taking place over Labor Day weekend in Missouri."

Jefferson said routine daily rides for members are 10-15 miles in length and longer rides of 35-40 miles on the week-

ends, unless they are training for a special event.

Though the ride from Mississippi to Oklahoma has been the team's most-loved trip thus far, there are plans for upcoming trips in the works. In June, they will participate in the event, Tulsa Tough, riding through the city streets of Tulsa. Other upcoming events the team will take part in include the Tour de Cure in Tulsa, which raises money for the American Diabetes Association; the MS 150, a two-day riding event (75 miles per day) to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis; and the team's Breast Cancer Awareness: Bike, Trike, Walk fundraiser for breast cancer research.

"Other team projects include our Veteran's Day Run and our New Year's Eve Run that provide a healthy alternative to bringing in the New Year," said Jefferson.

Though hundreds of miles of road on top of a bicycle may seem grueling and physically demanding to some of us, members of the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team have found the proper inspiration to complete the task. "I am proud and honored to have ridden with the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team," said Donna Tawkoity.

Jefferson described how the cyclists successfully completed their Trail of Tears ride by building friendly relationships with one another, in turn producing effective teamwork. "On Day 1, we were just a group of people riding the same ride. Overnight, these people from different cities and different backgrounds transformed into a formidable team," she explained. "On Day 2, all riders were in sync with another, pace lines formed, cyclists sped through the back roads and city streets to the Mississippi River. It was an incredible sight."

The members thank God for the opportunity and for bringing them safely home. "We attacked Louisiana roads and the humidity of the delta," described Jefferson. "The team climbed hill after hill across Arkansas to Oklahoma."

Choctaw Nation Hospital Administrator and continuous supporter of the Choctaw Nation Bicycle Team Teresa Jackson expressed her great pride in the team's efforts and their trip from Mississippi. "I am so proud of this team, they have put in many hours training and preparing for this trip. The dedication they have shown has been outstanding."

Jackson described they day the team arrived to their final destination in Oklahoma, saying the sight was priceless. "To be able to see the look on their faces and sense the feeling of accomplishment they had cannot be put into words."

If you are interested in learning more about Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority or the Going Lean Program, you may visit [cnhsa.com](http://cnhsa.com).

Also download the free Going Lean app by Choctaw Nation Health, which features a simple calorie counter, listings of health-oriented events within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation, listings of restaurants and grocery stores that have good selections of healthy food, listings of healthy and simple recipes and maps of fitness centers within the Choctaw Nation's borders.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

## District 9 crowns 2012 royalty

Choctaw Nation's District 9 held its annual Princess Pageant on June 1 in conjunction with the Magnolia Festival in Durant. Reigning in Bryan County for 2012-13 are Sr. Miss Cheyenne Murray, Little Miss Josephine Gilmore and Jr. Miss Kayleigh Powell. They are pictured with Councilman Ted Dosh. The princesses from all 12 districts will vie for the Miss Choctaw Nation titles in the three age categories on Aug. 30 at Tushka Homma.

## Horse tails for Choctaw stickball warriors

Contributed by  
**FRANCINE LOCKE BRAY**  
Southwest Spanish Mustang  
Association Research Consultant

A number of us attended and participated in the Choctaw Trail of Tears Walk on May 19. After the walk, we were asked if we could provide Choctaw Horse tails for adornment on the stickball warriors' sticks. The stickball warriors are doing demonstrations at the Smithsonian Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C in June and are also participating in several upcoming games. They want their regalia to be as traditional as possible.

Bryant Rickman, president of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association, agreed that this was a very important request so he gathered a group of helpers and rounded up the horses, leading them up the road to Chahta Isuba. They



Submitted photos

"thundered" behind us.

The horses donated some of their tail hair, not all – just enough to adorn at least the sticks of 60 players and probably more.

Those helping Bryant were Francine Locke Bray, James Stephens, Stanley Carter and George Lankford. Bryant and George cut while Stanley and Francine knotted. Jim took pictures.

Following the cutting of the tails, the group said a prayer, thanking the Creator for the Choctaw people, the horses, Gilbert Jones and Bryant Rickman for their dedication and commitment to the preservation of this rare equine. The tails were delivered the next day to the Choctaw Nation offices in Hugo.

"Good luck and safe play," is extended to the players from not only the Choctaw people but now from the Choctaw horses as well.



*Tail hair is given for adornment on the Choctaw stickball warriors' sticks. In the past, it was believed that adding adornment would improve the skills of the Choctaw players. The Choctaw horse is known for its agility, alertness, courage, endurance and strength. Choctaw stickball warriors, in common with the Choctaw horse, must possess these qualities. Choctaw stickball warriors know that, like the undefeated Choctaw horse, they make their people proud in their competitions.*



# Choctaw Nation brings heritage to the state capitol

Oklahoma State Senate declares May 15, 2012, as 'Choctaw Day'

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words.

Artists whose work has been featured throughout the Choctaw Nation were also on display. Artists included Jane Umsted and Dylan Cavin, whose work has been featured on various Choctaw publications, as well as Paul King, the creator of the branding image for the 2011 Choctaw Days in Washington D.C., and Theresa Morris, whose "Windstar" design has been widely used for Choctaw events and publications.

Many people also enjoyed visiting a booth featuring the Choctaw Code Talkers that reminded patrons of the service to their country.

Storytellers Greg Rodgers and Stella Long told Choctaw tales to eager ears and the Choctaw princesses demonstrated the Lord's Prayer in sign language, a familiar activity of Choctaw events.

Traditional dancers got the audience involved with the Stealing Partners Dance and the Snake Dance. Throughout the day, they demonstrated many other traditional dances including the Walk and War Dance.

Many members of the Choctaw Tribal Council were in attendance to enjoy conversing with the guests and show their support for the spreading of the Choctaw culture. Assistant Chief Gary Batton addressed the crowd, proclaiming how proud he was to see the Choctaw Nation on display in such a venue.

Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb followed Batton, and mentioned he was happy to see the Choctaw Nation spreading its heritage and teaching people of the Oklahoma what it means to be Choctaw.

Senator Josh Brecheen spent time with members of the Choctaw group and, as the event came to a close, made a motion before the Oklahoma State Senate that this day be recognized as "Choctaw Day." This motion was accepted and Batton addressed the senate showing his appreciation for the honor bestowed on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

To view more photos of the Choctaw Day activities visit Choctaw Nation's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma](http://www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma).



The Choctaw Nation group after meeting with the State Senate.

Photos by BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Above, Choctaw artist Theresa Morris, left, shows Naomi LeFlore her work.

Randy Hammons and Michael Scott lead the Walk Dance while Eugene Taylor keeps rhythm with his distinct Choctaw voice.



Right, Assistant Chief Gary Batton addresses the Oklahoma State Senate.



Right, Lauren Kitchen of Moore leads Judy Allen during the Snake Dance.

Below, Presley Byington plays flutes he made for the guests of Choctaw Day.



A crowd gathers in the second floor rotunda to witness the Raccoon Dance – a social dance that was used to introduce young Choctaws.



Randy Hammons and Mandy Lawson lead the Four-Step War Dance.



At right, Choctaw language teacher Lilly Roberts talks with a guest about the native language.



Deloris Samuels of Idabel joins Larry Wade during the Stealing Partners Dance.



Charity, Emma, Neraeh, Kylah and Kelsey Daniel, along with Erin Shanahan, all of Oklahoma City, are happy to meet with Assistant Chief Batton.

Left: Jonathan Kitzrow of Oklahoma City accompanies Judy Allen during the Stealing Partners Dance.



Ryan, Jack and Brenda Tankley from Edmond get a lesson on stickball from expert Olin Williams.

Rose Steffens along with Nic and Macy McIntire from Moore pose with Assistant Chief Batton.



Just one of the many guests who were interested in the lessons about Choctaw pottery offered.





# 20TH ANNUAL TRAIL OF TEARS WALK



The 2012 Choctaw Nation Princesses perform the Lord's Prayer in sign language for the crowd.



Brad Spears and his son, Stetson, are pictured with Stetson's grandmother, Rhonda Willmontt, member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

Photos by LISA REED, CHRISSY DILL, KAREN JACOB  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Kendra Cryer and Aaric Cryer were excited for their first time to the Trail of Tears Walk.



Isiah and Reuben Marris and Josephine Gilmore enjoy their time at the Trail of Tears Walk.



Quannie Austin, Nita and Ellis Taylor and Willis Wesley talk with Assistant Chief Gary Batton before the walk began.



Cecil Anderson enjoyed his time at the walk with Teresa Anderson.



The Johnson Family Singers entertain the crowd. Pictured from left are Moses Johnson, Lena Scott and Bubba Johnson.



Ready for the walk are Joe Watkins, Junior Miss Adriana Curnutt, Little Miss Summer Moffitt and Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno.



Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno performs the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



The winner of the 2012 Trail of Tears Bow Shoot was Team 3; pictured are team members Tim Taylor, Cyndi Houser and Tommy Lewis.



Josephine Gilmore made a cute little turtle at the pottery table.



Resting after the walk under the trees are Jan West, Bruce West holding Bryce West, Dayna Puckett and Rick West.



Noah Wayne Baker and his grandmother, Pearlina Baker, enjoy watching stickball.



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard pose for a photo with Tyrese Barnett, Verdie Triplet and James Triplet.

